

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
P.O. Box 6701
Ithaca, N.Y. 14851

Newsletter 71 - June 1984
Editor: Marianne Horchler
R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071



Summer is a good season to dye all those skeins spun indoors during the Winter and cold Spring. Color and dyeing seem to be a recurrent theme in our programs this year; some of our upcoming meetings (see below) will be devoted to preparations for dyeing.

June Monday Meeting

Most of you must have been busy gardening on June 11. Few members attended the meeting during which the Bro. Kim Malloy workshop and the July 29 Spinners' Market Day were discussed. See inside for more details on the Market Day and don't hesitate to call any of the persons listed if you have questions.

UPCOMING BSHG MEETINGS

- * SATURDAY, June 30: 12-4PM at Varna. Informal program on "Mordanting" bring a skein or raw fibre to be mordanted, and, as usual, your wheels and show-and-tells.
- * MONDAY, July 9: 10AM-3PM at Varna. Program will also be on "Mordanting" but may vary from the Saturday program due to different speakers (In other words, why not attend both meetings?)
- * SATURDAY, July 28: 12-4PM at Varna.

BASKETMAKING (This is a follow-up to the April Newsletter)

Starting

A basket is made up of spokes and weavers; spokes form the base and skeleton of the basket, weavers are twined around spokes to form the body of the basket. Holding the spokes in place while you begin is a little awkward, but after you finish a few rows of twining, the process becomes easier.

We show two ways of starting. The radial base—starting with bundles of spokes held in a cross and eventually fanned out into a wheel—is a little easier for beginners. You can use either flat leaves or supple branches to form the cross. The woven base—starting with a square of interlocking spokes—is flat and stable: it's a good choice for a tall closed basket. Use flat-leaved plants for this base.

Twining

Twining a basket is actually a simple process of wrapping two weavers around spokes—one weaver going over the spokes, the other going under them. In between each spoke, the weavers are crossed and the top weaver is twisted to the bottom.

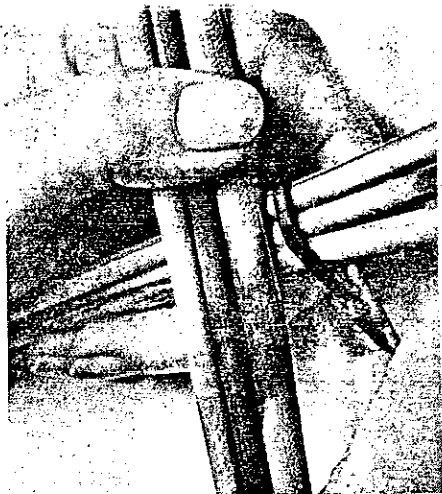
To begin twining, choose a long weaver and fold it in two, so that one end is about 10 inches longer than the other (don't fold it in half or you'll have to splice in two new weavers at the same time). Following the photographs and steps above, twine until you come to the end of the short weaver. Add a new weaver by splicing (see diagram). You can vary your plant material when you splice, or you can add wider bands of material or bark by simply weaving it in and out of the spokes. Twine a few

rows between woven bands to hold them in place.

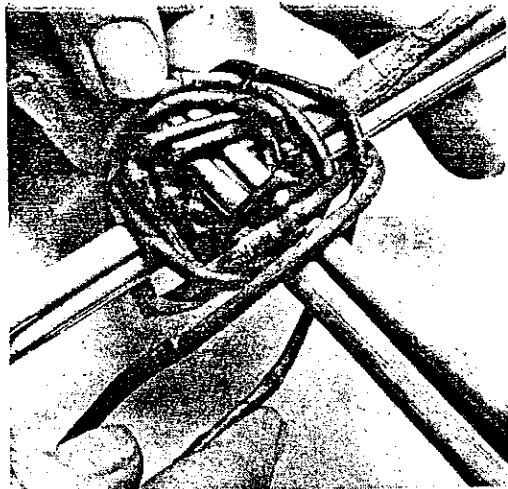
Shaping and finishing

Shaping the basket is easy. After your twined base is the size you want, just manipulate spokes upward and twine tightly to keep them in place. If your spokes dry out or become stiff, resoak the top portion of the basket until it's easier to work with.

