

Your "letter from home" — from "written out" Jean!

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #14 - January, 1978
Edited by Jean Warholie

Snow, snow, and more SNOW -- what a winter it has been!!! More than enough snow for all of us... But you must admit it has been pretty, looking out from the warm and cozy inside. Too bad it isn't spinnable!

The DECEMBER MEETING was rather sparsely attended, due to the snow and bad roads -- there were some lovely tree decoration (that didn't get the attention they deserved), Ed and Dora Swart could not make it because of snow, and you missed some good food, but we had an interesting meeting and discussions about all sorts of Guild things... It was a nice informal time. And by now, Diane Record (who needed pushing to get out of the Olds' driveway) should be an old hand at driving in the snow by now!

Perhaps this is a good time to say that the Guild does have a President now (unofficially, since she still needs to be voted in by the Guild at the February meeting and something resembling a quorum) -- Jean Warholie has consented to be President and, I hope, the best news of all, continue writing the Newsletter. Linda Olds is taking over as the new Corresponding Secretary (and will need your vote too). We have an exciting bunch of programs coming up -- you can thank all your new officers for that! -- see below. It does mean that more of us will have to work and pitch in -- it should be a very busy year for us, but FUN too!!! And speak up if you find that a particular program or workshop you really want hasn't been scheduled; we will see what we can do -- we tried to have something for everyone! We are also trying something new: *programs will start promptly at 10:00 a.m.*, with business meeting to follow, so be on time and be ready, and we'll see how this works out...

PROGRAMS FOR 1978 (Second Monday of each month)

January 7 - Rock Day, which replaced our regular meeting on the 9th.

February 13 - "Spinning and Weaving in Central America" with Dick and Beth Feldman (slides). At Tin Can, Ithaca.

March 13 - Tour of new Cornell sheep barns/Shearing a sheep, with Larry Hunt, Harford, N.Y. (25-min. drive from Ithaca, south on Rt. 38 from Dryden.) Opportunity to buy fleeces, too. Business meeting at Dryden Presbyterian Church, noon; then we'll sort a fleece. Call nearest officer if you need a ride to the barns or Dryden.

April 10 - "Wheels and Wheel Mechanisms" with Norman Hall. How your wheel works, problem trouble-shooting, types of wheels, etc. Norm will also have his wheels/spindles there for you to see and try (and buy?). Tin Can.

May ?? -- Wool Day??? We will need to discuss this and decide -- bring your last year's report to the February meeting!

June 12 -- "Marketing What You Make" -- panel discussion. Selling what you make, buying (as a buyer), quality, finding a market, pricing, etc. Tin Can.

July ?? (Sat. or Monday, you decide) -- Lamb Barbeque/Picnic. Dye walk, too, if you're inclined. (Member's home.)

August 14 -- Dye Session. "Pot-to-pass" and always FUN!!! (Member's home.)

September 11 -- "Preparation of Flax for Spinning" with Ed Swart. From the beginning...

October 9 -- "Improve Your Spinning," a work session (Maria Steve in charge) that we will ALL put to good use!!!

PROGRAMS (Cont)

November 13 -- Our critiqued show of projects for the year. Always a good learning session, packed with ideas and nice surprises! Tin Can.

December 11 -- Christmas Party, with handspun tree decoration exchange and (we hope) the dye plant slide show of Doris Brown's. (Member's home.)

Now doesn't that sound like a good year ahead? (Won't it be fun to sit and enjoy for a change, Suzy Hokanson?) Suzy did a good job this past year as President -- and Kay Ross's presidency was a hard act to follow for anyone. Suzy says "Many thanks to everyone for your cooperation and support during my year as President of the Guild. You made it very easy and extremely satisfying!" Don't think we will let you fade away, Suzy...

Back to programs briefly (is that possible?). The officers got all enthused, talking about program possibilities, and went ahead and TENTATIVELY set up four possible one-day workshops to be held during the year -- we will want your feedback on this, and if you are enthused also, we will definitely want your help with them: (1) Beginning Spinning Workshop - sometime in June, Linda Olds will chair it. (2) Beginning Dyeing Workshop -- in late July. (3) Sorting and Curing a Fleece - time to be announced, Maria Steve will chair it. (4) Intermediate or (5) Advanced Spinning Workshop - to be decided. (6) A Fiber Day -- non-wool?, short, icky, finicky, funny fibers - with thoughts along the line of the program Dora Swart so ably gave us this past year. We will need to work out committees on these, etc. So be thinking about them...

We also thought about having some "extra days" (for lack of a better name) -- half-day, informal sessions, perhaps combining with the Saturday Group, not proper Guild meetings -- with time spent doing things like Christmas ornaments (Jean Nowack?), or Backstrap Weaving (Diane Record?), tie-dyeing your yarns, color-blending, and so on. Open to anyone, at a member's home -- how about it?

