
Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild **NEWSLETTER**

December 1994

November Program

At the November meeting, Mary Lohrenz, Curator of Collections for the Mississippi State Historical Museum (Old Capitol Museum) in Jackson presented a fascinating slide show program based on the museum's exhibit "Mississippi Homespun: Nineteenth Century Textiles and the Women Who Made Them." Researchers of the exhibit delved into the lives of several 19th century Mississippi women through diaries, inventories, invoices, and other records, and came up with photos, weaving drafts, textiles, and tools for display. Afterwards, Ms. Lohrenz shared with us her expertise in caring for antique textiles, focusing on specific pieces that guild members had brought. She also mentioned a project that the Mississippi Quilt Association is undertaking--a statewide survey and documentation of historical quilts. She suggested that the CWSG consider collecting similar information on old woven coverlets. (*Editor's note: See Nancy Landrum's proposal in the Meeting Minutes.*) Meanwhile, if anyone has or knows the whereabouts of a quilt that might be of interest to the Mississippi Quilt Association's Quilt Documentation Committee, please contact that committee's chairperson, Carol Vickers, East Central Community College, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327.

Highlights of show-and-tell include a gray-and-multi-colored ruana woven by Winki Allen, a blue-pink-and-yellow chenille-warp sash by Sandi Tucker, a woven tapestry depicting her house and embellished with embroidery by Kathy Cohron, and rag baskets begun on the loom by Hazel Howell. Marva brought skein after skein of handspun yarn, all proudly wearing ribbons won at the Alabama Wool and Mohair Festival in Huntsville. Another prize winner at the festival, Jane Dollar, overcome by an unfortunate bout of modesty, neglected to bring her ribbons--a blue one for her famous dental floss sweater, a blue and "best of show" ribbon for a handspun, undyed knitted vest. Congratulations to both Marva and Jane!



November Business Meeting Minutes

Loom Crawl--Kathy Cohron is coordinating the Loom Crawl this year. It will take place Dec. 10, beginning at 10:00 AM at Milti Leonard's home. We'll have lunch at Milti's and then go to Kathy's for dessert. Several guild members signed up to bring food during the meeting. It was moved, seconded, and voted to delay the cup exchange till January; however, the usual Loom Crawl Christmas gift exchange will take place (remember, participation is strictly voluntary). If you did not plan to participate in the cup exchange but want to now that it has been put off another month, contact Marva.

Hocoka--The guild has received several thank-you notes from participants and from the people who run Hocoka. It seems they were very pleased with the condition of the camp when we left.

Mississippi Rags--Marva reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions is Jan. 28, 1995. Forms and information on the show were distributed in November's newsletter.

Constitution Revision--Nancy and her committee are working on this project and will be offering their suggestions at an upcoming meeting.

Equipment Rental--Marcy is assisting Debbie in researching how other guilds handle equipment rental. We can expect a report in January.

Yearbooks--The handbooks will finally be ready for distribution at the Chimneyville Crafts Show the weekend of Dec. 3. If you can't pick one up then, they will also be available at our December meeting/Loom Crawl.

ROC Day '96--Marva will write to the guilds in Louisiana and Mississippi that usually participate and tell them that we want to host ROC Day in 1996.

Study Group--The study group will continue to meet at Marcy's home on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will be Dec. 8. Even if you missed the first two sessions, don't think you shouldn't attend. Everyone is welcome to come whenever she can and bring any problems/questions for the group.

CWSG Sashes--Marva reminded guild members that whenever the guild is asked for volunteer help, such as with the Chimneyville Crafts Festival, each person should wear a sash to identify her as a CWSG member. The requirements for the guild sashes are that they be long enough to wear as a baldric (diagonally across the body from shoulder to waist) and that they contain the colors purple, green, blue, and red. The material and method of construction is left to the individual.

