
BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #38 -- December, 1980
Edited by Jean Warholic

You may well still be full from Thanksgiving by the time you receive this -- or are looking forward to the last of the recycled turkey! Hope you had a wonderful holiday with friends and relations, and feel refreshed and renewed despite your dishwasher's hands and housemaid's knees...

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW OFFICERS FOR 1981!!! They were voted in at the November meeting, and we look forward to leadership this coming year!!! Several lesser positions are still open (see below), so we may still have room for YOU. Let's give our new officers all the support and help we can this year! They certainly need all of us as much as we need them... And they are very generous to give of their time and energy as officers to our guild. (Now, maybe us out-going oldies can get some spinning done at last!)

PRESIDENT: Maria V. Steve
VICE PRESIDENT: Doris Brown
TREASURER: Daisy Kirkpatrick
RECORDING SEC'Y: Judi Becker-Greenfield
Nominating Committee: A. Wood, chair-
man (two more needed on committee)

(Slate presented by Judi Becker-Greenfield; J. Warholic moved, A. Wood seconded; unanimous vote, 11/15/80.)

Newsletter: Jean Warholic.

Positions yet to be filled: two more on Nom. Committee. Librarian (stout back, car; Ithaca area residence helpful). Refreshments person (circulate sign-up list, bring coffeepot, etc.). (How about YOUR help with these?)

MANY THANKS to our hard-working Nominating Committee for this past year -- Susie Hokanson, Judi Becker-Greenfield, and JoAnn Salo. They put a lot of energy into all this and we appreciate it!!! And MANY MANY THANKS to our old officers who put so much time and effort into this past year -- may they have a little peace and quiet in the coming year!!!

New officers take effect on January 1, 1981...

DECEMBER 8 MEETING. Our annual FUN Christmas Party and handspun ornament exchange! It is dish-to-pass and we will meet at Toby Chambliss's new home in Brooktondale. (See reverse of this page for an excellent map!) Bring a chair (or else you'll be on the floor), and a friend! And an ornament made from your handspun. (Those bringing them will "draw" them on exchange before lunch.) We always have a good time!!! (Toby's telephone, should you get lost: 272-4614.)

To date, no January meeting -- come to ROCK DAY instead!!! (See page 3.)

