

Through the Shop Window

...the "little shop around the corner" on Mill Street



"From the unique to the antique!"

5605 Mill Street, Richmond, IL 60071 (815) 678-4063

August 2010

Building Tomorrow

After a long absence and a few life lessons, Penny's son, Adam, has returned home. Many years ago, he and I began to "renovate" (completely rebuild) the gazebo in our yard. Since our space is extremely limited, we have resumed the project in the hopes of providing additional living space to accommodate him.

The first round of renovations resulted in an empty shell, nearly complete on the outside, but not good for much except holding odds and ends. In his absence, the structure remained unchanged, and because of our need to use every inch of space, became filled to the point of overflowing.

Upon his return in June, we resumed work on the project, which has now been completed. The once cluttered unfinished space now looks like something out of a designer magazine; inviting, functional, and complete.

In a way, the renovation project directly reflects the changes in "the boy" (as I call him). He has made the transition from a teenager to a young man. He has cleared out the "odds and ends" from his life and replaced them with a better understanding of himself, a good relationship with his family, and respect for others. He has developed self confidence, a good sense of humor, and a sense of responsibility.

So, there is hope for all of you who have teenagers. They do grow up, they hear you (even when you think they don't), and all your efforts to bring them up to be responsible adults are not in vain. Penny waited years to see this day.

Like the renovation, the process was not quick, not without pain, and not without a cost. There is no question in my mind that the end result was worth the effort.

We are glad to have "the boy" home. He is in the process of finding employment, and is now thinking "career" instead of just "job". I don't know how long he'll be with us, but I am thankful to God that Penny has seen the fruits of her labor. I will never look upon that structure without remembering how God, in His time, answered a mother's prayers.

September Classes

Knitting 101 Tuesdays September 21 – October 12 7 PM – 9 PM Knitting may seem a mystery, but it's really rather simple. It's all in how you hold the sticks! If you've always wanted to knit, here is your chance to learn. We'll do a basic felted project, and you'll learn how to cast on, knit, purl, and bind off. Felted projects are great, since the felting cover uneven tension and little mistakes. The class fee is \$65, and does not include materials or tools.

Jeweled Fan Shawl Wednesdays September 22 – October 13 7 PM – 9 PM This crochet class is a little different. If you get frustrated working from a written pattern, don't worry-you'll learn to read and use charts! Charted patterns are simple, easy to follow, and much easier to keep you place in. The material used is new from Universal Yarn, and Penny is working on the sample now. The class fee is \$65, and includes the pattern. Materials and hooks are available for purchase at the shop.

Learning to Weave Thursdays September 23 – October 14 7 PM – 9 PM For those of you who have always wanted to weave-this is your chance. This class starts from the beginning. You'll learn how to plan a project, calculate your materials, set up the loom, weave the project, and full the finished garment. All materials and use of the loom are included in the \$125 fee. The class is limited to two students. Additional studio time may be required, and students must have their projects completed by the last class.

Special Events

The shop will be closed for the following events:

Irish Fest in Milwaukee, August 20-22. Lakefront Park

Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival, September 10-12.

Jefferson, Wisconsin

The shop will close Sept 8 so we may pack and load for the show and put the shop back together afterwards-yes, we take everything! The shop will reopen for business as usual on Sept 15. This is the best festival in the area, so we hope to see you there!

2011 Winter Retreat Update

The 2011 Winter Retreat is sold out. However, we will be forming a waiting list in the event that there are any cancellations. If you would like to get on the list, please call the shop. If a vacancy opens, we will work down the list until it is filled. The cost is \$80 per person. Vacancies will be filled on a "first come-first served" basis.