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1991

## Interview with Ida Lee Crase (FA 88)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives

Western Kentucky University, [mssfa@wku.edu](mailto:mssfa@wku.edu)

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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY FOLKLIFE ARCHIVES

INFORMANT/FIELDWORKER DATA FORM

I. INFORMANT

NAME: Ida Lee Crase  
(Include fullest possible name -- first, middle and/or maiden, last)  
(For example: John James Smith; Mary Ann Franklin Smith (Mrs. John))

ADDRESS: 103 Leaf Lane Somerset, Ky. 42501

PERSONAL DATA: Age 76 Date of Birth 5-15-14

Place of Birth Letcher County, Ky. Sex Female

RACE/NATIONALITY/ETHNIC BACKGROUND: white

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (Include education, occupation, places of residence, religious affiliation, etc.)

Retired School Teacher (mostly 3rd grade). Graduated Cumberland College; lived in Letcher County, Ky until 1976. Taught in several schools there. Moved to Somerset, Ky and taught school at Science Hill, Ky <sup>until retirement.</sup> Belong to Landin St. Baptist Church in Somerset. Belong to: Cricket Quilting Club, Jolly Homemaker Club - Exercise Club 3 days per week. Craft Club - Church, Senior Source Group - Humana Hosp.

II. COLLECTOR

NAME: Larry Ray Brittain  
(Include fullest possible name as described above)

ADDRESS, LOCAL: 1500 Bryant Way Bowling Green, Ky 42103

ADDRESS, PERMANENT: 30 Bolton Drive Somerset, Ky 42501

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE INFORMANT, SUCH AS COUSIN, FRIEND, EMPLOYER, ACQUAINTANCE, ETC.: Acquaintance - through mother

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TAPE INDEX

Tape # 1 of 1

Interviewer: Larry Brittain Address: 30 Bolton Drive Somerset, Ky 42501

Interviewee: Ida Lase Address: 103 Leaf Lane Somerset, Ky 42501

Interviewee: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(write additional names on back of sheet)

Place of Interview: Church Date: March 26, 1991

Equipment Used: Tape Recorder (Sony)

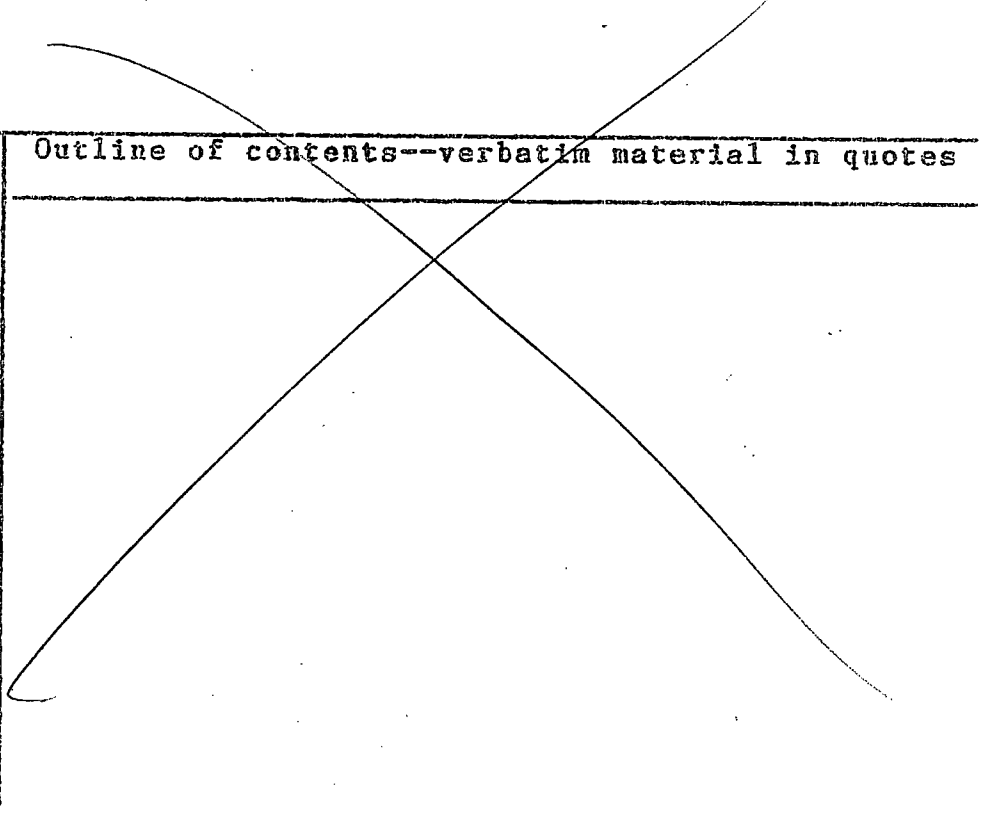
Tape Brand: ~~Maxell~~ Speed: \_\_\_\_\_

Cassette Brand: Maxell 60 or 90 minute? 60

Amount of tape used: Side A: 10 minutes Side B: —

Brief description of contents:

Comments:

Turn no.	Outline of contents--verbatim material in quotes
	

Turn no. | Outline of contents--verbatim material in quotes

LB: How did you learn to quilt?

IC: "I learned to quilt when I was a young girl, twelve or fourteen years old. My mother taught me how. She would give me some small pieces that she couldn't use in her quilts. I would patiently sew them together for doll quilts."