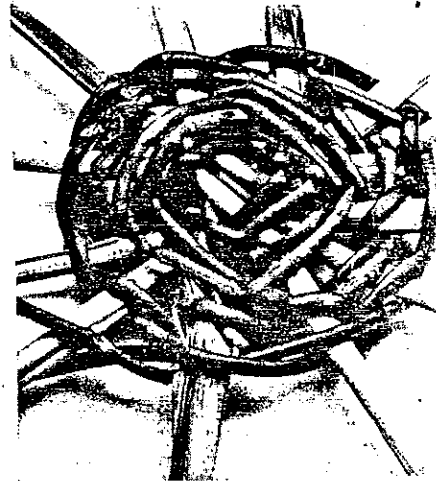
We show how to finish edges by tucking spokes back down into the twined rows, but you may prefer an unfinished look; either clip spokes 3 or 4 inches from edge or leave as is. Clean up your basket by clipping spliced ends and other extraneous material from the inside and outside—then sit back and admire your handiwork. Since wild baskets are made from natural materials, they tend to change a bit in shape and color as they age, assuming a character all their own.



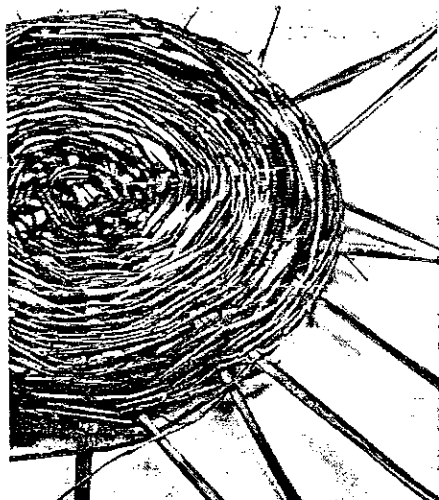
RADIAL BASE Begin with six (more for larger basket) long spokes held in a cross. Fold weaver in two, so one end is 10 inches longer than the other; loop around one bundle of spokes



1. Between each bundle of spokes, cross weavers so top becomes bottom, bottom becomes top. Bring new bottom weaver under spokes, new top weaver over spokes ("twining"). Rotate hand in same direction each time you cross weavers



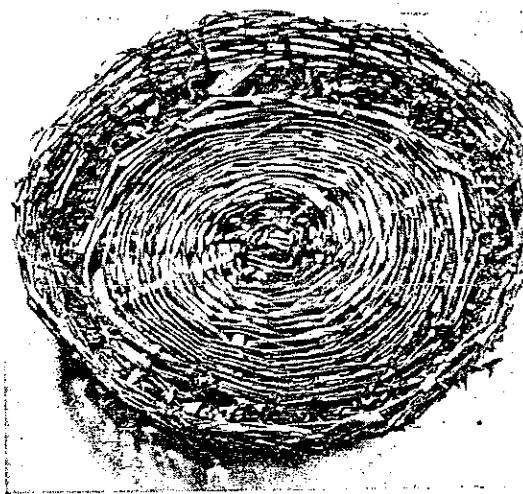
2. After four or five rows around cross, separate spokes into wheel and continue twining around each spoke. To add new weavers, see splicing directions



3. For a large flat basket, you can split spokes in half as shown here, or add new spokes. Shape basket by gently bending spokes up as you twine

