

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #43 -- July, 1981
Edited by Jean Warholic

My, what a busy summer it has been -- and we are only half-way through it now! We hope you have managed to squeeze in a little spinning in addition to tending to gardens, flower-beds, freezing vegetables (and green thumbs from shelling peas), and the usual outdoor tasks... As this newsletter is being typed, we need some rain soon, as things are pretty dry, and a few people have had a little trouble with wells drying up or shortages of water. Perhaps by the time you receive this, we will have had a nice soaking, cooling rain!

Thanks to Doris Brown and Jean Warholic for some nice dyepots at our July 13 meeting -- we got some nice reds and pinks, and blues! (PLEASE check what you took home, however, as at least one person did not find his handspun skein on the clothes-line at the end of the day -- bring it to the August get-together!) But most of all, BRAVOS to Marion Wikoff, son Chris, and Maria Steve for their EXCELLENT barbequed lamb and all the efforts that went into it -- that lovely lamb was delicious and disappeared so quickly!!! What a nice surprise and we all appreciated it very much!! Many, many thanks...

July 25 Saturday Group Meeting. 10 a.m. at Mary Ann Vogt's home (107 Neimi Road, near Freeville). Dish-to-pass, as well as excess produce swap. Main attraction: indigo dyepots. Bring skeins -- handspun or commercial -- any fiber, any color, and the more, the merrier! Need not be mordanted. No loose fleece, please. Dyepot from scratch goes on at 10, with dyeing the rest of the day. Bring a friend, and LOTS to dye! And take some time to stroll in Mary Ann's lovely gardens, too!

To get to Mary Ann's, take Rt. 13 east to Hanshaw Road (next left after airport runway), pass Etna Road, turn right on Neimi, and it is the first house on the right. (Call 257-2434 if you get lost.) See you there...

AUGUST 10 GUILD MEETING will be on SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 -- We are hosting the First Annual OLD SPINNERS' REUNION, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the big pavilion at Marathon, N.Y. Guilds from central New York are invited -- spread the word to those you know! -- we are looking forward to a full day of spinning, visiting, and chit-chat! Bring a dyepot if you wish (and something to heat it with; there are electrical outlets), skeins (mordanted) to dye, projects you are working on, your spinning wheel, or whatever! Families are welcome (bring baseballs, things to do); dress accordingly. Dish-to-pass, bring own service. (Dinner at 1:00 p.m.) We are hoping that old spinners and new ones will be coming!!!

Questions, directions, or to let us know you are coming (if you don't belong to a guild), call either Suzy Hokanson (607/849-3345) or Jean Warholic (607/539-7648) as soon as possible. Guild presidents will be called about Aug. 12 to see who is coming...

August 29 Saturday Group Meeting. 10 a.m. at Jean Currie's. We will do FELTING (à la the Ontario experience!). You will need to bring any kind of wool (washed or not, colored or white, carded, uncarded), old sheets, fiberglass screening or old bamboo shades, long sewing needles and fine string, a plastic washing pan or roaster, and rubber gloves. And some possible project ideas -- slippers, tea cozy, vest, boot liners, mittens, trivets, etc., etc. It should be great fun -- bring a friend, and your lunch! Jean lives on the Elmira Road (Rt. 13), beyond Newfield -- for more specific directions, call her at 564-9346, evenings.

SEPTEMBER 14 GUILD MEETING. 10:30 a.m., Tin Can (near Stewart Park). Tentative program is CHEMICAL DYEING. However, if Masa Kinoshita feels she can do it so soon after returning, we hope to hear about her year's trip to Japan. If you plan to come, call either Doris Brown (273-6173) or Maria Steve (387-5559) so you know what supplies to bring, if any. (There will be no newsletter before this meeting!)

September 26 Saturday Group Meeting. Surprise dyepots at Jean Currie's -- spin up a storm for this... Details in next newsletter.

WELCOMES to new members! We are pleased to have you join us and look forward to seeing you at meetings...

Kathryn S. Delahanty, 427 Ferguson Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (844-4319) (Active)

Raylene Gardner, 36 Dove Drive, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. (272-2513) (Inactive)

Mary B. Kelly's correct TC3 telephone number is 844-8211, ext. 442. And we should add that Marianne Horchler is a crocheter, has black sheep, Dorsets, Finns, Finn crosses, and spinnable grey poodle and black Belgian sheepdog!