1994-95 CWSG Board

Director: Marva Goodman, 404 Parkway Rd., Brandon, MS 39042; 992-0383

Vice Director: Lu Harding, 1715 Devine St., Jackson, MS 39202; 355-8807(H), 968-5128(W)

Secretary: Carol Parks, 832 Cherry Stone Cir., Clinton, MS 39056; 924-8605(H), 924-1830(W)

Treasurer: Heather Gillis, 507 Boardwalk Blvd., Ridgeland, MS 39157; 856-7850(H), 939-9030x433(W)

Historian: Debbie Stringer, 2534 Crestleigh Manor, Jackson, MS 39204; 373-6292(H).

"Documentation of Domestic Textile Production in Mississippi" Proposal--Nancy Landrum submitted a written proposal that the guild begin to survey and document spinning and weaving throughout Mississippi's history. When Nancy began to weave, older members of her family began to share their memories of spinning and weaving and even gave her some items--cotton cards, a hand-whittled shuttle, part of a spinning wheel. Recently, while demonstrating spinning at Railfest in Meridian, she listened to similar reminiscences from several people. Thus, her proposal was inspired. Nancy says:

"There are people out there who remember someone who spun and wove. These people may not be around much longer. I believe it is important that this oral history of fiber production be documented. When documentation begins and people understand that we are not trying to "buy up" the articles, we may even be privileged to document their actual work.

"I propose that as a guild we begin an investigation. At Railfest I took names, addresses, and phone numbers. I intend to contact and interview these people.

"If we do this as a guild, grant money may be available. We could involve museums, county historians, libraries, and the Dyed-in-the-Wool Weavers. Even newspapers are an aid."

It was moved, seconded, and voted to take on this survey and documentation project. Marva appointed a committee, consisting of Nancy as chairperson, Milti, and herself, to look into this project and report to the guild in February.

Workshops--Marva asked the Education Committee to find out what workshops (in addition to the Nancy Kahrs cotton spinning workshop mentioned in the October minutes) are available and of interest to the guild. Marcy asked guild members to submit their workshop requests to her.

COME EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY!

LOOM CRAWL

December 10, 1994

beginning at 10:00 AM

Dinner at Milti Leonard's

Dessert at Kathy Cohron's

Food and Drink Sign-Up so far:

Marcy's Mom	French bread	Hazel	dessert
Marcy	soup	Jane \$	dill dip and veggies
Carol	chocolate sheet cake	Marva	company chicken casserole
Heather	drinks and appetizers		

Kathy is coordinating the Loom Crawl this year. Please call her if you have any questions (856-6698).