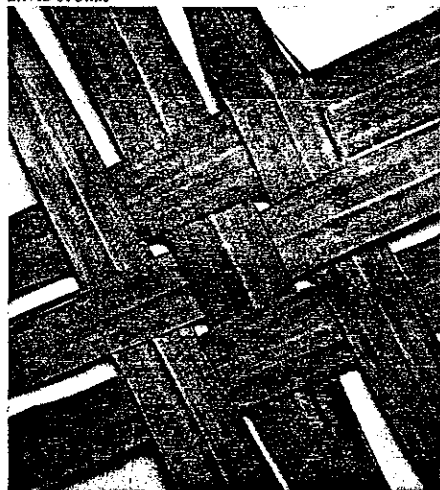


4. To finish edge, clip spokes evenly (3 to 4 inches long) and pull ends down through top few rows of twining. If spokes are dry and brittle, soak top of basket until pliable enough to manipulate

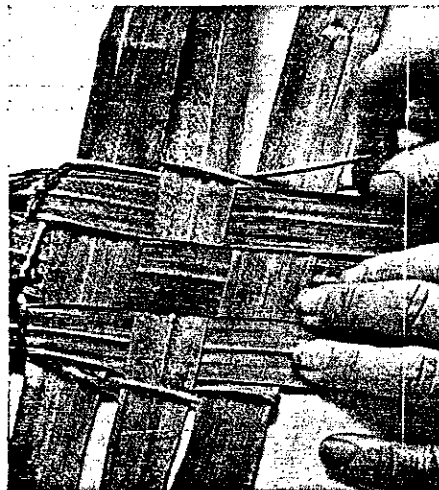


5. Finished basket of ivy, dracaena, birch, flax, smilax asparagus, and willow is 15 inches in diameter, 2 1/2 inches deep. Trim spliced ends and other ragged materials on inside and out

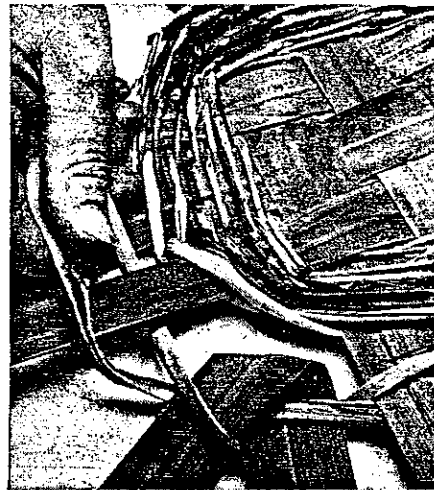
DAVID STURBS



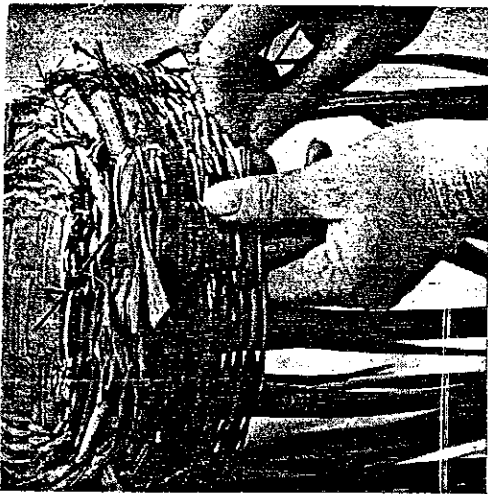
WOVEN BASE Begin with six long flat spokes woven over and under each other. These 36-inch-long leaves of dracaena form spokes for a basket 8 inches deep, 10 inches in diameter



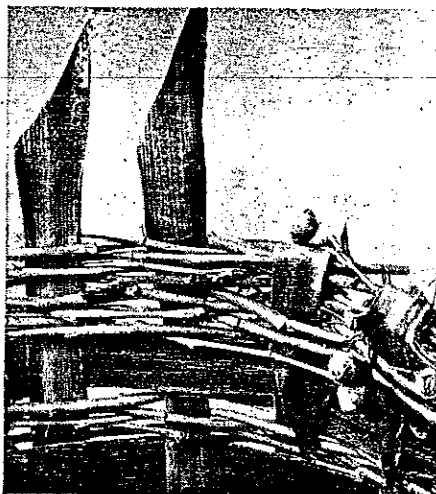
1. Push spokes together tightly and hold in place while you start twining (follow steps 1 and 2 above). Use a thin supple weaver, such as honeysuckle, so base remains flat



