

# Hobbies

► *continued from Page 16* works at the Beehive Quilt Shoppe in Willowbrook Mall in Mason City. Jacobs has been quilting for about 14 years and now teaches classes at the shop.

"My first attempt (at quilting) was very not rewarding," Jacobs recalls. However, her husband bought her a gift certificate for a quilting class, and she has been hooked since.

The owner of Beehive Quilt Shoppe, Betty Buss, finished her first quilt in 1972. She had always sewn and taught herself to quilt with the help of TV shows and a quilting magazine.

"Quilting is the art of taking a large piece of fabric, accurately cutting it into many smaller pieces and sewing it back together," Koren explained. "Once all the 'blocks' are sewn together, the quilt top is layered with batting (stuffing on the inside) and a cloth backing, and then another amazing process of decorative stitching begins. Many older utility quilts were tied with pieces of yarn or string to hold the layers together."

One of the best parts of quilting, Koren said, is the variety. "I have attended retreats where the majority of the participants are all constructing the same pattern," she said. "Each quilter has chosen their own fabrics and color palette and when viewing the finished projects, no two quilts are alike."

Buss' most recent creation was a "challenge quilt" for a quilting show held in Clear Lake in April. Each quilter was given a season and told to make a quilt representative of that season. Buss' season was fall, and she used new "fabric manipulation," or tucking, techniques. It was "something new and different," she smiled.

When Buss returned to Mason City from Florida nine years ago, she realized that she had been spoiled in Florida. Mason City didn't offer the quilting opportunities her Florida home had. Buss's business, Beehive Quilt Shoppe, came to be in Mason City a few years ago when another shop, Joyful Stitches, closed. Two



This quilt pattern, made by Shelley Koren of Clear Lake, is called "Snailtrail."

years ago the shop moved to Willowbrook Mall, and in April it expanded.

"It keeps us busy," Buss noted. "We have lots of new beginners. It is truly an addiction..."

Two years ago, the average age of quilters in the shop was 52. Now, the average age is 50. Buss has noticed

that quilting is attracting young moms and even men to classes.

"It's very relaxing," Jacobs related. Anyone who would like to get involved in the Lake Area Quilters Guild can attend a meeting, held at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Clear Lake Church of Christ.