DIRECTIONS

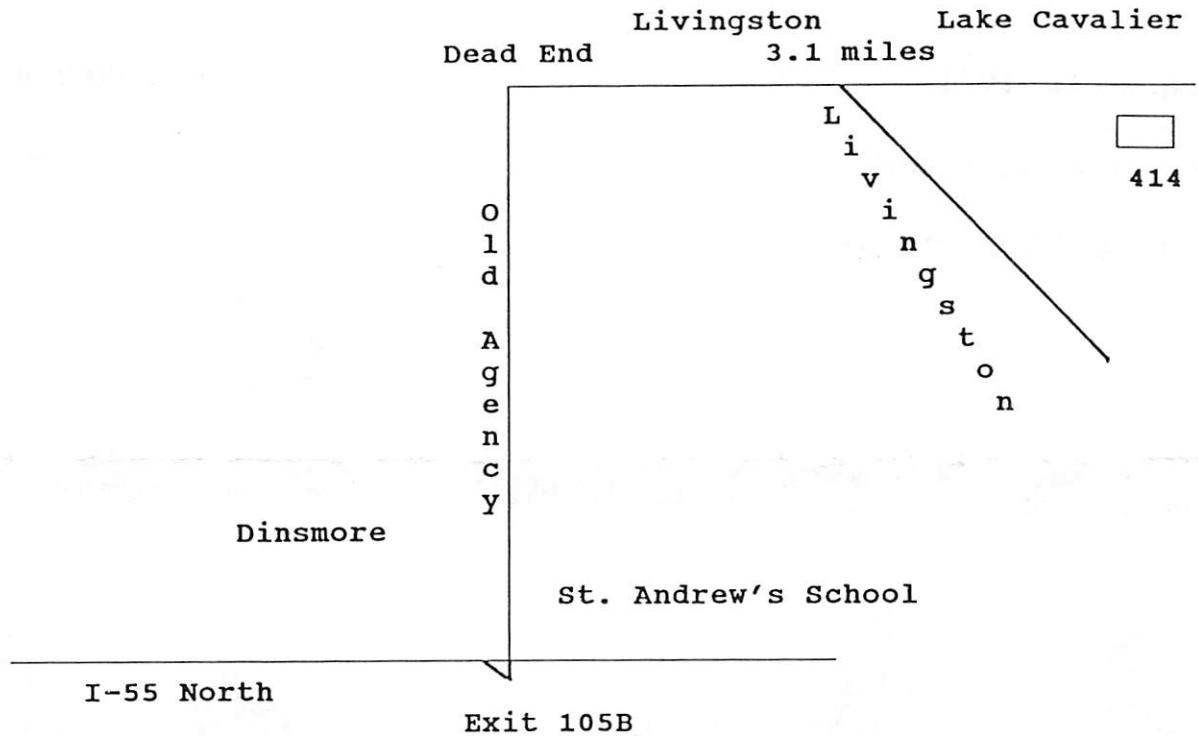


First to Milti's: Starting at the Jackson Zoo at the corner of Parkside Place (or Ellis Ave) and Capitol Street, go south on Ellis Ave towards Westland Plaza. You'll drive through three (3) traffic signals; at the fourth (which will be at Robinson Rd), make a left to go west on Robinson. On your left will be Provine High School. Make a right on the first street AFTER the traffic signal at Claibourne Street (which will border the high school campus) onto Pecan Blvd. Drive down the street towards Lynch and just at the last break between medians (the street is a true boulevard) make a left. My house is the larger green house on the left with the fairly sizeable yard. One unmistakable characteristic is that there are two magnolia trees in the front yard.

Others will probably take 55/220 going south to the Ellis Ave exit. Take the exit that will direct you to the northbound traffic on Ellis Ave (one clue you can look for is to make sure you are driving away from the Sack-n-Save/Walmart that is visible from the interstate) toward Hwy 80 (and Westland Plaza). There should be a Ramada on the left and a restaurant on the right at this intersection (I can't remember the name of the restaurant). Drive through this light and the next signal as well. The third traffic signal is at the intersection of Lynch Street and Ellis Ave. Make a right onto Lynch (you'll be driving toward the Jackson State campus). Pecan Blvd is the fourth or fifth street on your left as you drive down Lynch. It is distinguished by the medians running down the center of the boulevard. The house will be the fourth (or fifth) one down on your right. The house is green. The yard is big (with the magnolias in the front). Its number is 1156. If you get lost, call 355-3937.

Next to Kathy's: Take 55 North. Take exit 105B for Old Agency/Ridgeland (the exit right after the Natchez Trace exit). Go left over 55 onto Old Agency. Drive down Old Agency until it dead ends. Turn right onto Livingston (which will become Lake Cavalier Rd.) and go 3.1 miles to 414 Lake Cavalier Rd. The house is on the right.

MAP TO KATHY COHRON'S HOUSE
414 LAKE CAVALIER ROAD



CALL FOR ENTRIES: "Trends and Traditions: An Exhibit of Contemporary Fiber Work," May 2 - June 29, 1995. Regional juried fiber exhibit sponsored by the Chattahoochee Handweavers Guild and the Georgia Institute of Technology's School of Textile and Fiber Engineering. Richards and Westbrook Galleries on the Georgia Tech campus. Open to residents of AL, MS, GA, LA, FL, SC, NC, VA, TN, KY, WV, DC. Jurors: Dr. Sundaresan Jayaraman, Ms. Junco Sato Pollock, Ms. Ruth Simon McRae. Slide deadline: **February 15, 1995.** \$15 entry fee for up to three pieces. For entry brochure, please send self-addressed, stamped, legal size envelope to: Roxanne Brown, 2973 North Kimberly Court, Atlanta, GA 30340. Information: (404) 414-8541.

JUST SPINNING

Hope you enjoyed the program last meeting as much as I did. Mary Lohrenz of the *Old Capitol Museum* made the past seem much more real as she talked about her research on weavers and spinners of Mississippi's past. Several members also brought very old woven pieces they possess. Mary gave pointers on how to store and preserve these pieces.

