
BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #10 - June, 1977
Edited by Jean Warholie

Well, the merry month of May was certainly full of fun and surprises! We had the full range of weather (from a startling snowstorm to 90°+ blistering days), in addition to all the Guild goings-on. Although we have been needing a good soaking rain (and at this writing, the clouds are threatening, but nothing has happened yet), the peonies are in full bloom, the iris have been spectacular, gardens (those that are in, ahem!) are looking good and coming along well, and we seem to be sailing into June full steam. Another summer, and so soon it seems, what a struggle to keep up with ourselves... And to think that in 20-some days, the days will begin getting shorter!!

ENCLOSED with this Newsletter will be several handouts -- the listing of New Members to date, the good wool grading handout that Gretchen Sachse so nicely prepared for us, and the up-dated Guild Constitution. (If you are missing the wool grading handout, you received it at the May 9 meeting, remember?)

THE WOOL DAY group has had difficulty meeting and preparing their super-duper report, so that will appear in the near future. Although most of us were rather foggy at the May meeting after Wool Day, it was generally agreed that we had a very successful, GOOD, better-than-last-year time, and in general did well. The consensus was that we had a bigger crowd than last year and that probably the most successful part of the whole day, aside from golden moments with Doloria Chapin for us spinners, was the Children's Corner. Unquestionably! But next year it will be called the Beginner's Corner, to encourage the inhibited adults... The other item discussed along with Wool Day was to not have a May meeting immediately after Wool Day, to give us a chance to recoup! But more about Wool Day in the group report when it comes out. (We might add here, though, that it was good to see Ellen Harrison and Louise Hebbard, with children, at our Wool Day!!)

THE ASHFORD WHEELS DEPARTMENT. (Again and again.) Jean Nowack reports that all Guild wheels are now sold. We are currently completing orders for wheels, Jumbo flyers, and extra bobbins (regular and Jumbo). If you are now wanting to order these, contact Jean Nowack as soon as possible. The June meeting is IT. (For prices, etc., see the AD SECTION if, incredible as it seems, you have forgotten them.) We will now be running the Ashford information as a permanent ad in conjunction with the Newsletters, so look for it. This next order going out will come to you in about October and it might be a wise move on your part that if you are ordering for Christmas presents, do so NOW!!!

THE NEWFIELD SCHOOLS were most appreciative of what they called a "marvelous presentation" by BSHG members Gretchen Sachse, Kay Ross, Linda Olds, and Carolyn Cook. Gretchen displayed the DeWitt Historical Society panels (remember them from our Wool Day? HANDSOME!) and demonstrated wheel spinning. Kay, Linda, and Carolyn worked with the children with the Guild's 30 drop spindles made for us by Ed Swart. It sounds as though they had quite a day! And that it was not just the children who had a good time...

(We should also mention here that those drop spindles are for Guild members' use for school and similar demonstrations. Kay Ross has them. Keep it in mind if you have a function like this coming up.)

THE NEWFIELD NEWS came to Wool Day to take pictures and also photographed the program given at the Newfield school for an article about the Guild. The Nowack grapevine hints that it might be run soon...

THE COMBINED WOOL DAY AT LORENZO went well, with just a few hitches, but it was COLD with the wind off the lake. Suzie Hokanson must have taken three days afterward to

AD SECTION

LOOMS FOR RENT -- four harness, 24" (\$5/week or \$20/month), two harness, 16" (\$3/week or \$10/month). Jean Nowack, RD #1, Spencer, N.Y. 14883. (607/564-9241) *3/3*

THE TABBY SHOP carries Harrisville Designs loom kits - 22" and 36" (jack type, floor looms), as well as bobbins, shuttles, reeds, heddles, winders, etc. Plans for making your own loom (42" to 54"). Looms for rent, \$5/week. Yarns are mostly cotton and linen. Need a boost to get started with weaving? Call Mildred Scudder, 273-3308. *3/3*

BEAUTIFULLY CRAFTED WOOL AND SAXONY WHEELS made on order from \$165.00. New Minor's heads, \$45.00. Extra and/or replacement bobbins, spindles, etc. made to match your fine antique wheels. I am now able to handle all fine antique restoration and refinishing. Norm Hall, Box 648, No. Norwich, N.Y. 13814. (607/334-7336) 3/1

ACID DYED "SILK & WOOL" for heather blending. (You saw them at Wool Day!) Packaged three ways: (1) Color Wheel; (2) Analogous Schemes; or (3) Rainbow (reds & oranges, reds & yellows, reds & rust, reds & purples, greens & blues, greens & yellows, etc.). Pick your combination, 4-oz./\$5.30. FALLBROOK HOUSE, 480 Canton St., Troy, PA. 16947. 3/2

