

The sheep that have been produced by the Navaho ever since 1869 when the first stock was issued following the return for Ft. Sumner, are small, ^{they} can resist the desert heat in summer, survive cold winters, ^{sudden changes} ~~and~~ in the weather, and exist on a minimum of food and water.

Consequently, the fleeces from these sheep are light; they are also comparatively free of grease. The staple of the wool is long and wavy and particularly suited to Navaho method of spinning. The character of this wool compared with that of heavier breeds of ~~sheep~~ ^{Morino or} like the Rambouillet, has been one of the major factors for the resistance of the Navaho to breeds ^{which} ~~of sheep that~~ change the quality of the wool. The goat agents and the Traders have tried to introduce these other breeds in order to improve the ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{which the} ~~the~~ quality of the meat and the fleeces of ~~sheep~~ ^{they} ~~they~~ ^{they} buy to be resold in the open market, where the ^{But} ~~the~~ heavier stock & fleeces bring a higher price. ^{usually} It is the Navaho women who control the sheep and their concern is for the wool which spins the best yarn, to produce the best blankets & rugs. While only 10% of the wool is spun, and 40% sold to the trader - still that 10%, by the time it is transformed into a finer rug, brings

in ~~the~~ the ~~longrun~~, a greater return than the 40% in the end.

There are areas on the reservation where ~~the~~ heavier breeds
are being raised ^{& day}, but little of the wool is used in weaving.
Weavers in those areas get their wool elsewhere. Under the
adverse conditions of raising sheep on most of the reservation,
the heavier breeds would have difficulty in surviving.

because the sheep range over
a great distance in order
to get enough to eat,

upper left hand corner, the ball is passed ^{and under} over the lower stick, then over and under the top stick until a sufficient number of threads have been wound. She is most careful to see that there are no twists or accidental crossing of threads. Then she ties the last thread at the diagonal for the first Tie. Next she adds the edge cords, consisting of 2 or 3 ply twisted strands of warp threads which have been doubled. The edging is woven in and out of alternate warp threads, keeping the spacing and tension even. The edge cords are at both the top and the bottom of the warp. The edges along the length of the rug are produced by twisting the first two warp threads on each side as the weaving proceeds.

When the warp winding and the insertion of the top & bottom edges are ready, the shed (formed at the center of the warp by the over and under stringing of the warp) is preserved by placing a small round stick ~~apart~~ ⁱⁿ on each side of the crossed threads to hold this cross in place. The four poles of the warp frame are then ~~taken out~~ removed, leaving a mass of warp threads, ⁱⁿ which ~~preserved~~ the shed ^{is preserved} by the reeds, and the top & bottom edges holding the ends of the warp.

The structure of the loom is both simple and practical. It consists of 2 parts - the weaving frame and the stationary beams to hold the weaving frame while it is in use. Looms are made of native wood - poles of a desired height being set into the ground with a cross beam usually supported by ^{and 2nd beam} ~~the~~ ^{at the bottom} natural crotches at the top of the upright poles. ~~These~~ ^{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 12" to 16" longer than the rug to be woven. On top of these poles she places two shorter cross pieces, sometimes ~~a~~ ^{or} broom sticks, and ties each corner very securely. Then this oblong frame is raised above ground level, only enough so that a ball of warp thread can be passed beneath. The winding of the warp is most carefully done, making certain that the threads are straight, the tension just right, and that the measurements are accurate. Tying one end of warp thread at the top (usually the

The ends of the warp are then Tied onto the top and bottom horizontal poles of the weaving frame. Short ~~strong~~^{thin} coarse threads, or strong string ~~are~~ used for this.

Sometimes the weaver places a Tie between every six warp threads, sometimes it may be more or less depending on the size, and whether the rug is to be made of coarse or fine weft threads. The top end of the weaving frame is then laced to the top cross beam of the loom frame in widely spaced loops and fastened in such a way that the tension of the weaving frame can be adjusted. The bottom edge, is then tied to the bottom permanent beam of the loom frame and the tension adjusted so that the weaver, on being taken that all beams and sticks are parallel.

The next procedure is the Tying in of the Leads (or heddles) to form a shed through which the weft is passed. The leads are tied to every other weft thread for the simple basket weave or some other number of threads which will make the pattern she desires. Sometimes ~~several~~ leads are used in intricate patterns. The loom is now set to commence weaving the rug. Everything

is made of single material, and ^{is} completely functional.