

Spotlight on Women



TIME-HONORED ART -- Mrs. Ellice Kulick winds wool onto her antique nitty-notty. That's another antique, a yarn winder, in the foreground.



QUEEN ANNE'S LACE FOR COLOR -- This common weed produces sunshiny yellow wool.



WOOL ON THE HOOF -- Mrs. Kulick prods the family "herd" back to the barn. (Observer photos by Gerald Gazda)

Her Wool Coats Start With Sheep

By MARGARET MILLER

One of these days, the meek folks in the Alden Kulick family of Plymouth are going to be showing off new tweed sport coats.

Mrs. Kulick plans to make them herself.

She'll also weave the fabric. She spins the wool to be used for the cloth.

And dyes it, using nature's products for her colors.

The family even raises the sheep to make the wool to spin the thread to weave the cloth to make the sports coats.

WITH GREAT fascination, Ellice Kulick has been pursuing the arts of pioneer women for several years now.

"Just think how hard they had to work," she mused while showing off her spinning wheel, yarn winder and gadget known as the nitty-notty. "They had to spin all summer to have warm clothing to wear when it turned cold."

Mrs. Kulick wouldn't wish herself back to those days. But she has to admit she finds spinning, dyeing and weaving a lot more interesting than "watching the boob tube."

HOW DID it all start? With the lambs, of course.

Mrs. Kulick explained that daughter Terese, now 16, and son Mark, 15, decided to raise sheep for 4-H projects three years ago.

They bought Corriedale lambs. "Their coats have some of the finest wool available," Mrs. Kulick said.

The first time the lambs were sheared, the Kulicks sold the wool, but it seemed a terrible waste because the price it brought was so low.

Someone suggested that Ellice Kulick learn to spin and weave it. A skilled ceramic artist who has long taught classes in that craft, Mrs. Kulick thought that idea sounded like fun.

She called Mr. Kate Edgerton, who teaches crafts like spinning and weaving in Northville, and was off on an enthralling new hobby.

NOW, after the thick, curly wool is cut from the lambs in the spring, it's all taken to the wool mill in Frankenthumb, Mich.

"That's the only place you can take it and get your own wool back," Ellice explained.

There it is washed and carded (she has a couple of wooden cards with metal teeth, but finds it most tedious work to she the pretties to farm it out.) The mill turns back to Mrs. Kulick the snowy white wool in long strips called rovings.

That's what is used for spinning, and she has mastered the intricacies of the old spinning wheel that stands in the corner of the Kulick living room.

MRS. KULICK also has learned how to store her spun yarn on the yarn winder, another antique she recently was able to purchase, and to use the nitty-notty, the device pioneer women used when they were taking wool with them for an evening of sociability and knitting.

Spun and wound, the wool then must be wet and stretched to get out the crimp that spinning puts in. Then it's ready to take on color.

"You have to experiment with dyeing," Mrs. Kulick said. "There isn't much written about it."

Her research did show her, though, that you have to first treat the white wool with a mordant, alum or cream of tartar or chrome, so it will take the dye, and that you use a big enamel pan unless you particularly want the "sadden" effect on color that an iron or copper pot would give.

And that you bring the dye almost to a boil to give the wool its fast-color, no-shrink quality.

EXPERIMENTS with dyes have been a source of delight. From armloads of Queen Anne's Lace, that feathery

weed sometimes called wild carrot, she produced a lovely yellow. "It's a shade almost like sunlight," she said, touching the soft wool strands.

Nettles gave her champagne beige. "The only way to gather them is with long clipper and a bag so you don't touch them," she warned.

A soft, light sage green was produced by the blossoms of black-eyed Susans. There seemed to be so much color left when the first batch of yarn was finished that Mrs. Kulick tried a second. It came out a color with a bit more brown. She tried again with more wool on which she had used a chrome mordant. This time it was a bronze green.

MRS. KULICK is planning to use choke cherries and elderberries for some purple yard, and some pink hibiscus growing

outside her door will produce olive green. And then there's the dark brown you can get from walnuts.

Reds are just about impossible to get without chemicals, she added.

The weaving will begin when all the dye lots are finished. Mrs. Kulick has been practicing various patterns. She also plans to set up a small loom to weave home-spun fabric to dress the old-fashioned dolls she produces with ceramic heads and hands and cloth bodies.

For fun and for demonstration purposes, Mrs. Kulick also has an Egyptian drop spindle that spins yarn the way women used to do it before the spinning wheel was invented about 1800.

She doesn't use it much. "I don't really want to go THAT far back," she said.

Hungry Fair Visitors Eat And Eat And Eat

What recipe includes 300,000 hot dogs, more than a million soft drinks, and 144,000 hamburgers?

