

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

September 2009

Ready, Set, Park!

Well, even though the weather shows little sign of it being summer, the road crews are well aware of the season. I have never seen so much work being done (with so little planning and blatant disregard the motorists) at one time. You can't go anywhere without being stuck in construction (if I just said you can't go anywhere-that would be equally true). Still, it seems ironic that the dollars spent to stimulate the economy are, in fact, the root cause of the slow recovery. Those who are still employed find it almost impossible to get to and from work. Once home, the last thing they want to do is wade through the construction and traffic to go shopping (thus, our economic engine is stuck in idle).

While I just find it frustrating, Penny finds the added time perfect for knitting. Now I'm not suggesting that you knit while driving (i.e. the car is moving); however, since this summer the car is motionless most of the commute, knitting does fill the time (and yes, I have seen people other than my wife doing it during the evening commute).

So, this summer don't just sit in traffic-be productive. We have plenty of project ideas and suggestions that will replace your frustration with relaxation-at least for those moments you are at a complete stop.

Now, given the current road conditions and traffic, I estimate that the average person commuting 10 miles per day to work should be able to finish at least on pair of wool socks before winter. I just hope they're done with the roads before the first snowfall.

October Classes

The Felted Jacket Tuesdays October 6- Nov 3 7 PM – 9 PM This is our most popular advanced knitting class. The project is the "Fiber Trends Felted Jacket". There is a lot of knitting, but the results are worth it. You'll learn controlled felting techniques, simple pattern knitting, and how to make a garment without having to piece it together. A sample of the project is on display in the shop. This is a fantastic project, and a chance to apply multiple techniques in a single project. The class fee is \$65, and does not include materials or tools, all of which are available at the shop.

Using the Spinning Wheel Wednesdays October 7-28 7 PM – 9 PM Spinning is not only an ancient art, it's a great way to get rid of stress-fantastic handspun yarn is a bonus! Spinning is easily learned. Simple techniques and lots of practice are all that's required. If you've always wanted to spin-this is your chance. The class fee is \$60, which includes 50 grams of prepared fiber to spin. If you don't own a wheel, you may use a studio wheel for a \$20 bobbin rental fee. Class is limited to 4 students.

"Crash Course"

Punch Needle Rugs Thursdays October 8-16 7 PM – 9 PM Do you love the look of hooked rugs but don't the time to make one? Well, there is a fast and easy way to get that look. Punch Needle is an easy technique that requires a minimum amount of equipment. Patterns are easy to follow and, if you have the desire, easy to create! This two evening course will teach you all the basics. The class fee is \$35, and space is limited to 4 students.

The Wisconsin Spin-In will be held October 30-November 1 at the Washington county Fairgrounds Pavilion. This is a great event with excellent classes and a good variety of vendors. For more information, stop in the shop or look at they up on the web.

Penny and I will be attending and vending. The Fairgrounds are just north of Milwaukee, with easy access from the expressway. If you have the weekend, or just a day, it's worth the drive.

If you can attend, don't worry. The shop will be open for regular business that weekend.

Tickets for the 2010 Winter Retreat are now available

The 2010 Winter Retreat will again be held at the Little Switzerland Inn in McGregor, Iowa. The dates are January 29-31. The cost is \$80 per person, and includes 2 nights lodging, two breakfasts, and lunch on Saturday. We do have some limited space remaining. Stop in the shop and reserve your spot today!

We will be closed September 11-13 for
**The Wisconsin Sheep and Wool
Festival.**

We will be vending in the country market-east building. See you at the show!