FOR SALE: Two walking wheels, quilling wheel, four-arm yarn winder. Need some work; prices vary. Nice old distaff for flax wheel, \$10. We also have one extra Ashford wheel kit (\$65) coming in July, and an extra Jumbo flyer (\$20) in hand. Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648 evenings) 3/2

THE SHEEPISH GRIN, 7½ miles northwest of Ithaca, at the corner of Rt. 96 & Parke Road, Jacksonville, is moving to "grinner pastures." Wed.-Sat., June 8-25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will see a "GRIN AND BARE IT" sale of looms, yarns, fibers, carders, carding machines, dyestuffs, mordants, books, THE WORKS! (607/387-5452) 1/1

ASHFORD WHEEL ORDERS. You may place an order through the Guild whether or not you live in the area or are a member. These kits are individually boxed and will come directly to you; the extra bobbins come to the Guild and you must make arrangements for these. If we do not have a full order at the time we receive yours (we must have a minimum of 15 wheels or 5 Jumbo flyers, for example, to obtain our price break), we will hold your order until it can be sent -- normally, this is not more than several weeks at the most. There will be a four-month waiting period for your order to reach you from Ashford. Prices and info. are as follows: WHEEL KITS (\$50 - wheel, 4 bobbins, lazy kate for plying; for \$10 extra, your wheel will be finished with walnut stain and polished by Ashford, specify if you want this); JUMBO FLYER (\$15 - flyer unit, 4 bobbins); REGULAR BOBBINS (85¢ each) and JUMBO BOBBINS (\$1.05 each). You will be charged customs fees on the wheel kits (about \$3) and Jumbo flyer units (about \$1) when they come to you; customs fees are included in the prices for the extra bobbins in both sizes. Make your checks payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild and send with your order to: Jean Nowack, RD #1, Spencer, N.Y. 14883.

Ads are 50¢ per ad per issue, or \$1/3 issues (or 3 ads in one issue). With the exception of the Ashford ad (Guild), there is a maximum of four lines per ad. Items advertised must be related to spinning or the fiber arts. One free ad given in the event of typists error. DEADLINE FOR ADS: 25th of each month. Sorry, we cannot run photographs or drawings with your ad.

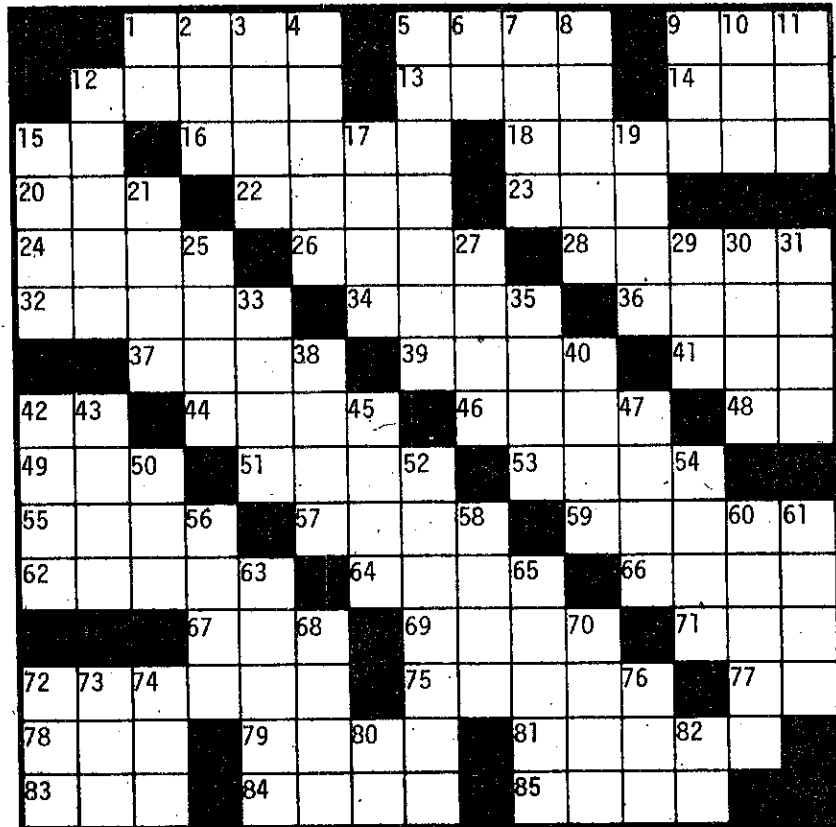
Send payment with ad copy (checks payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild) to: Mrs. Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (Call if questions, 539-7648, evenings.)

