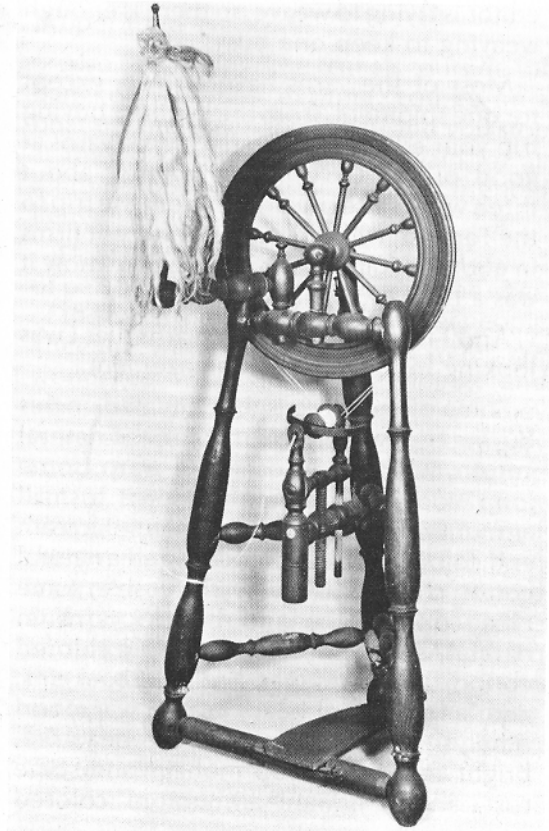
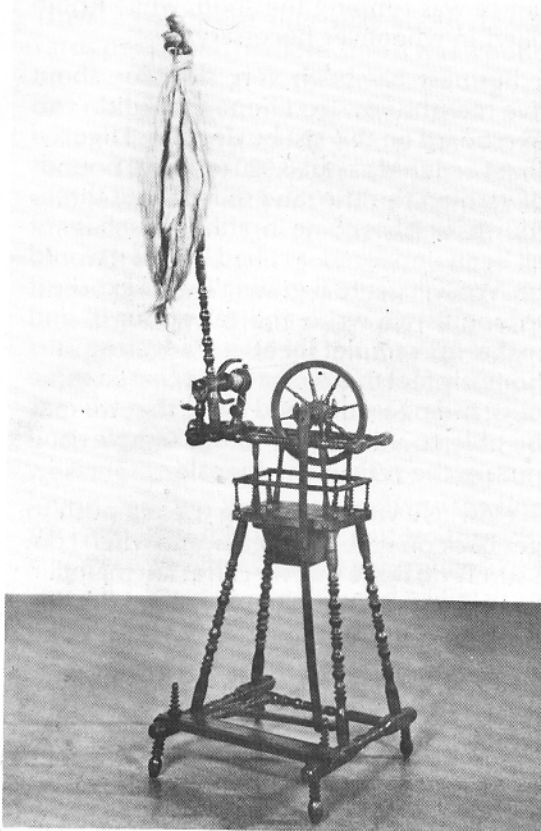
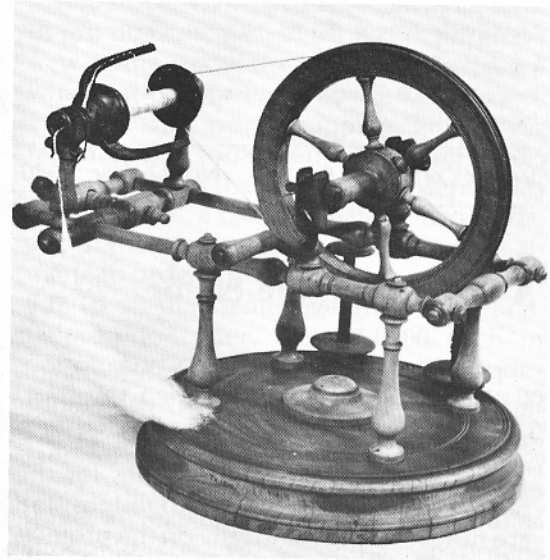
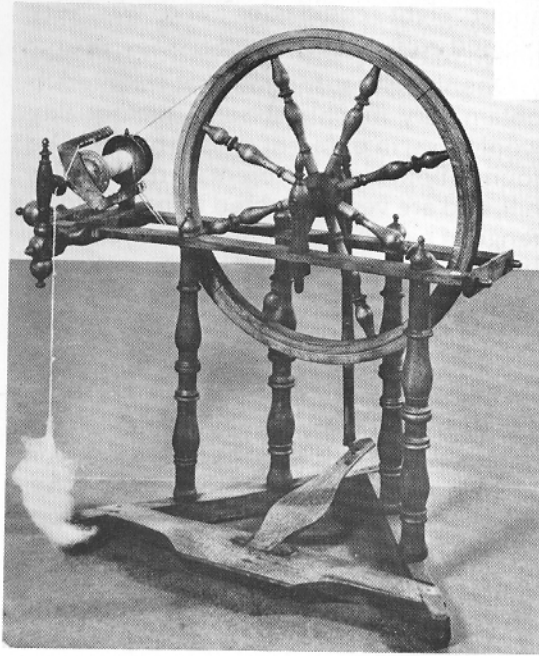