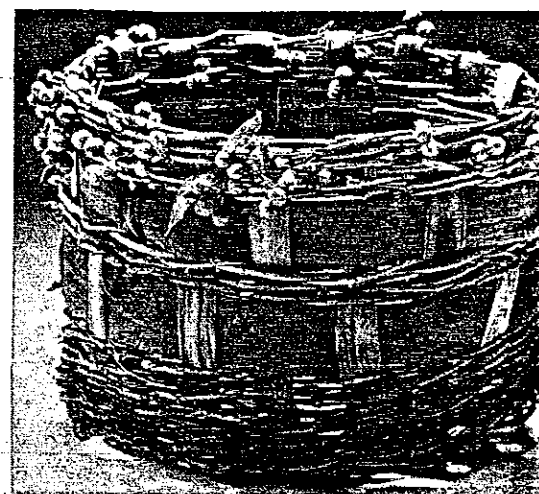
2. After six to eight rows of twining, add spokes to fill in each corner by folding a long flat leaf in half and twining around each half. Pull new spokes tightly into corners



3. To make a "closed" (deep) basket, bend spokes upward from base and twine tightly to keep them upright. It's easier to twine a closed basket if you turn it on its side



4. Trim ends of spokes to a point, fold straight down and push through top rows of twining on inside of basket. Pull tightly to flatten



5. Finished basket has wide bands of eucalyptus bark between spokes for a different look. The ones above are held in place by rows of twined birch and willow. Eucalyptus seed pods decorate rim

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Summer Classes/Workshops dealing with textiles at the Thousand Islands Craft School and Textile Museum, 314 John St., Clayton, NY 13624. Classes start July 6 & include: handmade felt, Bobbin lace, Rag rug weaving, Batik painting, Beginning weaving, Intermediate & advanced weaving, Woven garments, Quilting, etc. Fees vary between \$85 for a 1-week course & \$145 for 2 weeks. Write to the above address (Attn. Ms. Jane Gillett) or see Marianne Horchler.
- * "Handwovens for the Home": Sponsored by the Catskill Art Society, Sullivan County Cultural Center, Hurleyville, NY 12747. This series of Weaving Workshops will include: "Theory & Tie Down Weaves" (July 9-11, \$45), "Finnish Linens" (July 19-20, \$30 + \$45 materials), "Tapestry" (July 25-27, \$45 + \$15 materials), "Overshot Colonial" (July 31-Aug. 2, \$45), "Carved Pile" (August 8-10, \$45), "Translucence" (Aug. 20-22, \$45), "Woven Wall hangings" (Aug. 27-29, \$45). Registrations are due June 28; send check to CAS, Box N, Hurleyville, NY 12747. For more details, write to above address or call Marianne Horchler (315/497-1542).
- * Upstate Crafts Fair: Aug. 2 (5-9PM), 3 (10AM-9PM), 4 (10AM-6PM) and 5 (10AM-6PM) at the Ithaca High School. A good opportunity to sell or purchase high quality crafts. The Fair includes craft demonstrations, children's workshops, and a trade Fair (craft supplies and equipment for sale). The featured craftsperson this year is Liese Bronfenbrenner, Fiber Artist. For more info., write Upstate Crafts, P.O. Box 173, Ithaca, NY 14851.
- * The State Fair: Aug. 25 - Sept. 3. Same categories as last year for "Handspun Yard". Special awards include: Award in Weaving or Spinning from Handweavers Guild of America, Inc.; \$25 cash award from the Golden Fleece Spinners Society, \$25 cash award for best adult garment (not a sweater) made from natural colored (not white) handspun yarn from B.S.H.G., and \$25 of indigo dyeing supplies from Jean Warholc. Entry form deadline is August 1, with receiving days Aug. 9, 10 & 11 (9AM-4PM). Fee is \$5. For more info. see Marianne Horchler.

