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BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD  
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #37 -- October 1980  
Edited by Jean Warholie

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Hope this Newsletter reaches you in time! The October meeting has been postponed a week, due to Columbus Day falling (as usual, somehow) on our regular Monday meeting day, so please note below!

It was good to see so many old friends at the Thistledown seminar!!! It was certainly another jam-packed year and we all seemed to have a good time catching up on seeing people, enjoying the programs, and ferreting out the sales rooms! BRAVOS to the Thistledowners -- they spend a lot of time and energy on the seminar every year -- it is no mean feat for them...

OCTOBER 20 MEETING. "Marketing What You Make" is the program -- informal, round-table. 10 a.m., Tin Can (near Stewart Park). As usual, bring your lunch; coffee, tea are provided. Park near the Tourist Booth, please. Please bring something for the refreshments table, if you are so-inclined, and have the time... See you there!

NOVEMBER 15 MEETING. Our Big Show of the year, of our projects, and the "judge" this year will be Sunny Bixby, former president of the Cherry Valley Country Spinners (up the Cazenovia way). Bring your projects, tagged if possible with fiber content, your name, and any pertinent remarks. Place is uncertain at this time: either Northeast School or Cayuga Heights School, Ithaca. Noon to 4 p.m., *dish-to-pass*, with coffee, tea provided.

CALL ONE OF THE FOLLOWING to find out where we'll be (if we know by the Oct. 18 and 20 meetings, we'll announce it then): Eleanor May (272-8224), Gretchen Sachse (347-4396), Jean Warholie (539-7648), Suzie Hokanson (849-3345), Maria Steve (387-5559).

This meeting is also the ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 1981. And we need you! The Nominating Committee now consists of the following -- please contact them with your suggestions (and, better yet, volunteer!): Suzie Hokanson, chrmn (849-3345), Judy Becker-Greenfield (849-6484), or JoAnn Salo (863-3994). And we will want your vote at the November meeting...

YOU WILL NOTICE this is a combined Monday/Saturday groups meeting. It was such fun last year to combine, and such a good excuse (as if it were needed) to see each others' projects and ideas, we thought it would be a wonderful time to do it all again! And Sunny Bixby is terrific at giving us additional helpful ideas, problem-solving, etc. -- we look forward to seeing you there!!!

SATURDAY GROUP. The October 18 meeting will be at Eleanor May's (1360 Slaterville Road, Ithaca -- call her at the number above if you need directions), noon to 4 p.m. Dora Swart will demonstrate her pendulum wheel, and the group will spin and discuss the Norwich seminar. If you have not seen Dora's amazing wheel -- one of a kind in almost any sense of the word -- don't miss this meeting! And there is always much to be learned from Dora, no matter what the subject!

The November 15 meeting is combined -- see above...

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL COME OUT by early December and fill you in on blanks, meetings, etc.

BACK TO NOVEMBER for a moment. The Saturday Group needs your HELP! As many of us are finding out these days, there is no free place to meet anymore. The Guild donates a modest sum to the Tin Can for the use of its facilities for the Monday Group each year, and the Saturday Group has been fortunate to meet at the Northeast School when not meeting at members' homes. Northeast School is now, however, charging a rather large sum for non-school groups meeting there, and Sat. Group needs to find another place to

meet. Eleanor May is looking into other possibilities (including a different arrangement at Northeast), and if you have any suggestions, you might call her (272-8224). It would be nice if the space were free, or the charge were very minimal. Parking (and ease of loading/unloading wheels and our usual volumes of stuff) is an important consideration. And location (hopefully, in or near Ithaca) would also. It has been a problem in the past, and will continue to be. Please give it some thought...

