

# Cactus Needles

SOUTHWEST COSTUMERS' GUILD

Volume VIII, Number 11

November 2001

## SouthWest Costumers Guild

meets generally on the last Sunday of the month, 1:00PM at members homes or someplace fun. The Guild dues for our chapter are \$10 per year, an optional additional \$4 for membership in the International Costumer's Guild, and \$18 to receive the International Costumer's Quarterly. \$8 to receive only our chapter newsletter. Send money to Frances Burns, she will notify the Editor. SWCG Webpage:

<http://members.aol.com/souwesgld/guild.html>

International Costumers Guild Webpage: [www.costume.org](http://www.costume.org)

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**(Deadline for submissions is the 5th of each month)**

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**MEETING: NOVEMBER 25, 2001 - The Cloaking 2\* Guild Workshop** at Jean's place. We'll build some more capes and hats to get ready for the Estrella War in February.

## Bits n Pieces

### Cloaking Report

Our pre-Devonshire cape-making session was held October 21 at Jean Palmer's place.

In attendance were Jean, Pete, Frances, Paula, John, Tasha, Randall and new recruit Jen, who received more advice than the human mind can absorb on how to choose a sewing machine.

Emphasis during the early part of the session was on using up the small pieces of fabric from storage. Late in the afternoon we moved on to a new roll of the dreaded black fuzzy.

#### **Completed Items:**

2 black fuzzy capes - one with hood, the other with collar

2 slate gray corduroy mantled hoods

1 woolen mantled hood

1 purple corduroy cape with hood

14 hats, consisting of 13 flatcaps and one beret

Not too shabby.

These will be displayed for sale in Randall's "MoiRandall's" booth at the Devonshire Renaissance Faire on November 17 & 18 at Los Olivos Park in Phoenix.

Leftover fabric includes one roll of 6-7 yards of black fuzzy, two large pieces of the slate gray corduroy (probably 4 yards total), at least 10 yards of black twill, and the green carpet thing. With a suitable fringe, this might become a shawl or wrap of some kind.

This should be enough stuff for our pre-Estrella cloaking, scheduled for November 25, 2001, 10 AM at Jean's Place. A map is posted at <http://members.aol.com/souwesgld/jeanmap.gif>

November is the last meeting for which an activity is scheduled. Be thinking about what you'd like to do for the next several meetings.

Randall

(The Artisan formerly known as Merchant Prince)

(Cont'd on page 2)

# CALENDAR

## Around Town

**NOTE:** Information in this calendar is provided as a service to our guild please contact the individual organizations for verification of information.

**November 17 - 18, 2001** - Devonshire Renaissance Faire at Los Olivos Park in Phoenix, Arizona. (One block north of 28th Street & Indian School Road) This annual faire is hosted by the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department. Music, Costumed Entertainers, Shopping! Look for SWCG Webmaster Randall's MoiRandall's costume pavilion.

**December 16, 2001** - 1PM - **Annual Planning Meeting\*** to cover plans for 2002. At Stephanie's house, call or email for directions.

**February 23-24, 2002** - Arizona Scottish Gathering & Highland Games, at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Arizona. Caber Tossing, Pipe Bands, Alex Beaton, Lots of Kilts. Visit <http://www.arizonascots.com> for details.

\* Indicates a SWCG-sponsored event.

## Bits n Pieces

(cont'd from page 1)

**Store Review**  
**Wild West Mercantile**  
 5637 North 19th Avenue, Phoenix  
 by Randall Whitlock

I must have walked right past this place a hundred times, ignoring it as just another western store. It isn't. As I sauntered by the other night, pleasantly stuffed from the chinese super buffet on the other side of the building, I looked in the window and noticed a rack of clothing patterns. This drew me in.

The stock is not aimed at the achy-breaky whatever crowd like Saia's or Shepler's. The theme is more for the historical re-creationist. The owners, like our own Cady clan, are apparently active in the Single-Action Shooting Society.

The aforementioned patterns include all of the western-related Folkwear items, as well as several different publishers for vests, frock coats, prairie dresses, victorian underthings, etc.

Finished clothing includes a zillion different bib-front shirts, dusters and frock coats; cavalry jackets in both union blue and confederate gray; tailcoats; lots of hats in older styles including bowlers and top hats; tall cavalry boots; gloves with gauntlets and fringe; those lace-up Granny Clampett ladies boots; holsters and pistol belts in the "Kansas Loop" and other historically correct configurations. Some of the holsters are stamped with Wild West Mercantile's own logo. There are assorted belt buckles and pocket watches under glass.

The store is located at the southeast corner of 19th Avenue and Montebello, just south of Christown Mall. The strip center has a chinese buffet, a fabric store, and a big 99-cent store as well.

It's just one hardware store short of being the perfect strip mall.

**"Gold Fever"** at the Phoenix Art Museum Fashion Gallery through November 11th. Museum hours are 10:00 to 5:00 Tu,W,F,Sa,Su; 10:00 to 9:00 Th. Admission for adults is \$7, \$5 with student ID, and \$2 for children 6 to 17. General admission to the museum is free on Thursdays.

**"Balenciaga Couture"** at the Phoenix Art Museum Fashion Gallery from November 17th through February 24th, 2002. Museum hours and admission costs listed above.

## PDF Format Newsletter

Cactus Needles is available monthly by email as an attached pdf file. Also available is a pdf file of all of the 2000 issues and the 2001 issues.



## International Costumers Guild ICG President's Message November 2001

Hello everyone

I hope your Halloween was both fun and safe. I also hope my message this month finds everyone getting their lives back to normal. I know things have been tough. I myself have been known to phase out once in a while, but I'm finding things getting better.

As promised, I have a special offer for all ICG members. Recently, I was contacted by a wonderful publisher about a book deal just for us. Boydell & Brewer publishes some amazing books on historical clothing subjects. Their specialty is the Medieval period, but apparently they'll be expanding their costume book list beyond just this particular subject. For now, however, they've offered all their costuming titles to us at a 25% discount. They sent us a copy of one of their more recent titles, "Textiles and Clothing, c. 1150-c. 1450." Jess Miller is presently reading it and will review the book for us. So far, she says it's amazing. I'm looking forward to hearing what Jess has to say. In the meantime, I'm including a copy of Boydell & Brewer's flier with their book titles and descriptions, prices, and order forms with the hard copy of this message. I'm asking all the chapters of the ICG to please include a copy of this flier with your newsletters so all ICG members may receive this benefit. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of being an ICG member and I hope you all enjoy this perk.

This isn't the end of our search for added ICG membership benefits. I can't promise, but we're working on another book publisher who has a much wider range of subject matters in the costuming field, and we're even approaching an on-line fabric dealer to try and get special discounts for our members. We'll let you know as more companies come forward with special offers.

Darla Kruger  
 President, ICG