warp and weft

Vol. XXXIII, No. 9

November, 1980



warp and weft

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Vol. XXXIII, No. 9 November, 1980

A Word from the Editor

The holiday season is with us once again, and as business slows down, your editor starts to weave.

We have just designed samples for the next two months of Drafts and Designs, and are now working frantically on the projects for Warp and Weft. Including this month's sample, we have five projects that your editor is trying to weave, so there is enough weaving to keep one busy.

Most of the yarns have arrived, except for one shipment, from the last busy buying trip your editor made to find some yarns at good prices. On this buying trip, about three weeks after my return from the trip to the Far East, I visited with 24 different firms in about six different states, so you know it was a busy trip.

And I found many of the yarns that I was looking for, to my great amazement.

Some of the threads that I located on this buying trip were a 30/5 mercerized natural cotton, which is an excellent warp, some loop wool and loop mohair yarns, a small amount of linen yarns, some natural, cream and colored cotton chenilles, and a natural cotton chenille in a heavy 3-cut size; some nice cotton flake and boucle yarns in natural, about 30 colors of 6-ply colored cotton floss on cones and 1/2-lb. skeins, and a 4/4 natural heavy cotton warp, and other such yarns. There is one beautiful, bright red, large loop mohair, and some rust, and a limited amount of colored

mohair. All in all, I ordered yarns from about eight companies, and was very pleased with what I found.

One thing that I found that I wanted to obtain very much was some nice quality wool yarns, in different sizes in natural. We found about eight different yarns to fill this bill, and are very delighted to have a good range of natural 2- and 3-ply wool yarns at a reasonable price. In our warehouse storage room which we rent, there are now about 60 boxes which we've not opened yet.

Also, one of the things which I purchased on this trip was about 15,000 skeins of the 6-strand embroidery floss in mercerized cotton, which sells for about 30¢ a skein on today's market. We are able to offer these in many, many! different colors at 6¢ per skein.

In fact, in our yarn offerings, you will find one offer on this yarn that might be of interest.

While I was gone on this buying trip, Janice was running the shop, while Robin filled in whenever necessary.

Business has been very slow for about five months now, so I hope that I didn't go overboard on this last buying trip. I figured that I ordered about 8,000 to 10,000 pounds of yarn on this trip, and so far about three-fourths of it has come in, although it has not all been unpacked, as I had hoped it would be. We will get to it gradually and expose it to you as we write and tell about it, and make up sample sheets to advertise it. I honestly feel that we have purchased some outstanding values, and hope that we may be able to utilize it in future samples and put up the remainder for sale.

Now, we will be making the big push to get back on schedule again, and when I do, I surely do hope that we can at last maintain a regular, even schedule in the publication of Warp and Weft.

My apologies for being late once again, as we had caught up last September and were on schedule at that time. Once again, we are behind the 8-ball, and trying to catch up.

