

warp and weft

Vol. XIII, No. 2

February, 1960

warp and weft

Published monthly (except July and August)
by Robin & Russ Handweavers, 632 Santa
Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

Subscription: \$3.00 per year.

Back Issues: 30c each, plus 3c postage.

Editor: Russell E. Groff, 632 Santa Barbara St.,
Santa Barbara, California.

Assistant Editors: Robin Groff and Frederick
Brown.

Volume XIII No. 2

February 1960

A Word from the Editor

Well, another new project has been added to our many activities. We have just undertaken the weaving of our first order of jute material for a bag manufacturing company here in Santa Barbara. Our first order was for 125 yards of jute woven in a twill variation, in natural, in black, in white, and brown. To date, we have finished some 50 yards of this material, and when we see the bags made up, we are astonished at how beautiful they are. They are combined with leather, and the finished bag finally retails at \$26.50, and of course, at that price, it should be good looking. We are waiting for a new shipment of colored jute, and then we will continue on with the 125 yard order.

Have any of you been stalled in the middle of the night as a result of a car breakdown? That is what happened to me, as I was enroute to Sacramento last weekend to pick up 2 looms and 24 spool racks. At 11:00 at night, about 50 miles from the nearest possible place of service, the generator on our Volkswagen burned out, and so I was stuck. I had a sleeping bag in the back of the car, and so, as I had taken the two back seats out to make room for the looms and spool racks, I spread out the sleeping bag, crawled

in, intending to spend the night. But, this is what we call the desert, the spot where I was broken down, and at 2:00 in the morning, I couldn't stand any more of the cold, so outside the car I crawled, and waited about an hour for a ride to Fresno. Needless to say, I was delayed by a day, and as a result, missed a day of work. Eventually the car was fixed after I was towed in about 45 miles, and a new generator was put in the car, and, the rest of the trip was quiet and uneventful. One of the rewards of the trip though, was the fact that I was able to pack all of the 24 spool racks, 2 looms, one of them 40" wide, and the other 22", in our Microbus Volkswagen.

Our trip over to Zion and Bryce in southern Utah over New Year's was a very enjoyable one, and they actually had some snow in Zion National Park; while in Bryce there was from 2 to 4 feet of snow. We had to use chains a few times, but Janice enjoyed sliding on the ice, and we actually had a beautiful 5 mile hike through the snow and ice, and it was a most pleasing one. The view points in Bryce were not all accessible, but what was to be reached certainly resulted in some beautiful color slides.

Well, back to weaving, and back to the 65 yards of drapes. It looks as though there are about 10 yards left to do, and I've really got to have it finished before we print our next issue.

RUSSELL E. GROFF, *Editor*

New Distributor for Lily Mills Threads

Robin & Russ Handweavers are pleased to announce that they are now distributors for LILY MILLS HANDWEAVING THREADS. We will be pleased to accept any of your orders for their products. A stock of their weaving threads will be gradually added to the inventory of Robin & Russ.



This is a view of the weaving room at the Wichita Arts and Crafts Center. Mrs. Abbie Rogers is weaving a Bronson lace table cloth with a warp and weft of 40/2 linen. The loom is a 60" Jack-type Leclerc. Mrs. McCumber, the director of the center, is watching as Mrs. Rogers weaves. The photograph was taken before classes were opened, hence the empty looms.

WEAVERS, WEAVING GUILDS AND WEAVING SHOPS

It is our intention, each month, to give a short article about the various weaving guilds, prominent weavers or weaving shops throughout the country.

If you know of an exceptional weaver, or of an interesting weaving shop, or of a local weaving guild, we will be very pleased to hear about them, that we might contact them and see if it is possible to present an article about the guild, weaving shop or weaver that you might know about.

The Arts and Crafts Center Of Wichita, Kansas

Early in 1940, the Wichita, Kansas Park Director and Board of Park Commissioners saw the need for adult recreation in a fast growing industrial city. Plans were made, equipment and personnel secured, and in

January, 1942, the Wichita Park Board's Arts and Crafts Center opened its doors to the adult public of Wichita and the surrounding area.

Two full time instructors and several part time instructors are available for the many handicrafts offered by the center. And one of the most popular of these crafts is that of weaving, and the activities that go with weaving.

When the center opened in 1942, there were three 4-harness looms of homemade variety but in good working condition. It soon became necessary to purchase more looms. These too, were used looms and were in constant use. The woodworking depart-

(Continued on Page 6)

CHOCOLATE CHARCOAL

A dress fabric featuring a silk and rayon ribbon in combination with worsted yarns, to make a dress fabric.

THREADING DRAFT

4		B	B		
3		C		C	
2	B			B	
1		C		C	

REED USED

A 10 dent reed was used, and it was sleyed 2 ends per dent, or 20 threads per inch, with alternate threads of Slate and Black.