Ambitious assortment of programs?? You bet! And with your help, they need not be a burden!! You need not be an accomplished, Micro-filament spinner to help with these -- help with publicity, clean-up, organizing (or assisting the chairperson), or whatever you feel you can do... Enough said -- come prepared at the February meeting!

WE DO NEED SOME VOLUNTEERS... Barb White is in charge of the library; Marion Wikoff is handling the carding machine this year; Jean Warholic has the Guild handouts, membership forms for your use; Eleanor May is generally handling the Saturday Group activities; but we do need help with some other items. Someone to keep the Guild sales table items in one spot, if possible. Maintain the Guild scrapbook (we have a potpourri of things ready to be put together). Keep our Guild source materials (an interesting hodgepodge of things for us to look through and make use of). Guild mordants, dyes (for sale to Guild members as well as to be used for Guild demonstrations, workshops) and do we want to keep up with this? Linda Olds would appreciate some relief from the coffeepot/refreshments end of things -- how about it? (Don't be frightened, we'll show you how to make the coffee!) (And, hey, who has the Guild banner these days? How about bringing it to the Feb. meeting or giving Jean Warholic a call?) Most of these items take up no more space than a mimeo box. How about some help with them???

SATURDAY GROUP. A nice Christmas meeting in December at West Hill School, with all sorts of good (and pretty) cookies, etc. It was so nice to sit and spin and talk about projects. Eileen Oldham, Doris Mamroe, Joyce Scott, and Charlotte Altman came a long way on snowy roads, and they have all sorts of interesting things going! It was good to see Vernice Church and Cathy Anderjack -- Cathy had quite a length of fabric she'd made from her (laboriously) spun flax. Averil is still spinning the Finn, and nicely! Eleanor May had knitted up a handsome, if somewhat LARGE, Christmas stocking (a kid would love it, she says!). Sue Price is doing really well with some nice gray wool roving, for a

sweater, no less! Good practice and a lot of it! Ernestine Wright was working on a nice child's quilt for Christmas (wonder if she made it?!). Jean Warholic was still working feverishly on Don's woolen shirt material... (and it did come off the loom before Christmas, by a hair so to speak, but still needs to be made up.)

It was decided that in lieu of a January meeting, the Saturday-ers would come to Rock Day -- and Doris and Joyce again braved the snows and made it (all the way from Canandaigua! such loyalty!!). The meeting for February will again be at the West Hill School in the foyer (a good big room to meet in!), on Sat., Feb. 25, from 1-5 p.m. Dora Swart will be sorting a fléece for us and the group as a whole will have a session on the Guild carding machine. Again, Saturday Group meetings are the last Saturday of the month, West Hill School -- call Eleanor May (272-8224) or Ernestine Wright (257-0027) for directions. In March, we'll be spinning some silk!!!

ROCK DAY was a good change of pace for us all -- lots of spinning, talking AND food! We were pleased to also see several Thistledowners and Linda MacRae (also Cherry Valley) Handspinners). A good, relaxing time was had by all. We had some new faces -- Sylvia Scheffler, Jeanette Hine, and Alice Wood -- and some good old faces we hadn't seen in a while -- the Whites (Susan and Kimberly), Nancy Leahy, Meredith Wood, Theodora Meller, Nannette Keech. ROCK DAY is one of our most important spinning traditions -- I promise to do better this year and put in more of the history in the December newsletter -- but in short (from the Thistledown Handspinners, 1975): "Rock, rocke, and roc are obsolete words for that important distaff, the implement used for holding unspun fibers (not just flax) when spinning was accomplished solely with a handspindle... "From the German, rocken, which means 'distaff' came the long-used phrase, "spinning on the rock," and the name of the ancient English holiday, Rock Day or St. Distaff's Day. Rock Day followed Twelfth Night, the Festival of Epiphany, which marked the end of Christmas merrymaking and, on this day, the maids were expected to resume their constant chore of spinning. The plowmen, however, were free until Plough Day, the first Monday after Twelfth Night, and in the meanwhile, they amused themselves by playing pranks on the spinning maids... Most recently, our Colonial ancestors celebrated the Monday after Twelfth Night by having a "Rock Day," a gathering of neighbors for a day of spinning. It was much like the coming together on other days for quilting bees." (As a matter of fact, did any of you get to the Cherry Valley Handspinners or Thistledowners' Rock Days?)

