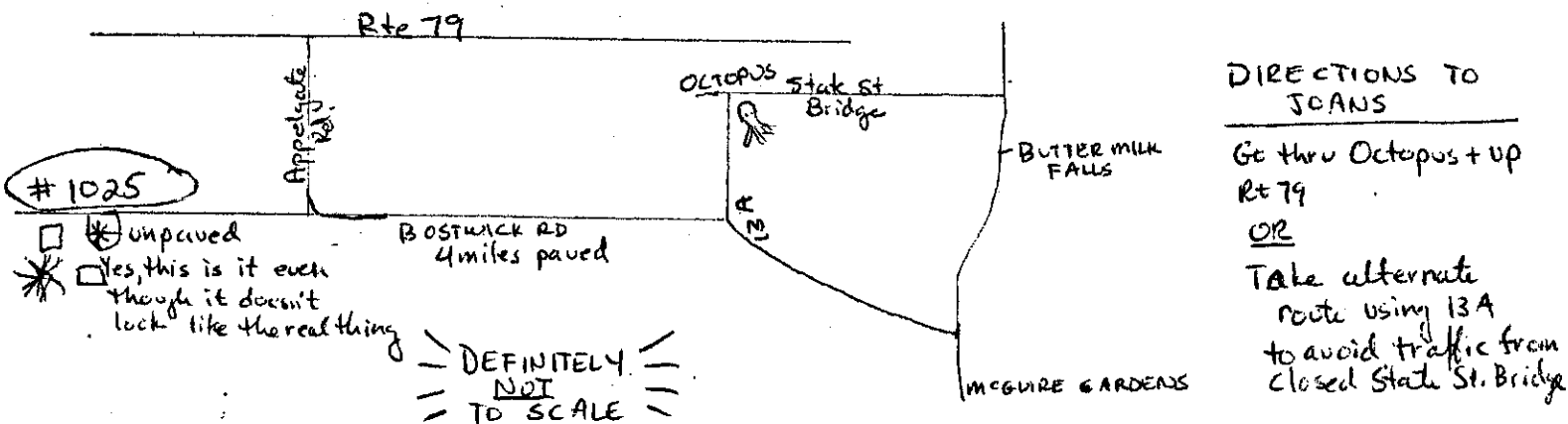




Editor: Debbie Serviente
63 Neimi Rd
Freeville, NY 13068
607/347-6631

UPCOMING MEETINGS***


August 15, Noon, at Joan Johnston's. Joan has a large carding machine, so bring your fleeces, if desired, cleaned and ready for carding. Her address and phone # are 1025 Bostwick Rd, Ithaca, 272-2697. If the State St bridge is still closed, it's just as quick (or quicker!) to go south on 13 & back 1/2 mile on 13A to Bostwick.



September 12, Noon. Back in Varna at the Community Center on 366 only we'll be meeting in the cozy firemen's room. Enter the building through the regular front door and go to the left through the garage to the back room. This room is very conducive to reacquaintances and new acquaintances of which there will be plenty after the summer. And there have been quite a few new members joining over the summer. So bring your wheels and fibers for spinning and chatting. Let's share what we've garnered over the summer months in workshops, conferences, and living rooms. If you've been doing a lot of reading lately, perhaps there is something that really interested you. Be prepared to talk about it for 5-10 minutes and bring a sample if applicable.

October 3, Noon at the Varna Community Center on 366. The program will be on silk - the various forms it comes in, how to use it, etc. Bring samples.

October 10, Noon. Marty McGee has invited the Guild to come to her place to see the llamas, the Jacob sheep, and tour the grounds. If you've yet to meet the llamas, do take this opportunity. They're fascinating animals, so self-assured as to take you aback, and so gentle that they draw you in. She lives about 45 minutes from Ithaca on Pulver Rd in Dundee. To car pool, we'll meet at the Woolworth's parking lot in Ithaca, across from the Ramada at 11 AM, leaving for Marty's by 11:15 AM.

