



CHIMNEYVILLE WEAVERS

P.O. Box 13494
Jackson, MS 39236-3494

NOVEMBER, 1989, NEWSLETTER

Calendar

November Meeting

Date: Saturday, November 18, 1989

Time: 9:30am Board Meeting

10:00am General Meeting

Place: Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum
Crafts Building, 2nd floor

Program: Marsha Harris Day and
Scandinavian Woven Star by Hazel Howell

December 1-3, 1989 -- Chimneyville Crafts Show

December 9, 1989 -- tentative date, December Meeting and
Annual Loom Crawl

October Meeting Minutes

There was no business meeting as such in October; thus, no minutes.

From the Director's Bed

Gerry reports that she hasn't been in bed long enough lately to write anything, but does wonder if you have heard this joke:

Customer in yarn shop: Do you carry steel wool?

Clerk: What do you want steel wool for?

Customer: I'm going to knit a fence.

(Blame Marcy for that one!)

Notes/Announcements

November Meeting -- Hazel's basket programs are always fun, and the Scandinavian Woven Star should fit right in to our Holiday preparations. Please bring the following supplies: cardboard, clip-type clothespins (approx. 24), scissors, ruler, pencil, zip-lock bag, hot glue gun or quick-dry glue for porous materials. Also bring 50¢ to reimburse Hazel for basket reed. Hazel will bring instructions and reed.

Treasurer's Report -- Melanie reports that, as of 10/30/89, we show a balance of \$459.14.

Library -- We had planned to spend some time after the November meeting setting up the library. However, Tina will not be able to attend, so we're thinking now about January. Please keep this in mind over the next couple of months; your input will be welcomed.

Upcoming Weaving Classes

Schedules will be out after the Chimneyville Show; if you are not on the mailing list already, you can call the office at 981-0019 to receive a schedule. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO RESERVE A PLACE BEFORE THE SCHEDULE COMES OUT; please do not send money, or registration forms as they are invalid.

We have tentatively decided on these classes:

mid-January: Intermediate weaving

mid-February: Beginning weaving

mid-May: Project weaving

Specific dates, cost and duration of classes have not been decided.

We have also tentatively established the following procedure: after the beginning of a class, remaining looms will be available TO FORMER STUDENTS ONLY for rent (for use in the studio only), provided that there is no interference with classes, on a weekly basis until the beginning of the next class for a fee of \$5 per week. You are welcomed to weave any time that the office or shop are open and during regular class time. You, of course, provide your own yarns. This will be announced with the next class schedule, if implemented. If you are interested in participating, please contact Marcy directly, *after the schedules come out.*

November 1989

THE WEAVING CORNER

So, you've just got this 8 shaft loom in a moment of weakness, or because it was a buy you couldn't pass up, or because this is the only loom you will ever buy... or whatever. Where do you go from here? Or maybe you are trying to decide whether you would like to buy an 8-shaft loom. What would you use it for?

There are basically 3 uses for multi-shafts: combining structures, weaving more units of a given structure, and weaving some structures which themselves require multi-shafts.

Combining structures is not strictly for multi-shafts only, but often more than 4 are required. For example, you want to weave a tabby edge on an M's & O's scarf; you can't on 4 shafts; (you could with huck or Swedish lace, though). Add two more and you have solved your problem. This is particularly useful for weaves where the edges can be a mess (of which M's & O's is not one), like shadow weave, but it may seem trivial since often floating selvages and careful weaving also solve the problem. However, many different structures can be combined. The reason I think combining structures is important is that I see it as the gateway to "4 and more"; I use it for my Learning Exchange multi-shaft handouts and I plan to use it in a future workshop I will be teaching.

The usual reason for wanting/buying a multi-shaft loom is wanting more "design blocks"; it's like yarn, you can never have enough. Summer and winter has 2 blocks on 4 shafts; if you want more, you need more shafts. Note, however, that overshot has 4 blocks with 4 shafts; you can argue that summer and winter and overshot are two completely different weave structures, and, of course, you are right (tied-down unit and supplementary weft respectively). For commercial purposes it is certainly not worth the extra work more shafts require, as the public is just not that sophisticated; personal satisfaction is another story.

There are some structures which require more than 4; take satin; true satin, because of its mathematical requirements, needs at least 5 shafts. But, false satin can be practically indistinguishable and that's a 3/1 broken twill; satin has 4 thread floats, false satin 3; not a big difference. Other structures need 4 shafts per block; so while technically they can be woven on 4 shafts, weaving one block severely limits design possibilities. Tied-Lithuanian (pervarai or dimai) is an example; weaving it on a 4 shaft loom would be like weaving a one-block overshot; not very exciting, but then this weave is not exactly setting the weaving world on fire. I have started to weave my sample for potential inclusion in the Handwoven 8-shaft book and mine was the only application for Tied-Lithuanian. I will bring the samples to a future meeting and I will let you decide whether it looks different enough from overshot to warrant a multi-shaft loom.

Well, I hope this discussion has convinced that you should do whatever you want -- as if you wouldn't anyway. And Virginia has just told me of some beautiful weavings she saw on a fair which included some repp weave; she was telling her Mom that repp was plain weave, which the owner emphatically denied. See, you can weave beautifully without even understanding plain weave.

Happy Weaving however you do it,

Mary