WARP

- Fabri, 2/18's Worsted
- B—Fabri, color, Black
- C—Fabri, color, Slate

WEFT

1. Brown, variegated Ribbon
2. Fabri, color, Slate
3. 2/17's Worsted, Peacock

KEY TO COLORS IN THE WARP

- B.—2/18's Fabri, color, Black
- C.—2/18's Fabri, color, Slate

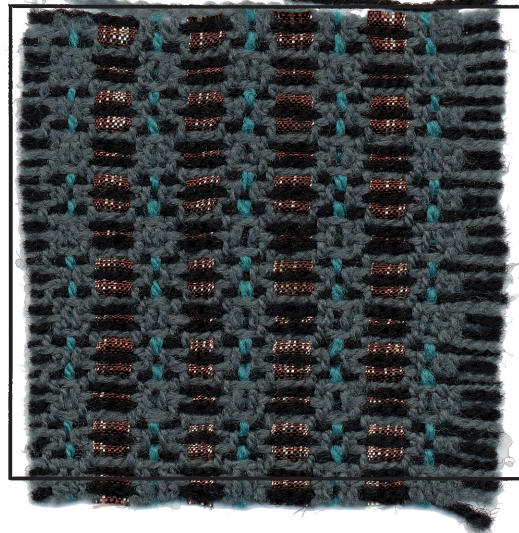
TREADLING

Treadle # 1, Brown Variegated Ribbon
 Treadle # 2, Fabri, Slate color
 Treadle # 3, Fabri, Slate color
 Treadle # 4, Fabri, Slate color
 Treadle # 1, 2/17's, Peacock color
 Treadle # 4, Fabri, Slate color
 Treadle # 3, Fabri, Slate color
 Treadle # 2, Fabri, Slate color
 Repeat from the beginning.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

4			X	X		X
3		X	X		X	
2	X	X				X
1	X			X	X	
	1	2	3	4	5	6

SAMPLE:



More About the Sample

I, myself, wasn't too crazy about featuring a fabric using ribbon, but because of the popularity of using this type of material, we finally wove this sample shown herewith.

My main objection is that I have never thought this is a firm enough fabric, and to my way of thinking, most things should be very functional. However, by now I have seen enough of these materials made up to like them, and agree that they do make a striking outfit.

Of course, most of you recognize the threading draft as on a rose-path threading.

Actually, the fabric is an easy one to weave except for making sure that you keep all of the twists out of the ribbon.

We actually debated beating up the ribbon tighter, and finally decided that even though this makes a firmer fabric, it defeated the purpose of using the ribbon. However, you

might find that you like to have a row or shot of the ribbon in full width, and then set it off on either side, by having the ribbon beat tighter, and making it narrower with the tight beat. We wove quite a sampler before deciding upon this combination that we feature, and we tried in all, perhaps 6 or 7 different ribbons before we settled on one.

I might mention that we tried using just the charcoal and ribbon in the weft, and we felt that it had to have something to pick up the color of the brown in the ribbon and help make it stand out a little more. We tried a light blue, and liked it, a bright red, and liked it a little better, and finally, we thought that this Peacock was the best of all.

I might mention that while I've more or less been prejudiced against Ribbon weaving, that I have seen many beautiful fabrics using the Ribbon in both the Warp and the Weft. In fact, if I remember correctly, two of the purchase award fabrics of handwoven materials at the California State Fair were made of Ribbons a year or two ago.

Cost of the Fabric

The warp was set 40" wide and two colors were used. We found that it took 14 oz. of each color for a 10 yard warp. With fabric at \$6.80 per pound, this 10 yard warp took 1¾ lbs. Thus, the warp cost came to \$11.90 for the 10 yard warp, or \$1.19 per yard.

In weft, we found that one spool of the ribbon is enough weft for 1½ yards exactly. This Ribbon weft is a silk and rayon combination, and the variegated colors, of which there are 10, cost \$3.50 per 100 yard spool.

The ribbon and wool together in the weft make the cost come to approximately \$2.85 per yard. Thus the total fabric cost is about \$4.05 per yard.

RIBBON AVAILABILITY

We might mention that we can furnish you with a Ruban Rayonne Ribbon in 29

different colors, 3/16" wide, 100 yards to a spool, \$2.25 per spool. We found that in our sample this month, that one spool is enough to weave 1½ yards of 40" width material. If you purchase one whole box of a color, there is a savings of 25c per spool, thus making it \$2.00 per spool, 10 spools per box.