To get to Marty's take Rt 79 to Watkins Glen. Go through 2 lights (2nd light Main St) follow road around a corner, up the hill, and take right towards Tyrone & Hammondsport. This is County Rd 28 & 23. In ½ mile 28 splits off to the right. You stay left on 23. Go 9 miles, come to STOP sign. Go right 2.2 miles. Slow down when you see a yellow and black incoming road sign.  Turn left on Kendall. Go to top of hill. Turn left on Pulver Rd. We are the only house on the right. Phone # 243-5282.

Changes of Address* New Members* Please update your membership list!

Joyce Kruger-Knuepfer
Box 375 A
Bunn Hill Rd
Vestal, NY 13850

Yvonne LaMontagne (I)
1191 Ellis Hollow Rd
Ithaca, NY 14850
272-3204

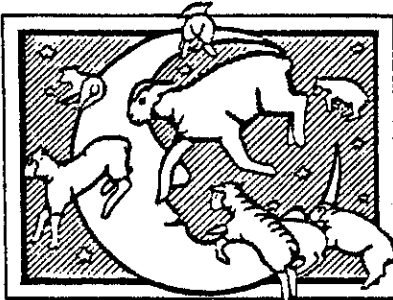
WELCOME!!

Anne Furman (I)
15 Congress St
Trumansburg, NY 14886

Marty McGee (I)
RD #2, Box 167 D
Dundee, NY 14837
243-5282

State Fair and Other Goodies Coming Up** This year I said goodbye to my pride and entered a bunch of handspun stuff in the State Fair. The deadline for submissions is already past but it's not too late to sign up to demonstrate at the Wool Booth on Friday, Sept 4. You can bring your own wheel or use one of those provided. The carded wool is provided and whatever you spin is yours to take home and keep. Demonstrators get a free pass for the day. Call Michelle Kurz to arrange for your pass 387-6760. The fair runs from Aug 28-Sept 7.

*Two more sheep-to-shawl contests coming up. One at the State Fair in Syracuse on Sunday, Sept 6. The other is very low pressure Sept 19 at Kay Shaw's house, 1700 Jackson Rd, Penfield, NY. This is mainly for demonstration, not heavy competition, and is part of a SPIN*IN sponsored by the Genesee^{Valley} Handspinners Guild. Amelia Roberts, president of the Guild, sent a wonderful, handwritten invitation to the Black Sheep Handspinners to join in the Spin -in and learn about sheep-to-shawling and make new friends. The Spin-in runs from 10 AM-4PM. Bring your lunch. She enclosed a map which I have if anyone would like a copy of it. Her phone # is 716-872-6106 if anybody has any questions.



Thoughts on Beginning Spinning**Everyone has his/her own reasons for spinning wool. Some want to carry forth a tradition; others enjoy the satisfaction of creating a final product from raw materials. I'm even told that some people are able to make a living doing it! For me, all these reasons are part of it. As I improve my spinning technique, I'm finding that I really enjoy the quiet rhythm of the wheel and the therapeutic effect this has on my psyche. After a long day at work, I often come home and settle down to the peace and quiet of spinning. The effect is perhaps similar to meditation; I find myself relaxing into the rhythm and being productive at the same time.

It took several frustrating turns at the wheel before I was able to get into this rhythm. A good way to get the proper feel of spinning is to use pencil roving. It allows the spinner to concentrate more on how the twist is forming and less on that huge mass of wool constantly getting twisted up into a mess. Now I feel comfortable enough at the wheel to allow my hands to do their thing without having to keep my mind concentrated on the process.

In addition to the pencil roving technique, learning how to spin was made easier for me by the support and enthusiasm of other spinners and weavers. Making contact with such a fascinating circle of people through the guild was something I had not anticipated when I first set out learning how to spin. The freindship formed by shared interests not only in fibers but also in world vision has turned out to be a nice aside to spinning.