ASHFORD WHEELS. Again. Hopefully, the committee chaired by Diane Record will have some information for us at the next meeting about other kinds of wheels, their general price ranges, etc. Ashford wheels are certainly not the only ones available on the market. Their price is hard to beat, however, even with the new rise from \$49 to \$75 per wheel (on a 15-wheel order). Jean Nowack still was reeling with surprise at the big increase and our being listed (without being asked) as "stockists and suppliers" when the grand announcement came from Fibercrafts Supply in Yellow Springs, Ohio, that they are announcing a new service for Ashford dealers -- to wit, wholesale prices (at \$60 per wheel, plus shipping UPS [about \$3-4]), no minimum order or waiting period (the wheels are shipping promptly, they say), and the wheels may go to either you or your customers directly. What a surprise?! We are wondering -- and will write Ashford if you feel it is appropriate -- how they (Ohio folks) can sell their wheels at \$60+ when Ashford directly is asking \$75 for a 15+ wheel order. Ashford did not mention anything about a price break beyond 15 wheels to us "stockists." How come. Of course, we would prefer to pay only about \$64 per wheel with no waiting period, but... We are now sitting on several orders and must resolve this dilemma. Shall we begin ordering from the Fibercrafts Supply immediately and forget Ashford in New Zealand (it sure seems like it)? Shall we continue to supply Ashford wheels -- for example, not only send in orders for others (and add a \$2-3 handling charge to add to the Guild treasury as before) but also invest some Guild money into purchasing them for "stock" and resale as requests come in from the area? We want your opinion -- speak up!!! Let'd decide once and for all...

THE GUILD LIBRARY. It's been growing by leaps and bounds and we are gradually accumulating a very nice, useful collection! Below is a list, to date, of acquisitions. This library is for the use of Guild members only, at 25¢ per book per month (to defray the costs of purchasing books). That month means meeting to meeting. We would appreciate your paying for the additional month if you miss a meeting and don't get the book back to us. (It does mean that others haven't had access to it.) We do need to decide about a fee for the periodicals and Barb White (librarian) has some policy questions to resolve at the next meeting. (And do give her a hand with that box of books when you see her struggling from meeting to meeting, it is getting heavier and HEAVIER!) Donations to the Guild library are always welcome -- fiber-related books or periodicals in good condition. Book purchases are to be considered by the committee beforehand (Dora Swart and Kay Ross). This is getting to be an exciting resource of materials for us -- no more frustration at the books not being in at the public library and articles or items not found at the public library in the first place -- and it is FOR YOUR USE!!! Let's use them... (Saturday Groupers included!)

Monographs

Black, Mary E. - *Weaving for Beginners* (two copies!)
 Boyd, Margaret A. - *The Mail-Order Crafts Catalogue*
 Earle, Alice Morse - *Home Life in Colonial Days*
 Fannin, Allen - *Handspinning: Art and Techniques*
 Fennelly, Catherine - *Textiles in New England, 1790-1840*
 Grae, Ida - *Nature's Colors: Dyes from Plants*
 Hochberg, Bette - *Handspinner's Handbook*
 Leadbeater, Eliza - *Handspinning*
 Schorsch, Anita - *Pastoral Dreams*
 Simmons, Paula - *Spinning and Weaving with Wool*
 Weigle, Palmy - *Ancient Dyes for Modern Weavers*

Periodicals

Thistledown Handspinners Guild newsletters, "The Spin-It." (from Feb., 1976)
 Tangled Spinners & Weavers newsletters. (Vol. II, No. 8; Vol. III, No. 1; Jan. 1978)
 Lawana Cultural Association newsletters, mailings. (for 1977)
 Maine Guild of Spinners and Weavers, "Spin-Offs." (Oct. 1976; #3 of 1976-77)
 Black Sheep Handspinners newsletters. (from #1, June 1975)
 "Weaver's Newsletter." (Feb.-May 1976; Sept.-Dec. 1976; Jan-May 1977; Sept.-Dec. 1977)
 "Interweave: Mountain/Plains Fiber Crafts." (Summer, 1977; Fall 1977)
 "Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot." (Summer 1977; Fall 1977; Winter 1977)
 "Maryland Sheep News." (July 1975 thru Dec. 1977)
 "Country Journal." (Dec. 1977)
 "The Web." (August 1977)
 "Craftspirit '76" by Artisan Crafts. (Three issues: #1, "The Craftsman--Past and Present"; #2, "Who Are Today's Craftspeople?"; and #3, "The Creator-Craftsperson.")
 "Artisan Crafts." (Vol. 5, No. 2, Oct. 1975 - last volume ever published)
 "McCall's Needlework & Crafts." (Fall/Winter 1975-76)
 "Spin-Off '77" by editors of Interweave magazine. (Vol. I, 1977)

We will try to keep you posted on new acquisitions as they come along. If you have a specific request, do make it to either Dora or Kay. Donations should go to Barbara White, who is doing a fine job with this lengthy task...

CHUCKLE BREAK. We tried to find the record for snow-shoveling, in honor of our current weather, in the 1977 Guinness Book of Records, but could not. This will have to do... The greatest reported achievement in HAIR SPLITTING has been that of "Alfred West (born

London, April 14, 1901) who has succeeded in splitting a human hair 13 times into 14 parts. This hair is on permanent display in the Guinness World Records Exhibit Hall in the Empire State Building in New York City.

