

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD  
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #12 - September 1977  
*Edited by Jean Warholic*

What glorious and splendiferous fall weather we've been having!!! And by now you have surely canned all those tomatoes, pickled all those pickles, and dried and frozen everything else edible -- even all those flowers and plants you promised yourself that you would do for winter dyepots... (HA!!) The first frost almost becomes a treat. But think of all that good winter eating -- and dyeing -- that is truly the best part!!!

This is another FAT newsy newsletter, so brace yourself. And if it sounds a bit discom-  
bobulated (that is nothing new!), there is a great deal to cover... Classes are start-  
ing, there are places to go and things to do, a good Ad Section, news about this and  
that -- not to mention the Wool Day Report, at last, and a membership up-date for you to  
make note of. Furthermore, this is your last Newsletter until after the November meet-  
ing and officer elections (see the last page for the Newsletter schedule). No October  
newsletter.

First of all, a bit of old business. Remember that revised Guild CONSTITUTION (green  
sheet) you received back in the Spring? (New members have received them in their infor-  
mation packets.) To make it official, we must vote on it -- to save hassle, we will  
assume a YES vote from you unless your NO vote is received by October 1 -- NO votes  
should be sent to Barb White, Recording Secretary, 6 Monroe St., Dryden, N.Y. 13053.  
After October 1, we assume a YES vote on the Constitution as it stands...

STATE FAIR RESULTS -- whooooopeeee! There were over 50 entries received and the Fair  
officials were pleased. We have been assured that they will have categories for handspun  
next year. GOOD! Now we will have to show them how glad we are and come through next  
year as well as we did this year! We are pleased no end to give you the list of winners  
in this area: MARIA STEVE, 1st Place, machine-carded (and that skein was gorgeous!)  
(and Maria didn't tell me to say that); JEAN WARHOLIC, 1st Place, hand-carded, Hon. Men-  
tion, hand-combed; LINDA OLDS, 2nd Place, hand-carded, 2nd Place, hand-combed; and last,  
but never least, the person who taught these three to spin, KAY ROSS, 3rd Place, machine-  
carded, 3rd Place, hand-carded. (See what a good teacher she is?!!!) We should also  
definitely add that Kay Ross received an Honorable Mention for her handsome woven coat  
-- a double honor because of the stiff competition in the weaving categories (there are  
two measely categories: Traditional [1st place was won by a former student of Miss Ross's]  
and Contemporary -- WEAVERS, REVOLT!!!). And just in case you think the judges didn't  
reject any skeins, they did -- one of Jean Warholic's and one of Kay Ross's... The  
four who entered this year are drafting a letter to the State Fair people, thanking  
them warmly for having the categories and making suggestions for next year's categories.  
Please contact any of the four above if you want to offer your suggestions -- how about  
a "novelty yarn" category, or non-wool, or...?? Items from handspun? There is a short-  
age of prize money, so that will be a consideration. We will be reminding you about  
next year's Fair entries earlier than we did before, too. (We are sorry to report that  
Thistledown only had one entry... ahem.)

CRAFTFAIR ITHACA. Many of us are still outraged by the manner in which many of the  
textiles were displayed. By the time you receive this, the Guild letter will have gone  
out to those who should hear about it. A copy will be on file. The letter will be  
diplomatic and offer constructive suggestions, as well as make an offer to help provide  
labor next year for better displays. In the meanwhile, it was good to see Laurel  
Scheeler again and we are pleased that our own Marie McRae had something like 25 of her  
28 pieces accepted at Craftfair Ithaca -- hope you both did well, too!!!

ASHFORD WHEELS and all that. The Guild has been sold out for awhile now, plus so are  
all extras ordered by others. We will start collecting orders seriously at the Octo-  
ber meeting, with the next order probably going out probably in December. JUMBO FLYERS  
and extra bobbins from the July order should be coming in shortly, if not already. Let

Jean Nowack know when you've rec'd your Jumbomumbo. The extra bobbins will come to Jean and she will bring them to the Guild meeting(s) for you to pick up... Extra extras were ordered for those of you who did not get in on that order and find you need more bobbins for all your copious spinning of late!

THE SATURDAY GROUP. Had a nice meeting on July 30 at Carolyn Cook's. Three dyepots were run: fresh Queen Anne's Lace (bright lemon yellow!), Brazilwood (strong pink-red), and Snowball Bush blossoms (soft oleo-yellow). Those present: C. Cook, Diane Record, Averil Bell, Ernestine Wright, J. Warholic, and Judith Holloway stopped by.

The meeting of August 27 was held at Ernestine Wright's and more dyepots were run: Jewelweed, Indigo (Eleanor May's first pot!), and buckthorn. Those present: E. Wright, E. May, A. Bell, C. Cook, and three of our new members, Joyce Scott, Doris Mamirou, and Vernice Church.