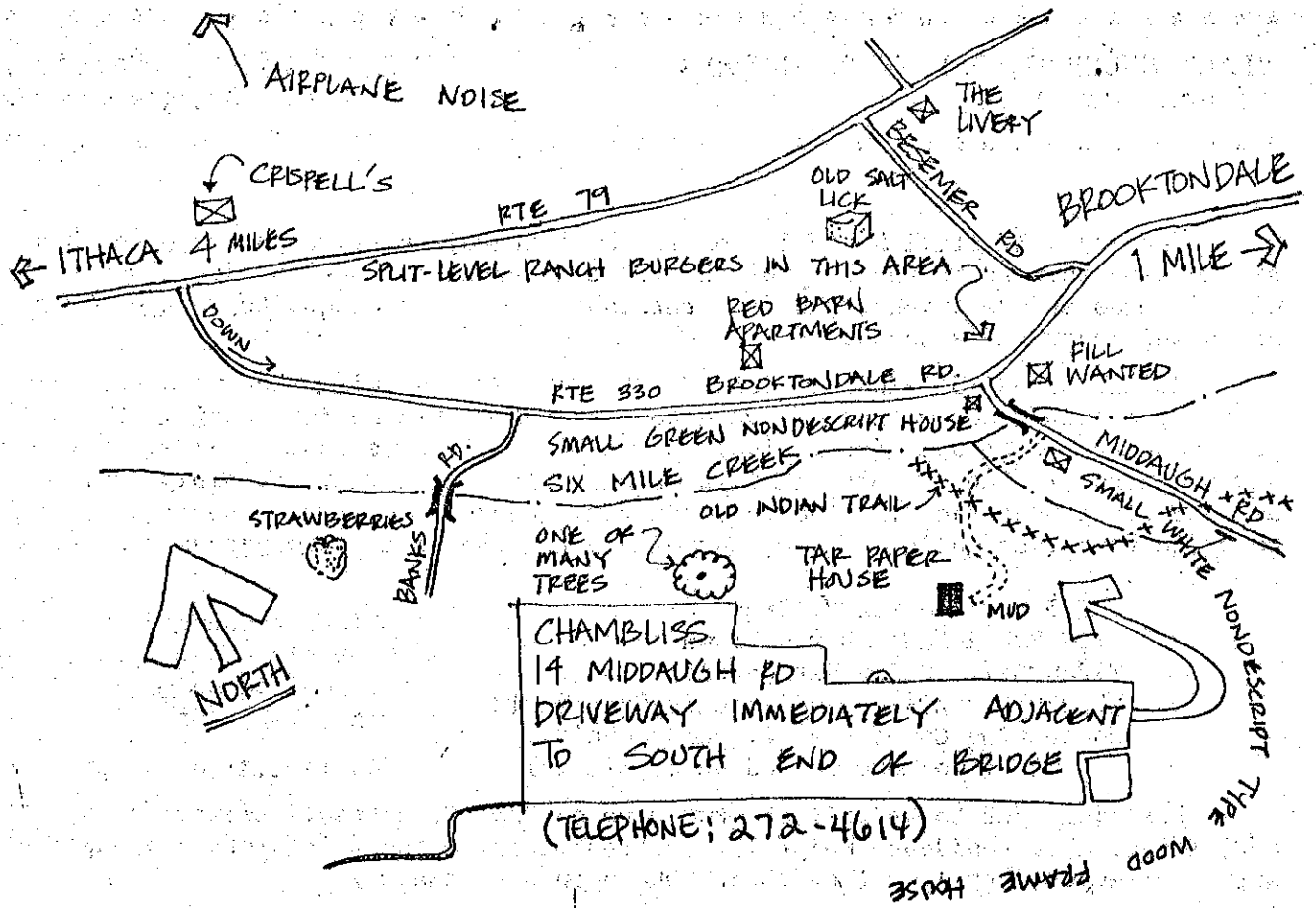
SATURDAY GROUP. December 13 is the next meeting and it will be their Christmas Party as well! Dish-to-pass, coffee/tea provided, and Jean Currie is bringing a delicious New Zealand Christmas cake for dessert! Usual time (12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.), but a different place -- PLEASE MAKE NOTE. The new meeting place, courtesy of Phil Sponenberg and Cornell University, will be in the new Vet School Research Tower, Room 530. (See the map on the other side for details.) (Clip and save, too!) For those of you who've found your way to Eleanor May's house, it is not very far from there. And it is next door to the Small Animal and Large Animal Clinics, if you've been there. (Be persistent!)

January 10 -- come to ROCK DAY and spin with us! Bring a friend...

January 28 -- Tentatively, the next meeting of the Saturday Group.