GUILD FINANCES. In a word, good. While Jean Nowack would surely have rather spent her time splitting hairs (or in her instance, cane), she was kind enough to get us the financial report for 1977 (below) promptly after the year ended. We shall miss her as Treasurer (we have missed already at several meetings), and she has done a first-rate job with our (thankless) bookkeeping, Ashford Wheel orders, and innumerable other related tasks. (Did you know that Jean is one of our golden-oldies, by the way? Except for the brief time that Gesine Meeker was Treasurer in the beginning days of the Guild, Spring 1975, Jean has been our "original" Treasurer!* Guess we can't exactly give her a key to the washroom, but we can let her know that we've appreciated all the time and energy she's put into our monies, Ashford orders ups-and-downs, and MORE!!!!) At any rate, below is generally where our monies went this year and it is rather interesting reading -- don't stop... (Now Maria Steve will have all the headaches!)

GENERAL FINANCES 1977

Year-end balance, Dec. 31, 1977 - \$433.10

Membership Dues, 1977 - \$302.00

Workshops (Beg. Spinning, Beg. Dyeing, Bus Trip), net profit - \$201.19

Wheel Orders - only \$2300 this year (as compared to \$3900 last year)

Carding Machine - balance is still \$75. Rentals have paid only a little over 1/4 of our costs so far.

Library - we have spent \$121.42 for books and magazine subscriptions.

Program Costs (dyes, flax, Nov. judge, etc.) - \$66.65

Newsletter - costs for year, \$129.29.

Which also leads us to the fact that DUES ARE DUE... Active (and we expect you to be ACTIVE this year, fair warning!) are \$4.00 for the year. Inactive (mailing list, etc. for those who genuinely feel they cannot participate in Guild programs or activities this coming year) are \$6.00. Students (full-time, high school or college) are \$2.00. Please do really think about your time and energy this coming year, and the programs and workshops coming up. (Plus we are not really guaranteeing that you'll be safe if you sign up as Inactive --- we'd like to see you sometime!) Make checks payable to the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild and get them NOW to either Jean Warholic (see return address for this Newsletter) or Maria Steve. But bear in mind that Maria is going to be visiting family in Argentina for a month very shortly... If we do not have your money in our hot little hands by the March meeting, you will be dropped from the mailing list. Our 1978 Membership List will come out very shortly after that. For those of you who joined after September 1, you are alright --- it is Guild policy that your dues carry you through this year. (A bargain!) *Otherwise, GET THOSE DUES IN...*

IT'S TRUE... At 20, you can't wait for tomorrow to come. After 40, you never quite finish with the day before yesterday. And by the time you are 80 years old, you've learned everything. You only have to remember it... (Reader's Digest)

*Original officers: Kay Ross, President; Gretchen Ham, Vice-President; Gesine Meeker (half year), then Jean Nowack, Treasurer; and Louise Hebbard, Secretary. (Happy Birthday! As of this Spring, the Guild is going into its fourth year!!)

A REMINDER that the Guild has samples and prices lists from three wool mills if you have wool to send on exchange or wish to purchase large quantities of yarns (or blankets, or bats, etc.): Bartlettyarns, Inc. in Harmony, Maine; Shippensburg Woolen Mill in Penna.; and the Bastetter Woolen Mill in Millersburg, Ohio. The samples/lists are yours for the asking and we have about 10 of each left -- see Jean Warholic at the next meeting. Bartlettyarns has also just sent out their letter for 1978 describing their "custom processing" policy, with their custom spinning price list. It, too, will be at the meeting.

DID YOU SEE?... The Susan Andrews joint exhibit over the Christmas holidays? The article on Superwash in the Nov. 1977 issue of The Shepard (p. 10-11). The four articles in the August 1977 issue of The Web: "What's the Matter with My Wheel?" (p. 7-8), "Ancient Dyes" (p. 11-12), "More About Black Sheep" (p. 15), and "Simple Method of Dyeing with Woad" (p. 24). Mention of our own former Colleen Stone in Interweave (Fall 1977, p.10). And the letter concerning her book, and how you can get it cheaper, from Eliza Leadbeater (p. 4) same issue (as well as another article about the Shelburne Spinners). In Blair & Kethcum's Country Journal (Dec. 1977), there were three sheep/wool oriented articles worth reading -- "Amateur Farmer: Sheep," "What to Do with Your Wool," and "The Shelburne Spinners." (Nice photos, too!) And as a fore-runner to our February program, the "Looms of Otavalo" (Ecuador) article in October 1977, Natural History, pp. 48-58, is colorful, interesting reading. Most of these magazines are in our Guild library collection now -- pleasant reading!!!

Even Jack Deal of WHCU has the Black Sheep Handspinners on his mind... Early one chilly morning recently, he announced a record he was about to play with "...and now, here's the song of the frustrated ram, 'There's No Ewe!'"

MORE NEW MEMBERS... Welcome to the Guild! We are pleased to have you joining us!!

