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BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD  
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #36 -- August 1980  
Edited by Jean Warholio

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What a busy summer for all of us -- hope you've had some time to dye and spin, sandwiched between the gardening, canning/freezing/drying/pickling, family events and activities, and all those other things that happen along. Hope you got in a little vacation, too, to feed the spirit... September is coming up fast, and with the kids heading back to school, we shift gears once more.

SEPTEMBER 8 MEETING - "Spinning on a Great Wheel." Tin Can (near Stewart Park), 10 a.m. Bring a great wheel if you have one, and carders and fibers to spin. (Remember, you can spin anything on it, just like on a smaller wheel -- most people are just used to seeing wool spun on it.) Bring a lunch; coffee, tea provided. And bring an interested friend -- our meetings are open to anyone! This will definitely be a hands-on spinning meeting, so come prepared and have a good time!!

Refreshments? Gretchen Sachse signed up. Anyone else?

OCTOBER 13 MEETING falls on Columbus Day (holiday) and we cannot meet at the Tin Can. a change of date or meeting place will be decided at the Sept. meeting. Program to be announced.

The NOVEMBER meeting will be election of officers for 1981 as well as our critiqued show. And the DECEMBER meeting will be our Christmas Party, with dish-to-pass and handspun ornaments, and at a member's home. In JANUARY, we usually don't have a meeting as such, but we have OUR OWN HOLIDAY (ROCK DAY!) about the first week of the new year. And the new officers take over... More about all of these in the next newsletter. Just wanted to remind you...

BE THINKING ABOUT YOUR NEW OFFICERS for the coming year. The positions are president, vice president, treasurer, recording secretary, newsletter editor, and corresponding secretary. The librarian is appointed. If you want to be an officer or have questions about the duties involved, or have people you want in those positions, PLEASE CONTACT THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE IMMEDIATELY: Suzy Hokanson, Paula Curtin, and Virginia Lance. We will reiterate the positions, and telephone numbers for the committee in the next newsletter. A new nominating committee will be appointed in November also. This is your Guild and we want your ideas and help... The Guild needs your support!

THE SATURDAY GROUP. Next meeting: August 23, noon to 4 p.m., at the home of Susanne Lorbeer (34 Dart Drive, Ithaca). If you need directions, call her at 257-0835. Erica Rowe will give a program on lichen dyeing -- we are to bring a large glass jar and some non-sudsing, no lemon ammonia. It should be FUN! Hope to see you there!!

The September meeting would normally fall on the 27th, the weekend of the Thistle-down Seminar (see next page). A decision will be made at the August meeting whether to have the meeting or not then. Call Eleanor May (272-8224) or Ernestine Wright (257-0027) to find out. (Hopefully, another newsletter will go out by then, but...)

CORNELL UNIVERSITY'S EXCESS SHEEP SALE of about 200 head will be Saturday, August 23, at the Sheep Barns near Harford, starting at 1:00 p.m. Finn and some Finn crosses will be included, as well as several other breeds and mixes. If you have specific questions, call Brian Magee at 607/844-8367.

THE THISTLEDOWN HANDSPINNERS SEMINAR (6th Annual!) will be Sept. 27-28, at Norwich, N.Y. You should have received your forms and information sheets by now. (The deadline is

Sept. 15 for registration.) IF YOU DID NOT receive any information, please contact one of the following immediately: Jean Steiber, Thistledown Handspinners Guild, 35 Canasawachta Street, Norwich, N.Y. 13815. Or Jean Warholic (539-7648, evenings), Gretchen Sachse (347-4396). They all have extra forms. The seminar, if you haven't heard about it already, is a big annual spinning event for us. It is GREAT FUN and not only will you learn a great deal, but you'll meet spinners from all over this area and have ample opportunity to peruse the sales rooms for all sorts of spinning-related goodies. Below is a general schedule, just to tantalize you! There will be some carpooling from the Ithaca area, some doubling-up on rooms (if you want to stay the night as inexpensively as possible), and you may go one or both days -- ASK AROUND! It is a two-hour drive (especially if you get lost) from the Ithaca area...