SEPTEMBER 24 is the next Saturday Group's meeting. It will be at Eleanor May's home, 1-5 p.m., with more dyepots being run (lichens, marigolds, and walnut hulls). Bring a dyepot and camp stove. Call Eleanor for directions (272-8224) if you need them.

OCTOBER 29, "Spinning and Plying." Bring a finished item for a "show and tell." Place to be announced -- call either Carolyn Cook (533-7297 or 256-6579) or Averil Bell (257-1647).

We've had fun at the Saturday Group meetings! Informal, and lots of talk. Again, we meet the last Saturday in the month, at a member's home. Information on Saturday Group activities may always be gotten by calling Eleanor May, Carolyn Cook, Averil Bell, or Jean Warholic. THE RULE OF THUMB is, however, that you must call either Carolyn Cook or Averil Bell to tell them you are coming -- if less than five (5) call to say they are coming, then the meeting will be canceled. More than five, the meeting is on!

NEED SOME PRETTY BUTTONS to finish that special project? (Especially if you are aiming for the Thistledown Seminar or our own critiqued show in November!) Try our Homespun Boutique here in Ithaca (DeWitt Mall), or write for the catalogues from The House of York, 63 Oakleaf Lane, Doylestown, Pa. 18901 (25¢), or Austral Enterprises, Box 70190, Seattle, Wa. 98107 (\$1). Both catalogues offer extra special buttons and buckles (but not always expensive) -- there are other sheep-y things from Austral Ent., too!

CLASSES ARE STARTING AGAIN. And they sound interesting... Cornell Plantations has a number of courses, including "An Early American Sampler: An Introduction to Fireplace Cooking," "Herbal Literature and Resources" (incl. dyeing), and "Old-Fashioned Christmas Decorations." For more information: 256-3020. Cornell's North Campus Union is offering drop spindle spinning and wheel spinning with Kay Ross, small quantity dyeing with Masako Kinoshita, weaving (three levels, M. Kinoshita), crocheting and knitting with Nancy Morey-Brower, and chair caning with Jean Nowack -- not to mention all sorts of other classes (you name it, they are teaching it this fall!). For more information: 256-6238 (2-10 p.m.). In the Tyrone area, the Lawana Center of the Arts has a lot going on too, with Karey Solomon teaching the natural and chemical dyeing, as well as spinning. Call LCA at 292-3696 or write them at Corner of Mill & Main Sts., Tyrone, NY 14887. The Women's Community Building has a number of courses also -- call 272-1247 or stop by 100 W. Seneca for their brochure. BOCES has beginning knitting and crocheting classes, needlepoint, a sewing machine clinic, in addition to its usual food-oriented, mechanics, typing, etc. classes. Call Donna Parker at 257-1551, ext. 232, or pick up their listing at 555 Warren Road. MOST CLASSES AT ALL THESE PLACES BEGIN SOON -- SO HUSSLE!!!

WHAT ARE OTHER GUILDS DOING THESE DAYS??? The Ithaca Textile Arts Guild is having its show at the Hinckley Museum through November 22 (410 E. Seneca). Be sure to stop in! Their programs for the remainder of the year are as follows: Sept. 15, home of Linda Long (Linda's work and techniques; slides of the Rhinebeck Fair); Oct. 20, home of Kathleen Whyte (her work and techniques; Madeline Killeen will show her lacemaking procedures and samples of her work); Nov. 17, home of Anne Reiley (Andor and Ann Czampo will display some of their Balkan costumes collection); Dec. 15, home of Masa Kinoshita (bring projects with holiday theme). Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. This is an informal

group (for those who worry about such things). If you are interested in joining and/or learning more about the Guild, call Jessica Scarborough (539-6318). The Thistledown Handspinners Guild at Norwich now has out its list of programs coming up: Oct. 15-16 is their gala Spinning Seminar (see elsewhere in this Newsletter for more information, just putting the bug in your ear at this point!); Thurs., Oct. 20, "Rug Hooking with Handspun" by Irene Hakman; Sat., Nov. 5, Beginning Spinning Workshop; Thurs., Nov. 17, "Backstrap Loom Weaving" by Merrill Berger; Thurs., Dec. 15, Christmas Luncheon and Gift Exchange. They will have Saturday meetings from Jan. thru April, bad weather times -- it is refreshing to go to another spinning guild's meeting, for programs as well as show-and-tells. There are usually a few BSHG'ers going, so ask around and car-pool it! No word from the Cazenovia group -- will see what I can drum up to relay in the November Newsletter... The Tangled Spinners & Weavers (formerly the Wayne County Spinners) will be starting up their regular meetings soon. Hope to have more information for the Nov. Newsletter on them also. The Lamb-To-Loom Guild is in the forming stages, with good influences from Billie Hall! They are meeting the third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the Vestal Public Library. The September meeting (20th) will be an opener of show-and-tells and an idea exchange. Last, but definitely not least, the Seven Valley Weavers Guild also has some interesting programs lined up for the year. Meetings are at the 1890 House in Cortland; normally, guests attend with a current member. They do have two lecture/workshops coming up this fall you should make particular note of and they are open to the public (so bring an interested friend!): October 6, "Uncovering Coverlets: Neglected Textile History," opening of month-long coverlet show, Ruth Kerr, 7 p.m. (reception, refreshments; lecture/slides); and October 13, "Coverlet Care and Documentation Workshop" with Ruth Kerr, 7:30 p.m. Puff, puff... what a busy bunch of people we have around this area! (Have I forgotten anyone? Tell me. Send me news of your doings -- Jean Warholic.)