- * Central New York Sheep & Wool Festival, Sept. 8, 10AM till ?, at the Norwich Fairgrounds, Norwich, N.Y. Sponsored by the Allegheny Plateau Sheep & Wool Producers Coop, Inc. Will include sheep-to-shawl demonstration, fleece show & sale, sheep sale, skein & garment competition & more. For additional information contact Lisa Ann Merian, RD 1, Box 118, Brackett Lake Rd., Bainbridge, N.Y. 13733.
- * Rainbow Dyeing Workshop with Nancy Morey, Sept. 1, 9AM-5PM, at The Woolery, 1193 Stewarts Corners Rd., Genoa, NY. Tel. 315/497-1542. For more details see "Advertisements".
- * National Spinning & Weaving Week this year is October 1-7.

NOTES

- Ithaca area crafts are sought for sale in Dallas, Texas by ex-Ithacan Kay Rodabough, who is presently developing a business which will include a gift/craft shop. Write to Kay at 1810 Peters Colony 712, Carrollton, Tx. 75007. (Photographs or samples will be helpful).

SPINNERS' EXCHANGE

From Cindy McCaffery:

"I have had difficulty getting my Columbia fleeces (very similar to Merino in grease content) "fluffy clean". I've tried various washing agents & water softener. I tried Virginia Lance's hot water rinse and that was an improvement, but I still had clumps of sticky, tacky wool. Then I remembered some other "craft.chemistry". Soap is made by combining fat and an alkaline ingredient. Was I inadvertently making soap? In our hard water soap is instant disaster, so maybe an acid medium was needed. I took 3 portions of wool-tried Joy only, hot water rinse & Joy, and hot water and vinegar rinse then Joy. The portion rinsed with hot water and vinegar was distinctly cleaner, fluffier and brighter in appearance and without any greasy feel! (I used 3 tbsp. white vinegar per qt. of water)."

ADVERTISEMENTS

For Sale: $\frac{1}{2}$ German $\frac{1}{2}$ French Black Angora Bunnies born May 1st. White part-German Bunnies due June 15. Bunnies ready to go at 8 weeks. Bunnies have German wool, no guard hairs. German angora the best to spin. Write Brenda Finch, Birch Lane Farm, RD Box 89B, Port Leyden, NY 13433. Give phone number and I'll call you. 1/1

Rainbow Dyeing Workshop with Nancy Morey, sponsored by the Woolery, Sept. 1, 9AM-5PM. Will cover: History of dyes & dyeing, Dyes commonly in use today, Preparation for Dyeing, Dyeing process, Use of Yarns & Fibres (+ demonstrations & hands-on). Fee is \$20 payable to The Woolery and deadline for registration is August 20. Rain date for the workshop is Sept. 2. For more info. or to register write The Woolery, R.D. 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. Tel. 315/497-1542. 1/3

Jumbo head (complete with maidens and base) and 3 Jumbo bobbins for Ashford. \$30.00, call 315/677-9930 evenings. Cindy McCaffery. 1/3

Consignments wanted for new wool and yarn shop in Lafayette. Weavings,

sheepy items welcome. (315) 677-9430.

1/3

FRESH ROMNEY FLEECE: BLACK, GREY, AND WHITE. These are clean, healthy, cured and well-skirted from sheep selected for handspinning wool that has luster, length, softness and low shrinkage. \$3-5 per pound, seconds and skirtings much less. Breeding stock is available at reasonable prices. Gretchen Sachse (607) 347-4396 nights.

1/3

Wanted: Great wheel (walking wheel) in working order with all parts. Kathie Garnsey, 315/364-8889.

1/1

For Sale: Ralph and Henry, Pet wethers. Mostly Romney, silver and dark silver. Very gentle - will tie and lead. Aggressive toward dogs. Also for sale 1949 Ford 1½ Ton Stake Truck. Wonderful condition. Registered & NYS Inspected. Daisy Kirkpatrick, Box 100, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881. 607/539-7941.