ACROSS

1. Diplomacy
5. _____ a bobbin
9. Greek letter
13. Smell
14. Ground cavity
15. Back Order (abbr.)
16. Fleece to _____
18. An antiseptic
20. Auditor (abbr.)
22. Ladies _____ traw
23. Recline
24. An attempt (colloq.)
26. Hebrew letter
28. To separate fibers
32. Leftover warp thread
34. Necessity
36. _____ cotton
37. Mouth (slang)
39. _____ down
41. Research (abbr.)
42. An interjection
44. E. African River
46. _____ spindle
48. Personal pronoun
49. Tennis stroke
51. Kind of star
53. Sound perceiving parts
55. Weaver's frame
57. Horizontal threads
59. Flower yielding yellow dye
62. _____ rack
64. Loom device
66. San Blas Island blouse
67. Male youth
69. Mordant
71. Neither
72. Sheep's covering
75. Old Testament juniper
77. Above position
78. Be ill
79. Former name of Ireland
81. Fleece wave
83. Ineffectual thing
84. Past tense of slide
85. To become aware of sounds

DOWN

1. Tellurium (chem.)
2. Woof
3. Infant's quarters
4. Cashmere's home
5. Yarn from parallel arrangement of fibers



Down (continued)

6. Part of psyche
7. Short piece of silk
8. A legal right
9. Weaving term
10. Stannous chloride
11. Noun suffix
12. Oral cavity
15. Plant stem fiber
17. Natural dyer's paradise
19. Extending far downward
21. To move suddenly
25. To destroy by fire
27. Shep_____
29. Invisible mixture of gases
30. Kind of duck
31. To lessen
33. Chief
35. To challenge
38. Farm implement
40. Dyestuff yielding blue
42. Right angles
43. Circular band
45. Always
47. Perambulator (Brit. colloq.)
50. Disapproving sound
52. Frightened
54. Suffix (meaning the act)
56. Burrowing mammal
58. Prefix (far off)
60. Small vessel
61. Any fiber spun into strands
63. To weave together
65. Netherlands people
68. The devil
70. Nothing more than
72. Craze
73. Long Island University (abbr.)
74. Old age
76. Missing In Action (abbr.)
80. Rhode Island (abbr.)
82. Man's title

The first three to send in correct complete solution can come to select \$5 each of their choice of item(s) from The Sheepish Grin.

you have that also, and if you have something for a flax display, bring that also. (Or how about flax preparation tools, such as a hetchel?) It should be a FUN day!

Seen the latest edition of *INTERWEAVE* (Spring 1977)? Three articles in particular will surely interest you: "Wild Silk" by Cheryl Kolander (if Jean Case's silk at Wool Day turned you on); "Know Your Fibers: Karakul" (especially if you bought the Donna Cook Millsbaugh fleeces from Marion Wikoff); and "Raising a Spinner's Flock" (with emphasis on the Jones Sheep Farm of Peabody, Kansas, fame). An interesting footnote to the latter article, for those of us who wanted to order fleeces from the Joneses: a friend of Jean Nowack's mother, upon writing awhile ago to order fleeces, received the sample care with a note saying that the Farm was sold out of fleeces until next year... If any of us are going to "keep up with the Joneses," we had better order early!

There will be a substantial order going out soon for National Acid Dyes through Masa Knoshita -- good variety of lovely colors, a little goes a long way. Kay Ross is taking names of Guild members interested in ordering and call her NOW (607/844-8050, or write her immediately, 469 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville, NY 13068). If you have had your fill of Procion, Ciba, or Rit dyes, these are definitely worth a try!

WE ARE ENORMOUSLY PLEASED to announce that two Guild members won awards at the Mannings juried weavings show recently -- a BIG CHEER from all of us to Marion Wikoff who won a First for her woven coverlet and to Mildred Scudder for her Merit Award on her woven coat. And we are just as PLEASED to announce that Billie Hall had her weavings accepted at the "Art in the Park," Mark Twain Festival at Elmira -- hope some Guild members got down to that. Congratulations to all three of you -- we are all very proud of you!!!

The Seminars on American Culture, offered at Cooperstown, promise to be very interesting -- the curriculum this summer includes: "Approaches to Furnishing the Historic House (or, The Curtains Don't Come First)," "New York State Architecture: Village and Farm," "Furnishing Fabrics, 1750-1850," "Style in America," "American Crewel Embroidery," and MORE, of course. These are coming up in July and you'd better get in gear -- write Seminars on American Culture, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, NY 13326, or call Jean Warholic for a gander at her brochure of the courses.

THE SPINNING MUSIC PROGRAM, in case you missed it, had a nice variety of pieces in it. Jean Nowack kindly sent us this brief review: Ronald Steele, on the music faculty of the University of Massachusetts, was the announcer. He started with an excellent, short history of the spinning wheel. It was interesting to note how similar the musical motif used to indicate the moving spinning wheel was in all the works... There were eight pieces played: (1) *Gretchen am Spinnrade* by Schubert; (2) Opus 67, no. 4 (*Spinning Song*) by Mendelssohn; (3) *Mélisande at the Spinning Wheel* by Sibelius; (4) *The Woman Who Spins* from *el Paicibre* by Casals; (5) *Phoebe at the Spinning Wheel* from *Yeoman of the Guard* by Gilbert and Sullivan; (6) *Mother at the Spinning Wheel* from *The Seasons* (Winter Section) by Hayden; (7) the Spinning Chorus from *The Flying Dutchman* by Wagner (Liszt transcription); and (8) *Omphale's Spinning Wheel* by Saint-Saëns. A little something for everyone...