Then, there are other ribbons available also. For instance, the one used in our sample is called DEAUVILLE. It is silk and rayon, and is also 3/16" wide. It comes in 10 different variegated color combinations, and if you purchase just one spool, it is \$3.75 per spool, or in box lots of 10 spools per box, it is \$3.50 per spool.

Also, there are Organdie ribbons available in 18 different colors, and even some ribbon with rayon and metallic available.

I wish that I could send out samples, but we cannot afford to do so, and the set of ribbon samples costs us \$5.00, so you can see why we do not send out samples. If any of you are interested, we might send one individual color card for you to look at if you will guarantee to return it to us via return air-mail.

This Month's Cover

The photograph on the cover this month is of a Barbeque Cloth woven by Ruth Pence of New Castle, Pennsylvania. This was the prize winning fabric, and was chosen as best of show in the Youngstown, Ohio, area weavers guild exhibit a short time ago.

It was an 8 harness Bronsen weave, but it actually could have been woven on 4 harnesses. The warp is a block stripe arrangement in perle cotton, and it was woven with natural colored tow linen. The stripes are beige, yellow, blue, gold, orange and brown. It is too bad that we cannot show you this in color, as I feel it would be much more outstanding than the black and white photograph pictures it to be.

ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER—Continued

ment at the Center built several, making a total of 12 floor looms in operation.

In 1950, the present Park Director and Commission began replacing the old equipment with new, durable looms of different types ranging in width from 27 inches to 60 inches. There are now 15 looms in operation in the weaving department. Three of these are used for rug making and the balance for towels, place-mats, linens, yardages of silk, wool and cotton, draperies, afghans, coverlets, etc.

Looms are available for students to warp, thread and set-up designs as their needs require. These looms are designated as "Special project looms," and are available for a reasonable length of time to the user. Other looms are warped and threaded ready for use and are on an appointment basis—two sessions daily and 5 days a week.

The center operates on a year round basis. Study groups are held and help is given to individuals and institutions when needed.

Many of the Craft Center's weavers have purchased looms and several of them are doing custom weaving in their homes.

In 1947 an organization of Weavers and Potters was formed by Mrs. Kate Hall, a craft instructor for the Park Board. Meetings are held once a month, demonstrations and techniques being discussed. The club brings a traveling exhibit to Wichita once a year and they support a workshop which is beneficial to the weavers of the community.

The Wichita Weavers Guild was organized in 1956 and meets on a monthly basis as a study group. Much good has been derived from their diligent work. This group has sponsored work shops taught by many nationally known instructors.

Wichita is definitely a weaving center and much credit can be given the Arts and Crafts Center for the help and inspiration that has been given along the line of craft work.

Isn't it too bad that not all of the cities of the U.S. are not able to have the opportunities available that are available here in Wichita.

Our thanks for this article go to Mrs. Abbie M. McCumber, instructor in weaving since the Arts and Crafts Center opened in 1942. She is now the present director of the center.

More About Flax and Linens

When we bicycled through the Scandinavian countries 10 years ago, we were particularly impressed with the production of linens. We were most fortunate to see the complete processing of linen, and we would like to tell you about it.

Our first glimpse of the fields of flax was certainly a most pleasing one as the fields were entirely in bloom, and were about 2 to 3 feet high, and the fields were an entirely light blue in color.

After cycling through Swenden, Finland and Norway, we came back to Denmark, and it was there that we saw the flax being pulled by hand. This pulling by hand helps result in a longer fiber, as part of the roots can be used in the actual fiber production. After it was pulled by hand, we saw women in the fields who were tying the flax plants into small sheaves, which were set-up in the fields and allowed to sit there for a period of about 3 to 4 weeks. This was done so that the dew would rot the outside husks off the linen or flax plants. This process is called retting.

After this was done, we happened to visit one of the many museums in Copenhagen, and it was there that we saw the hand-hackling process being done. They were using a board with what looked like a lot of nails sticking up through the board. A bunch of about 10 to 15 stocks of the flax were then swung through the air and down upon the nails, which separated the fibers, etc. Then these were pulled through the nails, thus straightening out the fibers of the flax plant, and helping to eliminate the remnants of the outside fiber, etc. This was done quite a few times until all of the fibers were separated quite thoroughly, and then it was taken to the spinning wheel, and spun into yarn or linen thread. These are just the bare details of what we saw, and we purchased some of these linens, and actually wove some of them into 8 and 10 harness 2 block imitation damask and damask.