WHAT ARE WE DOING FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR???? This up-dates our programs and planned activities through November -- take note! *And note that October's meeting date is not our usual second Monday...* Bring your lunch and a friend!! Tin Can, near Stewart Park.

October 17 - *Traditional Dyepots: Indigo, Cochineal, Weld and Woad* with Kay Ross and Jean Warholic. Bit of history, dye hints, and simmering dyepots (not woad, sorry!), so bring some wool samples to put in the pots -- wool need not be mordanted for indigo or cochineal, but should be for the weld. Also, Wool Day discussions, so bring report.

November 14 - *Exhibit of Guild Projects for the Year* (critiqued!). "Judge" to be announced. Bring your projects (finished, we hope!) and plan to have a nice, FUN time. No prizes, no ribbons, no competition. But a learning-from-our-projects session and a chance to see what others have done on a more formal basis than show-and-tell. In past years, this has been one of our nicest meetings! And, we'd better add, OFFICER ELECTIONS for the coming year are held -- read on for more info. ...

December 12 - *Christmas Party* and dish-to-pass. If the November meeting is about our nicest, this has to be a close second. Place to be announced - usually a member's home. Details of this meeting in the next Newsletter. Bring a (handspun, of course!) tree ornament to put on the tree!

There you have us! And with three meetings to go in this current year, be thinking about program possibilities for the coming year. Taken a workshop you've liked especially? Noticed another Guild's program(s) that appeal to you? (Program exchanges with others are always fun!) Your new officers will appreciate your ideas and the time between now and Nov./Dec. will give us some "talking time," as if we don't talk enough!

A few old, cold leftovers from previous newsletters... With less than 100 days until Christmas (YES!) and sales opportunities increasing, perhaps this is a good time to re-iterate the prices suggested by the Guild for your handspun. In general, but it is entirely up to you: \$1.50/oz. for 2-ply natural wool, \$2.50/oz. for 2-ply dyed or 3-ply. (You take it from there for other fibers or plys.) To be more professional about it, and to aid your customer: write the length (X-yds) of the skein and its weight on your label or tag, as well as the fiber, your name/address, and price. Some spinners will also simmer their skeins (of wool) to minimize shrinkage and customer unhappiness.

Another leftover... For beginning dyers who are drying or freezing materials for those welcome winter dyepots, consult your favorite dye book as well as your favorite dyer. Some dyers have had better success with one method than with another. The tips included in the August newsletter from Thistle-down might help you out, too, when it comes to using those dyestuffs. *LICHENS* should be crumbled and soaked overnight before simmering or crumbled and fermented (to determine whether you have a lichen that needs fermenting, scrape the algae layer down to the white layer and put a drop of chlorine bleach on it - if it turns red, ferment it). *BARKS* should be chopped, soaked overnight, simmered two hours, cooled overnight, repeat; use third day. *TWIGS*, *LEAVES* are treated the same way as barks, but do not simmer as long. *FLOWERS* are delicate and the usual procedure is to either soak overnight or use immediately, simmering the dyestuff and fiber about 30-min. to one-hour gently. *BERRIES* should be treated same way as flowers.

By the way, there is a nice little pamphlet available, titled *The Dye Kettle* (prepared by Jean Steiber and Mrs. Clyde Miller for the Chenango Co. Historical Society), available at the Museum. You might want to look through it when you are at the next Thistle-down meeting there.