I will say that if this recession does continue, as I expect it to, that we will be caught up in full by February or March; and then, perhaps we will have a chance to try and get ahead of schedule.

Enough chatter for this month, and back to the sample we have chosen for this month.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

More Details About A Far Eastern Trip

In Bali, we visited some weavers, and there the weaving is done differently than here. Their looms were small frames, about 24 to 36", and almost square, and with a very small, about 2", round warp beam. These frames were about 16 to 20" high, and were made so the weaver could slide his legs under the front of the loom, and then it would be sitting just in front of him. Their warps were fine silk, about 12,000 yards per pound or more, and it was wound on the beam, and threaded through a double arrangement of shed stick and roller stick, very much like a back-strap loom. Then, the warp was all fastened to one lease stick in front with a leather belt on the two ends. This leather belt would go around their waist, and they would sit under the loom, and lean back for a tight tension. Then, when they used the warp stick like on the Navajo loom or backstrap loom, they would lean forward to roll up the threads they wanted and then lean back again for a tighter tension when weaving. There were no harnesses on their looms, but they were weaving with the fine silk, and with metallic for pattern threads, and were weaving samples very much like 4 and 8 harness twills and miniature overshots.

These were most different, and interesting to see, and you could purchase a beautiful white or colored silk stole, with very intricate metallic, wide borders on each end for about \$12 to \$16 U.S.

Mostly women weavers, although I did see one man doing this, and it was very much fun to see them weaving.

In Bali, on the way to Singapore, three of us lost our suitcases, so we had to purchase new clothes, as all the clothes we had were what was on our back. So we waited until Bangkok and went shopping, and it was fascinating. I took them to a hotel tailor, and at 10:00 in the morning I ordered two pair of pants, a pair of pajamas, two shirts, and some underpants; and these were all made to order and delivered to our hotel at 6:00 p.m. that same evening. The shirts, tailored to order, were \$12.00 each in cotton, and \$17.00 each in silk; and a made-to-order pair of pants for men was \$18.00 per pair. One of the men ordered a nice tailored cotton suit (sport coat and pants), and for one suit he paid \$37.00. So, it was quite an experience to do this kind of shopping. Then we went to a department store, but most of the people in Thailand were small, so it was very hard to find the proper fit in the store.

Also, exploring the canals outside of Bangkok was most exciting. You go on a boat up and down the canal, and you stop at the floating market and bargain for all kinds of food and clothing and household items.

Floating down the canal, we saw a crowd of persons lining a bridge, and on the edge of the canal there were hundreds of people kneeling, with their hands in the water. We wondered what they were doing; and when we got close, we found out. They were all feeding the fish in the canal by hand. Yes, the fish were actually eating out of their hands. This was actually at a temple site, and these were all members of the temple who were feeding the fish. And it turned out that they were buying bread and popcorn from the members of the temple and feeding it to the fish. And from the money raised by doing this, all of the money was to go to the temple to help pay for a new addition they wanted to put on the temple.

(continued on page 7)

“SUPERHIGHWAY”

Our sample this month is a very intricate 4-harness overshot miniature pattern, originally designed by Bertha Grey Hayes at a time when the first super-highways were first thought of and the first one was made.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

4	X	X	O	O	X	O
3	X	O	O	X	O	X
2	O	O	X	X	X	O
1	O	X	X	O	O	X
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					A	B

X—tie-up for Counter-balanced looms.
O—tie-up for Jack-type looms.

THREADING DRAFT:

	D	C	Pattern B to C — 56 Threads				B	A
4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

L. Selv. R. Selv.

THREADING PLAN FOR MATS, 15½" WIDE

- 1. Right Selvage 05
- 2. B to C — 8 times 448
- 3. Left Selvage 05
- Threads in 15½" width 458

WARP:

Our warp is the 20/2 Mercerized and Gassed Cotton, Safari Brown, which we have on sale at less than 1/2 of the regular price, at \$6.00 per pound, on tubes of 5 to 6 ounces each.

WEFT:

We have two threads in the weft. One is the 20/2 Cotton, Safari Brown, which is used for the tabby thread.

The second thread is the 6-strand cotton floss in Bright Orange, one of the 30 colors we have in this bright cotton.

