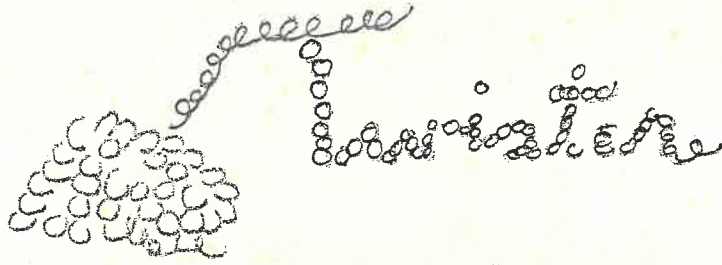
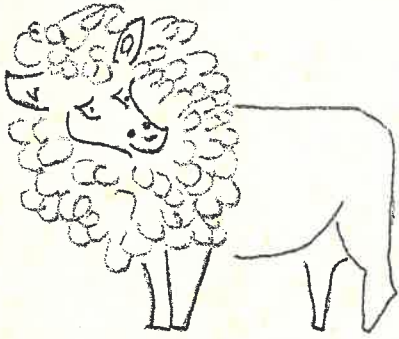


Twist O' Wool Guild



NEWSLETTER #8

February 1982

CALENDAR

February	Visit to Deb Felmeth's studio
March	Rugweaving with Ann Brooke
April	Spinning Silk with Alice Blistein - Silk provided by Guild - Bring spinning wheels
April 17	All day workshop with Shelly Osborne on spinning Novelty yarns. Minimum attendance - 10 people. Price: \$10.
May	Bobbin Lace with Margaret Lancaster

National Sheep & Wool Festival cont. The high points of what I learned from the fleece judge at Altamont are: 1. Get the wool out of those plastic bags and into burlap sacks or light weight canvas bags! If plastic MUST be used, punch holes in it - alot of holes - so the wool can breathe. 2. Skirt those fleeces ruthlessly - NO TAGS. 3. Check several areas of the fleece for uniformity of crimp and fiber strength. Smell each area for mold and feel for dampness and lanolin. 4. Use paper twine to tie the fleece three times one way, three times the other. I was informed the average price is \$7/pound in New York State for a GOOD colored fleece. I didn't see a single fleece from the Northeastern states that I haven't seen right here in Vermont. We can take pride in our sheep and wool! Nancy Low

AFTER THISTLEDOWN

Wheels still turning, riding home, on a spinning high,
Just can't wait to try that fleece - I watch the miles go by.
Finally home - all is darkness in our little town
So far away - six long hours drive from Thistledown.

Found a great new stitch for knitting - but can't stand up from
all that sitting! Stumble in my own front door, drop my bundles
on the floor, stop and take a look around - home again from Thistledown.

Can't believe that I was there! I fall into the nearest chair,
surveying all the toys and mess - house a shambles, more or less.
Where to put all that new fleece? Had sixty pounds right here, at least.
Books and samples, goodie bag, dirty laundry, (spirits sag).

Morning after's even worse - I'm broke - just an empty purse,
The job, the kids, the house, the chores - been three days since I've
been outdoors, Towards day's end things are looking dimmer-
No complimentary wine with dinner. But it gets worse, I am afraid-
I didn't bring along the maid - and so, despite my fondest wishes-
After dinner, I do dishes.

Recall with fondess what I found - the friends, the sharing,

Spin-go-round, the nervous fit I sat and span in when confronting Allen Fannin - Shoved my wool unwashed, uncarded, 'neath my chair and closely guarded my poor bobbin filled with stuff I knew he'd judge; "Not up to snuff!"

Day after Thistledown is done. It surely was a lot of fun to leave my daily chores behind - to get away and just unwind- But now the truth is clear to me - Thistledown winds up, you see, the spinner who just loves her craft and drives her just a little daft.

She comes home wound up for a week, and, after all that food, no thinner - so if you're planning for next years Thistledown too, you and I are a pair of real handspinners!

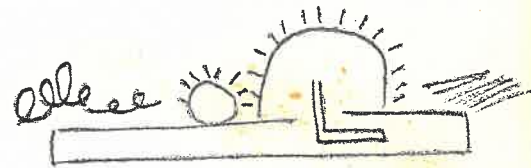
Anonymous

Our first celebration of "ROCK DAY" was a huge success with 35 members in attendance. Great food, good conversation, wonderful evening!

XX

XXXXX DRUM CARDER REVIEW XXXXX

No. 2 Clemes and Clemes



Although I think the Patrick Green drum carder is probably the best I have ever used, I'm satisfied with my Clemes & Clemes. Buying it used for less than half price and in excellent condition may be part of the reason for my satisfaction with it. It seems to work as well with washed or unwashed fleece, both requiring a good teasing before feeding into the small roller. I find I particularly like it for carding rovings to be used in making felt. Most fleece carding requires two trips through the rollers to do a really excellent job. It would be nice if the metal handle were sheathed with a wooden revolving covering for added ease and comfort while cranking. A larger feeding tray might be nice, too, but I feel so fortunate just to have one I really shouldn't complain. It was well worth the price and does a good job for me.

