

Needle guild expanding

JAN 11, 1984

by Anita Bishop

The Needlecraft Guild is a new arts group which has attracted many members interested in learning new needlecraft techniques and stitches. The group is sponsoring the popular Arts Alive on January 28 during Mukluk Rendezvous. The group meets twice each month in the Artspace.

The Fort St John Needlecraft Guild will be meeting on the second and last Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Artspace. Membership in the Guild is open to everyone regardless of experience for an annual subscription of \$10.00 and \$5.00 for senior citizens or anyone under 19 years of age.

The first meeting of the month will consist of a short business meeting followed by a workshop. The second meeting will be strictly technique and for non-members there will be a small fee for instruction and materials. This however will be announced prior to the meeting.

At the beginning of each month there will be a short write-up in the local newspaper describing the next meeting and if any materials are needed. If you are not interested in learning the particular technique scheduled but still would like an evening out feel free to bring along any needlecraft project you are presently working on.

On January 9th following a short business meeting the technique will be taught is knitting. Everyone is asked to bring a pair of size 3mm knitting needles and a ball of wool, preferably 3 ply worsted.

On January 23rd, the Guild will have an evening of crocheting and will assist anyone who is having problems with knitting which was taught at the last meeting. All you need to bring is a size 4mm crochet hook and a pair of scissors.

People interested in displaying at Arts Alive or wish to have further information on the Needlecraft Guild are invited to phone 785-2353.

Anybody for pins and needles?

JAN 4, 1984

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Continued on page eight



THE SALE OF work held by the Peace Country Craftman's Association last weekend at the Co-op Shopping Mall turned out to be very profitable for

the group. A second, slightly different, mix of craftsmen will have their products on sale at the same location this weekend.



NOV 28, 1984

The Potters' Guild will be holding its fifteenth annual sale of work in the centre concourse of the Totem Mall, on December 1. As usual, there will be a good selection of useful and decorative hand made work for sale, bowls, cups, casseroles, cannisters, lamps, but-

terdishes, pitchers, vases and so on. Most of the pots have been thrown on the potter's wheel, but as well look for other interesting shapes and designs. Prices are reasonable and quality excellent. Some of the items to be sold are pictured in the kiln above.

Peace Country Craftmen serve the handy well

Crafts are a vital part of every community in both the economic and the social sense. This is particularly true in this area with the Peace Country Craftman's Association.

Everyone expects craft shops and shops that sell yarns, fabrics and notions to benefit from the craft oriented people. Our local crafts people purchase from all the usual sources in our community as well as all the building supply and hardware stores. In addition, they purchase supplies from some unlikely sources such as Northern Metallic, The Honey place, Herbs and Health Foods, Associated

Glass and Northern Bearing and Drive. Our craft people are purchasing supplies locally, manufacturing well made hand crafted items for sale in the local community.

The social aspects of the Peace Country Craftman's Association are less obvious. However, by encouraging people of all ages and background with their craft work we are promoting understanding and appreciation of each other in our community.

We have members with many varied talents. Because of this, the public has expressed a desire that this year we

extend our Christmas craft show and sale over a longer period of time so that more people can have a chance to view our works of art. In compliance with this request, we will be having two showings and sales this year. The first will be held on November 2nd and 3rd, and the second on November 8th, 9th and 10th at the Co-op Mall during store hours. Half the participating members will take part in the first show and sale and the other half in the second show and sale.

Anyone wanting more information can call Moneca at 785-4758 or Liz at 785-2182.

Weavers meet Saturday

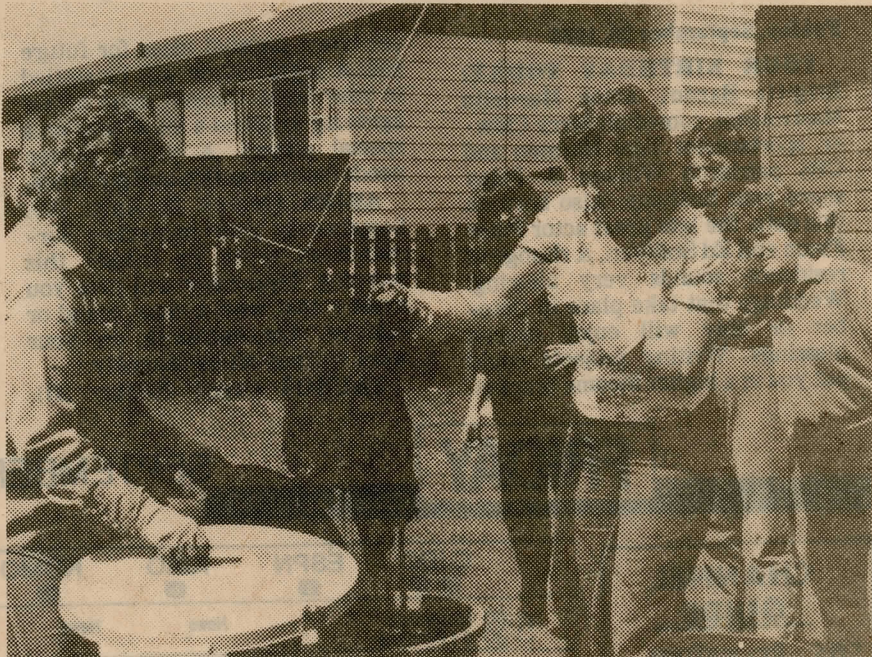
The North Peace Spinners and Weavers Guild enjoyed a very productive 1983-1984 season and is looking forward to an even busier and more interesting year ahead.