Active

Alice Wood, 409 Linn Street, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 (272-6659) (*Weaver*)
Sue Price, 590 Snyder Hill Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 (273-1605) (*Spinnable Golden Retriever dog.*)

Inactive

Madaline Adkins, RD #2 - Box 144, Oswego, N.Y. 13126 (315/349-2097) (*20 Oxford sheep, 9 black sheep; 2 Angora rabbits.*)

Student

Jennifer Gale, 2312 Countryside Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904.

Corrections

Jane Steigerwald -- sorry, Jane, about the misspelling!

Moo Huebsch's telephone is 315/655-2313. (Where were you on Rock Day, Moo? We missed you!)

Joan Rae has returned to Australia (in fact, they should have made it in time for Christmas!). We'll miss her cheerful contributions and Australian accent! Her address now: 52 Albert Street, Mount Waverly, 3149 Victoria, Australia.

New address for Frankie Whitman: c/o Pike Place Market, 85 Pike Street, Seattle, WA 98101. Frankie is working at the market (a farmers' market) and is planning a Wool Day this spring (hoorah!). She reports that "...I have been accumulating more and more fleeces, but find less and less time to spin!" She also passes along a new dye -- "Soak one chore girl, copper scrubby, in one gallon of ammonia for three days. Then soak some wool for five minutes. It produces a lovely grayish blue." (Sounds like one of those serendipity dyepots!)

CLASSES AROUND THE AREA... BOCES (555 Warren Road) listed the Introd. to Quilting class given by Eileen Rhonemus (Feb. 16, 23, March 2, 7:30-10 p.m., \$8) -- take it if you can.

She teaches an excellent, general course. (Call 257-1551 for more info.) Sorry, too late to sign up for their knitting class with Carol Dik. This Newsletter comes out too late this time (sorry!) to include the courses for the Women's Community Building -- their courses in knitting, needlepoint, etc. are already underway. Will try to include their Spring courses in the next Newsletter. And last, but certainly not least, the North Campus Union is offering a wealth of fiber courses you will surely want to get in on. (In fact, if you've been past Renaissance on the Commons lately, you will see a nice window display of things that the teachers of these courses have done!) Deadlines for signing up are (literally) NOW, so *hurry up* (call 256-6328 for more information and/or to sign up). Briefly, this Spring, Masa Kinoshita is teaching four classes in Beginning Weaving, a Tapestry course, T-Spoon Chemistry Dyeing (one session), Japanese Braiding, and Pile Rugs. Kay Ross is teaching two Drop Spinning courses, and two Wheel Spinning courses. Nancy Morey-Brower is teaching both Crocheting and Basic Knitting. Carol McClintock is teaching Macramé. Most of these courses are one to six weeks in length and in the evening. (So treat your husband to an evening with the kids and come to North Campus Union!) Can't forget Jean Nowack, fiber is fiber -- she is teaching the chair-caning course, starting March 28 -- in case you've busted your seats!!! (Ha!)

CALLS FOR DEMONSTRATORS! There is no rest for the weary and we are getting requests now. Actually, it can be lots of FUN!!! If you are a relative beginner, and many of us are, team up with someone who has done it before and go have a nice day of it! Sign-up sheets will be circulated at the meetings coming up...

Late Feb./March - The Learning Web would like us to provide a spinner (and weaver if possible) to demonstrate spinning at the Enfield Elementary School. Need not "teach" spinning, but it would be nice. Time/date to be worked out. Sign up at Feb. meeting or call Brian Adams at the LW, 256-5026.

Marchish - Ernestine Wright would like to have someone do a spinning session with her West Hill School kids. Time/date to be arranged -- call her in the evening if you would like to do it (257-0027).

April 1-2 -- Marathon Maple Festival. Suzie Hokanson is again in charge of the crafts people (hoorah!) and would like spinners to demonstrate the two days. Food and drink are provided (with luck, the drink is brought right to your elbow!). This is a good, busy place to demonstrate. Sign up for all or part of a day at the Feb. meeting. We should have at least 2-3 spinners there at all times.

Don't forget, we have a number of drop spindles made by Ed Swart for use when you "teach" spinning at the schools or similar situations. And *keep track of your demonstrating this year* -- Jean Warholic will try to circulate a list periodically. It will be interesting to see just what sorts of person-hours are spent doing this. It is a service that we provide, both on a Guild and individual basis, and let's see what we are doing and where. We might also informally discuss our general policies and feelings about demonstrating at various events between now and June (when demonstrating at non-school events seems to pick up)...

WHAT OTHER GUILDS ARE DOING these days, as long as you have your caldenar out...