(More about this next month)

Our thanks go to Marie Walling of North Hollywood, for her ideas and help in the planning of this fabric.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

A new classified advertising section will be tried out in *Warp and Weft* for a few months, to see if there is any interest or response. Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$4.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

FLOSSA RODS, in 1/2", 3/4" and 1" width, 40" long or longer are now in stock. New shipment just in from Sweden \$3.50 each, while they last. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SWEDISH HANDWEAVING by Malin Selander. This is her 2nd book in English and it is \$6.95 plus 14c postage. Beautiful color plates, and details of all of the patterns. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

HANDWOVEN TIES, in Stripes and Plaids Available from Robin & Russ at \$2.00 each, postage 8c extra. We can furnish you with the regular 4 in hand or the new style of narrow, almost straight ties. Wholesale inquiries invited. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

1 1/2/1 NATURAL WOOL, excellent for Flossa Rya and other type rugs. Will dye beautifully. 1100 yards per lb., \$1.60 per lb. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SWEDISH DOUBLE BOBBIN SHUTTLE in stock now. Price is \$2.50. Wooden bobbins to fit this shuttle are also available at 15c each, or \$1.50 per dozen. It can be used with two different colors or two different textured threads in the one shuttle. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

COLOR WHEELS. A well designed and well planned color wheel, for use in helping choose proper color combinations. \$1.00 plus 5c postage. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

A COMPLETE SET OF SAMPLES, and your name on our mailing list for further periodical samples. Fee for this is \$1.00, and it includes our current 6 different sample sheets. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SMALL WEBS. The excellent Swedish book which has been translated into English and which features the weaving of small articles. \$4.25 per copy, postage prepaid. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

LOOM ANCHORS: These popular loom anchors are a specially prepared felt pad with a pressure adhesive on both sides. These are used in many factories to hold power looms in place. \$1.50 per set of 4, postage prepaid. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

Warp and Weft BACK ISSUE SALE

Complete sets of 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, and 1958 issues are reduced to make more storage room. Complete yearly issues are \$3.00. They are now on sale at \$1.75 per each complete year's set.

As a special offer, if anyone purchases a set of 3 or more years, we will include, FREE OF CHARGE, ten of the mimeographed issues which were put out before we took over the publication.

Postage on one year's back issues is 12c. If 3 or more years back issues are ordered, postage will be prepaid.

ROBIN & RUSS
632 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, California

OUT OF PRINT BOOK SALE

"How to Weave Linens", by Edward Worst, and "Footpower Loom Weaving", by Edward Worst, are now officially out of print. A few copies of each are available at reduced prices, while they last.

HOW TO WEAVE LINENS—regularly \$5.50
ON SPECIAL AT \$4.50 each.

FOOT POWER LOOM WEAVING—
regularly \$7.50

ON SPECIAL AT \$6.25 each

Parcel post charges 14c per book

ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS
632 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, California

HANDWEAVING YARNS and SUPPLIES

A wide variety of distinctive yarns, developed especially for handweaving is available for prompt shipment in quantities to suit your needs.

WRITE TODAY FOR FREE CATALOGUE
AND FREE PRICE LIST.

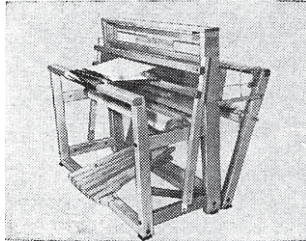
The Handweaver's Headquarters

LILY MILLS COMPANY
Dept. HWWW Shelby, N. C.

The Weaver's Marketplace

THE "NILUS" Jack-Type Loom

1. Folding Model
2. Of Red Birch
3. Rising Shed
4. Five different widths
5. Includes reed, shuttles, hook, canvas aprons, and three lease sticks



For further information write to:
NILUS LECLERC, Inc., W.W. L'Isletville
Quebec, Canada

A Complete Line
 YARNS LOOMS
 AND WEAVING SUPPLIES

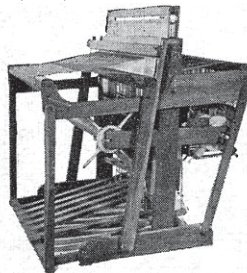
GOLDEN RULE PRODUCTS

Write for a catalogue and list of agents

HUGHES FAWCETT, INC.
P. O. Box 276 Dunellen, New Jersey

THE NORWOOD LOOM

1. Custom built, of Cherry.
2. 22", 30", 40", 50".
3. Rising Shed—Sectional beam.
4. Multiple harnesses and special looms to order.
5. Adapted to hand-capped by special prescription.
6. Folding models only.



THE NORWOOD LOOM CO.
P. O. Box 272 — Baldwin, Michigan

LOOMS

Leclerc Norwood

YARNS

Silk - Cotton - Linen - Wool
 Rayon - Metallic

HAND WEAVERS' WORK BASKET
Box 691, R.R. 1 West Chicago, Illinois
Phone: West Chicago 485-W

warp and weft

632 Santa Barbara Street
 Santa Barbara, California
 Return Postage Guaranteed

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Santa Barbara, Calif.
 Permit No. 440