Mary Heald

My Clemes & Clemes cards nice if you wash and thoroughly tease the wool before carding. Drum is 8 inches wide with a fine tooth cloth. Needs to have a clamp to secure it to work table. Problems I find are: 1. tendency to fill middle of large drum, 2. full tray, wool tends to wind on axles - must direct wool, 3. large batts difficult to remove from drum, 4. difficult to card short staple wool.

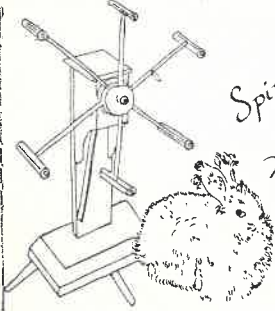
Annette Reynolds

XX

CLASSIFIED ADS

Fine carder for sale: \$90.
Ellen Leone 453-3315

For sale: 32 inch, 4 harness
maple loom. Peter Reimer maker.
\$250 or best offer.
Judy DeCell 453-4513



Spinning Song
Bunnies for Easter!
The Softness of Angora
Pedigreed Rabbits
Homespun Yarn

Martha Osmun
RD#1, Bristol, Vt. 05443
802-453-3687

FOR 10% OFF!! Pick up Your bunny March 29 - April 2. Also expecting Alpine goat kids in March.



louët

margot samsom
spinning equipment,

elderhill, lincoln
rd 1, bristol
vermont 05443

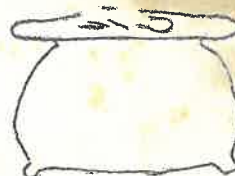
802-453-3751

CHEVIOTS

There are two types of Cheviots, the Border or Southern and the North Country. Border is smaller size and was improved by selection from original stock, where as North Country is a larger animal and improved by cross-breeding. Cheviots are mountain sheep native to the hills between England and Scotland. It is a hardy breed and can tolerate hard winters. They have a light weight fleece, medium wool-46 to 56-that is easy to spin. My fleece was from a 6 year old registered ram that had dusty tipped wool which needed washing before spinning to remove the sticky lanolin and yolk. Staple length is 3½ to 6 inches with crimp measuring 5 per inch. Kemps are predominant in wools influenced by this breed and is noticable in spun yarn and more so if dyed according to "Fleece in Your Hand" by B. Horne. (Check samples. I didn't notice any.) Fleece was washed, carded and spun on an Ashford wheel with Jumbo Flyer. It was very easy to spin with a long draw and medium-firm tension on bobbin and light resistance on wool. Yarn was plied and twist set. The finish yarn feels spongy and a little scratchy to me. The whitest yarn I have ever spun. B. Horne says, "Cheviot will give the same softest and whiteness as Merino, but not the brightness". Yarn maybe used for sweaters, hats, mittens, blankets, and rugs.

THE DYE POT

Indigo -- Mary Worley



Indigo Extract Stock Solution

In Jar: 1 tablespoon Indigo, 1 tablespoon Sodium Hydrosulfite, add water to make paste. Fill jar with ammonia. Let set to clear (at least 1 hour--- probably overnight). This is your extract.

Dye Pot: fill pot 2/3 - 3/4 with water at 110-115 degrees and add small amount of extract. You will be using the clear yellow liquid on top of the extract. Refill the extract jar with ammonia. (You may continue to do this until the blue precipitate is used up.) Test with a strip of white cloth or paper towel. Dip the end in dye pot and remove; it should come out yellow-green and then turn blue. Your brew is ready now to use. Add wet yarn for 5 minutes. Remove and air for 10-15 minutes. Redip for desired shade. Do this **CAREFULLY** so as to introduce as little oxygen as possible. Sample is from Cheviot fleece above.

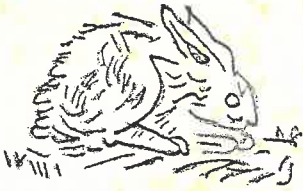
Urea Vat -- Fill any suitable container with stale urine. Pack some Lump Indigo, crushed, into a cotton sock; tie end; submerge in urine vat. Poke or squeeze this until Indigo dissolves into vat. Add well washed and wetted yarn--gently. The yarn is allowed to soak in this vat 10-20 min., or overnight, or longer depending upon desired color. Air at least as long as you soaked the yarn. Air at least 24 hours before washing after final color is reached. Next day, wash: 1. first with plain urine, 2. second with lukewarm water, 3. third in soapy water. Rinse well and allow to dry until the odors are entirely removed (?)!! Sample from fleece above.