Thistledown Handspinners at Norwich are going to be busy this spring! Forthcoming programs are: Feb. 18 (Sat.), "Spinning on Hand Spindles" (all kinds); and Mar. 18 (Sat.), "Mandalas" (H. Lindsay). Their ALLEN FANNIN WORKSHOP will be five consecutive Tuesdays, beginning March 28 (at the Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.), to give you maximum time to work on ideas presented and work on them in more depth. Fee to be based on the number of participants, about \$25. Sign up with Helen Grace Lindsay (P.O. Box 648, Norwich, N.Y. 13815). Limited to 25 people; first registered, first taken. For those of you who do not know of Allen Fannin, he wrote perhaps the most technical book on handspinning to date, Handspinning: Art and Technique (it's in our library), and he and his wife make their living at spinning and weaving. He is a demanding teacher and there is a lot to be learned

from him, especially if you have had notions about being a production spinner. You need not be a very accomplished spinner to take this workshop, but you should have a good grasp of what you are doing when you spin. A stout heart (in the "not-easily-wounded-psyche" sense of the word) and a comparately un-romantic view of spinning will also help. General workshop content: chemistry of wool scouring, techniques of spinning to increase one's yarn production, mechanics and aesthetics of yarn design, and quality standards for yarn (and spinners). A reading list and detailed list of each session to follow soon. Fibers to be carded for spinning must be well-scoured before the workshop and should be a maximum length of 2½" (the shorter, the better!). ### The Guild is also beginning Phase II of its Miniature Coverlet project. Begun in 1976 as a Bicentennial project, it is designed to be a traveling exhibit of patterns from Miniature Patterns for Handweavers by Josephine Estes -- each is about 8x10", using handspun weft (Columbia-Rambouillet fleece spun to fingering weight and wound into 100-yard skeins, dyed with traditional natural dyes used in colonial times, and woven with 20/2 white cotton warp into level old patterns. A handsome, wonderful (and ambitious!) project -- you've seen the notebook at their October seminar in the display room and it is certainly a treasure and labor of love. With Vol. I of 25 coverlets done, they are ready for Vol. II.

Seven Valley Weavers Guild. Two items to look for if you want to indirectly help with their current project: postcards (of one of the drafts) at 4/\$1.00. Raffle tickets at \$1.00 each for one of Marion Wikoff's beautiful white-on-white handwoven coverlets (May 14 is the drawing). See any 7VWG member (those in our Guild that spring to mind: Dora Swart, Marion Wikoff, Kay Ross). The 7VWG project, if you will recall, is the reproduction of an old document, The Repp Family Memorandum & Weaving Draft Book: 1753-1831. We will try to get you information on this project now and then, particularly if advance sales become a reality...

Ithaca Textile Arts Guild. Feb. 16 - Liese Bronfenbrenner will be demonstrating some of her techniques. At her home, 8:00 p.m. March 16 - open meeting at the home of Inger Jorgensen, 8:00 p.m.

Sorry, we haven't heard from the Cherry Valley Spinners from Cazenovia in a while, or the Tangled Spinners & Weavers from the Sodus area, to pass along news of their doings. Perhaps they (or their mail carriers) are still buried in all the snow...

WHILE YOUR CALENDAR AND PENCIL ARE STILL HANDY, here are a few more dates to make note of... Especially if you are doing any traveling during this period (or get stuck!).

beg. Jan 21 - "American Coverlets," Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, Kenan Center, Lockport, N.Y. (near Niagara Falls).

to Feb. 5 - "America Underfoot: A History of Floor Coverings from Colonial Times to the Present," Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, Mumson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, N.Y.

Feb. 8-9 - "Guatemalan Weaving" by Marilyn Anderson, sponsored by the Weavers' Guild of Rochester, Emmanuel Covenant Church, Rochester, N.Y.

March 28 thru April - Allan Fannin Workshop, sponsored by the Thistledown Handspinners Guild, Norwich, N.Y. (See previous page and above for more info.)

April 10 thru May 10 - 25th Annual Juried Exhibition of the Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers, Art Alliance, 251 So. 18th Street, Philadelphia, PA.

April 15 thru May 17 - The Mannings Annual Handweavers Juried Show. (Traditional and Contemporary categories.) Deadline of entries to them: between Mar. 13 and Apr. 1. For more details: The Mannings, RD #2, East Berlin, PA 17316. (If you will be in the area, their hours are Daily 9-6, Sundays 1-6 p.m.)

Speaking of textiles, there is a new book at the Public Library you might want to check

out when you stop in next: *Caring for Textiles* by Karen Finch and Greta Putnam (pub. by Watson-Guptill Publications, NYC., 1977 - call no. 677.0286F). They talk about textiles and fibers in general, display and protection, storage, cleaning, restoration, etc.

REFRESHMENTS SIGN-UP. My apologies! I seem to have misplaced the list. If you signed up for February, please bring your goodies. Will run the list in the next Newsletter in time for March...

Suzie Hokanson found an interesting article in the Bobcat WorkSaver mag. (Vol. 1, No. 6): "Throw away the shears. A earlier issue of WorkSaver described efforts to develop featherless chickens. Now researchers are experimenting with 'naked' sheep! Actually, these native West Indian sheep have hair instead of wool. The two breeds, snow-white St. Croix and brown and black Barbados, reportedly boast a number of favorable production characteristics: early sexual maturity (perhaps as early as 6 months of age), high lambing rates, short breeding intervals (two lamb crops a year may be possible), natural resistance to internal parasites, and greater heat tolerance than standard breeds." Hmmm. As Suzie says, just what we need...