#### Saturday, Sept. 27

- a.m. - Harold & Rhea Silber (MOHAIR), "sheep sense" contest. Lunch and sales opportunities.
- p.m. - SPINNING WHEELS; OLD AND NEW with Norm Hall, the Silbers back with MORE MOHAIR, Shepard's Delight dinner, program about WOOL IN NEW ZEALAND in the evening, and the SPIN-GO-ROUND session afterwards.

#### Sunday, Sept. 28

- a.m. - SILKS IN NATURAL DYES with Jean Case, film titled "Homespun," and short program on SCRAPIE: THE SECRET DISEASE with Gretchen Sachse and Phil Sponenberg. Lunch and sales opportunities.
- p.m. - FASHION SHOW with Jean Warholic and Gretchen Sachse, and MINI WORKSHOPS the rest of the afternoon. ("Microwave Dyeing" with Ann Stone; "Fiber Books and Magazines" with Mary Ann Lynch; "What's New in Fibers" with Peter Farnham; and "Loop Stitch Mittens" with Della Erickson.) Sales opportunities afterwards.

THIS WILL BE AT THE HOWARD JOHNSON'S MOTOR LODGE in downtown Norwich. Registration is \$9.00 per day for the seminar; HoJo room rates if you stay are extra (call them: 607/334-2200) and make sure you identify yourself as being with the spinning seminar. The Shepard's Delight dinner is extra. SALES OPPORTUNITIES for craftspeople must be related to handspinning or dyeing -- your room is your sales area and there will be a bulletin board where you can post your card or modest poster. DISPLAYS OF HANDSPUN/DYED ITEMS will be in the Terrace Room as before. Bring your items early in the day, please, and tag them with your name and description. They are to be picked up at the end of the seminar. Door prize to be drawn from those entering items on display.

THIS IS A GREAT EVENT IN THIS AREA -- DON'T MISS IT!!! We hope to see you there!

*BRING THOSE PRIZE-WINNING STATE FAIR ENTRIES, TOO!!! We'll have a separate section for them. C'mon -- brag a bit!!!*

THE BUSY KNITTER program with Elizabeth Zimmerman (PBS-WCNY, Ch. 24 out of Syracuse) continues through the end of August. 11:00 a.m., Friday mornings for a delicious half-hour with charming Elizabeth and her circular knitting and impressive knowledge...

THE LAMB-TO-LOOM GUILD has its last summer spin-in at Billie Hall's on Wednesday, Aug. 27th. Fire going for dyepots. Everyone welcome! Billie lives near Newark Valley, and south and east of Dryden (?). She sent us a map, but space doesn't permit reproduction. (Call Billie if you plan to come and for specific instructions: 607/862-3082.) It sounds like a nice day! Try to go if you can...

LAMB-TO-LOOM will also be touring a ribbon factory in Greene, N.Y., on Sept. 8 from 7-9 p.m. If you want to come along -- and it sounds interesting! -- call Gloria Alamo for more information and directions, 607/656-8359. If anyone in this area gets there, please tell us about it!!



TOMPKINS COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL. Although reactions were mixed, we have renewed our membership in TCAC. We hope that Guild members will give TCAC their support and active participation, particularly those members who felt we should renew (ahem!), and let's make this a worthwhile year for all concerned. There are certainly things we can do for each other... C'mon!!

Mike Green, TCAC Administrative Assistant, has asked for the following to be put in our newsletter. It has distinct possibilities for some of us. Please give it some serious thought.

"The Tompkins County Arts Council invites individual members of the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild to participate in our Art in Public Places program. We are currently expanding this program, placing art work in locations throughout the county.

The program works like this: we put together a slide show from the slides submitted to us by local artists, and present it to employees working at various public buildings, agencies and businesses; they select the works that interest them; the Arts Council assists the artists in handing or otherwise installing the art work.

Under this program, your work may be displayed at any one location for up to six months. You may remove it at any time if it is sold, if it must be moved to another showing, or for any other reason.

Whenever possible, the business or institution hanging the art work will promote the shows and the artists, and in all cases will be responsible for insuring the pieces against damage, theft, etc. We understand that members of the Guild have been concerned about this last point. It seems that once a business already has its own insurance, the cost of additional coverage for the art works is small enough that it hasn't been a problem for them to cover it.

This process is happening right now. We would like to have as many artists as possible, so please get some slides in to us. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning this program, please stop in or call us at 277-4906."