Source: Sodium Hydrosulfite City Chemical 132 W 22nd St. N.Y.
N.Y. 10011
Indigo, Paste and Lump (to powder) Gorman's Naturals, P.O. 506
Roseburg, Oregon, 97470 2. Straw Into Gold, 55 College Ave, Oakland,
California 94618

XX

In Egypt around AD400, Coptic Christians were knitting sandal socks, bags and dolls.

Sampler of Angora



The History of Angora began long ago near Ankora, Turkey. Beginning about 1723, the French were breeding, raising and plucking Angora rabbits for their wool. This wool is very soft, yet is strong and extra warm, though light of weight. The rabbits have come to be labeled in several varieties, though at least one author assures us that there is no pure variety, as the varieties have been crossed with each other so much. Angora rabbits are usually medium of size, contain good quality meat (for those interested) with 2½ to 5 inch long wool. CARE: Angoras need a bit more care than other rabbits. Cages: They should have at least a wire floor on them (½" x 1"). The floor being well above the ground with good drainage. With a good roof and sides they should fare quite well in the winter. Yet these sides should be temporary such as canvas flaps. In the summer Angoras are easily overheated so should be in the coolest spot available with no sides to their cage, except in wind and rain. Each buck should have his own cage. Two does may be kept in the same cage. (CAUTION!! Sometimes there are disagreements. My Allspice lost a nose!)

FEEDING: For best wool production 20% protein rabbit pellets should be fed 4-5 Oz. per day. No rabbit should have greens while young, then begin gradually if desired. Rabbits enjoy having hay; for Angoras a rack on the outside of cage is best.

BREEDING: Careful breeders aim for quality and length of wool, then gentleness of rabbit. Breeding animals should not be expected to be "wool-er" if much breeding is done as their strength goes into bunnies. Weather should be over 50 degrees if the doe will be outside for kindling.

PLUCKING AND GROOMING: Groom once a week as soon as new growth is over an inch long, by combing and removing any tangles. Make sure they are clean and that their cages are clean. When fur begins to fly around, they are ready or almost ready for plucking. This is due to the fact that Angoras molt every six to ten weeks. Each rabbit has guard hair which remains on the animal after plucking. This hair is coarser and much deeper in color than the lighter wool which molts. In very cold weather wait a bit longer than usual to pluck, as next coat will begin to grow out. The method of plucking is to hold two fingers down to the skin using other hand to pluck top wool. The new coat and the usual guard hair will be left.

SPINNING: Keep a loose tension on bobbin. Put a lot of spin on the yarn. It will be very smooth when spun, but will magically fluff after a washing and knitting.

Martha Osmun

My experience is so limited it hardly matters. Angora wool must be plucked not clipped or yarn will shed forever more. Spun from hand - no washing or carding - loose light tension, plenty of spin on yarn, adjust so not pulled from hand too quickly. I spin fine. Angora is 8x warmer than wool. It is expensive, \$3.00 per ounce, and hot to wear. A little goes a long way! To card with wool, wool has to be fairly fine or it separates (does not stay carded together) when you draft the fiber mass to spin. I liked to ply 1 strand Angora with 1 or 2 strands fine wool.

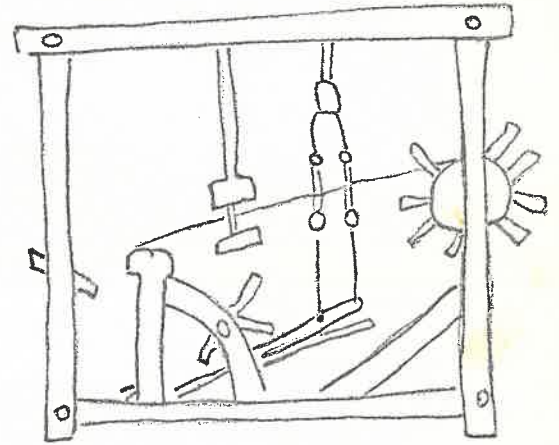
Ellen Leone



BARN FRAME LOOMS (and what to look for when buying one)


First of all, for those who may not know what a barn frame loom is, it's an antique loom, usually from 100-200 years old and it has an outer structure resembling the framing on a barn. These looms were not made from barn beams, but usually were pretty roughly made. It is really a rare treat to find one that was made by a craftsman with great care, but I have seen several of these, one of which we bought for a mere \$65.

The first loom I bought at an auction, pretty much sight unseen. It was all there, nothing special, but I did use it for a few years until I found one I liked better, and I was able to sell that one at a profit to put towards the one I am now using, mostly for blankets. This one is a very early one (1700's) and very primitive. It works very well with a bit of tinkering as you go, and really all the lovely blankets, linens and coverlets of 200 years ago were woven on such looms. To use an antique loom, you do have to be willing to put up with required fussing and adjusting that is necessary with these. It does help to be a bit of a romantic and imagine the woman who wove all her families' textile needs some hundred years ago looking over your shoulder admiring.