I must not forget the support, too, of my sister who, as a weaver, inspired me to continue my efforts when I first found spinning so frustrating. The more nubly and uneven my yarn, the more she told me how precious the beginner's handspun is to weavers. So I wasn't wasting wool or time after all; my efforts were resulting in a product highly valued by weavers! Apparently the lumpy-bumpy beginners' yarn is something that an experienced spinner has difficulty duplicating (something I cannot vouch for yet!) So when my sister came to visit last weekend, upon seeing the first products of my wheel, she took it up in her hand and already in her mind's eye she was weaving it into a wall-hanging! For other beginners feeling frustrated during the learning process, just remember: the yucky yarn coming off of your wheel makes a great gift to a weaver friend!-----Jeanne Lawless.

**Workshop sponsored by the Northwest Pennsylvania Spinners and Weavers Guild. Spinning with Evelyn Pirson, a 2 day workshop covering breeds of sheep and woolen and worsted spinning, Scouring and fiber preparations will be experienced "hands-on" as well. Oct. 1 & 2, 1987. Cost \$15.00 Limited to 20 participants. Sign-up by Sept 1. \$7.00 Deposit with reservation. Joanna McDermot for info 814-724-5946

With 70 Million Flatulent Sheep, New Zealand Has Serious Problems

TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 1987

(Wall Street Journal)

The 70 Million Sheep Roving New Zealand Create Quite a Stink

* * *

Fluffy Ruminants Produce
Enough Gas to Run a Car
Or Ruin the Atmosphere

By GERALDINE BROOKS

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
WELLINGTON, New Zealand—The sun eases up over a lush horizon, turning blades of grass into filaments of gold. Sheep, fluffy as cotton balls, gleam in the early morning light.

It's the kind of scene that makes you want to throw back your head and take a deep breath of fresh air. Don't. What you're likely to get is a mouthful of methane.

New Zealand may pride itself on its pristine landscapes and its rigorous environmental standards. It may eschew nuclear energy and build clean hydroelectric plants instead of dirty smokestacks. But that hasn't saved the country from the ravages of polluters.

The villains aren't cigar-chomping industrialists plotting in some multinational board room. They're sheep, millions of them, munching away on New Zealand's verdant hillsides.

Flatulent sheep, to be blunt about it. "Sheep are very efficient methane producers," says David Lowe, a geophysicist with the New Zealand Institute of Nuclear Sciences. Humans, he says, produce very little.

A Sheep in Your Tank?

"If you could hook up a sheep to the carburetor of your car, you could run it for several kilometers a day," Mr. Lowe says. "To power the same vehicle by people, you'd need a whole football team and a couple of kegs of beer."

Trouble is, scientists haven't figured out how to hook sheep to cars, so instead of being a useful power source, the ruminants' copious methane output simply creates pollution.

The problem is particularly acute in New Zealand because the country of three million people has more than 70 million sheep. Each produces about five gallons of methane a day.

That means the local sheep population is producing almost 2.5 billion gallons of foul-smelling gas every week, making New Zealand a big contributor to potentially serious environmental hazards.

Ancient Air Bubbles

Analysis of ancient air bubbles trapped in Antarctic ice shows that 30,000 years ago the concentration of methane in the Earth's atmosphere was only a third as much as it is today.

Along with carbon dioxide, whose atmospheric presence also is increasing alarmingly, scientists fear methane will contribute to the phenomenon known as the greenhouse effect, which could cause a dangerous rise in the Earth's temperatures and even a melting of the polar ice caps. While scientists know that higher levels of carbon dioxide are caused mainly by industry, the source of all the methane remains mysterious.

"One thing's for sure, it isn't just New Zealand's sheep," says Mr. Lowe. Other ruminants, such as cows, have in their digestive systems the same cellulose-eating bacteria, which produce methane. But the methane rogues' gallery also includes rice paddies, fossil fuels, volcanoes, Amazonian swamps and termites.

But why the drastic increase over the years in methane? Mr. Lowe and his colleague Rodger Sparks, a nuclear physicist, are trying to find out.

Through radiocarbon dating, the scientists can determine the age of various types of methane in the air, distinguishing recently produced gas from methane that is eons old. And by taking atomic "finger-

prints" of methanes from various sources, the scientists hope to pinpoint which methanes come from sheep, swamps, people or industry.