WANTED: skeins for indigo dyepots -- any fiber, any color (now is your chance to re-dye any icky skeins you unsuccessfully dyed!), handspun preferred. Jean Warholic will be doing a number of dyepots between now and the end of October. If you have some you'd like dyed, please tie loosely with cotton string, tag with your name, and get to Jean as soon as possible...

NO REST FOR THE WEARY -- get our your calendars! Some extra special events are coming up... (Do get information to Jean for inclusion in the newsletter!)

Now thru Aug. 15 - "Illusions of Innocence: The 19th Century Middle Class Child," The Hinckley Museum, 410 E. Seneca St., Ithaca. Th - Sat. 1-4:30 p.m.

Now thru Sept. - Flax Exhibit (part of Gretchen Sachse's flax research project), DeWitt Historical Society, Ithaca. Tues - Sat., 12:30-5:00 p.m.

July 25 - Reception/book signing (3:30 p.m.) with Kay Parker, in celebration of her new book, Contemporary Quilts (just published by Crossing Press, T-burg)!

Aug. 1 + 2 - Entries due for jurying at the Upstate Crafts Fair (Aug. 6-9). If you still need tags, forms, etc., write NOW: Upstate Crafts, P.O. Box 173, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. Hours for Fair: Aug. 6-8, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Aug. 9, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Adm. for adults, \$1.50; students, senior citizens, \$1.00; children under 12 free. Crafts demonstrations, childrens' workshops, refreshments, trade fair for crafts suppliers. Where? Ithaca High School. Featured craftsman is Arthur Sennett, potter; honored craftteacher is the late Marjorie Ruth Ross, weaver. This is an IMPORTANT Fair for all who are fiber (and crafts) oriented in this area -- hope to see you there! You will certainly see some beautiful things and have FUN!!

(For those who knew Marjorie Ross, there will be a brief "gathering of friends" in lieu of a Memorial Service, at 4:30 p.m., Aug. 6, in the school courtyard.)

Aug 6-9 - We won't let you forget: Upstate Crafts Fair!

Now thru Sept. (?) - "Hooked Rugs, 1880-1957" exhibit at the Johnson Museum, Cornell University. 56 rugs illustrating various motifs.

Aug. 16 -- Our First Annual OLD SPINNERS REUNION, Marathon, N.Y. (See p. 1!)

Aug. 22 -- LACE DAY for those interested in bobbin lace, 12:30-4:30 p.m., DeWitt Historical Society. Bobbin lace demonstrations, slides, resources. Bring in laces to share and have identified. More info: Jean Warholic, 539-7648.

Aug. 13-15 (oops) - Deadline for entries in the New York State Fair. Handspun categories were outlined in the last newsletter -- call Jean Warholic if you want to enter and have no Fair book. (You must send in your form/\$5 payment SOON but entries aren't delivered until Aug. 13-15.) Jean Warholic will drive entries up (and save you postage/ mailing hassles), so get yours to her no later than Aug. 12. LET'S HAVE A GOOD SHOWING OF ENTRIES THIS YEAR!!!!

Sept. ? - Workshop with Albertje Koopman, sponsored by Seven Valley Weavers Guild. For more information, contact Dora Swart (272-3370).

IMPORTANT!!!!

AD SECTION

TOP QUALITY, HANDMADE ITEMS taken on consignment at "The Sunshine Shoppe," Danby School Building, Gunderman Road, Ithaca. We pay the craftsperson 75% consignment; payment for sold items on 15th of each month. Bring in items during shop's new summer hours: Mon.+ Wed., 7-9 p.m.; Tues. + Fri., 12-4 p.m.; Sat., 10-2. For more information, call Gay Huddle, 607/273-6530. *3/3*

FOR SALE: Black lambs from Lincoln, Border Leicester, and Romney breeding. From a spinner's flock! Gloria Scannell, RD #1, Schodack Landing, N.Y. 12156. (518/732-2916) *3/3*

YOU SAW how beautifully it dyes in those indigo dyepots, now spin some up for the next ones -- luxurious white and tussah silk in combed and carded rovings. Also, books, cocoons, waste silk, "mawata" silk hankies, spindles, and MUCH more. Send \$3.50 for directions, information, and samples; price list only is free. FALLBROOK HOUSE, RD #2 - Box 17, Troy, PA 16947. (717/297-2498) 1/9

