



CHIMNEYVILLE WEAVERS

P.O. Box 13494
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OCTOBER, 1989, NEWSLETTER

Calendar

October Meeting

Date: Saturday, October 21, 1989

Time: 9:30am General Meeting

10:00am Pioneer Festival

Place: Natchez Trace Crafts Center

October 21 & 22, 1989 -- Kentuck Crafts Festival
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

November 18, 1989 -- November Guild Meeting

December 1-3, 1989 -- Chimneyville Crafts Show

September Meeting Minutes

The September meeting was held at the Crafts Building at the Agriculture and Forestry Museum. We discussed the October meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the Pioneer Festival at the Natchez Trace Crafts Center. Anyone wishing to demonstrate his or her craft is encouraged to participate.

Gerry suggested we invite Marsha Harris to join us at the November meeting to have a "Gone Away" Party. Marsha has accepted the invitation. We look forward to seeing you again!

An interest has been expressed in the Guild's purchasing a drum carder. Sharon Williams will look into prices and we will consider it further.

In lieu of a formal program, we enjoyed getting to know one another better, show-and-tell and snacks.

Respectfully submitted, Virginia Rogers.

Notes/Announcements

Treasurer's Report -- As of October 2, 1989, we have a balance of \$459.14, with no outstanding bills, according to Melanie.

Silk for Life -- The Silk for Life project is supported in the U.S. as an alternative crop for Columbian farmers, so that they don't have to grow coca to make a living. The silk is also handspun in Columbia, giving families an additional source of income. I've woven with it, and love its rustic luster. I am putting together a bulk order; if we order 50 lbs. we can get a price of \$30/lb (1 lb. is approximately 1,200 to 1,500 yards). If you are interested or just want more information, please call me at 856-3142 before October 28.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S BED:

At least two of you read my "column" last month - Judy and Marcy both came to the meeting with information on a frame to hold a loom so one can weave in bed! They are determined to undermine every excuse for my weaver's block. If that didn't do it, just seeing what some of you accomplished over the summer should have!

Our meeting was accompanied by Rita Coolidge being accompanied by the Jackson Symphony as they rehearsed for the evening concert. There's always something interesting going on at the Ag Museum! We watched her from the windows of the Crafts Building while we enjoyed refreshments, looked at some beautiful wares from Sharon's shop and visited with one another.

At least five of our regular, "we can't do without you" members were missing, but we managed - this one time. Thirteen of us did the foolish stuff the director dictated and as a result we do know each other a little better. We learned that an epidemic of perfectionism is plaguing our group. I read somewhere that perfectionism leads to procrastination which leads to paralysis and have experienced the truth of that! Six little words have helped me a bit. They've been written down several places so I see them often:

I DON'T HAVE TO BE PERFICK!

Marsha Harris reports that the move wasn't very easy and they are still trying to adjust to their new situation. The dog's been sick but the old gray mare is thriving! She thinks she can arrange the family calendar so she can make it back for "Marsha Harris Appreciation Day," our November meeting. She's found an active and challenging weaving/spinning guild in Lafayette - and wants you to know the piece on the loom did get finished before the move. She didn't have to chop it off!

I'll see you Saturday, the 21st, out on the Trace.

Gerry

October '89

THE WEAVING CORNER

It's hard to believe that summer is over; this summer has been particularly hectic for me because of our house remodeling. Not much weaving got done, but I had a chance to think a lot about weaving structures again because of the Intermediate Class I taught and the HGA Learning Exchange; both had me re-writing handouts and thinking about shafts, blocks and treadling. I also attended the Midwest Weavers Conference which has gotten me to notice the growing amount of multi-shaft structures as compared to, say, even 5 years ago. I don't doubt that there is more interest in complicated structures, which is good, but I also truly believe that it has become a fad -- everybody is weaving 8-shaft something or other because "everybody is"; and now 8 shafts is not enough. Some of the folks who are weaving the multi-shaft structures don't understand them any more than I understand rocketry physics: I probably have enough science background that, given detailed instructions, I could build one, but I wouldn't understand what principles I was using; not much fun, in my opinion. And, if for some reason, the instructions had an error in them, I could blow myself up without even knowing why. You can weave complex structures without understanding them, and, luckily, without blowing yourself up. But not much fun, in my opinion. A lady at Midwest told me she loved to weave lampas; I didn't know what a lampas was, so I asked; well, she hesitated, tried, fumbled, didn't know.

So, before you go off and spend a fortune on a multi-shaft loom (so many people have been asking me about this), ask yourself: why do you want more than 4? Is it because "everyone has one"? If you think you "need" one, see if you can answer this one: list 10 specific structures (or weaving designs) which you have not been able to do, which a multi-shaft loom would allow you to do. Can't answer that one? Uh... I sincerely doubt that any non-weaver could really tell the difference between a multi-shaft vs. a 4-shaft structure, especially if you use many colors in your fabrics. Now, I will be the first one to admit that I enjoy my 10 shaft loom. But most of my "production" weaving (as in making something) remains on 4 shaft. There is a lot of satisfaction in being able to weave a structure and feel that I know what I am doing. I use my 10 shaft to try to bridge the gap between what I have done on paper and what it looks like on the loom; there are probably 10 hours of paper work for each hour of weaving on my 10 shaft loom; and I lot of that weaving is a mess!

Of course, there are things that you can do with multi-shafts that you can't do with 4. Next month I hope to give you some specific ideas, if you are considering a new loom, of when, why and how you would (or can) use more than 4. And there is nothing wrong with weaving lampas without having the slightest idea of what a lampas is, if that's *what you like to do*. Just don't do it because "everybody is doing it", don't think any less of your work because "it's just 4 shafts" (there goes the dreaded J word again), don't feel intimidated by multi-shafts weavers; ask them what it is: if they understand the structures, they will love to tell you all about it, and you will have learned something.

Happy Weaving,

Marcy

P.S. A lampas is a type of double weave; see how unimpressive it becomes when you understand it?