Hold Your Nose

But collecting methane samples isn't for the queasy. Sheep methane comes from a local agricultural university that is conducting research into the animals' digestion. The unfortunate sheep in these experiments have tubes protruding from their intestines, which makes methane collection simple, if unpleasant.

"It's horrible to look at and horrible to smell," says Mr. Sparks, who leaves most of the sample-collecting to Mr. Lowe.

When the scientists need human methane, Mr. Lowe calls at the local sewage-treatment works. The centerpiece of the plant is a 33-foot-high tank, filled to the brim with what the plant superintendent, Chris Butler, politely calls sludge.

The methane that rises from the mess is drawn away down a wide pipe and used to heat boilers that power the plant. Mr. Butler has his own hypothesis about the sudden increase in atmospheric methane. "It must parallel the rise of modern-day politicians," he says.

To get his specimen, Mr. Lowe, armed with a half-gallon vacuum flask and a dish-cloth, gingerly approaches a valve in the pipe. "I've done some strange things in this job, but this is the strangest," says the scientist, wrapping the cloth around the valve to form a seal as he turns the tap.

A powerful burst of methane hisses forth. The smell is just about as bad as you would expect. Mr. Lowe's face crumples. "One of these days I'm going to have to talk Rodger into doing this," he gasps.

Breath of Fresh Air

Mr. Lowe's next sample-gathering task isn't as malodorous, but it can be just as onerous. It requires a trip to what he calls the clean-air factory—a bleak outcrop named Baring Head, where winds from the Antarctic first hit land after howling across thousands of miles of open sea.

Mr. Lowe gets his cleanest samples during southerly gales. That means he must do battle with blasts of icy wind as he sets up an array of flasks and pipes to trap air samples. "It's probably the cleanest air in the world," Mr. Lowe boasts. "In the Northern Hemisphere there isn't any clean air left."

To prove the point, the clean-air factory exports its product. It is hard to know what customs officers make of the apparently empty flasks regularly dispatched to destinations such as the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, Calif., where the air is used in carbon dioxide research.

Back at the Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Messrs. Lowe and Sparks reduce the air samples to carbon particles that can be dated. So far, the scientists have

found that about 75% of methane in the atmosphere is biological and of very recent origin.

Over coffee in the lab's cafeteria, the two researchers ponder a solution to the world's methane problem. "We can't just continue to use the atmosphere as a garbage dump for five billion people," Mr. Lowe says.

But a growing world population has to be fed, and that means more rice paddies, more livestock and more methane. "It's hard to figure how you cut down methane emissions," Mr. Lowe muses glumly. "About all we can do is stop eating."

Mr. Sparks stares into his coffee cup. "People will resist that," he says.

SPINNERS' MARKET DAY REPORT by K. Stickane

First of all, I want to thank everyone for their support and enthusiasm. As coordinator, the job was a pleasure because of all the willing hands and good ideas from the guild members, as well as the participation from the vendors.

The day went well. Several major accomplishments that I had targeted as my goals were successful. The first was the afghan project which was astonishing to me. It was not that I didn't believe it could happen, I just had not imagined that it could happen so well. The second was that the day be relaxing to everyone, and basically it was.

I did carry through with a belief that not one person should do all the work, that the coordinator should go in with the expectation to coordinate the network of people needed for the event. This year's "task masters" were:

- Jean Warholic for publicity, the small pavillion with the Portable Feast, and her annual indigo dyepot
- Kathy Halton for vendor registration, the large pavillion, and the Beginners Corner
- Pat Randorf for the Guild table
- Daisy Kirkpatrick for the signs, and Joan Johnston and her children's art class for the pavillion banner
- Debbie Serviente for newsletter support, and Jeanne Lawless for photography
- Bill Halton and Amy Hnatko for directing traffic, and Amy for the afghan raffle
- And everyone who pitched in for set-up and clean-up

I think if we look at the day as several defined jobs that make up the whole, maybe putting on the event will not look as intimidating. It seems the hardest task has been the final report to wrap-up the event.