Loom Crawl is coming up all too soon. Remember, if you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a hand crafted gift--not necessarily crafted by **your** hands. Loom Crawl is such a relaxing way to spend time with weaving/spinning friends, that I make it a priority on my calendar.

As we wind down 1994 and prepare for 1995, I look back and feel that we had a good year, but we can make the coming one even better. If you haven't joined HGA, please consider doing so. If you have never participated in an HGA Learning exchange, you really should! It is for **LEARNING**. It is not to try 'after you get good enough'. Sure, some experienced weavers and spinners participate, but that is wonderful because you get to keep some of their samples.

I listened to Margaret Pittman talk about her experiences in the TLC (teaching and learning through correspondence). What better way could you get to study for a whole year under the guidance of a teacher for such a little bit of money? If you aren't an HGA member, look through issues of *Spindle, Shuttle, and Dyepot* for information on HGA programs.

Speaking of our Library, it might be a big help to Debbie if some of us who 'don't work!' could meet at the studio some time in January to help do some organizing and cataloging of the library

If you can spare the time, let me urge you to attend the study group the second Thursday of the month. It is a wonderful way to discuss specific problems. You just bring them with you, and Marcy--and anyone else there who may have encountered--and solved--that problem will give you some great advice and help!

Remember ROC Day and Spin In.

See you at Loom Crawl,
Just keep on spinning (and weaving)

Marva

A Note from Lu Regarding Program Plans: As you know, we will not have a program for December for our loom crawl--just fun!

For January, we will be doing our cup exchange (remember, it has been delayed from December to January). So we'll have lots of "show and tells." Our program will be a swapping of information and suggestions and help. Bring any project that you have in your head or on your loom, and we'll put our problems and hang-ups on the table and see if we can solve them together.

will continue to provide the question box at both meetings. We will still collect any questions that we are too shy to ask (out of this group, ha!, but who knows--there could be one. . . .)

Mississippi Rags--This exhibition will open on February 12, 1995, at Northwest Junior College in Senatobia, Mississippi. Watch your mail for more information from Sharon Williams.

A Day in the Country--Marva announced that the guild had been asked to participate again this year, encouraged everyone to attend on October 1, and asked anyone with further questions to call Skeeter Staples, the event organizer, at 956-8618. Carol is working on a handout for those people who want to know more about the CWSG; copies will be available at A Day in the Country.

ROC Day--It was suggested that the CWSG host ROC Day in 1996. The proposal was moved, seconded, and passed. We briefly discussed possible sites, including Roosevelt and Percy Quinn State Parks and Allison's Wells. Marva will appoint a ROC Day committee to scout for sites and report in November.

Equipment Rental--Debbie Stringer and the committee of her choosing will research how other guilds handle their equipment rentals. We can expect a report and proposals in January.

Southeastern Fiber Forum Association--It was moved, seconded, and voted to look into hosting a future SFFA meeting. Marva will appoint a committee to gather information and consider the possibility further.

Christmas Tree for Chimneyville Crafts Fest--It was moved, seconded, and voted to decorate a Christmas tree at the Chimneyville Crafts Festival this year. According to Linda Mann, who is in charge of the festival, the trees donated in recent years have been too small to be seen very well. (Although she has asked local florists to donate and decorate a large tree for this year's event, none have expressed interest.) Therefore, she will provide a raised platform on which we can place the tree we get. Marva will do some comparison shopping at the cut-your-own tree farms in the area.

Yearbook--Containing the guild directory listing as well as a calendar of meeting and event dates, the yearbooks will be distributed at the October meeting.

Vermilionville--The guild has been repeatedly invited to this crafts festival in Louisiana, but we've never attended because it takes place during our "down time" in August. Since there is some interest among our guild members, we will consider attending next year. Expect more information as summer approaches.

Sheep and Angora Goat Symposium and Fiber Festival--Marva passed around information on last year's Fiber Festival in Huntsville, Alabama. She will provide updated information when it's available.

