



# PAULA PAGE,

## *Principal Harp*

My grandmother died in 1985 at the age of 97. She lived most of her life on a 640 acre "farm" in Eastland County, Texas. Like all farm women of her generation, she slaughtered chickens, churned butter, canned all her fruits and vegetables and made quilts from flour sacks and whatever scraps of fabric she had lying around. I am blessed to have inherited some of her quilts.

My mother (her daughter) sewed all of my clothes when I was a child and sent me off to college with five matching sweaters

and skirts that she had knitted and sewn. Because of this family heritage, I have always respected and loved anything to do with sewing, but it was the "art" involved in quilting that really inspired me.

I began going to the International Quilt Festival in Houston 10 or 12 years ago. At first, I went because it was like going to an art exhibit – the imagination, creativity and skill of the quilters were so impressive. Soon, my mother and other relatives began coming to the Festival and now, it is a tradition for my mother to come to Houston every October where her visit centers around us going two or three times to the Festival.

A few years ago, I began to think that even though I am not much of a seamstress, I might be able to quilt. I love quilting because it is creative, useful and requires some skill, but also because I get to make all the decisions myself—design, color, fabric choices and quilting patterns.

I made this first quilt for my daughter, Kathleen Fay. It is the "Triple Rail Fence" pattern, and I chose the fabrics because they reminded me of Kathleen who is pretty, sweet and kind. The quilt I am working on now is a "cowboy boot" quilt for my son Brendan Fay because he is an honors history major at the University of Texas and a Texas Wrangler.

For all interested, the International Quilt Festival will take place on October 30-November 2, 2003 at the George R. Brown Convention Center.