If you plan to look for one to buy, here are a few suggestions and cautions: 1. Talk to any antique people you know or people already using one. One person often leads to another and another and eventually you'll start to turn up looms. Expect to look at a few before you find one you like. 2. When you go to look at a loom, remember these were made by individuals and although they are amazingly similar, each one is a bit different and there are several different main types and structures. 3. Try to get beyond the dirt and grime of centuries of non-use. There's often some lovely wood under there.

4. The main things to look for in this jumble of sticks are:

- a. No spit or shattered beams
- b. No dry rot or termite holes or just look for good solid wood
- c. two beams that are round; the larger back beam and the smaller cloth beam which should have a ratchet on it, usually hand-wrought.
- d. If you are looking for one with a seat, you'll probably have two curved pieces, like so , although I've seen exceptions to this several times. The ones with seats are often in better shape because they have an overall box-like structure and the beams didn't tend to warp as easily as those with the beater hanging from beams protruding out in front. (These looms are called canti-levered looms and you should be careful to look for warped top beams as you will lose weaving width if there is much warping.)
- e. Site down the beams to look for warping. Some warping is okay, but if there is too much, you won't be able to put the pieces together.
- f. Look for the beater. You're going to have this in your hand a lot and it should be fairly heavy (especially for linens and coverlets) and as handsome as you can be happy with.
- g. Look for the breast beam. It's also a good piece to be well pleased with.
- h. Start laying out the pieces, to put it together. This will get easier after seeing several.

5. MISSING PIECES: What's a must to have? Well, that depends on whether

NEW MEMBERS 1981-1982

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TEL. #</u>	<u>S. or W.</u>
Best, Georgia	R.D. 1 Middlebury, Vt. 05753	545-2170	
Bixby, Marietta	P.O. Box 194 Vergennes, Vt. 05491	877-3002	S
Boardman, Dale & Gretchen	55 Middle Rd. Willsboro, N.Y. 12996		
Granstrom, Michaela	R.D. 2 Vergennes, Vt. 05491	545-2519	S & W
Homer, Christine	Star RT. Box 6 Bristol, Vt. 05443	453-3778	S
Inie, Ruth	Old Forge Rd. Elizabeth, N.Y. 12932		S & W
Jenks, Jane	Box Schroon Lake, N.Y. 12870		S & W
Kavanagh, Bonnie	20 Percy Rd. Churchville, N.Y. 14428		S
Lytton, Barbara	Rt. 1 Box 49 Vergennes, Vt. 05491	759-2585	S & D
Maynard, Ruth	Rt. 125 E. Middlebury, Vt.	388-3335	S & D
Murphy, Pat	R.D. 2 Box 238-A Bristol, Vt. 05443	453-3416	S
Norris, Debby	R.D. 1 Shorham, Vt. 05770	897-7012	
Olivo, Sandy	R.D. 3 Bristol, Vt. 05443	453-4364	S
Otis, Trudy	28 Sibley Ave. Montpelier, Vt. 05602		W
Randall, Pat	Rt. 65 Chittenden, Vt. 05737	483-9472	S
Stein, Dorothy	511 North St. Burlington, Vt. 05401	863-4105	S
Temme, Debbie	Star Rt. 268 Chittenden, Vt. 05737		S
Torrey, Gail	R.D. 1 Box 426-A Vergennes, Vt. 05491		
Torrey, Ramona	R.D. 1 Box 200 Vergennes, Vt. 05491	759-2389	
DiGiacomo, Lily	6029 E. Buffalo Rd. Churchville, N.Y. 14428		

Rutland Herald 1-17-82 ----- THE WARMEST UNDIEST?

According to an independent test, thermal underwear of rabbit fur, wool and nylon in a brushed, ribbed knit had an "R" rating of .72. Second was a honey-comb knit of vinlon and acrylic. Down the ladder was rib-knit wool at "R" .38 and cotton "R" .33.

The use of rabbit fur brought to mind the method used by Northern Indian Eskimo tribes for weaving rabbit fur robes. Rabbits were skinned in 1-inch wide strips in a spiral so the result was a length of "yarn" about 10-12 feet long. Sometimes, this delicate "BABICHE" yarn was reinforced with a narrow deerskin thong. When 50 or 60 skins were collected, a frame the size of the desired robe was used to loosely weave a blanket in a simple pattern. Although you could poke a finger through the loose weave anywhere, it was light and warm, serving as the inner layer of other sleeping robes or the forerunner of the modern sleeping bag when it was back-packed. Eskimos developed the ideal cold weather protection with wind-stopping waterproof sealskins and insulation inner layers of soft furs.