It's part of the recipe for fun at the Michigan State Fair. There, how many hot dogs, hamburgers, and soft drinks were served at the 1969 fair.

With attendance going up every year, E.J. Keirns, state fair general manager, expects this year's fair crowds to consume even more food and drink.

The 1970 State Fair runs from Friday, Aug. 28, through Monday, Sept. 7, in Detroit.

THE FAIR last year had 65 ice cream, popcorn, beverage, and snack stands in addition to 65 food concessions. The statistics on what they served are awesome.

For example, 25,000 pounds of sugar were used, 18,000 heads of lettuce cut up for salads and sandwich fixings, and 70,000 lemons squeezed for lemonade. A total 78,000 caramel apples were sold and 20 cases of condensed milk used for caramel corn. Also in the sweets line, 420 cases of pie-filling were used in 12,600 donuts.

More than 300,000 snow cones were sold, and if the weather is warm, more than that will be consumed at this year's fair.

AND THINK of having to peel 154,000 potatoes for French fries, or shuck 36,000 ears of corn.

Sandwiches other than hot dogs and hamburgers also were popular: 15,000 roast beef, 10,000 knackwurst, 31,000 sausages.

To insure good food, the State Fair requires definite standards of high quality and to

McHenrys Celebrate 50 Years

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McHenry of Farmington celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Tuesday, Aug. 4, at a dinner for relatives and friends hosted by their son, Vincent McHenry of Farmington, and their daughter, Mrs. Donald MacKinnon, also of Farmington.

They received congratulatory telegrams from President Richard M. Nixon and Gov. William Milliken.

Following the dinner they attended mass, celebrated by Msgr. Thomas Behan in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

The couple has eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

McHenry formerly worked in the engineering department of the Ford Motor Co. Since his retirement, he has given his attention to gardening. Mrs. McHenry is a former music teacher.

m. m. memos

The day the Wish Book arrives is always a red-letter one in our house.

The name is one given by our grandmother to the bulky catalog the big mail-order stores put out twice a year.

We all enjoy thumbing through its colorful pages, and the more fashion-conscious among us can order in fantasy enough school outfits to dress several rooms full of young ladies.

In the last few catalogs, I've found an extra source of amusement.

It's the increasingly bizarre positions the models manage to assume to show off their sharp garments.

With each catalog during these days of mod styles, the knees and elbows have angled more sharply, the spines have slanted further backward and the heads have tilted at stranger angles.

So I was prepared for some real contortions this time.

But not so. The models in the Fall, 1970, catalog were standing quite upright or sitting quite naturally. Hardly a jutting knee in the bunch.

So I'm curious. Did the models complain? Did the clothes being modeled give way at the wrong seams? Or did the customers get tired just looking at all that activity?

I won't try a guess. I'll just return to my old occupation of explaining to family fashion plates that we can't buy every cute dress in the Wish Book.



JEWISH FOLK SONGS -- Joan Sofferin, of Farmington, newest member of the Greater Detroit Council of Jewish Women, entertained in Judy Collins style at the volunteer kick-off luncheon at the home of Mrs. Ben Shwayder, 27751 Fairway Drive, Franklin. She performed both American and Jewish folk songs climaxed by a rousing "Hava Nagila" in a garden setting at the Shwayder home. (News and Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

ST. CLAIR Carpet

Sale

HERCULON KITCHEN CARPET

by Masland
13 Beautiful Colors
Regimental Red Tweed
Autumn Tweed
Antique Gold Tweed
Nugget Gold Tweed
Bluegreen Tweed
Jade Blue Tweed
Turquoise Tweed
Mezzo Bridge Tweed
Spice Tweed
Moss Green Tweed
Fawn Green Tweed
Bronze Green Tweed
Lunglow Tweed
A \$9.50 Sq. Yd. Value

\$5.95 Sq. Yd.

KODEL SHAG

Many Assorted Colors & Styles By Famous Brand Manufacturer's Values up to 14.50

PRICES BEGIN AT **\$5.50** Sq. Yd.

ROLL BALANCES and Remnants

UP TO **70% OFF**

Stop in and see the beautiful 501 nylon tweeds. Completely installed our 3/8" PLUSH PAD for **\$18500** Based on 30 Sq. Yds.

SAVE NOW! PAY LATER! INSTANT CREDIT TO SUIT YOU!

SINCE 1955
ST. CLAIR Carpet of LIVONIA
MEMBER DETROIT FLOOR COVERING ASSOCIATION

28040 JOY ROAD, between Inkster and Middlebelt
GA 7-1400 or 937-1144 • DAILY 9 to 9
TUES. & SAT. 9 to 6