

Quilt #50A

QUILT NAME: “Swedish Charm”

LOCATION: **Plastic Products Corporation** – established in 1957 as a tool and die shop, in 1962 owner Willard “Smitty” Smith added an injection molding press, along with contract assembly of molded parts, giving birth to Plastic Product Company, Inc. Smitty died suddenly in 1975, and his wife Marlene was tasked with taking over the struggling business. Her determination helped her successfully grow the company into a thriving, award-winning business that repeatedly ranked as on the nation’s largest woman-owned businesses.

Marlene retired in 2013, leaving the business with operations throughout the US, more than 900 employees nationwide, and \$150M in annual revenue. As PPC’s majority stockholder, shares were sold to Plastic Products Corporation’s Employee Stock Ownership Plan, making it a 100% employee-owned company.

PPC’s mission is “To provide our customers with a full range of value-added products and services that exceed their expectations. To develop and retain dedicated, empowered employees who share in our success. To continuously improve and achieve profitable growth over the long term.”

Marlene Smith was a philanthropist, and helped to preserve the history and heritage of our area. Many of the local landmarks, including Lindstrom’s “coffee pot” water tower, the Karl and Kristina statues, and other attractions, are owed to Marlene’s generosity of spirit. Plastic Products also has a long history of supporting community events and projects. Marlene passed away in 2015, and will forever be missed by the Chisago Lakes community. A statue in east Lindstrom is a tribute to Marlene Smith’s legacy.

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