There was a healthy balance of vendors (16 indoors, 12 outside) offering a nice variety of merchandise and expertise. Portable Feast and the music provided by Tina Fenn, Ben Hilton and Liz Evett contributed to making the day very pleasant and festive.

Market Day expenses totalled \$399.50. Income from registration fees, miscellaneous and a successful raffle exceeded the cost by \$74.40 (the day grossed \$473.90).

We received rave reviews from two presidents from other guilds: Amelia Roberts, and Martha Williams. They both expressed an interest in participating next year. After many years of Jean Warholic going to other guild meetings with open invitations to participate or attend, she has been heard and the future looks hopeful for more guilds to become active in the event.

Suggestions for the future

- Start planning in the fall. Make one guild program into a feedback and planning session for next year's Market Day. Start invitations to guilds then.
- Job tasks should be identified and listed, people do not do as well with ideas. Plan for a buddy system with two people per task (i.e., two for publicity, two to hang signs, two for parking, etc.). Identify the "task masters".

Other issues for consideration:

- I think the guild should decide on what the theme should be or what the goals are for the day. Do we want to incorporate something from the programs done throughout the year into the day?
- Maybe the guild table could reflect the guild's activities more. If other guilds become involved, have them do the same.
- Decide early if there is to be an "afghan project" and start planning!
- Schedule more animals such as sheep, llamas, rabbits. Reinforce and then enforce the policy that no dogs of any kind are permitted on the grounds.
- Provide more activities for children, invite 4-H to become involved(??)
- A Spinners' Gathering in the morning of the Market Day, where spinners get together for a multi-guild meeting. Each guild offering a show and tell of the past year. Maybe serve pancakes??

Status of items for use for next year

Signs are stored at Kay Stickane's house. Generic signs for use are in good shape as they are covered with clear contact paper. Also, stakes and fabric banners for road signs are with Kay. Joan Johnston has long fabric banner.

Guild banner and name tags are in guild library.

Packet of information is with Kay Stickane, who will give it to next year's coordinator.

Again, it has been fun. Thanks to everyone who participated and attended!!

PUBLICITY REPORT FOR 1987 SPINNERS' MARKET DAY

(J. Warholic)

Publicity for this year's Market Day was handled pretty much as in the past, with a few changes and several new approaches tried. Initial calendar listings and brief descriptions were sent out to the national publications in early April as soon as some of the plans for the day had been formalized. Letters announcing the date and tentative plans were sent to spinning and weaving guilds around the state in April also, to alert them to the event and suggesting they "save the date" and plan to come. As the material was developed that covered all the specifics of the day, it was sent (in March) to BSHG members, previous vendors, small supplies to the nearby guilds for distribution, and various organizations/news media that could give us some (free) publicity. Although my initial plan was to also send (bulk-rate) postcards to those who had attended the three previous years as well as former BSHG members to alert them to the event, I decided that it was not feasible in terms of cost-for-return -- and so sent postcards to the 1986 attendees and former BSHG members and friends instead. A second invitational letter also went to guilds in May.

Publicity closer to the day included using photographs taken by Jeanne Lawless in conjunction with an article accepted by The Grapevine, mailing a few photographs to the major dailies serving Central New York with a second article (to avoid duplication of readership), and the "usual" brief news releases and calendar listings to newspapers, etc. in the upstate area and northern Pennsylvania. Radio PSAs were also sent to the appropriate radio stations. Also visited -- and a "pitch" made for the day -- were the Thistle-down Handspinners Guild and the Cherry Valley Handspinners Guild, and telephone calls made to the presidents of several other guilds, urging them to come as a group. Local TV coverage (or a quick program) was originally planned, but with time constraints toward the end of things, it was not followed through.

Expenses were more this year (see the financial statement by Kathy Halton) than last by about \$60, but having the afghan to utilize as a "draw" and the photographs to use made our publicity more affective. Plus we were able to start it a little earlier than in previous years.