2/3

For Sale: one black 7/8 Finn 1/8 Morlam ram lamb, twin, born mid-January; has beautiful fine coal black fleece, uniform throughout, and extremely soft. His dam (black) is a twin and has produced some excellent breeding rams; sire is a registered black Finn (triplet) whose dam has had quads & quints. Our best unregistered black ram lamb this year! Also a few young ewes, black & white, mostly Finn X, & some white ½ Finn ½ Border Leicester ewe lambs (twins & triplets) & ½ Finn ½ Dorset ewe lambs (triplets, quads & quints). Marianne Horschler, La Bergerie, R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. 315/497-1542.

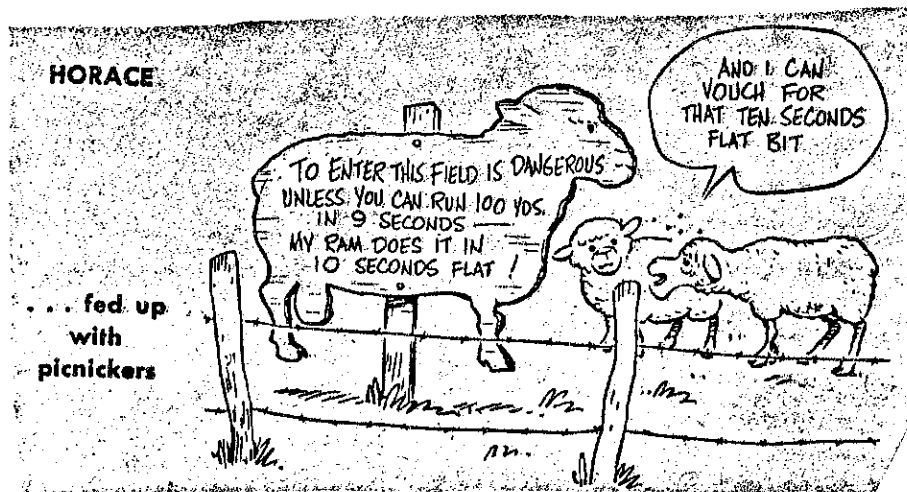
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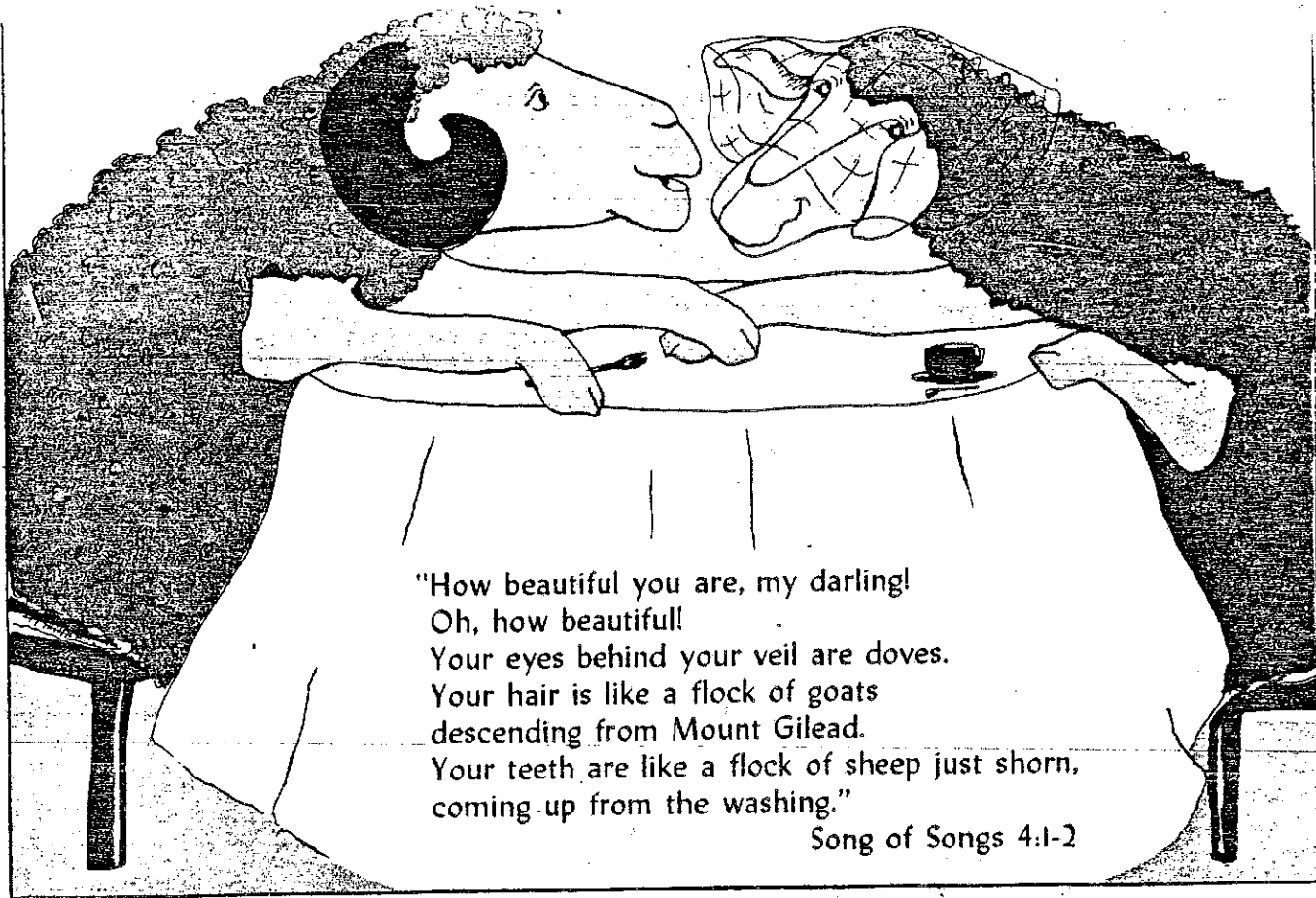
FOR SALE: Registered Lincoln and Registered Romney Sheep. Also for sale, crosses of these two breeds plus crosses with Border Leicester in Grey, charcoal Brown and Black. Gloria Scannell, Weavercroft Farm, R.D. # 1, Schodack Landing, N.Y. 12156. 518/732-2916.