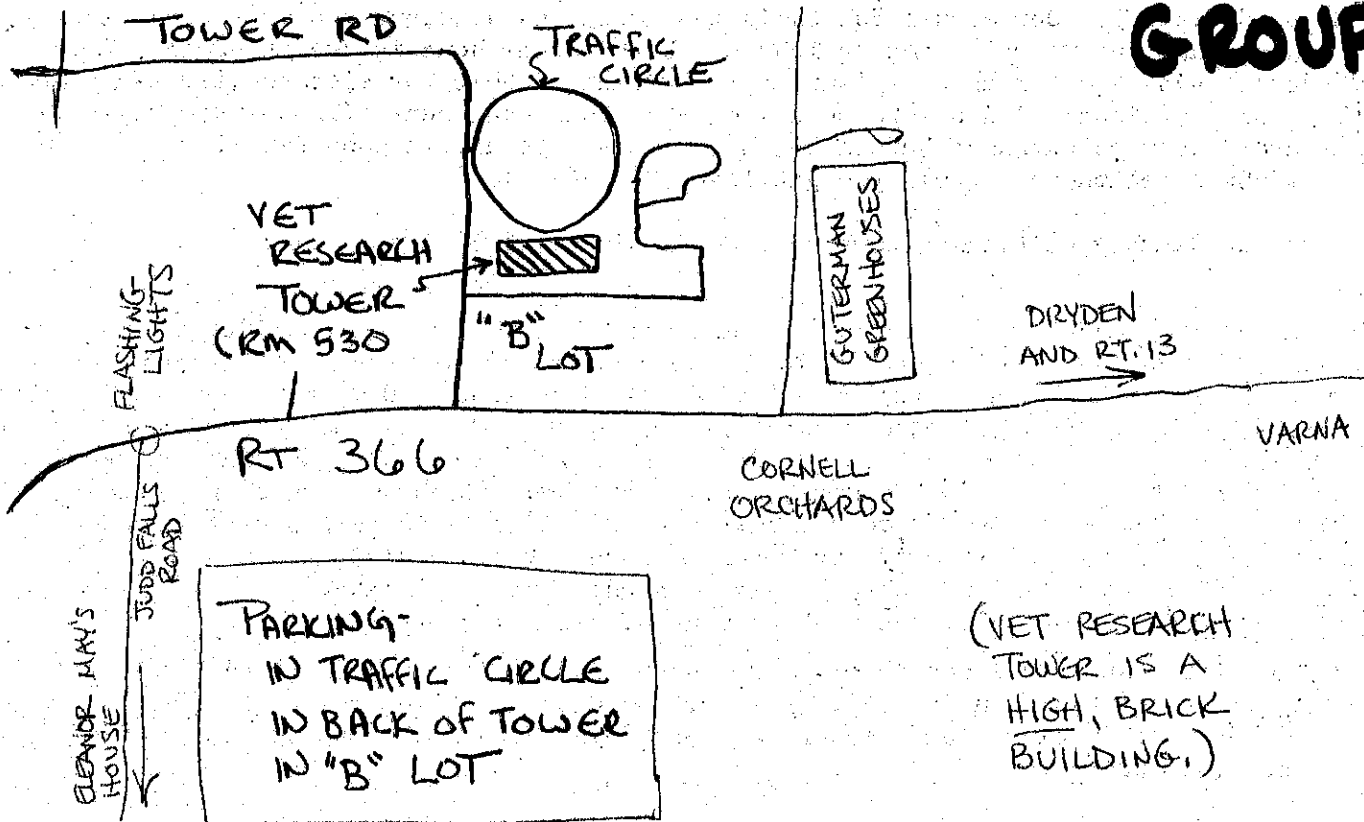
Two items of interest: Phil Sponenberg did finish his amazing bicycle wheel spinning wheel and will show it off on Dec. 13. (BRAVO!) And Jean Currie will be taking over the Saturday Group coordinating from Eleanor May, so be in touch with Jean if you have questions, etc. (564-9346)

DEC. 13 MEETING



(CLIP AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE...)

SATURDAY GROUP



AD SECTION

THE HERITAGE CRAFT SHOP in Dryden, N.Y., wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Remember to drive over and check out our many stocking stuffers and gifts. LOTS of books for spinners, weavers, quilters, knitters, and rug hookers. Moshimer rug patterns, quilters' stencils, templates, leather thimbles, and marking pens. Sheep stamps and posters. Spinning wheel charms in gold, silver. Knitting patterns, notions, and yarns. Dyes for any fiber. Spinnable fibers: alpaca, karakul, low camel, mohair, yak, flax, silk, pima cotton, wool, and rayon. Handcrafted gifts and tree ornaments. Come and see the two Louet wheels -- the new "mini" is finally in!! 10-5, Mon.-Sat. (607/844-4381) 1/3

FOR SALE: A Green Spring spinning wheel, compact and ready for traveling. Essentially unused. \$80.00. Also, one pair of curved-back carders, \$15, also unused. Call Pat at 564-7651. 2/3

