

I thought it was so close to where I lived I should attend and Jacque volunteered to pick me up, thus we went.

At that meeting it was determined that a quilt guild would form as a part of Embroiderers of America (EGA), thus avoiding all the paperwork associated with starting a separate organization. We paid our membership fees to EGA and \$7.00 of the \$12.00 went to the National organization. Our quilt group of about 16 met in our homes and became known as Quilt Gems. Jo Inzer Smith and Jacque Riddlemoser were the most knowledgeable quilters and assigned us all to research and present programs at our monthly gatherings on the 3rd Tuesdays. I remember being assigned batting... about which I had no idea there was so much to know and consider. It was all a bit intimidating, especially the idea I would ever make a full sized hand pieced, hand quilted quilt. At that time (late 70's), as quilter's the only thing we used our sewing machines for was to sew the quilt together and add the first step of the binding. Because the walking foot had not yet been invented, even machine sewing the binding was time-consuming. We had to baste it first or it would ripple ... heaven forbid.

I joined the group because, one, they were a fun group of women to spend time with and they were going to make a quilt to raffle, raising money to have a quilt show. I was especially attracted to the



First quilt started in 1982 and finished 2005. Three members were there from the start to the finish. Left to Right: **Cheryl Little, Linda Dixon, and Jacque Riddlemoser.**

idea of making a raffle quilt. If I could actually see a quilt go together to completion then, perhaps I would have the confidence to attack one on my own. As time progressed, I could see, even more than making a quilt, how with a quilt show we could raise awareness in our community to the many values of a quilt, hoping they would then be treasures to be inherited, rather than sold at garage sales. That became important to all of us.

JO INZER SMITH

Jo Inzer at a quilt frame from 1982 ... it was our first quilt (1982) in a full-out frame and the last of many to be finished (2005). When Jo was sick in 2005 with a terminal cancer, Linda Dixon rescued the quilt and made sure it got finished before Jo passed.