THE WOOLRICH TRIP WAS A BIG SUCCESS! A good time was had by all and there was much to be learned at the mill! Suzie Hokanson gives us a report. "It was a beautiful day and I think we were all amazed at the wonders of automation. To see woolen goods made on that large a scale, that quickly, was -- to put it mildly -- mind-boggling!! We saw: large kettles holding 500 lbs. of wool to be dyed one of 170 different colors; huge carding machines, carding batts of recarded down to about 1/8" roving size to be spun at unbelievably fast rates onto paper bobbins (1,250,000 yds. are spun in a week!); the 60-80" looms click-clacking and filling yarns on the warp threads faster than the eye could see the shuttle moving, weaving 180 yds. per hour in 50-75-yd. lengths; menders going over each piece of fabric for any mistakes made on the looms, and their reweaving and repairing any flaws by hand (!); the fabric being washed and shrunk, and carbonized (to remove all vegetable matter that had been woven into the fabric) [ed. note: you will like Theodora Meller's term "electrocuted"!]; and the finished stacks of gorgeous woolen fabrics, each and every one beautiful in its own way.

"What an experience! We learned that Woolrich is the oldest woolen mill in the U.S., established in 1830. It employs 13,050 workers in its many factories and is strictly non-union, rewarding the employees on an incentive system. I think everyone who went came home with bags full of fantastic bargains -- I know I spent a lot more than I'd planned, but who could resist!" Suzie enclosed a 2-page summary of the mill's operations that will be brought to the November meeting if you are interested (it was too long for duplication here). The bus was nearly full. The Guild lost 50¢ on the entire trip's expenses, but gained another member, too. If there is sufficient interest next summer, we might consider another trip -- carpooling it or on a smaller scale...

CARDING MACHINE. The lines aren't quite as long -- sign up at the October meeting. We do need someone in the Ithaca area to take charge of the carding machine. Dora Swart has asked to be released from the responsibility, we are sorry to say. If you are interested, please see one of the Guild officers. Your main obligations with the machine would be to give training sessions on its use and care to those checking it out, as well as checking the machine over for damage or cleanliness when it is turned back into the Guild. An Ithaca area person taking responsibility for it helps a great deal in everyone in the Guild having access to it most easily... C'mon, let's have a volunteer!

And then there is the merchant who is so crooked, the wool he pulls over your eyes is 40-percent synthetic...

*(The Shepard mag.)*

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE about Cornell University's costumes collection? It is possible to arrange for a small group to go up (after a meeting?) for several hours. For the most part, the collection is of American women's clothing, early 1800's and 1900's, but some coverlets, woven fabrics, and lace, too. Interested? Call Jean Warholic, 539-7648 evenings. She'll make the arrangements, depending on your interests and timetable.

As long as we are on that note, let's hear from the 1977 *Guinness Book of World Records*. The earliest carpet know (and still in existence) is a white bordered black hair pelt from the U.S.S.R., dated to the 5th Century, B.C. The world's largest carpet now consists of 88,000 square feet (over two acres) of maroon carpeting in the Coliseum exhibition hall, New York City. The most finely woven carpet known is one with more than 2,490 knots per square inch from a fragment of an Imperial Mughal prayer carpet of the 17th Century, now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC) collections. The oldest surviving fabric, discovered in Turkey, has been radio-carbon dated to 5900 B.C. The most expensive fabric obtainable is an evening-wear fabric, 40-inches wide, hand-embroidered and sequined on a pure silk ground in a classical flower pattern. It has 194,400 tiny sequins per yard, and is designed by Alan Hershman of London; priced at \$323.75/yard in May 1976. The finest of all cloths is Shahtoosh (or Shatusa), a brown-gray wool from the throats of Indian goats. It is sold by Neiman-Marcas of Dallas, at \$108 per linear foot and is both more expensive and finer than vicuña. (I wonder who the spinner is?) And now for a record we can all understand: the BEDMAKING record! The record time set under the rigorous rules of the Australian Bedmaking Championships is 35.7 seconds by Jill Donnelly of Newport, N.S.W., Australia, on May 6, 1976. (You Australians out there, does this include hospital corners?)

The NATURAL DYEING WORKSHOP in August went stupendously well!!! We had 15 participants, and one Guild member, and the dyepots run during the day-long session included Goldenrod, Buckthorn, Logwood, elderberries, and walnut leaves (beautiful browns!). Doris Brown and Linda Dickinson as the instructors complimented each other very well (don't think we won't make note of that, you two!). The administrative details were handled very ably by Eleanor May (we are making note of that, too, Eleanor!). Maria Steve gave a nice spinning demonstration and Averil Bell helped out in all kinds of ways. Perhaps the biggest item to make note of for next year's is to have some mordants and the Brooklyn Botanical Garden dye book available if participants wish to purchase them. (We will talk about the workshop a bit more at the October meeting, however.) The Guild netted about \$100 and this gave us quite a boost! A big Thank You to all of you who worked so hard!!! (And to Montie May for the use of his spacious building!)

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Charlie Goodwin, one of the Thistledown members. The Goodwins have been active in that Guild and you might remember him as the man with fleeces at nearly every Guild meeting. The annual lamb barbeque he co-hosted has always been a highlight of the Thistledowners' year. He will be missed by many...