MAKE IT AN EXTRA SWEET CHRISTMAS and give honey! \$1.00/pound. (Quart jar holds about 3-lbs.) Will have at Guild meetings, or call to order: Donald Warholic, 539-7648 evenings. 2/3

When it comes to Christmas presents, think EWE -- YARN TO EWE that is! Yarns for weavers, fleeces, carded New Zealand wool, Beka looms, and other supplies to help you or your favorite spinner make fiber magic! Our shop also features old and antique items. Handcrafted consignments accepted. YARN AND EWE (Gloria Alamo), Genegantslet Road, Greene, N.Y. 13778. (607/656-8359) Hours: 12-6 p.m., Thurs.-Sunday. r1/3

Black rams for sale, ready for breeding, yearling or spring lambs. Corriedale and Finn blood. All twins, born from Fleck with 190% lambing average. \$75 each. Nice unexpected present for that spinner who has everything but sheep! Also, wool socks (replicas of W.W. I army socks). Libby Llop, 3079 Fowlerville Road, Caledonia, N.Y. 14423. (716/226-2788) 2/3

MAKE IT SILK FOR CHRISTMAS... Luxuriously beautiful white and tussah in combed and carded rovings. Send SASE for free samples and price list. Coccoons, waste silk, silk hankies, spindles, and flicker-combs also. Perhaps the most beautiful fiber of all! FALLBROOK HOUSE, RD #2 - Box 17, Troy, PA 16947. (717/297-2498) 5/9

BURN WOOD and spin it too? Rayon, of course! A natural, man-made fiber from wool pulp and cotton lint. Direct dyes beautifully; combines with other fibers well! Bright, super-lustrous, 3.0 denier. \$1.25 per pound (shipping extra). Will have at Guild meetings while the supply lasts. Call or write to order: Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648, evenings) *3/3*

SAY YOU SAW IT HERE and patronize our advertisers!! Let's keep our friendly spinners' and weavers' shops alive -- where else do we get personal attention, good advice, and a tempting variety of things to choose from?!

MERRY SPINNING!!

(Newsletter #38 - p. 3)

ROCK DAY -- January 10, 1981!!!!!! ROCK DAY is our big celebration of the New Year. It is St. Distaff's Day, when we maidens return to our spinning after a holiday from the task (?) over the Christmas days. Ours will be a dish-to-pass affair (and bring your own plate, silver, etc.), coffee/tea provided, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Dryden Presbyterian Church. (It is the brick church just down from the stoplight in center Dryden,) off Rt. 13 toward Cortland.) BRING YOUR WHEELS and a friend, or projects you are working on. Always a FUN day, with spinners coming from all over!!! See you there!
If in doubt about the weather, listen to WCHU or call one of your (old) officers...

SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY. In the event of severe snowstorms or truly incimate weather, cancellation of a meeting is decided upon by the officers and plans will be broadcast on the radio (WCHU, WTKO) by 7:30 or 8:00 a.m. Unless stated otherwise, the meeting will be postponed to the next Monday, same time/same place. When in doubt, call your nearest officer. Use your horsesense, too -- if it is ghastly outside, stay home -- we would much rather have you stay home and spin cozily by the fire than be out there shoveling yourself out of a snowdrift...

Saturday Groupers are more scattered -- you might want to call Jean Currie to double-check...

YOU MISSED A SUPER-DUPER NOVEMBER MEETING... Sunny Bixby from Verona, N.Y. (and the Cherry Valley Country Spinners), "judged" our handspun yarns and projects, with MUCH helpful advice and MANY good suggestions. She went through all our items, one by one, rating them on their individual merits, and using criteria as if they were in a competition. That meeting has to have been one of our VERY BEST EVER!!! We cannot begin to tell you all that we discussed and learned, but at least we can give you an idea of the system she used. (And anyone entering or sponsoring state or local [county] fair competitions ought to take special note!)

