

MUSEUMS

Log Cabin Quilts exhibit at Leelanau museum

BY MELANIE BOLTHOUSE
Special to the Record-Eagle

LELAND — Hidden behind the neatly stitched rows of brightly colored quilts hanging in the Leelanau

Historical Museum are many histories — family histories, regional histories and individual histories.

These hidden stories are what led museum curator Laura Quackenbush and guest curators Barbara Krause and Elise Weisbach to assemble the exhibit, “Log Cabin Quilts: From Vernacular to Visionary.” The exhibit runs through Oct. 31.

“Quilts are a historical artifact just like every other thing and they have stories to tell,” Quackenbush said. “They can help us understand ourselves and our community and our family.”

The exhibit, which will run through the end of October, includes only quilts that are constructed in the Log Cabin style.

“It’s made of simple parallelograms around a center,

and usually half are light fabrics and half are dark fabrics,” Quackenbush said. “That’s said to resemble a log cabin and the center is the chimney.”

Nineteen quilts line the walls of the museum. They range in age from 1890 to brand new. Two are from the museum’s collection; the rest come from quilters and groups in Leelanau County.

Krause said she and her fellow curators were concerned the search for outside quilts would be difficult given the limiting factor of the Log Cabin parameter, but soon were proven wrong.

“We knew of women in the county who were excellent quilters,” she said. “And then like anything else, you start the hunt and one person leads you to somebody else, and another person leads you to somebody else. We ended up with more possibilities than we could actually hang, which was too bad because there were some wonderful quilts that aren’t in the exhibition.”

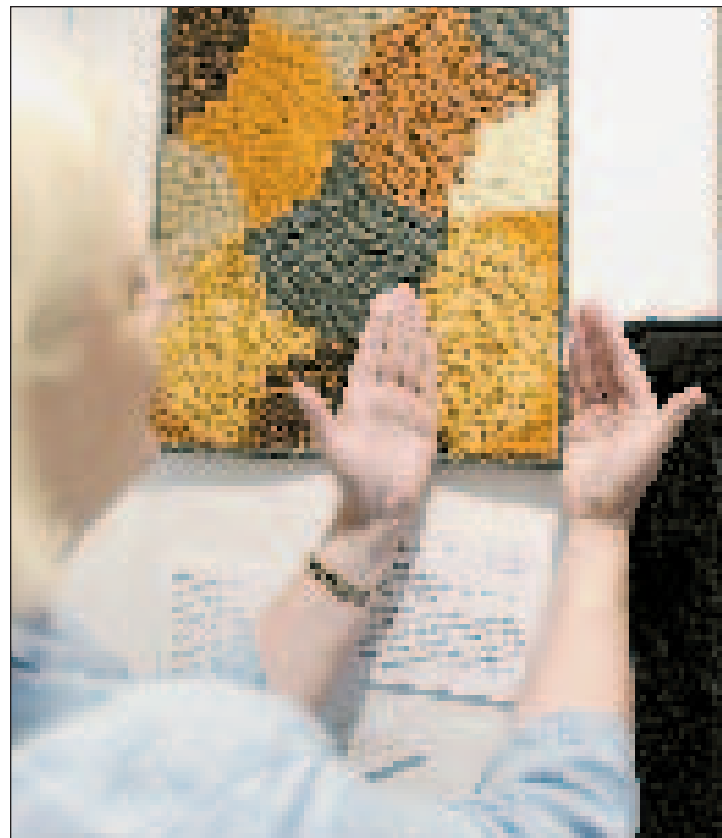
While each quilt meets the Log Cabin criteria, all are unique in design, pattern and color.

“The fun part of Log Cabin is that the design could be manipulated in many ways by folks,” Quackenbush said. “Over time, it has even gone to visionary levels. That’s why we chose our title, in looking at the fact that there’s very old ways of making Log Cabin quilts and making designs, and people actually in modern days have gone and taken it to extreme lengths.”

Quackenbush said great discussions arose over what constitutes a Log Cabin design.

“You have to go back to the original construction of the block to meet some of the criteria,” she said. “You might find some people would disagree with Barbara or I, and you will find people who disagree, which is great.”

The quilts will be on display until Oct. 31. For hours, call 256-7475.



Record-Eagle/Lara Neel

Curator Laura Quackenbush outlines the pattern repeat on Eleanore Chamberland’s 2004 uneven Log Cabin Quilt, “Ginko Leaves,” at the Leelanau Historical Museum.

MUSEUM GUIDE

Here’s a sampling of museums in the region that remain open through the fall — some beyond.

Benzie Area Historical Museum Benzonia. Housed in a century-old church building. Features artifacts pertaining to pioneers who carved a living from a northern Michigan wilderness. Open until December, call for hours; 6941 Traverse Ave., 882-5539.

Boyne City Historical Museum Boyne City, town memorabilia, photographs, vintage bottles and tools, among other antiquities, Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, also noon-4 p.m. weekends. Free admission; donations accepted; located at south end of the City

Hall building, 582-2839.

Charlevoix Historical Society, Harsha House Museum Harsha family history (once prominent family in area), large photo collection, research library, three Victorian period rooms, 1917 working player piano and other Charlevoix history; fall & winter hours: 1-4 p.m. Tues.-Wed., Fri.-Sat., Thurs. through Christmas; Adults \$1, children 12 & under free; 103 State Street, 547-0373.

Charlevoix Railroad Depot Museum Display of maritime and resort life and historic hotels, railroad history, 305 Chicago Avenue, for hours, 547-0373.

Dennos Museum Center, “Mentors” exhibition of stipple

etching prints of portraits by Theo Wujcik of American artists Josef Albers, Jim Dine, Philip Pearlstein, Robert Rauschenberg and James Rosenquist, along with art created by them, on view through Dec. 30; “Copley to Cassatt: American Paintings from the Detroit Institute of Art” exhibit featuring works by John Singleton Copley, James McNeil Whistler, George Inness, Winslow Homer, Robert Henri and Mary Cassatt, on view through Sept. 25, 2005; museum admission \$4 adults, \$2 children, members and NMC students free; permanent exhibits include The Thomas A. Rutkowski Discovery Gallery and Power Family Inuit Gallery, 10-5

p.m. Mon.-Sat., 1-5 p.m. Sun.; Dennos Museum Center, NMC, 1701 E. Front St., TC; 995-1055. **East Jordan Portside Art & Historical Museum** East Jordan, historical photos, turn-of-the-century clothing, memorabilia from agriculture and lumbering industries also featured, October, Sat.-Sun. 1-4 p.m., free, donations accepted, Elm Pointe Estate off M-66 South toward Charlevoix (on the lakeshore), 536-2393. **Elk Rapids Area Historical Society Museum** Elk Rapids. Historical exhibits include photographs, paperwork, books, an 1800s piano and the township’s 1883 jail. Open Sat.-Sun. 2-4 p.m., Free, donations accepted.

Lower level of renovated township hall, 401 River St. 264-5692. **Grand Traverse Heritage Center,** “Blast from the Past” exhibit of more than 150 guns from the Con Foster Collection and other local collectors, on view through Nov. 20; free admission through March 2005 for Carnegie Centennial Celebration; open noon-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat. through October, and noon-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri. starting in Nov; research archives open 1-4 p.m. Mon. by appointment; 322 Sixth St., TC; 995-0313. **Grand Traverse Lighthouse** Northport. Haunted Lighthouse Oct. 23-24, noon-4 p.m.; climb

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