THE CLOSET at Willard Straight Hall, Cornell University, is accepting items for consignment again. They would like hand-crafted merchandise of various price ranges and you may opt for different time periods for the consignment. They serve about 7,000 students daily, with THE CLOSET open from August through May, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and evenings from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. They will provide display and advertising services for items placed in the shop. Write or call: Mike Bovi, Retail Coordinator, Willard Straight Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853. (607/256-4312) (Note: the Guild did place things with them last fall and some sales resulted, as well as our name being visible.)

INSULATION is the name of a craft exhibit ("to warm the body or cheer the soul") which the Ithaca Textile Arts Guild plans to hold on February 28, 1981, at the Women's Community Building, Ithaca. Plans are being made now. The BSHG (us!) has been committed to at least a sales table and spinning demonstrations for the day. If you are seriously interested in working on things at this stage of the game, please contact Liese Bronfenbrenner at 257-2570. Otherwise, we will get you more information shortly as to what items are generally be shown (may be shown and/or sold), entry fees, etc. There is also the possibility of it being two days (March 1 as well).

THE LEARNING WEB has thanked us profusely for our participation in the Ithaca Festival '80. It is nice to receive their follow-up notes. (A rare treat!)

THE TROY FAIR day was a huge success, judging from Maria Steve's enthusiastic report! Maria finally got there this year (as did several others!), and they had a marvelous time. (We knew they would, didn't we, Jean Case?!) Jean Case is the mainstay of that event, and her hard work over the years is never applauded enough...

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE OUR CROSSWORD PUZZLE WINNER! Erica Rowe won the contest and selected some yarns so her daughter could make a frame-loom weaving as the prize offered by Mildred Scudder of THE TABBY SHOP. Congratulations to Erica, and a big thank-you to Mildred for her nice prize! The runner-up was Mary Ann Lynch. Glad that some gave the puzzle a try!

LAUREL'S SOLUTION IS TO THE RIGHT... How did YOU (who didn't finish) do on this? And thank you, of course, to Laurel for these mental spinning exercises!!

STATE FAIR ENTRIES were delivered by Kay Riddell on Aug. 9. We won't know the winners in time to include them in this newsletter. But judging was to be done by Doloria Chapin on Aug. 13, and we'll let you know the results in the next newsletter. Hopethe State Fair had a lot of entries this year...

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS to the Guild and we look forward to seeing you at our meetings! And sad goodbyes to some of our members who've moved away this summer...

Active

- Mary Ann (Rice) Beale, Apt. #23, 220 Triphammer Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. (257-2467) (Dyer; knitter; crocheter.)
- Pat Cornell, 117 Park Lane, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. (273-3054) (Knitter; crocheter.)
- Cindy White, 8 Fall Creek Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (844-4100) (Weaver; friends with spinnable collie hair.)

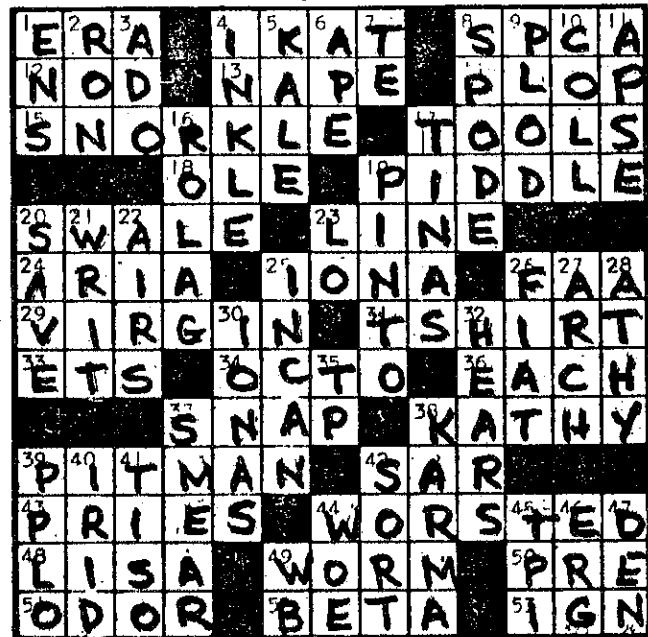
Student

- Sandy Weed, C-7 Kampus Kourt, Greenville, S.C. 29609. (803/244-5169) (Weaver; dyer; knitter; crocheter; spinnable collie; 1 synthetic sheep, 7 stuffed.)

