

Muir's Thanked with Alpaca Quilt by Heritage Village Spinners and Weavers

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[Tyler County Booster](#), 09-18-14, 5B.



Recognized for their generosity – Jim and Janet Muir of Woodville have alpacas and have been donating wool from their sheering to the Heritage Village Spinners and Weavers since 2010. They thanked the Muirs for their generosity Saturday with a pure alpaca quilt. Shown in the photo, from left to right are Norma Harriman, Martha Hanlon, Marilyn Cribbs, Janet Muir, Sandy Taylor, Jim Muir, Connie Lovelace and Bobbie Pesson.

Jim and Janet Muir were thanked with a pure alpaca quilt spun and knitted by the Heritage Village Spinners and Weavers Guild on Saturday, Sept. 13.

Connie Lovelace helped coordinate the recognition for the Muirs who have been donating alpaca fleece from their sheering since the fall of 2010. Lovelace said, “There was much excitement of the prospect of obtaining the fiber. We all were very much in love with the wonderful soft fiber. To us it was a real treasure.”

Some new spinners found it slippery and hard to manage at first.

As the months rolled on and they learned how to spin, weave and knit it, they determined to create something nice for the Muirs, in appreciation for their generous donation.

It takes a bit of time to clean, wash and card the raw fleece. They outsourced some of the work so they could focus upon spinning and knitting. Carding is the last process that often uses two paddles similar to Ping-Pong paddles, only larger and square with hundreds of pins in each. As one “cards” the fiber between two paddles, the goal is to disentangle the

fibers and generally align them. Once removed from the cards, the fiber is ready to be spun, and once spun, ready to be knitted or woven.

All of the spinners helped spin. Most could knit and contributed squares that were crocheted together to create a lovely afghan. And Lovelace said, "Working together on this project also 'knitted' us closer as a guild. Having the alpaca fiber as a resource has certainly strengthened the guild as well."

This locally harvested and locally spun fiber further enhances the heritage. Two members of the guild have already spun and knitted alpaca shawls that they will wear to complement their period attire during public demonstrations.

Guild founders Jess and Georgia Collins also sent regards, who were traveling and could not be present.

The Muirs both retired from U.S. Army after 20 years and settled in Woodville. Their alpaca and llama ranch is right behind the Hennigan Ball Field, where they also raise wild turkeys and guinea.

Janet retired as a Sgt. First Class, chief optician and NCO in charge of the optics lab at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Jim retired as a Master Sgt., his last assignment heading the base's EEO Office for Fort Jackson, the largest army training base in the world. He has a lot fine memories defending soldiers' civil rights and saving the careers of a few.

The Muirs were very honored to receive the quilt from the Spinners and Weavers.

