

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

by MARY M. ATWATER

Address all questions to Mary M. Atwater, Director of the Shuttle Craft Guild, Basin, Montana

Question: Why do I have trouble with my left hand edges: My right hand edges seem to be all right.

Answer: Many weavers have more trouble with one edge than the other. This may be due to the light in which the loom stands — a better light on one side than the other. It may be due to an individual habit in handling the shuttle. It may be due to the warp which perhaps was not held at the same tension for both edges. It may be due to some slight variation from true in the frame of the loom. If the warp-beam, slab-stock, breast-beam and cloth-beam are not in perfect alignment the warp will run looser on one side than the other, resulting in poor edges on one side. Measure the loom carefully to test the alignment if the difficulty continues. The frame of the loom may have become slightly warped, the bolts may have worked loose and the loom not be standing perfectly square. If the loom has a folding frame, one side may not come down exactly true with the other. If the fault is in the loom it should be corrected, as it will be impossible to weave correctly till this is done.

Question: Should the warp always be stretched as tight as possible?

Answer: No — except for certain fabrics. As a rule it is a mistake to stretch the warp very tight as it makes the loom heavy to operate and puts unnecessary strain on the warp. Moreover in looms of the “jack” type, operated with the raising ties only — like the Bernat treadle loom and other modern looms of this order — stretching the warp very tight raises the harnesses and lifts the lower part of the warp off the shuttle-race, and makes it impossible to get a good shed. The only ways to correct this in a jack loom are by using two sets of lamms and a double tie-up or by weighting the harnesses very heavily. There are draw-backs to either procedure. Therefore on a loom of this type, do not stretch the warp enough to lift the harnesses.

ERRATA

In the previous issue of the “Weaver” an article entitled “Coverlet Samplers” was credited to Marguerite P. Davidson; should have been credited to MARGUERITE P. DAVISON.