Spinners are needed to demonstrate at two events coming up rather soon: The Learning Web is participating in the Celebration Ithaca, Sept. 24, and has asked the Guild to provide spinners, dyers, weavers if possible. ("Old Times Week" of crafts, the 24th from 10-4 p.m.) Jean Warholic is to turn in the list soon -- call her if you can participate by Sept. 20th, please, 539-7648. Also, the Town of Erin is having an old-home day on Sat., October 1, 2-8 p.m., in the Town Hall (Rt. 224). They would like a weaver, spinner, and chair caner (splint) from the Guild. Again, that list goes in soon -- call Jean Warholic, the sooner the better. (Erin is near Spencer, by the way.)

We in the Ithaca area will miss one of our favorite knitters more than we can say -- Meg Swansen, who had the wonderful shop in Trumansburg that gave us so much inspiration and

pleasure with all the delicious books and beautiful yarns, has moved to Pittsville, Wisconsin, near her wonderful knitter-mother Elizabeth Zimmerman. It sounds like a good move for Meg -- now those two can work more together knitting new and exciting things for all of us to try and enjoy and it will be a help to Elizabeth in filling orders and handling that end of things -- but a real loss for us, in many ways. Elizabeth has another book brewing and we look forward to it (her *Knitting Without Tears* and *Knitter's Almanac* have to be not only among the true necessities for knitters these days, but also pure joy to read, whether you are a knitter or not!). A bon voyage to Meg, wistfully on our part, and we look forward to hearing from you via the *Wool Gatherings* and (we hope!) notes tucked into future orders... (For those wanting to borrow the latest *Wool Gathering*, #17, with Meg's nifty BADGER AFGHAN (and sweater), see Jean Nowack or Jean Warholic.)

DON'T RELAX YET, there are lots of things to do and places to go before the fall is over... The following perfunctory listing is by no means complete, but should jog your memory!

ALLING COVERLET MUSEUM, 122 William St., Palmyra, N.Y. Open daily 1-4 p.m., thru Oct. 29. (Free)

CHENANGO COUNTY MUSEUM, Rexford St., Norwich -- or come to a Thistledown meeting and browse. Nice fabrics/fibers display. (Free)

FARMERS MUSEUM, Cooperstown, N.Y. Good history of early agriculture and textiles displays/demonstrations. Plan to spend the day.

GENESEE COUNTRY MUSEUM, Mumfords, N.Y. (near Caledonia), Tues-Sat, 10-4:30 p.m., June 1 thru Oct. 31. (Adults, \$4; children 6-14, \$1.50.) Spend the day.

Good overview of period furnishings, life between late 1700's-1875 or so.

UPPER CANADA VILLAGE, Morrisburg, Ontario. Open thru Oct. 15, daily. Spend the day. Excellent textiles displays/demonstrations; early Canadian life. One of the best "working" villages!

SHELburne MUSEUM, Shelburne, Vt. (Textiles rumored to be a disappointment.)

SHAKER MUSEUM at Old Chatham, N.Y. Nice museum, good displays/exhibits, esp. Shaker textiles, blacksmith shop, chair-making shop. Good idea of Shaker industries, inventiveness, way of life.

SHAKER VILLAGE RESTORATION, Hancock, Mass. Gives good feeling of what a Shaker village or community was like; rooms with "typical" settings; geared for the general public more than museum at Old Chatham.

THE MANNINGS are going it again with another great workshop series: Jean Wilson with "Joinings, Edges, Fringes, Closures, etc."; Ruth Holroyd with "Theo Moorman's Technique"; "Color Exercises for the Weaver," Palmyr Weigle; and MORE. Oct. 25-27, East Berlin, Pa. Write now for costs, info.: RD #2, E. Berlin, Pa. 17316, or ask around for those who've received brochures...

DON'T FORGET the Fall-In, Oct. 2, 1-4:30 p.m., sponsored by the Cornell Plantations. It is a nice stroll (esp. in good weather) and is interesting for the whole family -- they have all sorts of good events/demonstrations scheduled. A favorite fall afternoon for many Ithacans... And then there is the Finger Lakes Antiques Show, Oct. 4-5, from 10-8 p.m., Women's Community Bldg., Wave at Jean Nowack if you go -- she'll be caning her fingers to the bone there!

There is to be a SHEEP PRODUCTION seminar at Cornell -- details are still hazy -- so far as we know it is scheduled for November 4. More information will be forthcoming from Prof. Doug Hogue in another week or two. His telephone is 256-4501; we will also try to have information for you about it at the October meeting,

A spinner, dyer, and weaver (you need not do all three at once!) are needed for the Brooktondale Apple Festival, Oct. 8 (Sat.), 12-4 p.m. Call Jean Warholic or Joe Calvo (539-7635) if you can do all or either, as soon as possible.