Using the end use of our handspun yarns and our planning of them, beginning to end, as the primary overall factor, Sunny used the following point system in reviewing each piece:

(50 points possible)

- (1) Execution -- how well did you do what you planned to do with the yarn? (10 pts.)
- (2) Use of Color -- did it add, detract; was it even [if it was supposed to be even]? (5 pts.)
- (3) Texture -- was it used well, or did it get hidden, etc. (5 pts)
- (4) "Hand" of the Garment -- its feel. Was the soft sweater soft, or did it stand up by itself, etc. (10 pts)
- (5) Garment Construction -- how well did you put it together, weave in those ends, the finishing touches. (10 pts) [And this is probably the biggest defect in the most number of projects we all make, folks.]
- (6) Overall Effect of the Project -- was it successful? Did it have pzazz or call flat? Its impact. Etc. (10 pts)

Bear in mind that the brief descriptions following these categories are truly brief and we expanded upon all of them as Sunny judged along and talked about specific items. It was quite an afternoon and something we were all HUNGRY for!!! *Many, many heartfelt thanks, Sunny, for that terrific afternoon!!!!*

WHILE we are on the subject, start saving your pennies now! The Cherry Valley Country Spinners will be having Ted Carson for a workshop (two days) in mid-May, on exotic fibers. Jean Warholic is also working on getting Brother Kim Malloy for a workshop sometime in the spring, on blending/color/fibers...

COME UP SOON, however, is the wonderful, annual Trumansburg Craft Fair at the red barn on Taughannock Blvd. (past the park), on Dec. 6-7. One of the nicest ones EVER in this area. Dress warmly! // A PARTY is coming up, Dec. 14, for area fabric artists -- "Quilters' Crazy Christmas," sponsored by the Flying Geese. All are invited to contribute to a program that includes a demonstration of crazyquilt techniques, display of contemporary crazyquilt hangings, Christmas decorations, clothing, and more. (Exhibition of articles from this will be at the Homespun Boutique Loft on Dec. 15-21st.) We are all invited, but we are not giving you more information here because you MUST R.S.V.P. So call 273-4295 if you are coming, and make your reservation NOW!!! // Also coming to this area again before long (no info. received yet, sorry), is The Rochester Folk Art Guild. Keep your eyes open for date-- it is usually at the Women's Community Building. Always an interesting, creative show!! *And not many says left until Christmas!!*

BAD NEWS, GOOD NEWS DEPT. (In case you hadn't heard it yet.) The trip to The Shepards is off -- the restaurant has been sold and so has the carding machine. The good news is to hang onto your wool because Sunny Bixby and her husband (Verona, N.Y. area) have bought the carding machine and hope to do custom carding in the near future! (There couldn't be two nicer owners of a 3,000-lb. carding machine!!) (Understandably, Tom is a little less enthused than Sunny at this point, as the machine still has to be transported home...) So hang on, and let's aim for spring...

The First Annual Business Women's Exchange was Nov. 22 at the Women's Community Building -- hope you got to it! Several members of our guild were there (in one form or another!) and they reportedly had a good crowd. We'll try to help you keep up with news and events in the future, sponsored by the Ithaca Business and Professional Women's Club. (In the meanwhile, if you need information, please contact Jeannie Barnaba (272-2056).

The December issue of Country Journal magazine has a good article on clothing for warmth and (you guessed it) natural fibers came out looking very good! Our own Erica Rowe had two articles published in Spin-Off '80 -- "Ruffles and Ridges" and "A Weekend for Spinners" (about the Norwich seminar) -- BRAVOS to Erica!!!

AND BRAVOS TO Gretchen Sachse!!! She applied for, and recently received, a grant from the Historians-in-Residence Program, through the New York Historical Resources Center at Cornell, to be administered through the DeWitt Historical Society of Tompkins County; for her proposal to research "Flax and the Domestic Production of Linen in Tompkins County, 1789-1865." Thanks to Gretchen, this means added incentive for us to continue with the flax project -- spinning and weaving the 1830's flax belonging to the historical society -- and have some solid workshops, training sessions, etc. Additional monies are being applied for, to help with certain expenses and exhibit(s). Let's give Gretchen all the support we can -- it can open new vistas for all of us! HOORAH!!!