Corrections, up-dates

- Masako Kinoshita will be in Japan this year with her husband. Their address for several months: Masako Kinoshita, c/o Prof. Toichiro Kinoshita, National Laboratory for High Energy Physics, Oho-machi, Tsukuba-gum, 300-32 Ibaraki-kem, Japan. We hope Masa will send us spinning information now and then!
- Cindy Smith and family have moved to Sunny Alabama: 433 Devon Drive, Birmingham, Al. 35209. (Learn to spin kudzu, Cindy!)
- Floyd LaVigne is now at: Lansing West Apts., Sec. 3, Apt. L2A, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.
- Margaret B. Pough and all her spinnable dogs have moved to: 132 Genung Circle, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. (273-0925)
- Libby Llop says do come visit, especially if you come to see the Genesee Country Museum: 3079 Fowlerville Road, Caledonia, N.Y. 14423. (716/226-2788) Find Fowlerville, proceed west; road joins Rts. 36 and 39. Libby lives where Genesee and Wyoming Railroad crosses the Fowlerville Road.
- And Carol Murphy has moved back to Canada: 234 - 4th Street, E., Saskatoon, Sask. S7H 1S1, Canada.

We'll miss those of you who've gone -- keep in touch! And we hope to see those who've stayed in the Ithaca area before long...



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TWO MORE ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS to our membership! Gloria Scannell has joined the Guild as an Inactive Member; she is at 1235 Schodack Landing Road, Schodack Landing, N.Y. 1215 (518/732-2916) She is a weaver, dyer, knitter/crocheter; has 20 sheep (Lincoln, Tomney, Leicester) with 3 black rams and 7 black ewes. A spinner with fortitude, she came all the way here for the Paula Simmons' Workshop! Also, Nancy Morey is now knitting and weaving happily at 33 Fuller Street, Binghamton, N.Y. 13901. (607/772-6529) We are so glad she didn't move very far away!

HOPE YOU GOT TO THE UPSTATE CRAFTS FAIR earlier this month! It was a pleasure to see so many lovely things in different mediums, and so well displayed. Spotted a few Guild members' things -- by Maria Steve, Nancy Morey, Doris Brown, Masa Kinoshita, and others (sorry if I left anyone out!) to name a few... Haven't heard how they did -- hope it was WELL and that they'll keep up all that good work!!!

Don and Jean Warholic went to a few more museums on their vacation this summer -- zig-zagged out to Portsmouth, N.H., visited relatives, ate lobster, swam in the ocean, and zig-zagged back. If you dearly love seeing textiles, there are at least two places they went to which you should try to see: MERRIMACK VALLEY TEXTILE MUSEUM (No. Andover, Mass.) and the PLIMOTH PLANTATION recreation near Plymouth, Mass. Give yourself at least two hours at each place. MERRIMACK has an outstanding display of handspinning/weaving, etc. textiles, their production, the processes involved, etc. Well-illustrated, well-documented. But the highlight is truly the industrial machinery they have on display and will run for you!! A real delight and one of the few (if not THE PLACE) places you'll ever see such a sight. Interesting as well as really giving you a feel for what the industrial revolution meant... Fabulous place. You will want to go back... PLIMOTH PLANTATION is first person living history. If you liked Ft. Stanwix, you will love Plimoth. The year is 1627 (it will help to bone up on your history beforehand, although they have an excellent media presentation to see to get you into the mood) and YOU ARE THERE! If the manner of speaking, the politics, the architecture (thatched roofs, real ones!), the gardens, the piggies and chickens about, don't interest you, THE CLOTHING WILL!! Really excellent -- and the costume people there also outfit the Mayflower II if you go see it as well. Some terrific people! (And the Boston Area Weavers Guild members have helped enormously, including weaving some of their material for clothing, etc.) And it is nice to see a living museum like this with children as part of the museum (and Indians, too!). Do try to get to these, if you happen to get toward the general Boston area...