OVER THE BACKYARD FENCE... Jean Case (FALLBROOK HOUSE - see Ad Section) will now be handling only silk and related items. Jean's been a good friend to us, and her silk/flax/other fiber demonstrations (with Gretchen Ham!) have always been a pleasure. If you have not spun silk and are interested, we will be doing some at the March 25 meeting of the Saturday Group -- come join us (sorry it won't be one of Jean Case's good sessions, but you'll have fun at it!) // Kay Ross's handsome black ram recently won his Merit Scout Badge for Exploring, complete with clusters. Of burdock, that is, when he took off from a (planned) visit with several ewe-friends and apparently blithely crossed Rt. 13 several times during the day, not to mention the attendant snowstorm, darkness, deer season (weekend!), and other minor obstacles -- ending up with a herd of friendly goats for company. Hair-raising! (Fleece-raising?) More for Kay than for the ram. His lovely gray fleece, however, is now a mass of burdocks... // Jean Nowack s s she'd found the answer for the overspun problem so that you can still keep your bad spinning habits if you're so determined! The idea came from an issue of The Web, when the chit-chatting ladies weren't letting the yarn go onto the bobbins, resulting in overspun yarns. Use your Jumbo flyer and a regular bobbin! (This is very appropriate for a lot of us chatterers -- Eleanor May are you making note of this?) // And what did the warp say to the weft? "Meet me in the shed, baby!" (From one of the Maine Handspinners newsletters, courtesy of Kerstin Tribbey.) // Congratulations to Maria Steve who spun and knitted like CRAZY to finish seven pairs of mittens before Christmas, in addition to a sweet pair for her daughter, Caroline, in gray with a cochineal snowflake. What a marathon effort! // That nice Cindy Smith (who is in England for a year with her family) sent our Guild a wonderful surprise -- the British Wool Breeds fleece and samples information packet, put out by the British Wool Marketing Board!! See, when we asked her to send the Guild something appropriate in exchange for air-mailing the newsletter to her, we knew she'd think of something good! Jean Warholic spiral-bound them and made a pocket for the brochures -- do pour over them at the February meeting!! Each breed card has a photo of the sheep, a sample of the fleece, and a description of the breed and its characteristics. Good reading! // Kerstin Tribbey, who has come to several of our meetings, has a large quantity of 100% wool yarn (and some with 10% nylon), in a number of lovely colors, to sell. Apparently from the Tenafly Weavers closeout. Price is \$3/lb. Jean W. will have several sample cards at the February meeting for you to see, or call Kerstin at 273-2578. // A happy birth announcement; Libby Martin's ewes have had five black lambs to date (as of Rock Day)! // Make Linda Olds show you that nice Romney hat she spun and crocheted for herself recently! // The spinning collectable to end all spinning collectables has been FOUND! (Jean Travers has been "upped" at last!) Jean Warholic found, yes, a spinning wheel in a bottle! Some of you

saw it at Rock Day. If that isn't gauche enough, the spinning wheel is painted (eek!) GOLD! (The Swarts will appreciate the authenticity of the wheel's design, however!) // We are pleased to hear from Ann Jansen that her shop has opened up at last! THE CANAL STOP is at 304 West Franklin Street, Horseheads (spinning, antiques, colonial crafts). Hours are Thurs/Fri/Sat 11:00 a.m.-4 p.m. (607/739-8849). No spinning supplies yet, she says, but lots of antiques. Ann is handling the consignments; commission is 20% to place them in the shop. They also have handdipped candles, Bruce Green's stoneware, needlepoint, macramé, handcarved ducks, dried flower wreaths, patchwork, etc.-- Ann says their quality is high and they are continually looking for fine quality handwork. Sounds like an interesting stop! Ann also reports that she's keeping up with the spinning -- she's always brought a variety of handsome things to the meetings and we hope we'll see her more this year! // Laurel Scheeler is becoming famous in the Trenton area (N.J.)! She casually (was Laurel ever anything else?) went to demonstrate spinning, armed with dye samples for a display case, at the public library and found, to her SURPRISE that she was to be video-taped! (Laurel says they didn't video-tape great classics like when the man said he'd never seen anyone looming, and Laurel was spinning, however. (Far be it for Laurel to loom anyway!)) Anyhow, Laurel murmurs that it was about time she came out of the closet anyway... // Billie Hall had a grand time in Hawaii -- who wouldn't, especially with this winter's weather? -- and got back just fine. She has tried to get to our meetings since November, but has been stopped by bad roads each time. Keep trying, Billie! And we expect to hear about Hawaii!!! (She will also let us know what the Vestal group will be doing in the way of programs and activities.)