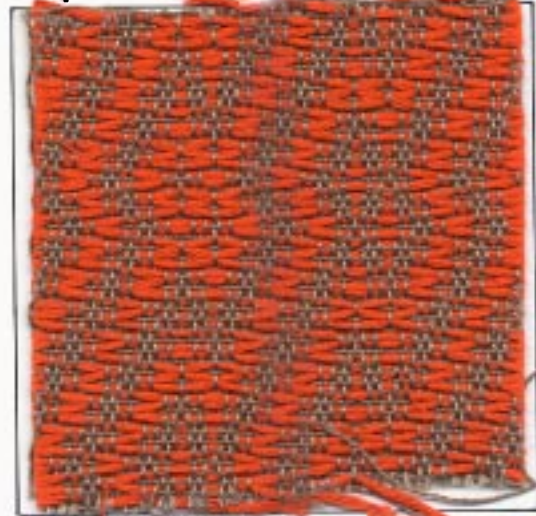
REED USED:

A 15-dent reed was used, and it was double-sleyed, 2 ends per dent, or 30 threads per inch.

WEAVING PLAN FOR FINISHED PLACEMATS—About 14" Wide

1. Right Selv. Treadle 4, 3, 2, 1, and you can repeat this over and over if you wish to do so.

Sample



2. Main pattern treading, repeat over and over for desired length.

- 1. Treadle #4 — 2 times
- 2. Treadle #1 — 3 times
- 3. Treadle #2 — 2 times
- 4. Treadle #1 — 3 times
- 5. Treadle #4 — 3 times
- 6. Treadle #3 — 3 times
- 7. Treadle #2 — 3 times
- 8. Treadle #1 — 3 times
- 9. Treadle #4 — 3 times
- 10. Treadle #3 — 3 times
- 11. Treadle #2 — 2 times

(continued next page)

12. Treadle #3 — 3 times
13. Treadle #4 — 2 times
14. Treadle #3 — 3 times
15. Treadle #2 — 3 times
16. Treadle #1 — 3 times
17. Treadle #4 — 3 times
18. Treadle #3 — 3 times
19. Treadle #2 — 3 times
20. Treadle #1 — 3 times

End of one pattern. Repeat for the desired length. Then on the last repeat, be sure to add treadle #4, 2 times to balance.

3. Left Selvage. Treadle 1, 2, 3, 4, and you repeat this over and over the same as you did at the beginning of the mat.

SIZE OF PLACEMATS:

After hemmed and ready for use, most placemats are 12x18, 13x19, and 14x20 inches in size. If you have a 15½" warp and are doing an overshot like this, it will weave down to about 14" width when it comes off the loom. So, you want to plan your weaving so your mat is about 20" long, plus extra length for hem on each end.

USES FOR THIS PATTERN:

This pattern is a miniature overshot weave. That means that the float threads are not long ones, so this type of weave is excellent for upholstery on traditional or period furniture. It would make nice drapes, pillows, table runners, and in wools of a soft, nice quality; even an all-over pattern would make nice suiting, scarves, and have other uses.

I originally wove this with the thought in mind of using it for upholstery, and it would work very well for this.

COST OF THE THREADS USED:

Our warp thread of Safari Brown Mercerized and Gassed cotton is on 4- to 6-oz. tubes, and we have it on sale at \$6.00 per pound. The regular price is normally \$13.00. We have about 50 pounds of this and a grey at this price. It has about 7500 yards per pound.

In the weft, we used the same thread for tabby as we used for warp. For the pattern thread, we used a 6-strand cotton embroidery floss, which we have in stock on skeins of about 1/2 pound each, and on cones of about 2 pounds each. The price is \$8.00 per pound, and we are delighted that we were able to purchase about 25 beautiful colors in this cotton.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

In our warp, 12 yards long, 40" wide, we used slightly less than 2 pounds of the 20/2 Safari Brown. So, our total warp cost for 12 yards was \$12.00; or the cost per yard was \$1.00.