THISTLEDOWN SEMINAR is October 15-16 (note that change of date!). Whooppeeee!!! It is certainly one of the best annual events for spinners in this area. No, it is probably the best!!! No matter how beginner or experienced you are, this Seminar always has a lot to offer. Transportation should not be a problem, there are a number going from Ithaca and we will be deeeelighted to help you get there. The two-day Seminar of programs is reiterated below. Fee is \$7 per day (cheap!), with overnight accommodations extra (ask around, double-up with other Guild members), and the Roast Lamb dinner extra (\$8). If you need more information than is provided here, ask a Black Sheep Hdspr Guild member or write immediately to: Mrs. Jean Steiber, RD #1, Box 219B, Norwich, NY 13815. Registrations must be in no later than October 5th. Members of Thistledown do not pay registration fee -- we just put you to work! The Seminar, as always, is at the Chenango Inn at Norwich, about a 2-hour drive (leisurely) from Ithaca; lunch is included with regis. fee. Bring your spindles, wheels, carders for programs and contests or catch up on your knitting and crocheting... Also, the display of items from handspun, various Guild (and individual) projects for the year, etc. is one of the highlights of the whole Seminar -- sheer inspiration -- bring yours and plan to spend time looking and relishing all those beautiful things. Now for the program schedule (a bit abbreviated from the Thistledown list)...

Saturday

Registration, coffee (9:00 am)  
 Welcome  
 "Wool Grades: Sheep and Their Types"  
 (Phil Comings)  
 Royal Wooldom and Wisdom  
 "Sorting a Fleece"  
 Lunch and Sales (12 noon)  
 "Silk" (Jean Case)  
 Can You Multiply? (contest)  
 "Silk Spinning" (Jean Case)  
 Sales Opportunities  
 Roast Lamb Dinner/Friendship Fest (6:30 pm)  
 "Herbs, Herbs, Herbs" (Carol Germek)  
 Spin-Go-Round, open discussion

Sunday

Registration, coffee (9:00 am)  
 Welcome  
 Unusual Wheels  
 "Fidget Your Digits" (contest)  
 "Spinning in Central Europe" (Flo Babutz)  
 Lunch and Sales (11:30 am)  
 Fashion Show  
 "Handspuns Here, Handspuns There" (mini-sessions rotation)  
 Christmas Decorations  
 Yarn Hooking  
 Stitchery  
 Lubrication, Adj. of Spinning Wheels  
 Novelty Dyeing in the Skein  
 Twining (loom & instruction)  
 Sales Opportunities (4:45 p.m.)

Now doesn't that sound like fun? Plan on one or both days -- you'll have a good time! We Black Sheep have been asked to help out if at all possible and some of us have already found a spot. But extra hands are always welcome -- if you are coming and can help out in some way, please get your name to Suzy Hokanson (Krocket Farms, RD #1, Marathon, NY 13803. *See you there!!!*

OVER THE BACKYARD FENCE... We were pleased to have Anna Maria Neumueller at our August meeting -- we hope that we'll see her again! And it was a pleasure to meet Doris Brown's mother, Mrs. Rutherford, too! // Did anyone get to the Otsego Sheep day? // Margaret Straight has a nice drop spindle for sale. // BRAVOS to Dora Swart -- she has been asked to teach at CONVERGENCE next June. A real honor, we think. A mixed blessing, Dora says, because she then can't participate in the workshops as much as she'd like to... Now, Dora! You'll get little sympathy on that matter... // Suzie Hokanson is due about any time... She may well have a new member of the family at the T-down Seminar or our October meeting. // At last report, Marion Wikoff has a Romney ram lamb for sale (\$65); may be reg. if you want to. (387-5410) // Billie Hall is entering a rya rug and a repp weave set (rug and two pillows) in the 1977 Susquehanna Regional Art Exhibition, Roberson Museum, Binghamton. (Date for the show is Oct. 8-31 (?). Juried. Lots of competition. Good for you, Billie!! // Gretchen Sachse had a baby boy, named Eric -- we were glad to see them both for one last time at the Aug. meeting before they left for Maryland, where Wolfgang is on sabbatical for a year. We