THE WEAVER'S JOURNAL is sponsoring a competition for weavers (with up to \$1200 in prize money!), with a deadline of April 15, 1981. They want you to submit a written article on a successful project you have done in one of the following categories: rugs, household furnishings, handspun yarn woven projects, or handwoven clothing. (With all the projects going on in this area, we ought to have a number of entries!) There are other stipulations -- we'll bring the letter to the next few meetings for you to see. Or write for further information: The Weaver's Journal, ATTN: Clothilde Barrett, Editor, P.O. Box 2049, Colorado Fiber Center, Inc., Boulder, CO 80306.

The Bernadette Powell defense fund auction will be Dec. 13-14, at GIAC (Ithaca). There will be crafts, service items, etc. to be auctioned off, as well as some FUN things. It is a good cause, and if you want more information or have something to donate, please call Linda Dickinson (564-7597) or Joan (273-9610), or see Rebecca at Smedleys, and NOW!

The 11th Annual Holiday Craft Fair at Cornell University is going on right now -- Dec. 4-6th at the Student Union (Willard Straight Hall), 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wide variety of things to see and buy...

And have MANY calls and pleadings for a listing, The Craft Studio at North Campus Union finally sent us a copy of their fall semester class schedule. Unfortunately, it is now out-of-date. However, if you have questions and care to be persistent beyond the call of duty, 256-6238 is the number to call for a listing. Or ask Jean Warholic for her copy.

THREE INDIGO DYE POTS handout is not included herewith -- you are not missing your copy. Jean W. just hasn't gotten her act together yet to get it out... Slight shortage of time, as usual... It will somehow get done and out in the next newsletter, and that's a promise!

QUICK LISTING OF DOINGS from other guilds in the area... The Ithaca Textile Arts Guild will be meeting on Dec. 14, along with Flying Geese, for the gala Christmas Party (mentioned earlier). Dues are \$2.00 for the year, to be on their mailing list. Contact: Edith Johnston, Halsey Street, Box 109, Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886. (387-9506) // The Seven Valley Weavers Guild has meetings coming up for January 6 ("Drapery and Other Window Treatments"), February 3 ("Table and Household Items"), and March 3 ("Pillows, Wall-hangings, Soft Sculpture"). Contact: Laurie Hahn, 410 Columbia Street, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 (273-7590). // The Lamb-to-Loom Guild (Binghamton area) will have a meeting in January ("Lithuanian Weaving Techniques"), February (snow date for January meeting; otherwise, no meeting), and March (Bound Weaving Workshop). Contact: Joan Koster, RD #1 - Box 32, Whitney Point, N.Y. 13862. // The Thistledown Handspinners Guild will be meeting on January 17 next (no Dec. meeting due to the hectic time of year). They'll be working with flax, and thinking about next year's seminar. Thistledowners will have their ROCK DAY on January 4 at the Museum on Rexford Street, 10 a.m. until ? . Dish-to-pass. Hope some of us Black Sheepers will have a chance to get to it...

DON'T FORGET the INSULATION 1981 show coming up Feb. 28-March 1. ("An exhibition of craft objects to warm the body and cheer the soul" -- and we will all need it by then!) Our guild is participating, with sales and demonstrations. Keep your ears open for more information. We will also circulate some sign-up lists for you to add your name to...

THE BLACK LIST DEPARTMENT... We have some library books long, long overdue. PLEASE return them as soon as humanly possible, to either Judi Becker-Greenfield or Jean Warholic. We really want them back for others to check out and enjoy! In the Christmas spirit, we hereby forgive you your debts...

Patty Mutkoski -- Knitting Without Tears (Zimmerman).

Key Goodman -- Home Life in Colonial Days (Earle).

Doris Brown -- Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot (Spring 1980) + Interweave (Winter, 1979-80) + Weaver's Journal (April 1979).