Last season started off with a spinning workshop where some of the seasoned members taught new members how to spin carded and uncarded wool on spinning wheels, drop spindles and navajo spindles. The next workshop was dying the spun wool with natural dyestuffs (marigold flowers, lichens, turmeric and different tree barks) and everyone who participated was very pleased with the beautiful colors which resulted. The natural dyed wools were then used in frame loom and tapestry weaving workshops that followed.

Another workshop that everyone really enjoyed was felt making. By constantly submitting the wool to hot water and agitation wool can be made into felt. The final workshop to end the season was indigo held outside on a beautiful spring day followed by a pot-luck luncheon.

This season the Spinners and Weavers Guild is planning more workshops in dying with natural dyestuffs, felt-making, frame and tapestry weaving and we are planning some workshops on the four harness table and floor looms.

A group of spinners and weavers and fibre artists from various parts of the



FELICITY SPURGIN is pictured here taking a batch of wool out of the Indigo Dyebath.

Peace River Block of north eastern British Columbia and northwestern Alberta are in the process of forming the Peace Country Spinning and Weaving Organization to promote communications and education among the spinning and weaving groups and isolated individuals of this large

area. Our Guild members have been approached to become members of this organization which will be a real opportunity to meet and share ideas with other spinners and weavers.

The first meeting to start off this season will be held on Saturday, September 29 at 1:30 pm. at the Artspace and we

will be giving an introduction to spinning. We welcome all past, present and future spinners and weavers would like to become a member of the guild or just come and see what we are all about. For further information call: Chris Drummond at 785-1113 or Suzanne Motola at 785-0877.



Years of experience paid off for John Unruh when he crafted his magnificent model pioneer homestead, complete with pioneer furniture. His efforts won him a plaque for the 'Most Original Design' at the North Pine Fall

Fair. Unruh, who now lives in the Care Home, is shown here receiving the plaque from Moneca Tanner of the Peace Country Craftman's Association.

Nice work rewarded

AUG 30, 1984

The Peace Country Craftman's Association sponsored and judged the craft work entries in the Original Design categories at the North Pine Fall Fair and recently presented some of its awards to John Unruh, a resident of the Care Home.

He won the plaque for the most original design with a model log homestead, complete with pioneer furniture. He also took the Senior Citizen ribbon. He will be 88 in November.

Unruh and his wife Lena came

to Canada in 1922 as a young married couple. They set up a homestead in this area shortly thereafter and raised eight children.

Ribbons were awarded for original design in a number of other categories as well. Eleanor Steffenson took the ribbon for knitting and Alice O'Neill took the honours for crochet. Marie McDonnell received the ribbon for embroidery.

The adult sewing ribbon went to Donna Plamondon and Corrine

Newman took the ribbon for non-clothing sewing. The stuffed toy ribbon went to Neva Thompson. Julie Alexander won ribbons for Original Design in both bead work and tanned leather work. John Jaeger's wood work earned him the ribbon in that category.

The Peace Country Craftman's Association will be resuming meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Artspace. Information from Moneca at 785 4758.

Craft important to community

Arts and crafts play a vital roll in all communities. The Peace Country Craftman's Association is playing a vital roll here in the Peace Country as we are promoting the proved quality of craft work in our community as well as developing the latent abilities of many creative

people. We also help to stimulate the economy.

Craft associations tend to compliment rather than hinder local business people. In many areas of the world people support themselves through their craft work. This is particularly true in Canada in parts of the Maritime

provinces and Southern British Columbia. It is also true throughout parts of the United States, Europe and Asia. It has been established that in Alberta the Visual Arts generated a \$60 million impact on the economy during 1983. Unfortunately, here in the Peace Country, we have

not yet developed our potential for bringing our artistic abilities into financially viable activities that have been recognized by the community at large.

It is an accepted fact that the dollar continues to regenerate itself in a community as long as it

stays in that community. Most of us in the Peace Country Craftman's Association purchase our materials for our crafts locally. Some of our craftspeople have noted that people from other communities tend to do their shopping in communities where craft sales are in progress. Any outside money brought into a community is "new" money which will be regenerated in the community. We also provide locally made items that advertise our

area far and wide.

Since 1984 has been declared Year of the Arts by the governments in Canada we, in the Peace Country Craftman's Association, plan on promoting visual arts through craft sales this year. Our first sale of 1984 will be held in space donated by the Pioneer Inn on Friday, March 2nd, from 9:30 am to 9:00 pm and Saturday, March 3rd, from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you then.