will miss you this year, Gretchen. Please keep in touch with us! And let us in on what spinners in the Maryland area are up to!! // We hope that Cindy Smith will be sending us some spinning and sheep-y news (c'mon, a postal card at least!) from England!!! // Ed Swart gave a terrific flax preparation demonstration (in costume no less!) at the State Fair. He also did some weaving, while Dora spun. First Rate! // Eleanor May and Jean Warholic were also spied at the Fair at the Wool Center (where else?), gossiping and spinning with Madaline Adkins on her husband's wheels. Kay Ross demonstrated spinning at the Fair on Sunday at the Museum. // By the way, if you missed Dora Swart's short and fluffy fibers program at the August meeting, you missed one of our better programs. She did a variety of fibers, cat to llama (supplied by the handsome fellow at Stewart Park, via Doris Brown), and members enjoyed trying different fibers and ways to blend them. (Worth a repeat. And how about Ed for a flax preparation program?) // We are extra pleased to note that both Ernestine Wright and Susan Lorbeer have now gotten their wheels going and are actually producing threads that hang together! (And nearly all of us remember those awful first struggles -- the hardest part, sometimes, is just making yourself get that wheel together!) // We are glad that the Barb Whites made it back from Canada alright, finally -- after having awful car problems... // We will all feel badly when Maria Steve goes back to work soon -- it has been fun to hear about all the things she has been doing, projects started and sometimes even finished, and all that spinning (her State Fair skein was something to behold!) she has been doing. It has been so nice to be out-of-work for awhile -- yes, Maria? Hard on the pocketbook, but marvelous for the spirits...

REFRESHMENTS -- keep signing up! Those who're on the list, don't forget: Oct. - M. Straight, T. Chambliss, K. Solomon; Nov. - J. Bae, J. Warholic.

Remember Rock Day? Normally, it is an informal meeting during the first week of January -- but there is more to it than that... We should think about it and plan the day at the next meeting or two... Guild old-timers can tell the newcomers about it -- it is a nice, informal, yackety day.

IN CASE YOU ARE INTERESTED... Angora goats are being used to control brush in a cooperative project of Univ. of Calif. agronomy and range scientists, the U.S. Forest Service, and livestock producers in Amador County (Calif.). Objectives of the study are to determine how many goats are needed in an area to completely eliminate brush, and how many are needed to suppress but not kill brush so that the fuel load can be held at an acceptable level. Success of the project, initiated in 1973, has led the Forest Service to begin a large-scale fuel-break-maintenance project using the goats. (Wonder who gets the hair?) Susan Lorbeer noticed an interesting item in the Sept. issue of *National Geographic*, in the article dealing with amber. From p. 424: "Stone Age graves in Europe indicate that numerous tribes, obviously in awe of amber's unusual properties, wore pieces of it as amulets to ward off evil spirits. At the Colosseum in Rome, superstitious gladiators fought in clothing studded with amber. The talisman was even used to make spindles for spinning, since spirits were thought to place hexes on thread." In relating more of amber's unusual properties, the author of the article notes "(W)hen rubbed against woolen or silk cloth, amber becomes charged with electricity." Jean Nowack also sends along a woolly note. In the July/Aug. Union College bulletin, an article appears about the discovery, losing, and re-finding of two Assyrian slabs at Union College. When several slabs became available, after the better objects from an excavation at Calah had been removed, several colleges bought them by paying for the shipping. This was in 1847. "Two slabs arrived at the College, packed in wool; the sale of the wool nearly paid the cost of the shipping." The article goes on to tell about the slabs on display, then and now. But note the part that the wool played...

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Yes, it is getting to be that time! Be thinking whom you would like to have for what office this coming year. Begin making your wishes known to our Nominating Committee now -- they are: Mildred Scudder (273-3308), Kay Ross (844-8050),



and Theodora Meller (659-7748). They want your ideas, suggestions -- and if you are dying to fill an office in the Guild, they want to know that too! The Nominating Committee puts together the slate of officers, presents it at the November meeting, and we vote on it. Don't be bashful -- we have a whole new year ahead of us, with all sorts of possibilities. If you've been dejected or had discontents, now is a good chance to make that known and be constructive. SPEAK UP to your Nom. Committee, and the sooner, the better... Jean Nowack has said she does not feel she can be Treasurer another year; Suzie Hokanson has expressed reservations about another term as President, given her new child expected shortly. And we are going to miss these two as officers! Once again, here (generally) are the duties: (see Constitution for more specifics)

President - presides at meetings, coordinates Guild activities.

Vice President - plans programs, assists President (and presides at meetings when President is absent).

Treasurer - keeps Guild books, handles money matters, orders/manages Ashford wheel (etc.) orders.

Recording Secretary - Takes minutes at meetings, official Guild recorder, maintains Guild library collection.

Corresponding Secretary - handles Guild correspondence, edits Newsletter, responds to requests for Guild information, maintains mailing list.

The new officers will take charge as of January 1, 1978. Do not be inhibited by the duties of the offices -- they are not as scary as they may sound. Probably the main characteristic of the offices is that they can take time and energy. But what worthwhile project doesn't???? So, SPEAK UP -- your Nominating Committee wants to hear from you...

THE END of this Newsletter. Please make note of the Newsletter deadlines below -- again, we are trying to do a Newsletter every other month. What a BUSY couple of months coming up!!! See you at the October meeting -- come prepared!!!