Jean Travers -- Handspinning (Leadbeater).

Toby Chambliss -- Handwoven Textiles of Early New England. (Bogdonoff).

Marion Wikoff -- Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot (Fall 1980) + Interweave (Spring 1980).

Susan Richter -- Nature's Colors: Dyes from Plants (Grae). + Weaver's Newsletter (1976-78).

Loretta Pompilio -- Spinning & Weaving with Wool (Simmons).

MaryAnn Beale -- Handspinning: Art & Technique (Fannin).

The thumbscrews come next...

Received the information concerning the Second Annual Northeast Regional Sheep-to-Shawl Contest, to be held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show on Wednesday, January 14, Harrisburg, Penna. They need teams of five (one shearer, three spinners, one weaver), there is prize money, The rules are reasonable and interesting to read. If this interests you, please call Joan Liesau at the Press Office IMMEDIATELY (717/787-5085). The deadline was Dec. 3rd, but they are still accepting entries as of Jan. 3rd.

NEW CLASSES begin soon (after the holidays) at the Heritage Craft Shop. A list will be out shortly. Stop by and pick one up, or call them. (See ad: on page 3.) They are still interested in people producing handspun Christmas tree ornaments for sale through the shop...

The Spring 1981 listing of textile groups and events in the Tompkins County area is being assembled. If you have material to include, please send it IMMEDIATELY to Jean Warholic. (If you haven't seen the one for Fall 1980, send an SASE to Jean and she'll put one in the mail.) We hope to get the new listing out sometime in early February...

WE HAVE A NEW MEMBER and a number of corrections to make note of! Our new Active member is: Susan Westbrook, 1688 Slaterville Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. (272-2949 home; 273-4443 office.) (Has been doing ethnographic work in Cypress.)

Toby Chambliss is on 14 Middaugh Road now -- her mailing address is: P.O. Box 131, Brooktondale, N.Y. 14817. (272-4614) (Happy new house, Toby!)

Mrs. Marion Boratynski Dean's correct address is: RD #2 - Curry Road, Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886. (387-5524) (Happy new husband, Marion!)

Jean Travers has a new job and address: 375 Hamilton Street, Albany, N.Y. 12210. (518/436-4903) (We'll miss you, Jean!)

Sunny Bixby's correct telephone number is: 315/337-7217.

THE END of this newsletter... Deadline for the next one is ROCK DAY (Jan. 10) and we hope to see you there!

DUES FOR 1981 ARE DUE -- yes they are! Linda Dickinson (Box 179A, Spencer, N.Y. 14883) will gladly accept any and all checks (make payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild) for the amount of your dues beginning now... If you have joined the guild since Sept. 1, then you do not renew -- we carry you through 1981. (Check with Linda D. if you are in doubt.) ACTIVE membership dues are \$4.00 -- we expect to see you at a healthy percent of the meetings, will count on you to work and pitch in with projects and events, spin up some fibers for the sales table, and participate. INACTIVE membership dues are \$6.00 for the year -- we'd love to see you when you can get to meetings and will be pleased when you can help, but this mainly puts you on our mailing list. STUDENT membership dues are \$2.00 for the year -- you must be a full-time student and we hope that you can be active in the group. Everyone gets the newsletter and whatever other amenities we can provide...

Let's get those dues in NOW!!! (And how about a Christmas present membership for a spinning friend?)

We are seven years old now! We hope that means it is a lucky year for us. (Or an itchy year?) We still have several founding spinners actively with us -- Kay Ross, Gretchen Ham, Gretchen Sachse, Suzie Hokanson, Billie Hall to name a few (whom did I miss? sorry if I missed you!)... We have an energetic new set of officers now -- let's give them lots of support in the New Year ahead! And let's all resolve to get more spinning done -- OF COURSE!!!

See you at the Christmas parties coming up! Take care on those snowy roads -- most of winter is yet to come...

-- Jean Warholic

Merry spinning!!