



LaVerne both wears and displays some of the elegant items made by the women in her knitting group.

A Cottage Industry Is Born

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent
DANVILLE (Montour Co.) —
Never one to be afraid of hard work, LaVerne Hensley's only complaint is not having enough hours in her day.

Running a knitting business from her home while tending the flock of Merino sheep that reside on the hillside of Whispering Oaks Farm would easily fill a 40-hour week. But, LaVerne is also a mother of three active children and the wife of busy pediatrician Steve Wolfe.

LaVerne began knitting as a child and first learned of cottage industries when touring England as a college student. "I found it fascinating that freelance knitting could be done in the home and sold all over the world. A seed of inspiration was planted and it kept growing until I finally started my own business right here in Pennsylvania."

It was in England that LaVerne also became aware of the many beautiful patterns of crocheted wool as well as the textures of the wool from various breeds of



Climbing the hill to the flock which has been rounded up by the collic.

sheep.

Her flock of 45 Merinos, seasoned with a few Rambouillets thrive on 35 acres carved out of virgin Pennsylvania land.

A former pediatric nurse, LaVerne says she met her husband while both were taking care of premature babies at a hospital in

Virginia.

"One night during the winter of 1994, when the snow was deep and the wind was howling, we were delivering lambs, hooking the preemies up to IVs, and setting up our own intensive care unit, when we looked at each other and both started to laugh," LaVerne says.

"We realized we'd both been working in pediatrics of one kind or another for a very long time. It's amazing how one aspect of your life will carry over into another."

It was only a little more than a year ago that LaVerne was finally able to realize her dream of employing local residents to knit or crochet items from wool. Ladies, from young mothers to senior citizens, have been skillfully and creatively turning out dresser scarves, table runners, tablecloths, and sweaters in a variety of patterns completed with authentic antique buttons, and socks.

Prices range from \$10 for a pair of socks to \$200 for a tablecloth. "We like to think of our products as heirlooms to pass on to future



LaVerne pets her Haflinger colt while the Border collic looks on.

(Turn to Page B17)

SEE YOUR NEAREST



**DEALER
FOR DEPENDABLE
EQUIPMENT & SERVICE**

PENNSYLVANIA

Anville, PA
BHM Farm
Equipment, Inc.
RD1, Rte. 934
717-867-2211

Honey Grove, PA
Norman D. Clark
& Son, Inc.
Honey Grove, PA
717-734-3682
Loysville, PA
717-789-3117

Carlisle, PA
R&W
Equipment Co.
35 East Willow Street
717-243-2686

New Holland, PA
A.B.C. Groff, Inc.
110 South Railroad
717-354-4191

Elizabethtown, PA
Messick Farm
Equipment, Inc.
Rt. 283 - Rheem's Exit
717-367-1319

Oley, PA
C.J. Wonsidler
Bros.
R.D. 2
215-987-6257

Halifax, PA
Sweigard Bros.
R.D. 3, Box 13
717-896-3414

Pitman, PA
Schreffler
Equipment
Pitman, PA
717-648-1120

Honey Brook, PA
Dependable
Motor Co.
East Main Street
215-273-3131
215-273-3737

Tamaqua, PA
Charles S.
Snyder, Inc.
R.D. 3
717-386-5945

West Grove, PA
S.G. Lewis &
Son, Inc.
R.D. 2, Box 66
215-869-2214

MARYLAND

Frederick, MD
Ceresville Ford New Holland, Inc.
Rt. 26 East 301-662-4197
Outside MD, 800-331-9122

NEW JERSEY

Bridgeton, NJ
Leslie G. Fogg,
Inc.
Canton & Stow Creek
Landing Rd.
609-451-2727
609-935-5145

Washington, NJ
Smith Tractor &
Equip., Inc.
15 Hillcrest Ave.
908-689-7900



Woodstown, NJ
Owen Supply Co.
Broad Street &
East Avenue
609-769-0308