In the weft, we used 3 lbs. 11 oz. of the Orange 6-strand cotton floss in the 11¼ yards of finished fabric. And in this we also used slightly less than 1 pound of the 18/2 safari brown cotton. So, our total weft cost for 11¼ yards comes to \$35.50; and thus the cost per yard is \$3.16.

WARP COST PER YARD, 40" wide	\$1.00
WEFT COST PER YARD, 37" wide	<u>3.16</u>
FABRIC COST PER YARD \$4.16

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

One thing that I want to mention is that we had trouble with broken selvage threads on this fabric until I started to use a temple or stretcher. After I started using this, and it was set at a 39" width, we never had one broken thread in the next 10½ yards of fabric.

This is one place where I felt the temple or stretcher was an invaluable aid. I tried doubling threads on the edge for selvage before using the stretcher, and I still had broken threads; and so, it was a life-saver in this case.

I used a firm, even, double beat on this fabric.

Also, notice that you have a diagonal in the pattern at approximately a 45-degree angle. If your weaving ever deviates from this, then you know that you've made a mistake in your treadling. And, this is one

(continued next page)

of the patterns which has been “woven as drawn in,” or treadled as drawn in, as you sometimes say.

I have been greatly intrigued by these miniatures of Bertha Grey Hayes, and those of Josephine Estes, and have woven most of them. In the B.G. Hayes folio, there are about 75 given; and in the Josephine Estes folios, there are 24 each. There is something intriguing about the miniatures that makes you want to weave these.

Also, the treadling is quite long, and sort of hard to memorize, so I divided it into groups of 4's; and as I finished each group of 4 treadles, I put a pin in my pattern to show where I had just finished; and then I moved on to the next group of 4. I found that it took me about 3 hours per yard to weave this fabric.

This Month's Cover Photograph

Seeing the many different styles and shapes of spinning wheels that have been produced in the United States these past five years reminded me of some unusual spinning wheels that I saw in the textile department of the Bankfield Museum in Halifax, England. So, I wrote and asked for pictures of some of the different wheels that I'd seen for the past ten years, and this is what we are featuring on the cover this month. On the top right is a table model English spinning wheel, and on the lower right is an Irish Flax wheel. On the top left is a typical wheel that you see in France, in Italy, and in Switzerland. And the lower left is an English Flax wheel.

These, and many others are on display at the Halifax or the Bankfield Museum in Halifax; and if you are ever in England, I'm sure that you would enjoy a visit to this Textile Museum. The correct name is “THE BANKFIELD MUSEUM,” in Halifax, near Bradford, England.

This Month's Book Review

Color is sometimes the downfall of many hand-weavers, so the more you can study about color and practice what you read, the better some of your color effects are. There is a new book out by Faber Birren entitled THE TEXTILE COLORIST, which is very interesting, and I think would help persons to benefit from the reading and remembering of the contents of this book. This book was written by Faber Birren, who is an outstanding authority on color, and who in the past has written about 15 different books on the subject of color and its use.

This book contains 16 full pages of color prints; and on these pages he shows about tints, values, shades, analogous colors—brights and shades, analogous colors—tints and tones, details about complementary colors, about color to black, and color to white, about tints to shades, and colors to gray; and plates showing bright backgrounds, tint backgrounds, tone and shade backgrounds, color blending, optical color mixtures, etc. Then there is usually a page of explanations devoted to each of these 16 full pages of color. He discusses the entire color keyboard, general color blending, optical color mixtures, formal color harmony, and the artist's viewpoint about color. A most serious and interesting book. I feel that if one studies this intently, and tries to store it in his memory, that this book will be a great store of knowledge for the weaver who has problems with color choice.

Mr. Birren presents a harmonious series of color effects for all textile workers and textile techniques. He states that many textile artists are frustrated by special color problems, and thus, this is why he wrote this manual. He describes different types of color combinations such as tints, tones, brights, and shades; and illustrates each type with a plethora of examples.

He tries to explain the principles of color harmony which have developed through history, and are explained and also illustrated by the work of famous artists.

Available in paperback only, this book is \$12.95 plus postage and handling.