MAKE NOTE of our summer hours (Tues.-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.) and come in to see our spinning, weaving, quilting, and rug hooking supplies! Something for everyone's fiber projects and for all seasons... (And an ample supply of indigo!) HERITAGE CRAFT SHOP, Dryden, N.Y. (607/844-4381) *3/3*

LEARN TO SPIN or do natural dyeing -- workshops taught by Maria Steve. Call or write: Maria V. Steve, RD #3 - Cold Spring Road, Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886. (607/387-5559) *3/3*

OUR ADS ARE A BARGAIN, and reach over 130 spinners in the central New York area. A four-line ad is 50¢ for one run; or three runs for \$1.00. (Asterisks around ad code mean your ad needs renewing!) Payment with ad copy to: Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648) Deadline: 2nd Monday of each month. Newsletter published 8 times per year.

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CALENDAR (con't)

- Sept. 4 - Deadline for donations for the WSKG-FM Public Radio (Binghamton) first annual "Auction of the Arts" (Nov. 14-15). It is devoted exclusively to the Fine Arts, collectables and antiques. Items will be juried and appear in a catalog. Cash awards for fine arts items juried. Details: Billie Hall, RR #1 - Box 178A, Newark Valley, N.Y. 13811 (607/862-3082). WORTHY CAUSE!
- Sept. 26-27 - National Colored Wool Growers Association Annual Meeting. If you want to go or need more information, contact Marianne Horchler, (315/497-1542) or Erica Rowe (607/863-3554). It is being held near Albany, N.Y., and promises to be quite an event!
- Oct. 1-4 - Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference, Americana Hotel, Rochester, N.Y. If you liked the Fredonia conf. two years ago, you'll not want to miss this biennial event! If you need a registration form, write NOW: Ann Krekel, Registrar, 732 Eastwood Circle, Webster, N.Y. 14580. Slots will fill fast and there are many interesting programs/classes to be given!!!
- Oct. 24-25 - Annual Thistledown Handspinners Seminar, Norwich, N.Y. Registration forms go out soon for this -- if you don't receive one, ask at the next meeting you get to, as we will try to have extras. Another interesting seminar is planned, with Sunday being the flax day (flax is the featured fiber this year, remember?). Always fun and a good chance to see old spinning friends!
- November ? - Our own "juried" show for Guild members. Keep working on those projects and spin those yarns. Don't say you weren't warned!

WHO HAS the blankets (three of them) woven from the yarns dyed at the Gerber workshop? Jean Warholic needs to photograph them and return them to the Guild's sales table boxes... (They did not come back with the Wool Day stuff.)

Eleanor May and husband Monty went to Cooperstown recently and thoroughly enjoyed the next exhibit, "From Rags to Britches: Textiles in Upstate New York." Ellie says it was well worth the trip -- nicely hung and interesting pieces. (It is up through the summer.) Of greatest interest to them was the hosiery knitting machine -- Monty had just bought one at an auction. The Farmers Museum spinner was doing flax on a Norm Hall wheel and she was doing a good job with the people who asked questions. Ellie mentions that her usual speech was a little canned -- but don't we all have that problem when we demonstrate! Also, according to them, Fannie Porteus has just had surgery. (Fannie spun at the Museum for many years and is to give the flax spinning demonstration at the Thistledown handspinners seminar in October.)

Ellie also included a report on the Ontario Handspinners Seminar (held in June?). Expert spinners, well-organized seminars, friendly people -- that all added up to a marvelous experience for Erica Rowe, Jean Currie, Joyce Scott, Doris Mamroe and Eleanor May. Felt was the introductory subject, and in addition to Deloria Chapin and her hats, there were many interesting projects -- clothes and wall hangings especially -- and all participants did felting (Jean Currie had a great time stomping ours, we looked like little kids and finger paints!). A high light was a discussion of finishings -- we all need to be reminded occasionally how important finishing is. For knitters, she suggested a crochet edge and then pick up stitches for neck finish or collar, etc. (a very neat trick), and the instructor put a lot of emphasis on covering machine stitching on ponchos, etc. using good tailoring techniques when sewing. It is a shame to ruin good fabric with poor sewing. We were so taken with her that Jean Currie is trying to see what we can do in the way of a workshop here. The Ontario handspinners seem to be more energetic than we are and really go into things. Many of them study to be "Master Spinners" at selected colleges. They have a lot to teach us...

