



# Latimer's Loose Threads

Issue 88 July/August 2024

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Regular board Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of odd numbered months

**Manager** Susan Spivey  
**Assistant** Elliana Diamond

## From the Attic

We are showcasing quilts from the Tillamook Pioneer Museum. The group of quilts dates from the 1800s to the 1930s. In the collection there are quilts, quilt tops, and a coverlet or two. We are including our two oldest quilts from the Latimer collection; one is from the late 1700s and the other one dates to the very early 1800s.

**Open House July 7, 12-4 pm**

2105 Wilson River Loop Road  
 Tillamook, Oregon 97141

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 Lamer2105@gmail.com

## A Message from our President

I found some interesting facts on sewing machines, and thought I would share what I found.

I guess we need to go back and determine where sewing originated.

The weaving of cloth from natural fibers originated in the Middle East around 4000 BCE, and perhaps earlier, during the Neolithic Age. The sewing of cloth accompanied this development. All sewing was done by hand for centuries. During the Middle Ages Europeans who could afford it employed seamstresses and tailors.

The first industrial sewing machines were made in the early 1800s. Jump ahead to 1846 in American when Elias Howe, an American inventor, came up with a design that was new to the sewing machine designs of the past. His machine was successful but still seen as a machine that would take away jobs and therefore did not sell well. The sewing machine shifted the burden of sewing from housewives and seamstresses to large scale factories, providing greater productivity and lower prices. This touched off a technological industry.

By 1850 Isaac Singer developed sewing machines more suited to home use. His company began making home sewing machines that sold for \$100 (over \$2700 dollars in today's money).

A 1852 Singer home sewing machine

Bye for now;  
Carol



## Updates and Changes at Latimer:

We have a new assistant. Ellian Diamond joined us in June, and will working on Fridays and Saturdays.

Latimer is in need of volunteers for the following:

Historian

Class manager

Contact the Latimer or any board member if you are willing to help out.

**Latimer has a new member's challenge for the January/February 2025 exhibit. The theme is "Fruit Salad". Interpret this in any way you choose using any medium. Maximum size is 18" by 24". Entries are due December 1st.**

## Library News

### New Books

"A Modern Twist" by Natalie Barnes with Angela Watters

"Simply Color Purple" by Vanessa Christenson

"Skinny Quilts and Table Runners II", edited by Eleanor Levie

"Sew Gifts" The Patchwork Place

"Women of Designs: Quilts in the Newspaper Paperback" by Barbara Brackman

"Simple Woven Garments" by Sara Goldenburg and Jane Patrick

"Rag Rug Handbook" by Janet Meany

"Green Gables Knits" by Joanna Johnson

"Knit Noro Accessories" Sixth and Spring Books

In addition to books, the Latimer has equipment that can be checked out to members.



## Reports from the Guilds

The **Fiber Artisans Guild** welcomes all fiber artisans on Tuesdays from 10 to 4. John and Nitta have been spinning up a storm. Several of us are weaving (see the report from the weavers, below), and Liz has been working on finishing rugs. We are preparing for several dye days later in the summer.



Marbling samples from last summer's dye days

The **Tillamook County Quilters** is displaying quilts at Latimer Quilt and Textile Museum this May and June. The show is focused on two quilt techniques. One is watercolor quilting, where small bits of fabric are combined to create an image. The second one is landscape quilting where fabrics are used to paint a landscape image or still life. Some of these use a pattern, others are freely created by the quilter. Be sure to stop by to see the quilts hanging. In June the quilters will have another three day retreat at Rockaway Community Church. We enjoy the fellowship of others and the creative energy of our combined efforts. Delicious desserts and home made bread treats are just a bonus! We wish you a summer of joy and creative happiness!

The May-June exhibit brought a lot of visitors to the Latimer.



"Waterlilies" pieced and quilted by Lisa Wiley



"Beach Path" designed, pieced and stitched by Robin Bock



"4 Seasons on the Beach" pieced and quilted by Jeri Sowles





"On the Road Again"  
pieced, designed  
and quilted by  
Diane Laurin



"Twin Rocks,  
Rockaway  
Beach"  
by Robin Bock



"Grandma's Sewing  
Machine" pieced,  
applied and quilted by  
Jeri Sowle

**Cordelia's Knitters** at the Latimer held a special event on June 8, 2024 to mark World Wide Knit in Public Day. Our activity is something we call “pass the hat”. Each knitter brought a hat brim they had knit onto a 16-inch needle appropriate for worsted yarn. In addition, each person brought a supply of yarn—the scrappier, the better.

