The Falmouth Tricentennial Quilt

On June 15, 1986, the town of Falmouth celebrated the 300th anniversary of the signing of the Town Charter. As part of this celebration, a group of more than seventy women from all over Falmouth joined efforts to create a quilt depicting scenes of Falmouth in the present and in the past; a quilt of the history of Falmouth.

The original purpose of the quilt was to raise money for the Book of Falmouth by raffling the quilt. A gen-
A numerous group of people donated money to the book in the name of the quilt so it would not be necessary to raffle it. The quilt was then donated as a gift to the Town of Falmouth and is now on permanent display in the Falmouth Public Library. It is a delight to adults and children and it is fortunate that it will be available for as many people as possible to share.

Research for this project began in the Spring of 1985. The basic format of the twenty-two squares surrounding the central Village Green was the starting point. The next step was to graph the idea and decide just how big each square and border would be. Lists were constantly being made of local resources; friends of friends who could sew, draw, quilt—anything that would help complete the project. Many hours were spent with the book committee choosing photographs to be depicted on the quilt. The photographs were chosen from the Book of Falmouth, and were carefully selected to represent the ten villages of Falmouth and important historical influences. The book's format is also according to village so that in essence, the quilt is a fabric illustration of the book. Finally, in the Fall, 1985, Mrs. Louise S. Proctor created paintings from these photographs. In four instances, there were no photographs, just stories that Mrs. Proctor had to adapt to watercolor.

The fabrics used in the quilt were chosen by a group of six women. Careful attention was given to colors that represented local flora. To keep continuity, fabric was pre-selected for each square on the quilt and then fabric and templates were distributed in January, 1986, and completed squares were sewn into a quilt top in April, 1986. Each of the twenty-two squares and seven buildings on the Village Green took an average of twenty hours to complete.