

The raising of sheep, the spinning of wool, the weaving of textiles, are almost as old as the human race, ^{and} through the centuries this knowledge has spread far and wide. When the Spanish Conquistadores came to the Southwestern area of the United States in 1540 A.D. they brought the first sheep ever ^{to} to be seen by the Indian inhabitants, of the ~~area~~ ^{area}. However, to their surprise, they found an excellent loom in use ^{by} with Indian Pueblo people ^{Indian who} weaving cotton garments.

Numerous scraps of woven cotton cloth have been found in prehistoric ruins, indicating that the loom was probably in use ^{as long as 4,000} in the ~~tenth~~ ^{eleventh} century. This leads to the conclusion that the Navaho learned to weave ^{from the} from Pueblo people, possibly at about the time of the Indian rebellion of 1680, when the Pueblo Indians united to drive the

Spanish Conquerors ^{from} out of their land. ^{But with the return of the Spanish under the leadership of Gen. De Vargas in 1692,} Some Pueblo groups took refuge in the Old Navahland area, for remains of their dwellings have been found in close proximity to the Navaho. ^{indicating an association of the two Indian groups.}

^{In his book "Navaho weaving"} The eminent authority Charles Avery Amsden gives a clear picture of this early ~~development~~ association between the Pueblo and Navaho, and all of the development related to weaving that followed. ²²⁰ The

Navaho are quick to adapt a craft or technique from others, ~~soon~~ ^{then} developing a style and character of their own in the creation of ^{any} ~~any~~ ^{products} ~~craft~~.

The remarkable thing is that the Navaho ^{have} ~~has~~ never made any change in weaving methods with the exceptions ^{the use of} of carding tools.

The Navaho loom of today is just the same as it was when he (or rather she for all Navaho weavers are women with ^{very} ~~only~~ a few exceptions) first used the Pueblo loom. The basic difference in construction ^(or Pueblo) is that the Navaho loom is upright, while the European loom is

horizontal. The Spanish settlers of the Rio Grande Valley brought ^{with them} the horizontal looms to New Mexico, ^{making crude copies of these, eventually teaching} but the Indian ^{Indians to use} has steadfastly con- ^{Them.} tinued to use his aboriginal invention.

^{But the Navaho has steadfastly continued to use the aboriginal invention.}

to their surprise
However, they found cotton garments woven by Pueblo
Indians on a well perfected loom of Indian origin.

In later years archaeologists were to find scraps
of ~~the~~ woven cotton fabrics turned in many
prehistoric ruins whose dates go back to the eleventh
century.

The Navaho, being the late late comers to the
Southwest doubtless learned the art of weaving
from the Pueblo people. At the time of the
great rebellion of 1680, when all the Pueblos
denied to allow the Spanish conquerors from
their land, some groups, fearing return of
the Spanish soldiers, took refuge in old Navaho land,
for their ^{remains of their} dwellings have been found in close
proximity to those of Navaho origin indicating an
association of the two Indian cultures.

The structure of the loom is both simple and practical. It consists of two parts,- the weaving frame and the stationery beams which hold the weaving frame while in use. Looms are made of native wood- poles of a desired hight being set into the ground with top and bottom cross beams. Usually the top cross beam is ~~held in place with~~ supported by natural crotches at the top of the upright poles, while the lower beam is securely tied at the bottom of the loom frame. These cross beams support the weaving frame after the warp has been placed in it.

When a weaver has determined the size of the rug or blanket she will make, she first prepares her warp. A temporary warping frame is made of four poles, two long ones, cut some twelve to eighteen inches longer than the rug to be woven. On top of these poles she places two shorter cross pieces, sometimes broomsticks, tying each corner very securely, care being taken that ^{all} ~~both~~ sides are parallel ~~and~~ ^{straight} and measurements accurate. She then raises this frame from the ground placing it on four stones, high enough to pass a wound ball of warp thread beneath the ~~warp~~ end sticks. Tying one end of warp thread at the top (usually the upper left hand corner), the ball is then passed over and under the lower stick, then over and under t the top stick until a sufficient number of threads have been wound. The winding of the warp is most carefully done, making certain that the threads are straight, the tension even, and that there are no twists or crossed threads. She ties the last thread at the diagonal of the first tie.

Next she adds the edge cords, consisting of two or three ply twisted strands of weft threads which have been doubled.