FORGIVE this long Newsletter... But THANK YOU, too, for the deluge of goodies for our Newsletters in the future. I will try to keep the tidbits and articles coming -- and you keep them coming too!! Our Newsletter goes out to a wide variety of people and we've had some good comments on the bits of information, events listed, etc. Keep in mind, though, that items sent in having a time-value (deadline coming up fast) will be, of course, run first...

A few more bits to fill out the page and end the Newsletter... Suzie Hokanson knows someone who will make some nice nametags rather inexpensively (±\$1.00). See her at the next meeting if you are interested. (It is nice to have a name tag at demonstrations.) There are several people who would like to have the Jean Nowack crocheted black lamb pin and would like to have someone make one for them. Might someone be interested if they provide the wool? Give Jean Warholic your name and we'll list you in the next Newsletter.

Be thinking about WOOL DAY. We will need to decide and pick committee members at the February meeting so that we can get going with the project. We will also need items to sell at the Guild sales table if we have Wool Day, and that will involve probably both donations of skeins and a work-session (the wool dusters did well, for example, last year). If we are going to do it, we must get going!

NEXT NEWSLETTER... We will do one for February and include information, such as for Wool Day and the Ashford wheels. Get whatever you have to me by February 20th, please. Then the next Newsletter will be in April, as a final gearing up for May/June activities. (Deadline: April meeting.)

We have an enormously busy, exciting year ahead. We have a good, energetic bunch of officers and a lot to look forward to... Good spinning and we will be seeing you!!!

AD SECTION

NATURAL DYE BOOKLET by M. Adkins. Mimeographed, with many yarn samples. Booklets may be either stapled and bound or punched for notebook (your choice). Page sizes are 5½ x 8½. WOOLHAVEN, Rd. #2 - Box 144, Oswego, N.Y. 13126. *3/3*

SPINNERS, do you need a solidly constructed, portable wheel to teach on, to learn on, to take to seminars? I have available the Green Spring wheel, constructed of oak, cherry, walnut, and birch plywood with 7/16" machined metal orifice, double-action treadle, built-in lazy kate, and life-time guarantee. Price: \$65.00 plus shipping. THIS IS NOT A KIT. For additional information, contact: Nancy L. Breckenridge, 2209 Richland Place, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. 1/5

BARTLETT YARNS--Natural 3-ply fisherman, \$7/lb. 3-ply Sheep Grey, \$8/lb. Bulky - natural light grey, medium grey, black - \$9/lb. Shearing done. Gjeter Wool Company - Libby Martin, RD #2, Locke, N.Y. 13092. (315/497-9545) 2/3

FOR SALE: Union Rug Loom (used). Two harness, counter-balanced, 45" wide. In working condition. New heddles and reed. \$100.00. Call: 607/936-4448, 1-5 p.m, Mon.-Fri. Or write: Claire Benedict, 171 Cedar Art Center, 171 Cedar St., Corning, N.Y. 14830. 1/3

SILK FIBERS - Beautiful white and Tussah in combed and carded rovings. Send SASE for free samples. Cocoons, waste silk, spindles, and flicker-combs. FALLBROOK HOUSE, RD #2 - Box 17, Troy, PA. 16947. (717/297-2498) 1/9

BUY - SELL - SWAP through your Ad Section. Cheap rates, with the newsletter going out to over 90 fiber people. Rates are 50¢ per ad (max. of four typewritten lines) per issue or 3 issues/\$1.00. Send payment with ad copy (checks payable to Guild) to Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. Deadline is 10th of each month.

Say you saw it in our Ads!

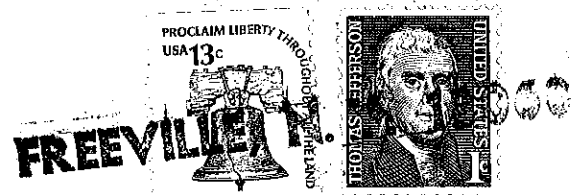
From the Country Journal (Dec. 1977) ...

Mahatma Gandhi "worked at his spinning wheel every day. To him, it was both a means of spiritual renewal and a means of finding economic independence from Great Britain. He encouraged everyone to spin and wear their own home-made garments, shunning the products of the industrial revolution of British colonialism. He said, 'I regard the spinning wheel as the gateway to my spiritual salvation.' When his health was failing and the doctors pleaded with him to stop spinning, he replied, 'What a glorious death, to DIE SPINNING.'"

Gandhi's belief that it was a means to economic independence from British rule sounds like our colonists in the pre-American Revolution days...

When Margaret Bourke-White, the talented American photographer, was sent to photograph Gandhi, he refused to see her until she had learned to spin, because he felt it would give her a better understanding of him and his people... After several days of struggling and frustration, she was allowed to photograph him. Perhaps the most widely-seen, classic photograph of Gandhi is the one she took of him sitting at his wheel and spinning. (Side-note from Jean W.)

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