

# Wool Gatherers Create Champion Shawl

**HARRISBURG** — Intense competition, quality and craftsmanship flourished as the Wool Gatherers of New Hampshire topped the 1983 Fourth Annual Northeast Regional Sheep to Shawl Contest. The contest was held in conjunction with the 27th Keystone International Livestock Exposition.

Four expert teams from the Northeast participated with five members per team. Each team sheared a sheep, spun the wool into yarn and wove a shawl 80x22 inches within two and a half hours.

Using a Border Leicester sheep, the Wool Gatherers made a three-dimensional shawl with excellent

draping quality and novel pockets. They used pastel earthy shades to enhance the unique design of Mary Bishop, weaver, from Ackworth, N.H.

The team received a travelling trophy sponsored by the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers, a large plaque, ribbons and \$150 in premiums. The shawl was later auctioned to the highest bidder, Dave Sheibley of Hill Country Wool at Frost, Marlinton, West Virginia, for \$105. Team members included Judith Pratt, Priscilla Fauver, Jozi Jochums and Mary Bishop.

Spinning wheels blurred as veteran Lancaster County sheep to shawl team the Niddy Noddies

created "Ribonaccis Cascade of Autumn" using 11 natural dyes including walnut, marigold and sumac. Their shawl, rich in fall colors, was accented by a Romney cross fleece shorn by Dave Eckman, shearer from Pequea Valley, Lancaster County.

Spinners on the Noddy Noddies team included Barbara Lynch, Valerie Bechtold and Tina Wolf, while Carol Barry's expertise as weaver rounded out the team. Their shawl was purchased by Harry Hock of Hill Country Wool at Frost, Marlinton, West Virginia,

for \$110.

Bobbins flew as the third place team, the Butler County Pedalers, were the first to complete their rose/plum/cream shawl in 96 minutes. Using a Dorset sheep sponsored by Spring Fed Farms,

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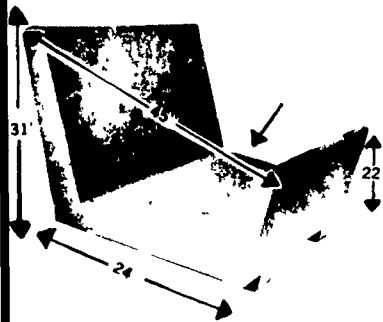
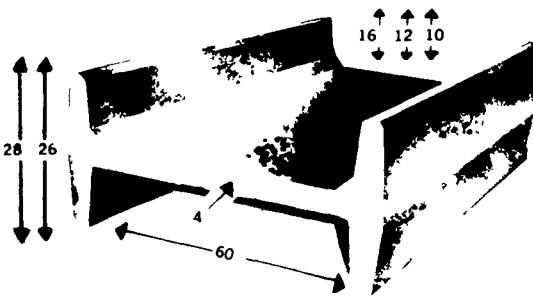


Clair Engle, of Penn State University, presents the first place trophy in the Sheep to Shawl contest to the "Wool Gatherers" from New Hampshire. This was the first time this group has ever competed as a team.

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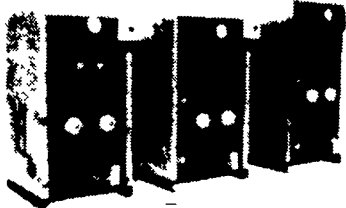
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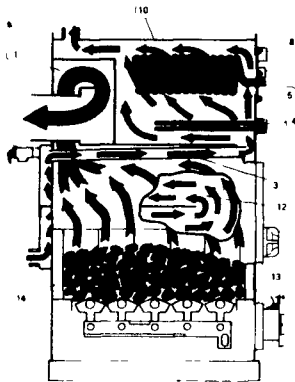
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