The timer set a random time (between 7 and 23 minutes). To start, everyone clipped their hat rim free of their yarn and handed the hat-start to the person on their right. They received a hat from their left and knit for a random time, stopping when the alarm sounded, then repeating the procedure. When the day was over the hats were almost ready to have the tops knit and closed. Everyone took their hat back to finish and will bring them next Thursday. Hopefully, they will be finished and ready to show to the rest of the group.



Greetings from the **Latimer's Weavers!** Come visit the weaving room see what's new on the looms; there's a lot of warping going on! Stephanie is currently dressing our Oregon Trail loom for a scarf. Marilyn R. is tying on an eight-yard warp to weave up-cycled T-shirt placemats. Kathy is weaving blue and white towels on our eight-harness Gilmore loom. Marilyn A. is dressing the Loomcraft loom and we look forward to finding out what she is making soon. Joyce is getting ready to dress the four-harness Gilmore loom. Stephany A. is weaving a krökbragd rug on our Ullman loom. Tamara is weaving colorful towels on the Fireside loom. Beverly is beginning to weave a tapestry, and Sofie is in the process of dressing the Macomber to make her first deflected double weave scarf.

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### **Salish Fiber Dogs, Part 3**

**by Marilyn Roossinck**

Parts 1 and 2 can be found in issues 66 and 67, respectively, of the Latimer's Loose Threads. If you can't find them send me an email and I will send you a copy of the articles, [mjr25@psu.edu](mailto:mjr25@psu.edu)

The Salish woolly dogs were developed through selective breeding by the Salish peoples of the Northwest Coastal regions of North America. There is ample evidence that these dogs were treasured and protected by their humans. They were shorn with knives, similar to sheep shearing, and the fur used to spin and weave blankets that were highly prized. There are a few other dog breeds that were developed in North America, including the American and Canadian Eskimo dogs. These are spitz-like dogs that resemble Asian breeds such as the Samoyed and the Japanese Shiba Inu. The origin of the Salish woolly dogs has remained a mystery until very recently.

Around 1858 a Salish woolly dog was adopted by George Gibbs, ethnologist and naturalist. He named the dog Mutton because it loved to chase sheep, and he kept a journal detailing the dogs behavior. After Mutton's death a few years later his lower leg bones and pelt were sent to the Smithsonian institute, along with Gibbs' journal. The remains of Mutton remained in a drawer in the museum until 2002, when they were re-discovered by a historian who compared the fibers to a known Salish dog fur blanket and determined that Mutton was indeed a Salish woolly dog.

In 2021, when the Smithsonian ancient DNA lab was closed because of the COVID pandemic, research scientist Audrey Lin was stuck at home and read the story of the Salish dogs. She was curious about Mutton, and after reaching out to Smithsonian scientist Logan Kistler they were able to determine the DNA sequence of Mutton's genome from the samples at the lab. Mutton turned out to be 84% Salish woolly dog, and 16% European dog. Further analysis indicated that Mutton had a great grandmother who was a dog from European colonizers.

With the genetic information from Mutton, the history of the Salish woolly dogs was revealed. Their closest relatives are Asian dogs, but the woolly dogs diverged from them around 2000 years ago, indicating the selective breeding of these dogs was long ago. There is evidence that there were other woolly dogs in the Pacific Northwest, of different colors and cared for by different peoples.

The pelt of Mutton, the woolly dog, was stored at the Smithsonian for over 150 years



**Upcoming Classes**

Artist Tiles	Aug. 10
Creative basket Weaving	Oct. 12

Please contact the Latimer for more information and supply lists. Most classes have limited numbers, as well as member discounts.

**Upcoming Exhibits**

September/October Susan Callahan and friends  
 November/December Multi-artists from the Grand Ronde  
 January/February Latimer Artisans "Fruit Salad"

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

Open House Sunday May 19			
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Oregon Coast Fiber Artisans Guild Tuesdays 10-4	Board Meeting Wednesda July 17	Cordelia's Knitters Thursdays 1-3 and 5:30-7:30	Ocean Breeze Rugcrafters Fridays 10-2
	Tillamook County Quilt Guild July 17 10:30-12:30		Latimer Weavers Fridays 10-4



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10 am to 4 pm Tuesday through Saturday

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Thanks to Kim Schauss for statistics.