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS.** The Nominating Committee is working to put together a slate for your vote on November 15. They need all the help they can get -- i.e., perhaps it is time for you to pay dues of another kind, and be an officer in 1981. There are several positions open (president, vice president, treasurer, recording secretary -- with the librarian and newsletter editor being purely political appointments). **YOUR GUILD NEEDS YOU!** And us old officers have gotten rather work-worn and would like to catch up on a few other things this year. C'mon! It is not as fearsome as you might think... Briefly (if that is possible), the president presides at all the business meetings of the Guild, does a fair amount of coordinating, and is the major contact person of the Guild. The vice president assists the president, presides at meetings when the president is not there, and is program chairman for the year. The treasurer collects dues and fees, keeps the guild's books. The recording secretary keeps a record of the business meetings. The corresponding secretary and newsletter editor responsibilities have been divided or separated each year, depending on who steps forward. Duties include maintaining the mailing list and doing publicity on various Guild events (apart from workshops and Wool Day). And the three-person nominating committee presents the slate of new officers at the November business meeting to be voted upon by the membership. (They also create the next nominating committee.) Officers take their new positions January 1, 1980.

The names/telephone numbers of the committee were given on page 1. **CALL THEM, TALK TO THEM.** And come forward!!!

**A NEW SATURDAY FIBER GROUP** is forming in the DeRuyter area. Their first meeting will be October 25, at Linda MacRae's (Middle Lake Road, DeRuyter -- 315/852-6123) after 5 p.m.), from 10 a.m. on. She says the group will be involved in spinning, weaving, and fiber related works. If you have been waiting for a Saturday group, here is your chance for an exciting, mind boggling day! Please bring or wear your show and tells.

**WANTED:** Handspun Christmas tree ornaments to sell at the Heritage Craft Shop, Dryden. Bring your samples (with a general idea of the price) by when you are in the vicinity. They have had a lot of requests for various ornaments made from handspun (thanks to the tree they had decorated with our Guild ornaments in the past). This could be a nice arrangement for all concerned -- let's respond to this!

**SPEAKING OF SALES,** Alice Wood suggested that the Guild hold or participate in a sale before Christmas. What do you think? And might you help organize it? Or "man" the table(s)? Let's talk about the possibilities at the Oct. 20 meeting.

**THE RHINEBECK** sale and wool day that they talked about last spring is to be held Oct. 25-26, complete with a sheep-to-shawl contest. Gretchen Sachse has the catalog and more information if you are interested. She'll bring them to the Oct. 20 meeting, or call her (347-4396).

**HOW ABOUT THE GUILD** sponsoring a trophy next year at the 4-H Fair? It would be a nice gesture -- we should have thought of it before! How about it?

**DID ANYONE GET TO** the dyeing days at Woodsedge Wools Farm in late September? Speak up and tell us about it if you did...

The **THREE INDIGO DYEPOTS** handout will be included with your next newsletter -- Jean Warholic just could not get it out in time.

AD SECTION

BURN WOOD and spin it too? Rayon, of course! Bright, super-lustrous, 3" staple. \$1.25 per pound (shipping extra). Will have at guild meetings while the supply lasts. Call or write: Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648 evenings.) 2/3

WHITE FLEECE WOOL FOR SALE. \$2.00 per pound. Corriedale crosses (with Suffolk, Columbia, and others) and Corriedale/Finn cross. Nice, clean fleeces. Barton Valley Farms, 560 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (Dryden area.) 607/844-9288. \*3/3\*

SILK FIBERS -- You saw them at the Thistledown seminar! Luxuriously beautiful white and tussah in combed and carded rovings. Send SASE for free samples and price list. Cocoons, waste silk, silk hankies, spindles, and flicker-combs also. FALLBROOK HOUSE, RD #2 - Box 17, Troy, PA 16947. (717/297-2498) 4/9

GALA SECOND ANNIVERSARY SALE!!! November 1-8, to thank our loyal customers. Every item in stock, 10% off, plus extra special SPECIALS on selected items. (And ask us about discounts on quantity orders.) Heritage Craft Shop, 87 W. Main Street, Dryden, N.Y. -- hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday. (607/844-4381) \*3/3\*

FOR SALE: A Green Spring wheel, compact and great for traveling, essentially unused, \$80.00. One pair of curved-back carders, \$15, also unused. Call Pat, 564-7651. 1/3

Black rams for sale, ready for breeding, yearling or spring lambs. Corriedale and Finn blood. All twins, born from block with 190% lambing average. \$75 each. Also, wool socks (replicas of W.W. I army socks). Libby Llop, 3079 Fowlerville Road, Caledonia, N.Y. 14423. (716/226-2788) 1/3

