

## HCRAG RUG COMES HOME

The HCRAG was finally reunited with a hooked rug banner that was missing for many years. Several years after the Guild was formed on April 1, 1977, with 81 original members, a Guild banner was designed and hooked by Sharyn Curtis, programs chair for the Guild.

The rug which measures approximately 36" x 60" was hooked with the Guild's name in a central medallion, with an ornate decorative border and in an attractive color scheme.

For a number of years, the rug served as the Guild's banner and was proudly displayed in meetings, community events and hooking demonstrations, such as the Sheep and Fiber Festivals, the Hunterdon County 4H Fairs, Mercer County 4H Fairs, Thanksgiving in the Country, Stockton Colonial Market Day in Newtown PA, the Holcomb Jimson Farming Festival and the Howell Living Farm.

And then it went missing.

Although long-term members knew of the rug's existence, its whereabouts were unknown for some years until in 2009 it was found in the trash on the sidewalk of a house in Stockton that had been sold and was being cleaned out. It was given to Judith Bebout from Sergeantsville NJ who knew from local press coverage that the Guild was still in existence. She learned that the Guild was demonstrating rug hooking at the Hunterdon County Library, North County Branch in Clinton, and drove to the library to return the rug to Irene Pasternak from Annandale, Guild Vice President.

Judith attended the next Guild meeting to formally present the rug to Weezie Huntington HCRAG President. 'Skeet' Combs, husband of Guild member Joyce Combs, designed and crafted a mahogany display stand especially for the large, heavy rug.

Upon its return, it continues to serve as an example of a thriving rug hooking community established in Hunterdon County.