-- Jean Warholic

#### Guild Newsletter Schedule (DEADLINES)

#13 - November 15

#14 - December 28 (depending on new officers, Guild plans, etc.)

#15 - February 15 (?)

*Newsletter goes into mail about one week after deadline...*

One last little bit of STATE FAIR NEWS... Interested as to how they judged our skeins. Kay Ross reports, via Jean Spencer, that the judge(s?), Sunny Vixby (Deloria Chapin's daughter) used a magnifying glass to determine the twists-per-inch (tpi) and plied twists per inch (ptpi?). The top skeins were then selected based on the most uniform counts per inch. Interesting, huh? More food for thought... Maybe a Guild program on ways to judge handspun would be interesting -- given the kinds of yarns you've seen spun by now, you know what a tough job it could be to judge handspun yarns...

AD SECTION

MAIL ORDER WOOLS: We have 8 kinds of wool from many countries - over 50 colors; also natural, unbleached wool in many weights & shades. Bulk-order discount on local Finger Lakes Finest (good for dyeing!), 2 & 3-ply, cream and oatmeal. Books, original designs & circular needles. Samples & booklist, 50¢. Meg Swansen, Trumansburg, NY 14886. 3/2

SMILING LAMB T-SHIRTS. Photo of lamb on white or yellow T-shirt, adult sizes M or L (they do run small, however). Price is \$6.00 ea. (add 50¢ if I must send to you), plus NYS residents add 7% sales tax. 100% cotton T-shirts (hoorah!). Send check with order to: Jean Martin, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, NY 13068. 3/2

ASHFORD WHEEL ORDERS. You may place an order through the Guild whether or not you live in the area or are a member. These kits are individually boxed and will come directly to you; the extra bobbins come to the Guild and you must make arrangements for these. If we do not have a full order ready to send at the time we receive yours (we must have a minimum of 15 wheels or 5 Jumbo flyers, for example, to obtain our price break), we will hold your order until it can be sent - normally, this is not more than several weeks at the most. There will be a four-month waiting period for your order to reach you from Ashford in New Zealand. Prices and info. are as follows: WHEEL KITS (\$50) - wheel, 4 bobbins, lazy kate for plying, and for \$10 extra, your wheel will be finished with walnut stain and polished by Ashford (specify this if you want it); JUMBO FLYER (\$15) - flyer unit, 4 bobbins; REGULAR BOBBINS (85¢ each) and JUMBO BOBBINS (\$1.05 each). You will be charged customs fees on the wheel kits (about \$3) and Jumbo flyer units (about \$1) when they come to you; customs fees are included in the prices for the extra bobbins in both sizes. TO ORDER: Make your check payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild and send it with your order to: Jean Nowack, RD #1, Spencer, N.Y. 14883.

FLOOR LOOMS FOR SALE: New, \$163.50 to \$260; used, \$150-\$200. Looms for rent: \$5 per week or \$20 per month. Also, shuttles, reeds, heddles, bobbin winders, threading hooks, cottons, linens, jute, loom plans, lessons, etc. THE TABBY SHOP, 49 German Crossroad, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. (607/273-3308) 3/2

BEAUTIFULLY CRAFTED WOOL AND SAXONY WHEELS made on order from \$165.00. New Minor's heads, \$45.00. Extra and/or replacement bobbins, spindles, etc. made to match your fine antique wheels. I am now able to handle all fine antique restoration and refinishing. Norm Hall, Box 648, North Norwich, N.Y. 13814. (607/334-7336) \*3/3\*

CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP - That's what our ads are - 50¢ per issue or \$1/3 issues. maximum of four lines per ad for that price. Support BSHG Guild and its Newsletter -- if you have something to sell or swap, put it in an ad! Deadline for ads: 25th of each month. Send payment with ad copy (checks payable to Guild): Mrs. Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, NY 13068. (Call if questions, 607/539-7648, evenings.)

FOR SALE: "Tools of the Trade" 36' jack-type floor loom, 4-harness, wire heddles, 12-dent reed. Bench is included. \$520 as is, includes sales tax. This is no flimsy-floppy thing, this is a STURDY loom. Please call between 1-5 p.m., any afternoon, 272-2525. 3/1

NATURAL DYE BOOKLET by M. Adkins. Mimeographed, with many yarn samples. Booklets may either be stapled and bound or punched for notebook - your choice. Page sizes, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2. WOOLHAVEN, RD #2 - Box 144, Oswego, N.Y. 13126. 3/1

OLD COVERLETS, quilling wheel, crocks, furniture, and other items of interest. Open 1-5 p.m., everyday except Mondays. RED EAGLE ANTIQUES, Rt. 34 - Lansing Plaza (533-4194). 1/1

Say you saw it in our Ad Section!!!!