HONEY FOR YOUR HONEYS. \$1.00/pound. (Quart jar holds about 3-lbs.) Will have at Guild meetings, or call to order: Don Warholic at 539-7648, evenings. 1/3

SELL IT THROUGH AN AD WITH US -- we are cheap and reach over 130 spinners in the central New York area. Payment due with ad copy: four typewritten lines are a mere 50¢ for one run, or three ads for \$1.00. How can you resist? Contact: Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648, evenings) (BSRG)

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STILL INTERESTED IN THE trip to The Shepards, near Oneida, N.Y., for a delicious lunch and watch their wool carding machine work? Several of us are trying to car-pool it for the day -- call Gretchen Sachse or Jean Warholic to sign up. Date yet to be set for this, but get your name on the list (and let us know if you can drive).

HOORAH -- the textile groups finally made it into the TCAC Artsletter! You might be interested to note that they are holding a "Presenting and Marketing Your Artwork" workshop on Saturday, Oct. 18, with Janet Braun-Reinitz who teaches at the Community School of Music and Art in Ithaca. There is a modest fee of \$2.50. Call the TCAC office for more information and to sign up (607/277-4906). It is to include craftspeople as well.

HAVE YOU SEEN the listing of textile groups and events for the Tompkins County area yet? If not, send a #10 self-addressed, stamped envelope to Jean Warholic (address above). Space and postage costs do not permit inclusion in our newsletter. The list has various groups on it, membership/meeting information, and a calendar of events through Dec. 31. Copies have been at the guild meetings, Thistledown seminar, etc., but we wouldn't want you to miss it!

The class list for the Heritage Craft Shop is out -- pick up a copy the next time you are in. (Beginning spinning, weaving, etc., as well as rug hooking, crocheting...)

Interweave magazine is particularly interesting this fall -- check our Guild issue or pick one up at your favorite craft shop. They mention the Japanese test for natural indigo (from the Spindle & Dye Pot Guild of Mequon, Wisc.): burn a small piece on a saucer and if it colors the saucer blue, it is natural indigo. If it leaves no residue, it is synthetic indigo. (Hmmm.) And with the October 20 meeting coming up, you might want to pour over the long article on "Defining Your Business." (Very good!)

Speaking of business, the First Annual Business Women's Exchange will be held on Nov. 22, at the Women's Community Building, Ithaca, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This is a chance to show off what you do, promote yourself/products, and be visible (in short). There will also be a Directory of Women-Owned Businesses in the Ithaca area grow out of this -- plans are already underway -- and if you have not received a flyer, and want one, describing all this, please call either Donna (387-5390) or Jean (272-2056). The event is being sponsored by the Ithaca Business and Professional Women's Club -- a sharp bunch of ladies who are doing more and more to promote women in business and help us find each other! Truly a learning web. The small business administration workshop last spring was inspirational, in large part because we were finally able to get together and find out who we were, what we do, and how we manage our businesses.

THREADS OF HISTORY is the theme of an exhibit and series of presentations sponsored by the NYS Historical Assoc. at Cooperstown, N.Y. You may have seen the panels at the Thistledown seminar in the display room. We have missed the lectures through October by now, but the major exhibit (clothing and textiles in the 19th Century) will open in 1981. More as we hear about it, but keep your ears open...

SILK is the subject of the Fall issue of the Textile Artists' Newsletter. If silk is your thing, ask to see Jean Warhol's copy at the next Guild meeting.

By the Grapevine: The Homespun Boutique (on The Commons, Ithaca) has half of its ownership up for sale. We'll have Lindy Walsh's letter at the meetings. If this is your inclination, you might want to look into it.

The TC3 weaving program is picking up speed. Mary Kelley writes us that they now have the looms and supplies from the Textile Department at Cornell University, and they are now able to consider offering a 3-credit course in beginning weaving (credits transferrable), taught by Kathy Houck. They also hope to develop a two-year program. Mary mentions too that they hope to have Nancy Belfer on campus in the spring. (We ought to tackle Mary for a program of slides she took in Poland and Hungary of embroideries and weaving -- see what happens when you offer, Mary?)