LB: Have you ever taught anyone else to quilt?

IC: "I have taught one daughter to quilt she does beautiful stitches. I have a quilting club that I helped to organized in 1979. Some of the people who join the club have never quilted before. We help them to learn. It is called the Cricket Quilting Club. We meet one day each week and spend most of the day quilting together. We quilt each others quilts. When one quilts finished, we'll put up another and sometimes we have as many as three quilts up at a time."

LB: How are quilts made?

IC: "First you decide on a pattern you want to make and then cut out the pieces, enough to make the quilt type size you want. Some beds are size single beds, regular beds, queen size and king size. I use mostly cotton materials for the top and lining and polyester for the inside padding. The top padding and lining are stretched into the quilting frames fairly tight. In making a quilt you use a material, scissors, needle, thread, and sewing machine. When the pieces are very, very small they have to be sewed by hand because you can't hardly do the stitching on a machine. The quilt goes through several processes. First you piece the blocks or squares. Then the blocks have to be put together in whatever design you wish. Then you put the top padding and lining into the frame. The top must be marked for quilting straight lines, checks, shells, or whatever pattern you like. Then these lines have to be sewed all over the quilt through the three layers of material. That's called the quilting design. When the quilt is finished you take it out of the frame, trim the edges with scissors, and now you bind the quilt with a dare strip of material. Sometimes I turn the edges under to the back and just sew the quilt, and sometimes I put a fancy edging like a ruffle on it depending on what I'm going to use the quilt for a spread or just for sleeping under."

LB: How long does it take to make a quilt?

IC: "It takes many, many hours to make a quilt, depending on course on the size of the quilt. I have spent as much as two and a half months on quilting just one quilt. Of course, it didn't spend all of my time at it, that's why quilts are so precious. Much time is involved. I'd say two or three hundred hours on most quilts."

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Turn no. | Outline of contents--verbatim material in quotes

LB: What else is going on during a quilting session?

045 | IC: "Other things - like are going on during a quilting -  
housewives have to do the cooking, caring for the  
children, house cleaning, and all of the chores a woman  
does during a quilting. At the quilting club we visit,  
share experiences, discuss our aches and pains, and  
especially we discuss our children and grandchildren. We  
have a lot of laughs and fun."

LB: Are there different kinds of quilts?

060 | IC: "There is many different kinds of quilts. Different  
patterns, sizes, materials. Some are made in to sleep  
under and others are made for spreads type things and some  
are made to hang on a wall - for different things - you  
make baby quilts, some are used for room decorations, you  
make your quilt to match your pillow screen and your room  
and use it for a spread. Some are used for comforters,  
they have a thicker padding to be used in severely cold  
weather. Quilts are made from all kinds of fabrics, silk,  
satin, flanalette, velvet, wool, and cotton. Cotton is  
the easiest to clean and the most usable material."

LB: Why do you quilt?

IC: "When I was raising my family I quilted for  
necessity, I had five children and it took a lot of  
quilts to keep the beds warm in winter. Back in those  
days houses weren't heated like they are today. Most of  
the time we only had an open fireplace to keep the house  
warm. But now I quilted for pleasure, the joy of being  
able to create something beautiful. It is a good therapy  
for older people who may otherwise be lonely and feel  
useless. Quilting is an art, one that is slowly dying.  
Young people should learn it to keep up the Kentucky art  
of quilting."

LB: Who do you give your quilts to?

075 | IC: "I make quilts for my children. They each have  
several that I've made. I make them for my grandchildren  
and I'm in the process of making each of them one when  
they get married. I've made quilts for my brothers and  
sisters, my nieces and nephews, and help make them for the  
pastors at the church where I go. I quilted some quilts  
to sell but not very many, though."

LB: How do you feel about your quilts?

IC: "I love my quilts. If they could talk they would  
each have a story to tell. They have meaning."

LB: How do others feel about your quilts?

IC: "The people I've given them to cherish them because

Turn no. | Outline of contents--verbatim material in quotes

they know that I love them or I would not put that much time in on a gift."

LB: What kinds of patterns do you use?

IC: "I have special patterns, some of them are handed down like the double wedding ring, lonestar, grandmother's fan, an triple round the world, and a broken star. Sometimes I make my own designs. For one daughter who works in the field of music and plays for the church. I've put a church in the center with music instruments quilted in. I quilted music lines and spaces. For the other daughter who was born in a log cabin in the mountains, I put a log cabin in the center, quilted in an old barn, a country church, an a schoolhouse and outhouse. I called it the mountain heritage quilt. I made special quilts for each son."

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LB: What patterns do you like most and which ones do you like least?

IC: "I like all of the quilting patterns, some I like better. My most favorite would be the double wedding ring, lonestar, and the flower garden. The one I like least is called a string quilt. It is pieced from all the scraps left from all the other quilts. It has no special design or coloring scheme. It's made to keep the beds warm mostly."

LB: What's the prettiest quilt you have made?

IC: "The prettiest quilt I've made is a double wedding ring. I have made some beautiful flower garden quilts too."

LB: How do you feel about factory made quilts?

IC: "I don't like the machine quilted quilts as much as I do the handmade ones. They are not worth as much money wise - and - but so far as everyday use in keeping the beds warm they're just as good. But if I was buying a quilt I'd pay much, much more for the handmade ones, although, I've never bought a quilt. It's much nicer to be able to make your own."

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