Suggestions for next year: An early decision as to date/place is crucial. Definite plans for activities, etc. made early is a big help. Visiting guilds does not seem to produce much response -- perhaps telephoning them in March to urge them to have their annual summer picnic or get-together at Market Day is the answer. Urge those who attended this year's Market Day to talk it up at their guild meetings. Have several special events (contests? demonstrations? ??) as well as a stupendous raffle item to draw people and raise revenue. Invite the llamas again; work on increased animal attendance.

On a personal note, it is time for someone else to do publicity for Market Day. A detailed file has been given to Kay Stickane as this year's coordinator that will lead someone by the hand through the various publicity tasks, as well as a list of news media to contact. We also have some photographs to use in an article for SPIN OFF. (The article should be written, based on this year's Market Day but incorporating next year's plans also.) That needs to go to them by Christmas. Doing the publicity is not hard, but it takes some time and thought -- and a fresh new person can also give it some new directions that are overdue.

-- Jean Warholic .

The Portable Feast seemed to again enjoy catering our Market Day and are inclined to do it again in 1988. They did scale down their offerings and appeared to not take a great deal back with them -- much to everyone's pleasure. Their profit is their business, but they seemed to do well and their wishing to return is a healthy sign. Their layout -- basically under the open small pavilion rather than in the kitchen as in previous years -- was much better this year. Would recommend a repeat. Would also recommend their bringing a similar quantity of food with them.

It is important to have a "go-for" to help them with any questions, problems, site preparation, etc. and to be able to alert lingering spinners and visitors in the large pavilion of food being served as well as when The Portable Feast was about ready to close down and go. Having food available from about Noon- 3 PM is a good time-span for the most part. One suggestion was made to have cold drinks available into later in the day. Any other suggestions? ----Jean Warholic

Advertisements*****

For sale: Brother Bulky Eight Knitting Machine. \$150.00 in good condition.
Call Debbie 277-6830

3/3

Custom Carding. Bring those fresh, washed fleeces to be well carded for easy spinning -- still only \$2?pound. Dyed and natural wool, mohair, and silk for mixing or spinning alone. Joan Johnston, 1025 Bostwick Rd, Ithaca. 272-2697. 3/3

For sale or possible trade: Black Romney cross rams -- nice size, good breeders, good disposition. Marie 607/524-65-39. 1/1

Handspinning fleeces available most of the time. Send SASE. Several crossbred ewes available. Prolific, good mothers. All colors. Young flock. Will sell individually or as a group at a better price. Kathie Garnsey 315/364-8889, 7 AM-11 PM 1/3

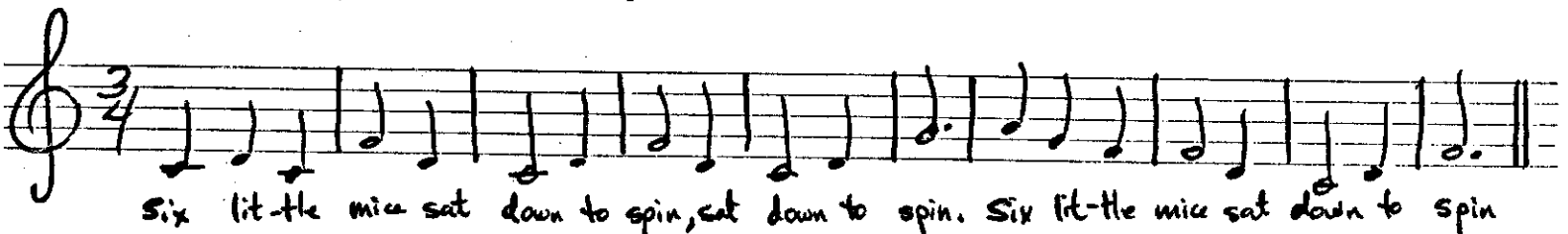
Wanted: Book, Spinning Wheels, Spinners, and Spinning by Patricia Baines. William Ralph, RD1 Box 141A, Rome, Pa 18837. Tel:717/247-7175. 1/3

