

CHIMNEYVILLE WEAVERS

MARCH, 1990, NEWSLETTER

Calendar

March Meeting

Date: Saturday, March 17, 1990

Time: 9:30 Board Meeting, 10:00 Short Business
Meeting and Program

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

Program: Inkle Belt Workshop by Helen Currie

March 29 - April 1 -- Old Timey Country Fair, Mississippi
Agriculture and Forestry Museum, Jackson, MS

April 1 -- Deadline for slides for Small Expressions exhibit
(see "Shuttle, Spindle & Dye-pot" for details)

April 21 -- April Guild Meeting, Dyeing workshop & yarn swap
Natchez Trace Craft Center

May 5 -- May Guild Meeting, Sheep-to-Shawl at Ag Museum farmhouse

May 12-13 -- Gum Tree Crafts Festival, Tupelo, MS

May 19-20 -- Jubilee Jam, Jackson, MS

Fall, 1990 -- Path of the Weaver, Memphis, TN

March, 1991 -- Mississippi Weaves III

February Meeting Minutes

Our treasurer's report this month was a report on our treasurer! We all hope Melanie is feeling great now and look forward to seeing her in March.

The March program will be an Inkle Loom Workshop offered by Helen Currie from the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Helen is a retired Spanish/French teacher from St. Stanislaus School in Bay St. Louis. She has been weaving for over 15 years. Helen teaches workshops throughout the region and is the owner of The Weaver's Collection in Pass Christian. Anyone needing access to an inkle loom can contact Margaret Williard at 362-2633. There will be a \$5 fee for those attending the workshop in addition to an honorarium offered to Helen from the Guild. Plan to spend part of the afternoon with the workshop--we will order out some lunch. More details below.

The April program will be a dyeing workshop and a yarn swap held at the Natchez Trace Craft Center. Margaret Pittman and Jane Dollar are organizing the dyeing and would be happy for your input. More details below.

The May program, our last of the Guild year, will be our annual Sheep-to-Shawl. Tina Bradford and I will be organizing things. Dianne Davidson mentioned that she can publicize the event through Craftsmen's Guild publicity if we get info to her by the end of March. More details to follow.

Page two

Tina Bradford announced that the library will soon be ready for patrons. The board authorized her to spend a reasonable amount for library pockets.

Election time is fast approaching again. Amy Evans and I have agreed to serve as a nominating committee. We will propose a slate at the March meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be taken in March, as long as written permission from the nominee is obtained from the nominator. We will vote at the April meeting and new officers will take office at the end of the May meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Virginia Rogers.

From the Director's Bed...

It was wonderful to see so many new faces at our February meeting. Someone suggested we need to wear nametags for a while and I think that's a good idea. How about bringing one next meeting-- one you've saved from some other gathering or a new creation made especially for us.

Melanie says her surgery is scheduled for March 8--after the newsletter goes out--but soon enough before our next meeting that she hopes to be there. We hope so too!

My inkle and I are looking forward to what Helen has to teach us. See you on the 17th!

--Gerry

Notes and Announcements

Instructions for March -- 1) Note the change of time: we'll go straight into a short business meeting at 10:00 so we can get started on the program as soon as possible. 2) Bring leftover yarns, some nubby and some smooth (2 oz. will make one belt). 3) Have string heddles already on loom.

Party -- Margaret Williard invites us all over to her house on the evening of March 16, to meet Helen Currie and have a St. Paddy's Day dinner. Party gets under way around 6:30 and husbands are invited too. Please let Margaret know if you'll be attending or would like to bring a side dish or dessert (362-2633). Her address is 1502 Sheffield Drive in Jackson (between the Post Office on Old Canton Rd. and Jackson Academy on Ridgewood Rd. Be sure to wear something green!

April Program -- Margaret Pittman and Jane Dollar are already planning our dyeing workshop for April. We will probably dye with natural dyes, for use on wool and silk fibers. Please look around your homes for some of the following items which we will need: dyepots (enamel or aluminum), scales, heating elements (e.g. Coleman Stove), wooden spoons, measuring spoons & cups, and disposable plastic jugs. Please note that the above items must not be used for cooking after being used for dyeing. About the yarn swap -- we need someone willing to coordinate this (basically just to set up some guidelines. If interested, contact Margaret Williard. More details later.

March 1990

WEAVING CORNER

I have just served for the first time on the Standard Committee and, since I know some of you are interested in joining the Craftsmen's Guild, I thought I'd share some of my thoughts with you. First of all I want to say that this is my own opinion and not that of the Committee; second I want to say that I am not revealing any secrets; in fact, what I have to say would seem to be pretty much common sense, but then again, there is nothing less common than common sense.

I am impressed by the thoroughness with which everything is examined; not surprised, but impressed. This is a responsibility that is taken very seriously: each individual's entries are treated with the uttermost respect while remembering the need to maintain the highest standard of craftsmanship in the Guild. When someone is rejected, nobody is more disappointed than the members of the Committee. And great care is taken to make sure that the applicant understands the specifics of why s/he was rejected.

The application says that the best work should be submitted; everyone understands that, in selling, one may have to take some shortcuts; these have eloquently been addressed by the program panel during the February meeting. But not for Standards; if I were a production weaver with a stock full of items ready to sell, I would not pick some items out of the stock and submitted them to Standard, unless each piece was 'one-of-a-kind, unique creation. For production garments some people may leave machine seams raw since not one will see them -- but not for Standards. I am not implying that people do or did that; I am just trying to say that for anything that I would submit to Standards I would go the extra step. I would make sure my beat was even, my salvages perfect, my fabric with a great hand, my designs elegant.

An issue to which I personally may have not given a great deal of attention is unity; I will be the first to admit that unity is one of my problems; but it is also a solution to my teaching; I have to be able to be a jack of all trades because that's what makes a good teacher: I try it all and I'm always trying something I don't know because I never know when I will need to know it. But a craftsman must be able to make a statement; it can only be done with unity; even if your repertoire is versatile because of necessity, you would like someone to pick up your piece and recognize it as yours; that may not be possible with every piece, but it should certainly be true of those that you submit to Standards. I love to see people wear weavings in town; than I can walk up to them and ask them whether they bought the piece from so-and-so; more often than not I guess correctly; that impresses the wearer, but the truth of the matter is that the credit should go to Judy Foster, Amy Evans or Sharon Williams because they have style; the only thing I do is recognize it. Personal style provides unity; it's the difference between a nice, well-crafted piece of cloth and a unique article that says "touch me!" (and hopefully, "buy me!").

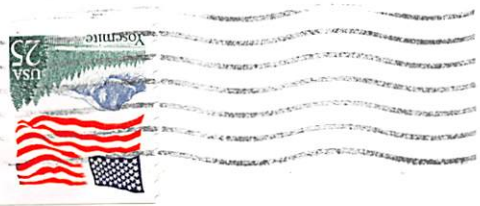
And if you get in the Craftsmen's Guild, you cannot rest on your laurels. Third year review is just around the corner; yes, the work is good enough to get in, but growth in future years is of the uttermost importance. I may recognize someone's style today, but the style they had 10 years ago should not be the same. Just as we change and mature, so should our work. It's foolish to worry about those horrible pieces of yesterday; let's concentrate on having every piece reflect what we learned from those mistakes; that's the only way that our tomorrow's pieces will show the growth we are undergoing.

Happy Weaving,

Marcy

*P.S. Next deadline for Standards
is September*

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