

Fall 1978

## The Names of Quilts

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### Recommended Citation

Duggan, Devon Miller (1978) "The Names of Quilts," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 11 , Article 8.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss11/8>

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## THE NAMES OF QUILTS

Well no, I don't prick myself often,  
and thimbles are a nuisance,  
feel like dead fingers.  
This one? A Drunkard's Path,  
colors and curves, the blue was  
Aunt Mary's Sunday dress,  
she was partial to the blackberry brandy.  
When I got married Ma made two,  
Century of Progress and Goose in the Pond.  
Eli was a good man,  
we kept warm enough.  
There in that corner,  
Grandma Hastings made that,  
Hands All Around. She once cured Sarah Nuttall  
just by touching her. But Sarah was always sickly.  
Made my girl a Corn and Beans, always liked  
growing things. She made one, Electric Fans,  
good with a needle that one,  
liked fancy things.  
The women in town, they're working  
on Robbing Peter to Pay Paul.  
Talking mostly, it'll take a year,  
never get done for the church bazaar.  
They go in for religious patterns.  
In that chest there's an Old Maid's Puzzle,  
Grandma never finished it  
and I didn't want to before I met Eli,  
bad luck. Then the babies came  
and there wasn't time.  
Well, when I do prick myself,  
just rub it on a red piece,  
for good luck.