

WEAVING - AN INTRICATE ARTFORM

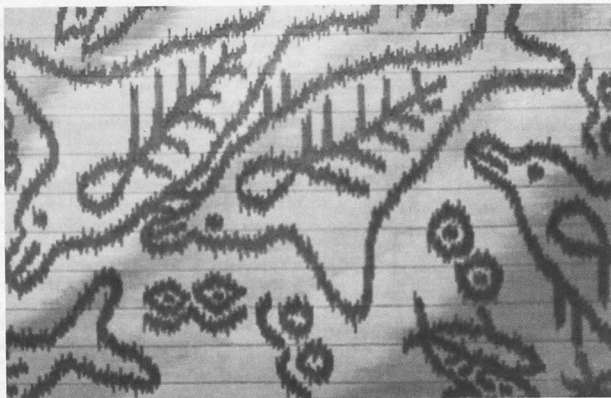
A portrait on North Shore weaver

MARY BENTLEY

by Andrea Winterbottom



Enter the studio of North Shore weaver Mary Bentley where you will be greeted by a mixture of bold and soft coloured spools of yarn which decorate half of one wall. Next to the floor to ceiling windows, which overlook the privacy and tranquility of Mary's backyard, stands the most prominent piece of equipment: a Canadian-made wooden floor-loom. Mary sits on a bench behind this enormous instrument and explains the function of each of the loom's components. Watching this soft-spoken weaver pressing down the treadles with her foot and rhythmically moving the shuttle behind the threads creates the image of a piano player's solo at the symphony. During this demonstration, finishes the top of a blue and beige diamond shaped



pattern made of silk and cotton. Mary buys her yarns and cloths (silks) wholesale and in order to achieve the colour which corresponds with her creative mind, dyes a lot of the yarns herself in her basement. Mary, who enjoys creating one of a kind well designed pieces, has developed and woven a number of garments and wallhangings in wool, linen and silk. Her favourite yarn is silk and of all the weaving techniques, she prefers to practise what is known as inlay, a procedure during which a separate piece of thread is put on top of the existing pattern, enhancing the original design.

Mary is a native British Columbian who holds a B.A. in Education, has taught music in Elementary School and is now teaching weaving at beginners and intermediate levels at various institutions in the Lower Mainland. She is involved with a number of professional associations, holding positions with the Greater Vancouver Weavers' & Spinners' Guild and on the Advisory Board of the Capilano Clay and Textile Department. She feels that the general public neglects to recognize the complexity of weaving and textiles and wishes more credit would be given to this intricate art form. Three of her

scarfs will be exhibited in the Canada-wide competition which will come to CRAFT HOUSE on Granville Island on January 3, 1991. The exhibition has previously been in New Zealand and features silk scarfs and shawls. Other North Shore representatives are Gaye Hansen and Elizabeth Hall.

Mary and her husband Ted are the authors of a book based on their discovery of various petroglyphs on Gabriola Island and Mary's fascination for this Native Indian rock art is reflected in many of her woven creations.

GREATER VANCOUVER WEAVERS' & SPINNER'S GUILD - Annual Sale and Showcase to be held on Friday, November 16 from 1-9 and Saturday, November 17 from 10-5 at Aberthau, West Point Grey Community Centre, 4397 West 2nd Avenue, Vancouver. During this event, which features a multitude of high quality garments, accessories, and household items, the art of weaving and spinning will be demonstrated.



BAKERY & KONDITIONEI

GERMAN & CANADIAN BAKING
CATERING TO HOTELS
& RESTAURANTS

1468 MARINE DRIVE
WEST VANCOUVER, B.C. V7T 1B7

TELEPHONE
(604) 922-3813

2945 EDMONTON BOULEVARD, NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C.
PHONE: (604) 985-0022 V7R 2N3

Heidi Holmer

Edgemont Interiors

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL DESIGN