

# Caroline Wacker



## A Silver Stitcher's Story

by Karen Downer

You can still hear the Bronx in this lively lady's speech. Caroline Wacker, who turns 95 in March, moved South from New York to Georgia with her family in 1976 and brought her sewing talents with her. But she was not ALWAYS a seamstress; she shared with me her auspicious start as a young married working on her husband's shirt. She didn't understand that tension thing and wound up with a knotted mess. She threw the shirt over her shoulder, kicked the machine (cabinet and all) and went on to knitting for a few years. Her husband deposited THAT shirt in the trash.

Caroline is now the proud owner of a new Janome Horizon with more computer driven bells and whistles than you can imagine and hopefully - self-adjusting tension! Her sewing room features a large sewing machine table, fabric storage space, wonderful natural light, and an elevated cutting surface. Several projects are in progress and on the design wall. A framed fragment of an antique quilt connects her to the women who came before us.

Caroline is a charter member of the Lavender Mountain Quilt Guild, and, I'm guessing, the rest of them have been sewing pretty fast all these years to keep up with her! She believes that cost is a challenge to quilters these days and much of her work is done completely from her stash. She loves the "doing" of it and will not sell her quilts. She gives most of them to her friends and family and really wants them to be USED and ENJOYED. She creates doll quilts for a local charity that gives toys and other items to children. These small quilts are combined with handcrafted wooden doll beds.

We joked about our both being transplanted damn Yankees and carpet baggers. We won't be making a southern belle of Caroline, although, her countless grandchildren and great grandchildren MUST have their fair share of our southern attributes. Caroline is admittedly "tough on the outside and easy on the inside". Quilting and its social aspect got her through the death of her husband while residing here in Georgia.

Starting with hand piecing (as taught by Monty Fricks), Caroline has been influenced by the beautiful deep colors of Vincent Van Gogh's paintings and the smart techniques of Eleanor Burns since the 1980's. Expert piecing and saturated colors are evident in her work that is both modern and traditional in character. I am sure my photos don't do justice to her overall body of work. Her quilts are "out there" with the many people fortunate enough to receive something made just for them.

Thank you Caroline Wacker and Jane Barwick - who arranged our visit in Rome, Georgia recently. I will not soon forget the time I spent with you both.

[Back to the Georgia Quilt Council](#)

[Back to the Silver Stitchers](#)