TITLE: THE TEXTILE COLORIST
AUTHOR: Faber Birren
PUBLISHER: Van Nostrand Reinhold
COST: \$12.95 plus shipping and handling
AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ Handweavers or directly from the publishers if desired.

More Details About a Far Eastern Trip (continued from page 3)

So we stopped, purchased 30 loaves of bread, and all 30 of us on the barge then proceeded to feed the fish also. And these were large fish of 15 to 25 pounds each, and they looked like large catfish. It was really a most unusual experience.

And while floating on this barge, they brought out a large basket of six different kinds of native fruit for all of us to taste and eat. There were fruits there that most of us had never seen before; and this, too, was most interesting.

Well, enough for this time, and we'll have another little story for the next issue.

Russell E. Groff

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$6.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

HEAVY, NATURAL, 3-PLY WOOL YARN.

About the size of a pencil, this natural 3-ply wool seems to be an extra good quality. Price is \$8.00 per lb., and it is in about 1/2-lb. skeins. Should dye very well, and be useful in rugs, wall hangings, and in most fabrics where you want a heavy rib or accent thread. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

10/2 SPUN RAYON IN ABOUT 6 SHADES OF BROWN, BEIGE AND ROSE BEIGE, AND ALSO NATURAL.

About 3800 yards per lb., these are all 2-ply for warp or weft. Most on about 1-lb. cones or tubes. They are most beautiful all together. Price on all of these is \$4.00 per lb., and it can be used for warp or weft. I think a fabric out of these 5 colors and the natural would be beautiful. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SPECIAL OFFER ON 6-STRAND MERCERIZED COTTON EMBROIDERY FLOSS.

We have a lot of 15,000 skeins (9 yards each) of cotton embroidery floss. We have a special offer of 100 skeins (at least 25 or more colors). Most will be solid colors, and we will also include about 5 space-dyed color samples unless you say you want all solid colors. A SPECIAL OFFER OF 100 SKEINS for \$5.50 plus shipping and handling. This is selling on today's market at 29¢ and 30¢ per skein, and our offer is for less than 6¢ per skein. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

6-STRAND EMBROIDERY FLOSS ON CONES OR 1/2-LB. SKEINS.

We have 30 colors on hand of the 6-strand embroidery floss or cotton on 1/2-lb. skeins or about 2-lb. cones. We will send you free samples upon request, at a price way below market price. Our price is \$8.00 per pound. It has about 2,000 yards per pound. We will offer it on 4-oz. tubes at \$2.50 each; and I see Belding-Lily's current price is \$2.45 for 2 oz., while this is 4 oz. for \$2.50. Or, if you want as much as a pound of a color, it is the \$8.00 per lb. price. A good, good buy. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

30/5 NATURAL, MERCERIZED DURENE COTTON

This is a beautiful durenne 5-ply cotton warp. It is slightly finer than a 10/2 cotton, with about 5,000 yards per pound. On cones of about 2 lbs. to 2½ lbs. each, at \$4.80 per lb. while it lasts. I expect this one to sell quite fast, as it is such a good buy. 5,000 yards per lb. and excellent warp at 20 or 24 e.p.i. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

8/2 WORSTED SPUN, 60% WOOL, 40% NYLON IN ABOUT 10 COLORS.

We have just received 5 new colors to go with the 5 old colors we had. About 2200 yards per lb., and the new lot is on about 1-lb. cones. Excellent for warp or weft. Has a nice soft hand. Price is \$6.80 per lb. We have about 50 lbs. each or more of these 10 colors. We will make sample sheets soon of this. Available upon request. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/10's WORSTED SPUN, NATURAL WOOL.

A very nice worsted yarn, and there is about 100 lbs. of this, on about 2½- to 3-lb. cones. It has 2400 yards per lb., and makes a good warp thread. Price is \$8.00 per lb., and we can wind off 1/2-lb. tubes for you at \$4.00 per tube. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/3.5 NATURAL, 2-PLY LAMBSWOOL.

Has a nice soft hand, is 2 ply, and can be used for warp or weft, and it has about 2400 yards per lb. On about 2-lb. cones. The price is \$8.00 per lb. while it lasts. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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