Celtic Festival--Heather reported on CWSG participation at the Celtic Festival held on the grounds of the Agricultural Museum in Jackson on September 10. To demonstrate spinning and weaving, she, Lu, and Marcy brought their spinning wheels, and Carol brought her rigid heddle loom and inkle loom. As a result, the festival organizers donated \$25 as a thank-you to the guild.

Petrini Grant Fund Donation--At Marcy's congratulatory dinner Saturday night, Marva announced that the CWSG will donate \$100 to the Silvio and Eugenia Petrini Fiber Grant Fund, which Marcy and Terry have established at HGA in honor of Marcy's parents. The interest from this endowment fund will be used to assist a weaver, spinner, or dyer to participate in non-accredited programs or workshops which might be impossible for her or him without financial assistance.

Other Business--Do you have a question about weaving, spinning, or the meaning of life? Lu may not have the answers, but she has a place for the questions. Guild members are encouraged to write down their questions, what's, and whys--no matter how "stupid" they may seem--and deposit them in the special box that Lu will bring to every meeting. Who knows? That mystery you've been unable to solve may become the topic of

And now for the shopping news segment of our newsletter . . .

Lu has received information about an 8-harness Macomber jack loom and bench that is for sale for \$500 by Dr. Louis R. Walsh in Clinton. He says it weaves about 30 inches wide. (The Guild is investigating buying his hand-built counterbalance looms.) Dr. Walsh is not giving up weaving; he's just reducing the number of looms he has! Some of these were used by Mississippi College in their art department when he taught weaving there. He's in the phone book, though he's retired and kind of hard to catch.

From HALCYON YARN, 12 School Street, Bath, ME 04530; 1-800-341-0282:

So, how many fleeces did you get this year? How many have you washed? Try this scour for raw fleeces or as a pre-wash for dyeing, and let us know what you think.

For 1 pound fiber or yarn:

Combine: 1/2 teaspoon synthrapol
1/2 teaspoon washing soda or soda ash
2.5 gallons of hot water--140°F.

Soak for 30 minutes. Repeat if necessary. For raw fleeces, double the amounts of synthrapol and soda ash.

Synthrapol--16 oz. bottles #82000020 \$3.00
Soda Ash (aka PRO Dye Activator)--1 lb. bag
#82000010 \$1.50

When she was in Huntsville recently, Marva picked up a sale flyer from Kathy Smith of the Hollytree Heritage Shoppe, Hwy. 65, Hollytree, AL 35751; 205/776-2351. Here are some good bargains; prices are (supposed to be) good through the end of December:

\$25 off Ashford spinning wheels
\$50 off Ashford's electric spinner
\$100 off Ashford's complete electric spinner
12 v adaptor
foot control
\$25 off Ashford drum carders

Free wool top, roving or fleece with each purchase!

FOR SALE

Loom and other equipment: 48" 8 H Tawakiva with tensioner, counter, spool rack, bobbins, lots of wool yarn. Sliding bench is in good condition. Will sell all or separately. Contact Tae Broad at 601/948-7285.

Floor Loom: 4-harness, LeClerc "Artisat" model, 24", along with raddle, two reeds, and original accessories. "Perfect" condition. \$425. Contact Sandi Tucker, 2106 Wildwood Terrace, Yazoo City, MS 39194; 601/746-3081.

Loom: with all the extras, including dobby parts, bobbins, and a bobbin winder. For more information, contact Carolyn Jarnagin, C&D Jarnagin Co., P.O. Box 1860, Corinth, MS 38834; 601/287-2579.

Classified ads are run free of charge to CWSG members. The fee per ad for non-members is \$5 for three consecutive newsletters. Submit ads to the CWSG secretary/newsletter editor by the first of each month.

	Fiber Specials	
	16 oz.	8 oz.
alpaca top	\$24.95	\$13.50
tussah silk	\$24.95	\$13.50
cinnamon tussah	\$24.95	\$13.50
romney silver	\$8.95	\$5.00
merino top	\$9.95	\$6.00

Fiber quantities are limited! No dealers.

CWSG
C/O CAROL PARKS
832 CHERRY STONE CIR
CLINTON MS 39056