DID YOU PLANT YOUR FLAX? It should be blooming about now... Pretty!!!

SUSAN ANDREWS' DOLLS are playing with the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra at McBooks in Ithaca, Aug. 14-Sept. 3. (And elsewhere, later on -- Jean Warholic will pass promo at next meeting.)

Eleanor May passes on this fringe-y hint... In washing out some lovely Ed Swart placemats and fussing with the fringe as they were drying, daughter Leslie came along with a comb and straightened them out in a fraction of the time!

Kay Ross and Linda Olds of the Heritage Craft Shop had a nice article about hand-spinning (what must be the most complete, shortest version ever written!) in the June issue of "Especially for Crafters." (This publication is similar to a "shopper" geared for hobbyists, and may be picked up at a variety of crafts shops in the Tompkins Co. area at no charge.)

We are pleased to learn that Joyce Scott won the Big Blue Ribbon and a cash award for having the best fiber display!! Joyce has been a real inspiration to many of us -- she and Doris have been missed at the Saturday Group meetings recently...

DOVER PUBLICATIONS has its new 1981 Needlecraft Catalog out now -- write and ask for a copy if you aren't already on their mailing list (180 Varick Street, New York, N.Y. 10014). The knitters and crocheters will be especially pleased! And their design books (graphed patterns, folk designs, motifs, etc.) are outstanding. All are loaded with ideas, and Dover publications are relatively inexpensive in this day and age...

TED KINNEY (Mount Holly Industrial Commons, P.O. Box 734, Mount Holly, NJ 08060 -- 609/267-7000) has some 20,000 lbs of yarns to sell as the result of purchasing a textile mill and plans to convert it to an industrial complex. The weavers he has sold it to already (about 25,000 lbs.) seem to be happy with it, although Wallie Weidhaas reports that she finds some of it brittle. If YOU are interested, Jean W. has samples she has been showing at meetings you may look at, and please contact Ted directly. He would like to sell this yarn by fall...

The yarns are cottons, rayons, novelty yarns (taslon #3098, fluffy, textured, bubble yarns), and some odd lots of synthetics. No wools. It is reported to be in good shape, boxed (clean), never gotten wet; about a year old. Many colors, weights (mostly heavier stuff like 5/2 and 8/2), mostly in 1½-2 lb. cones. Also, a lot of 8-3/4 wooden bobbins with about 300 yards of rayon on each (interesting, shiney stuff). Price is \$1.00/lb for yarn on cones; 10¢ each for wooden bobbins with yarns. Shipping is extra. \$10.00 minimum order.

Please let him know where you heard about it...

WE ARE PLEASED to bring to your attention the new publication, The Revival of an Historical Craft: Our Linen Textile Heritage Patterns. It is in two parts -- Part I is "Linen Information and References" and Part II is "Two Study Samplers." This publication is available from the Seven Valley Weavers Guild at \$1.50 to members, \$3.00 to non-members. The research project was done by members of the guild, with Ruth Kerr as project chairman, and was funded by a grant from The America The Beautiful Fund. We now have a copy of the book in our own spinning guild library and hope that some of you will check it out!

SPINNING AT THE STATE FAIR -- Mrs. Bigelow is no longer the superintendent and it unclear at this time who will be responsible. (Jean Warholic has a letter out to the Empire State Shepards organization right now, but has not heard yet.) Some of you may be called upon to spin -- those anxious to from the Black Sheep should let Jean know... Again, Madaline Adkins who has so faithfully spin and dyed at the Wool Booth for years will not be able to due to her heart attack this past spring. The spinning guilds have been long overdue in lending support to this venture, and perhaps this is the time to pitch in... (The State Fair runs Aug. 29 thru Sept. 7 this year -- Sept. 7 is Labor Day.) The Wool Booth will never be the same without Madaline -- she was tireless and enthusiastic when most of us would've had a nervous breakdown, answering questions and talking with people all day long, day after day. And Ken was a pleasure to see at the Booth, too, and spin on his nice wheels... They will be sorely missed by visitors and old friends at the Fair...

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: September 14 meeting. Back to the Tin Can -- can it be that summer is going by so quickly!?! We'll all have made it through the canning and freezing hurdles for the most part by then -- we hope! Be thinking about Guild officers for the coming year, too, as elections are in November... Details in next newsletter.