For Sale: Angora Goats:Doe, 4 years old. Doe kid, 3 months. Buck kid, 3 months. Lincoln cross bred lambs. Tina Fenn 272-6797

For Sale: Lots of sheep!! 16 Purebred Jacob Sheep. Add a pair of these unique little sheep to brighten up your flock. Also for sale Romneys, Corriedales, and Romney Corriedale crosses black, white and grey with absolutely beautiful fleece, kin to the legendary Nadine and Martha! Adult ewes and rams as well as lambs. For more information call or write Marty McGee:Home Wools RD 2 Box 167D Dundee, NY 14837. 607/243-5282 1/1

Advertising Rates: 1-3 lines, \$1 for one time, \$2 for 3 times
4-12 lines, \$5 for one time
13 lines-1/2 page, \$10 for one time

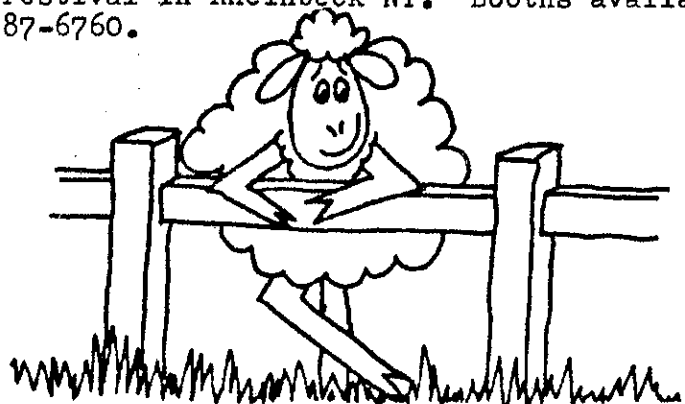
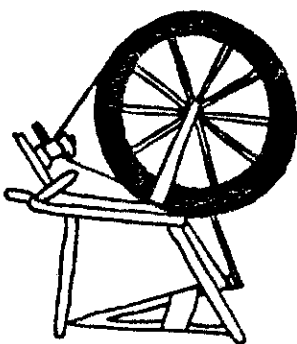
SIX LITTLE MICE--a children's song from one of my old records. By Johnny Richardson



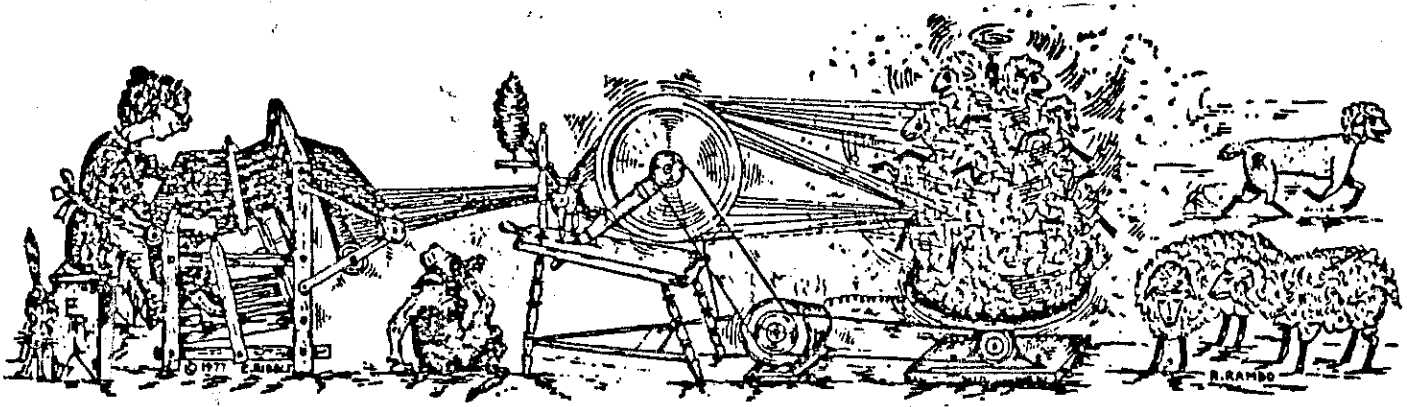
Six little mice sat down to spin, sat down to spin. Six little mice sat down to spin
Pussy passed by and she peeked in, and she peeked in....
What are you at, my little men, my little men?....?
We're making clothes for gentlemen, for gentlemen....
May I come in and bite off your threads, and bite off your threads?...?
Oh no, Miss Pussy, you'll clip off our heads, you'll clip off our heads....
Oh no I won't, I'll help you to spin, I'll help you to spin....
That may be so but you don't come in, you don't come in. That may be so, but
you don't come in.