7/9

Ashford & other spinning wheels, many fibres, hand & drum carders, spinning accessories, knitting machines, wool yarns, books, T-shirts, posters, stamps, sheepy items, more. Also registered white & colored Finnsheep, registered black Border Leicesters, and Finn crosses, mostly Finn x Dorset and Finn x Border Leicester; portable electric fencing & chargers. Free catalog - mail order or come to: THE WOOLERY, R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. Phone: 315/497-1542. No shipping charges on Ashford wheels and on most of our knitting machines.

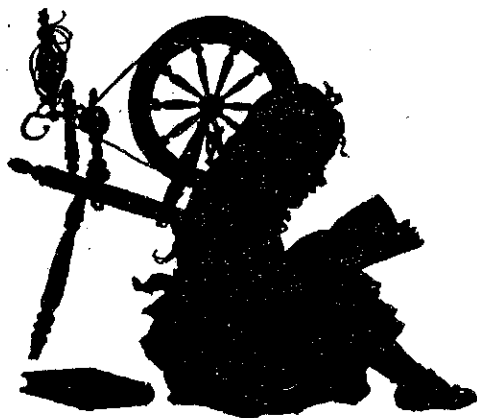
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"How beautiful you are, my darling!
 Oh, how beautiful!
 Your eyes behind your veil are doves.
 Your hair is like a flock of goats
 descending from Mount Gilead.
 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep just shorn,
 coming up from the washing."
 Song of Songs 4:1-2

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 Ithaca, NY 14850