GET OUT YOUR CALENDAR... Fall will be busier than we thought! Alice Wood was kind enough to copy a number of things from the TCAC Master Calendar for us. And earlier, in July, several guild officers got together with Susan Andrews and drafted a listing of the textile events for the Ithaca area through December 1980. (That list will, hopefully, be duplicated again and available around the county. One run of the list was available at the Upstate Crafts Fair.) More on that after this...

August 30-31 - Folk/Craft Fair at Fraley's Park, Rt. 34, Waverly, N.Y. (Contact: Yesterday Productions, Millport, N.Y. 739-3100.)

Sept. 8 - Deadline to receive registration for Historic Ithaca's series, THE VICTORIAN ERA IN CENTRAL NEW YORK (a session on furnishings is included). For info. and forms, call 607/273-6633. Seminar is Sept. 13, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Ithaca.

Sept. 8 - SPINNING ON A GREAT WHEEL, our meeting at the Tin Can, 10 a.m. (see first page of this newsletter for details).

Sept. 8 - Ithaca Artists 1980. Preview for members and artists, Upstairs Gallery. Show open from Sept. 9 thru Oct. 11.

Sept. 13-15 - Craft Fair/Ithaca Commons. For Info., call Peter Aferrri (607/273-2127).

Sept. 13 - "Save the Old Erie Railroad Station" Fair, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 3rd and RR Ave., Elmira.

- Sept. 18 - Ithaca Textile Guild meeting at Edith Johnson's, Halsey St., Trumansburg. (387-9506) Show and tell. 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 21 - FLYING GEESE: THE BUSINESS OF QUILTING. Simple record-keeping, pricing old and new quilts for the Ithaca market, how to prepare an old quilt for sale. Panel discussion with audience participation. 2-4 p.m., DeWitt Hist. Society.
- Sept. 25-27 - 16th Annual Pennsbury Manor Americana Forum. "The Communal Society Experience in America - Decorative Arts." (Various clothing/textile/furnishings sessions with impressive array of speakers.) Location: Morrisville, Pa. For registration info. and fees: call 215/946-0400.
- Sept. 27-28 - 6th Annual THISTLEDOWN HANDSPINNERS SEMINAR, Norwich, N.Y. (See first pages of this newsletter for more info.)
- Oct. 1 - Pioneer Rummage Sale, 8:30-4 p.m., Senior Citizens Center.
- Oct. 8 - FROM RAGS TO RUGS: The Hooked Rugs of Ruth Drew. Discussion, demonstration. 2:30 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, Ithaca.

And a quick run-down of important dates to ear-mark: Oct. 18, Quilt Tag Auction sponsored by Flying Geese group. Nov. 3, Soft Sculptures Exhibit by Susan Andrews. Nov. 7-8, Tompkins County Quilters Guild Exhibit. Nov. 15-16, AAUW's The Doll Fair. Nov. 16, The Unfinished Quilt. Nov. 17, Costumes: Their Dating and Use as Historical Evidence. And more. And more, and more! We will have the list available for events through Christmas at our next Guild meetings for you to pick up if you are interested. If you can't wait, send a business env. (SASE) to either: Susan Andrews, 107 E. Marshall Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 or to Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. Jean will be handling the next listing (January thru June 1981), so any up-dates or new listings should be sent to her.

LOST AND FOUND DEPT. Joyce Scott still hasn't located her nice sheep-y tote bag from Rock Day. Please get it back to her -- she misses it! Maria Steve reports an unidentified thermos jug left from the meeting at her house in July. Is it yours? Please let her know...

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER deadline is the Sept. 8 meeting. Please get any information, dates, etc. to Jean Warholic by then. That newsletter will, hopefully, take us through the November meetings.

I hope I have not left anything or anyone out... My apologies if I have. With all the summer activities -- and fall promising to be more of the same (is there no rest for the weary?) -- assembling this newsletter was a little more hectic than usual.

*Hope you had a wonderful summer and that all went well for you! We look forward to seeing you at the Saturday Group and Monday meetings coming up!! Bring a friend. Come and enjoy!* And plan for the Thistledown Seminar -- you will have a good time and meet many old and new friends...

-- Jean Warholic

P.S. (What is a letter without a P.S., after all?)  
 Hope you saw the May/June issue of Weaving and Fiber News. Outstanding issue, with things of interest to all of us. Check out the Guild issue when you can, or pick up a copy when in the Heritage Craft Shop or other fiber places that carry it...