*****Upcoming Events*****

- Aug 15 The Farmers Museum spinning/dyeing/visiting day,"just for all of us to get together."Sat from 9:30-5:30 with pot-luck meal after museum closes to the public. Bring dye pots, wheels, fleece, or spin some of our fleece. Demonstrations, readings. To register ahead of time, Rabbit Goody, Supervisor of Domestic Arts, The Farmers Museum, Lake Rd, PO Box800, Cooperstown, NY 13326
- Aug 21-23 The Cook Forest Sawmill Center for the Arts-Sawmill Summerfest. Music, crafts, exhibits, demonstrations, food. Fleece-to-Shawl Contest on Sun, Aug 23. Prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25. Entry fee \$15. I have a registration form if anyone wants to use it! For more info:contact the center 814/927-6655
- Sept 26 Annual Octagon Fair. \$30 fee for displays/vendors. Apply by Sept 11 to avoid late fee. Octagon Fair, Office of Alumni Affairs, Elmira College, Elmira, NY 14901. 607/734-3911
- Aug 28- Sept 7 The NY State Fair in Syracuse, NY. Demonstrate at the Wool Booth and keep what you spin and get into the fair for free and enjoy the camaraderie of other spinners. Everyone who has done this in the past has enjoyed it. Sept 4, Friday is the time to demonstrate. Contact Michelle Kurz to sign up. 387-6760.
- Sept 12 Central NY Sheep & Wool Festival in Norwich--judging, animal auction, booths, food, etc. Michelle has more info 387-6760
- Sept 19 Genesee Valley Handspinners Guild Spin-in and Sheep-to-Shawl Demonstration. 10 AM-4 PM. The invitation to our Guild reads"Come when you can and bring your lunch. If you don't feel like spinning, come anyway and meet some new friends." 1700 Jackson Rd, Penfield (Kay Shaw's house) For more info call Amelia Roberts 716/872-6106.
- Oct 1-2 Spinning with Evelyn Pirson sponsored by the Northwest Spinners & Weavers Guild. Sign-up by Sept 1. Cost \$15, \$7 of it due with registration. Contact Joanna McDermot 814/724-5946.
- Oct 10 Annual Lace Day sponsored by the Finger Lakes Lace Guild of Ithaca. Exhibits, supplies, mini-workshops, Pat Eanshaw-speaker. Women's Community Building, 100 W Seneca St, Ithaca. 11 AM-4:30 PM. For info Holly Van Sciver 277-0498 or Jean Warholic 539-7648.
- Oct 11 Lace Identification Workshop. Fee. For info see above.
- Oct 17-18 Central NY Handspinners Seminar. Color Your Rainbow. Cazenovia, NY Registration limited.
- Oct 24 Annual Bred Ewe Sale and Wool Festival in Rheinbeck NY. Booths available. Contact Shelly for more info 387-6760.



In case you hadn't realized, this newsletter is for August and September. Next newsletter will be October. Since the October meeting is early in the month, so is the deadline for materials for the next newsletter---events for the calendar, thoughts, articles, cartoons, what-have-you, send it along-----
Deadline: Sun, Sept 20. My address is on the front page.



A WEAVER'S DREAM

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
PO Box 6701
Ithaca, NY 14851



Kay R. Stickane
64 Willow Creek Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