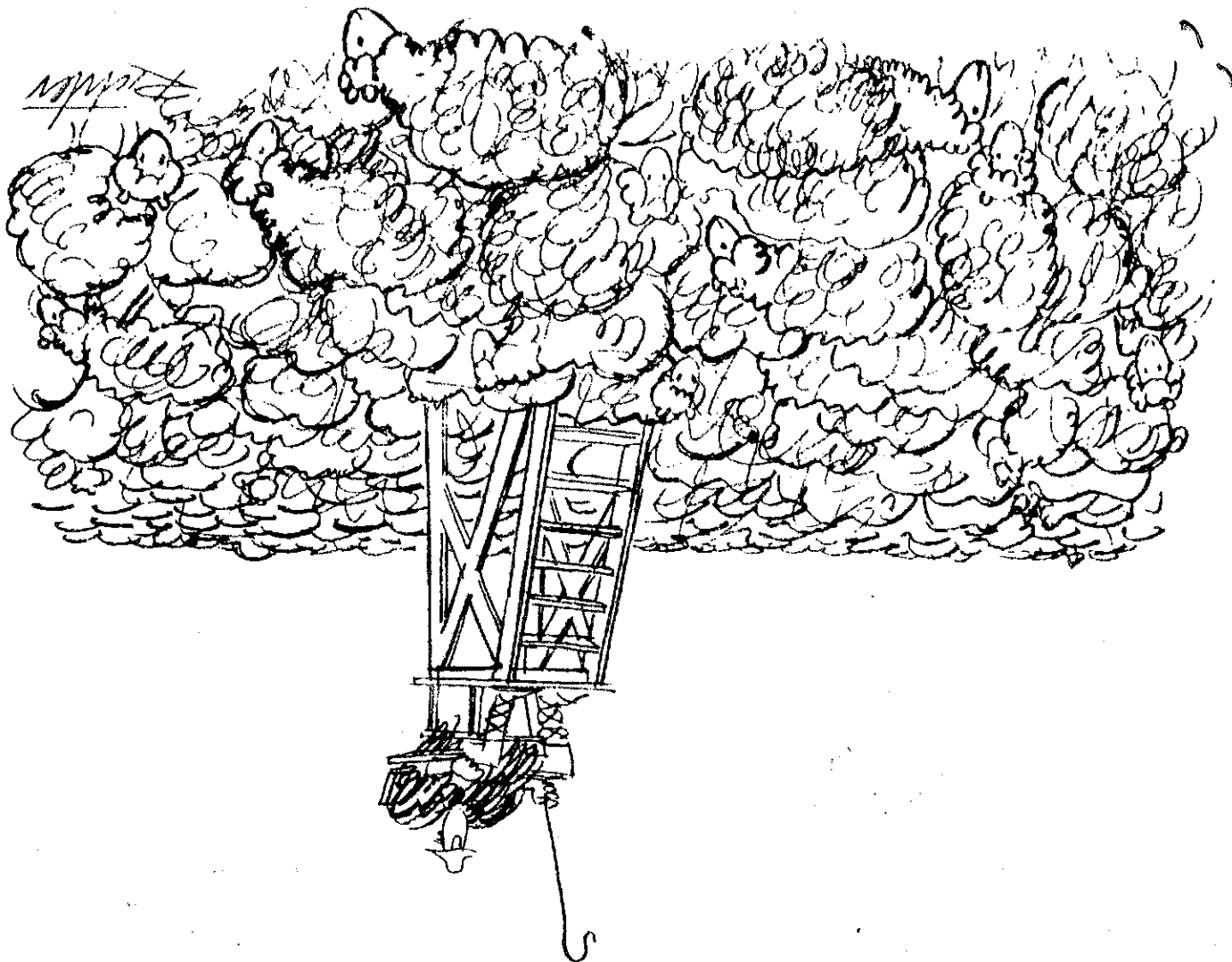
AS THIS NEWSLETTER goes to be duplicated, your editor has the nagging feeling that she has forgotten something important... Forgive me if I left something out! My memory has been unusually sieve-like lately!!

SEE ALL OF YOU at the Old Spinners' Reunion in August -- it should be an especially FUN day if many people from all over are able to get there... Remember, the Reunion is instead of our Aug. 10 meeting -- recheck pages 1-3 for dates you should make note of before this newsletter gets put aside...

MUCH spinning, everyone --

Jean

From The New Yorker magazine; contrib. by Jean Nowack.



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FIRST CLASS

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