

“To Be In Heaven For A Day.”



April, 2010



100 quilters per day for three days came to Paducah for the Quilt Show by charter flights.

The Rockford Airport started “Day Trips” in 2005 to several locations such as Niagra Falls. While Judy was going home from last year’s quilt show, she wondered why Paducah couldn’t be added to the Day Trip list.

“So first I talked with Barkley Regional and they said they would like for us to fly into their airport. Then I went to Rockford’s airport and they said we would talk about it after January,” Judy said.

In the meantime, she set up a table in Rockford at the Sinnissippi Quilt Show that is sponsored by her guild. She asked the 1,800 who attended if they would want information about a day trip to the Paducah show. 220 signed up immediately over a two-day period.

The process for organizing the trip took a few months but when the tickets went on sale April 8 a 100 seat plane was filled for both April 23 and 24 of the Quilt Show. A third flight had 87 passengers on board.

“People up here are hurting. Unemployment is up. Many of the quilters in this area are the breadwinners for their families and cannot give up three to four days of work to attend the Paducah Quilt Show.”

The day trips by chartered plane gave them the opportunity to see quilts up close, meet the quilt makers, see the back of the quilts, and not have to rely just on a magazine to see what the quilts look like.

Although many of those making the charter trips were from the Sinnissippi Guild, quilters from across Northern Illinois and a few from Wisconsin were on board.

It all started a year ago when Judy Mullen from Rockford, IL wanted to give the Paducah Quilt Show experience to as many of her fellow quilters as possible.

Judy said she wanted to give them a chance to “be in heaven for a day.”

She had flown to the Paducah show for several years with her husband, who is a pilot. It was nice to get to the show early in the day, have plenty of time to look at the quilts, and be back in her own bed that night.



Judy Mullen, Rockford, IL charter flight organizer, explained to Cardinal River film crew how she got three charter flights to Paducah for the Quilt Show.