THE STATE FAIR. Perhaps it is past history by now, but guilds in this general area did very well with members capturing lots of places! You saw a number of the entries at the T-down seminar. Jean Warhol has a complete list if you want to see it. Briefly, our members placed as follows: Weaving (Sec. 6, Class 15 [Contemporary]): Suzanne Hokanson, 2nd place. Handspun Yarns: (Sec. 58, Class 60 [Proficiency of Spin]) Mary Ann Lynch, honorable mention. (Class 61 [Yarns for Clothing]) Madaline Adkins, 1st; Jean Warhol, 2nd; Edith Cook, 4th. (Class 62 [Heavy Duty Yarns]) Mary Ann Lynch, 3rd; Madaline Adkins, hon. mention. (Class 63 [Adult Garment]) Edith Cook, 1st; Anne Jones, 2nd; Mary Ann Lynch, hon. mention.

Doloria Chapin was the very able judge and, gathering from the wonderful letter she generously took the time to write us, found it very exciting, lots of fun, and she was enormously pleased with how well we are doing and how far we've come! AND, while none of us sent in as many entries as we envisioned (shame, shame!), the State Fair people were pleased, are amenable to new categories, and we are ON for next year... BRAVO!

NEW MEMBERS, as well as old! As always, we are pleased to have you join us and we look forward to seeing you at meetings and workshops! Do make note of corrections -- and for those who've moved, or about to, do let Jean Warholic know of your new address...

(Active)

Daisy Kirkpatrick, P.O. Box 100, Slaterville Springs, N.Y. 14881. (607/539-7941) (Knitter; crocheter.)

(Inactive)

Madaline Adkins, WOOLHAVEN, 3386 County Rt. #1 - RFD #2, Oswego, N.Y. 13126. (315/343-2097) (WOOLHAVEN: spinning supplies, wheels, and Home of the Happy Oxford.)  
Julie Mayer-Tschanz, 17 Kent Park, Rochester, N.Y. 14610. (716/271-5263)

(Corrections)

Merle Sipora Glad Deer has moved: 1030 Calle de Suenos, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501. (They seem happily settled, Merle has found a weaver's guild already -- it was nice meeting you, even for such a short time, Merle.)

Virginia Lance will be at this address while Dick is on sabbatic: 121 18th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. (They visited the Schacht factory in Boulder, Colo., on the way out, and we doubt that Virginia is letting the grass grow under her feet!)

Nancy Morey isn't either and she has moved to: 679-B Chenango Street, Binghamton, N.Y. 13901. (607/772-6529) (She now has plenty of room for spinning and weaving!)

The Boston Area Spinners and Dyers (BASD) has a new librarian to whom we send our newsletter on exchange for theirs: Carol McClennen, 432 Fiske Road, Holliston, MA 01746.

THE 1890 HOUSE opens the exhibit formerly at the Hinckley Foundation in Ithaca, titled "Casting Off the Corset" (women's fashions, 1880-1930) and which our Anne Jones had a heavy hand in! If you missed it here in Ithaca, now is your chance to see it in Cortland. Hours: Tues-Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Address: 37 Tompkins Street. (Opens Oct. 19)

THE END. MORE in the next newsletter. See you at the forthcoming October and November meetings! We will run a few more goodies you've sent in shortly, but in the meanwhile, here are two poems to round out things...

-- Jean Warholic

(From the Wool Booth at the State Fair, that beauty we have all come to love:)

Heaven won't be so lonely  
If what I hope is true.  
If a little lamb of God is there  
Or some old friendly ewe.  
In those fields of Heaven  
May the years to come find me  
With a little flock of sheep.

(How appropriate for the Booth! If anyone knows the source -- Madaline Adkins couldn't remember, nor could Jean Warholic -- do let us know. It is well worth a cross-stitch sampler on the wall!)

(From Wallie Weidhaas, with a nod toward the Thistledowners!)

Theophilus Thistledown  
the successful thistle sifter,  
in sifting a sieve of unsifted thistles  
thrust three thousand thistles  
through the thick of his thumb.  
If, then, Theophilus Thistledown,  
the successful thistle sifter,  
thrust three thousand thistles  
through the thick of his thumb,  
see that thou,  
in sifting a sieve of thistles,  
do not get the unsifted thistles  
stuck in *thy* thumb.

(It is hard enough to type it, much less say it! -- ed.)