DO MAKE PARTICULAR NOTE of the forthcoming events on the next page. We will be needing lots of person-power (? - GUILD POWER) this summer. In addition, an opportunity has arisen we should seriously discuss at the June meeting. The Stills Photography Studio (104 N. Aurora, 2nd Floor) has closed for the summer. Heidi Wurlitzer, Stoneware Gallery (next door), will rent the space for about \$80 (negotiable) for the month of August as an exhibit or sales space. Would the Guild like to pursue this matter? Would you like to approach the Textile Arts Guild for a joint sales venture? Do we have the labor force and/or items to sell and/or display???? Let's have your ideas on this... Jean Warholic has more details on the matter...

thaw out and we will never understand why Ed Swart didn't get double pneumonia. The activities were by and large planned well and were nicely placed around the mansion area. And what a treat to spend the day in such an elegant place! But those outside were frozen from the wind coming off the lake. It was fun to meet people from the Norwich and Cherry Valley Guilds -- as always! -- but all three Guilds had a poor showing of people to demonstrate. Lots of promises, but few showed up. It went well enough that most of us felt it was a good event to repeat next year, with some changes and a lot more Guild support... physically present support. The crowds were good and attentive, comparatively "well-heeled," and the people who run Lorenzo as a historic site were pleased in general. You should mark this event on your calendar for next year -- Lorenzo is a magnificent mansion and all the spinning/dyeing activities were very appropriate there -- and speaking as one who was lucky enough to be inside (and warm) most of the time, it was a rare and special feeling to sit and spin or knit in a huge old room, filled with elegant furniture, with a crystal chandelier (with gold deer heads!) above you or high pineapple four-poster bed beside you (with a beautiful candle-tufted bedspread!), or a floor-to-ceiling bookcase (glass-doors, of course) crammed with old leather-bound books (how precious books were in those days!). Not a time easily forgotten...

THE SATURDAY GROUP, such as it was (Averil Bell, Eleanor May, Carolyn Cook, Jean W.), met at the Warholics' house and had a session of Rainbow Dyeing and talking. Much of both. The next meeting will be at Carolyn Cook's house and we will have a good afternoon of SPINNING. Come prepared to work, but we will also make it a "trouble-shooting" time so bring problems too. Disgruntled with your carding? Over-plying? Can't make yourself spin with a long-draft? Troubles with your wheel? Need more practice with a drop spindle? Troubles with novelty plying? If any of these have a familiar ring, this will be a good afternoon for you. Bring your wheel, spindle, carders, wool as appropriate, but in addition bring (if you have them): dog comb, two balls of contrasting icky commercial yarn (texture and/or color), and some of your first-spun wool. If you are coming, CALL JEAN OR CAROLYN -- Jean at 539-7648 or Carolyn at 533-7297, evenings (Carolyn, 256-6579 days), the 23rd or 24th, so we know how many to anticipate. Directions to Carolyn's again: Take Rt. 34 north out of Ithaca. Turn left on 34B at Rogues Harbor Inn, as if you are going to King Ferry. Go past the schools and keep going until you get to Cecil's Bar (on the right). Turn left on Lansing Station Road. In about one mile, there is a V and you bear to the right (Ludlow Road). The Cooks are the 4th house on the right (a neat log house, set back a bit). The driving time is about 30 minutes for cautious drivers, from Ithaca. Bring a friend!

WE WANT YOUR VOTE ON MONDAY at the meeting (June 13). The Guild has an opportunity to buy 115-pounds of black fleece at 78¢ per pound (fleeces left from the Wool Pool at Odessa several weeks ago). All or nothing. Jean Nowack says the treasury can stand it. Do we want it? If your first impulse is to say YES, then we want to know what we will do with it --you had better have some good money-making schemes up your sleeve and/or Guild projects in mind. That 115 pounds is about 15-20 fleeces worth. You let us know (call or write your nearest Guild officer if you aren't coming to the June meeting).

Speaking of the Wool Pool at Odessa, did anyone get to it? It was an ungraded wool pool, which isn't as interesting to go to as the graded ones, but we would like to hear about it if you went...

Please check your books at home. Do you have Jean Warholic's copy of Castino's *Spinning and Dyeing the Natural Way*? If so, please give it back!

And speaking of working sessions, don't forget that the June meeting (13th) is one: *Flax Spinning* with Gretchen Ham. Bring your wheels, distaff if you have one, flax if