

# The Constellation Orion In Summer And Winter Weave

By DORIS L. HENDERSON

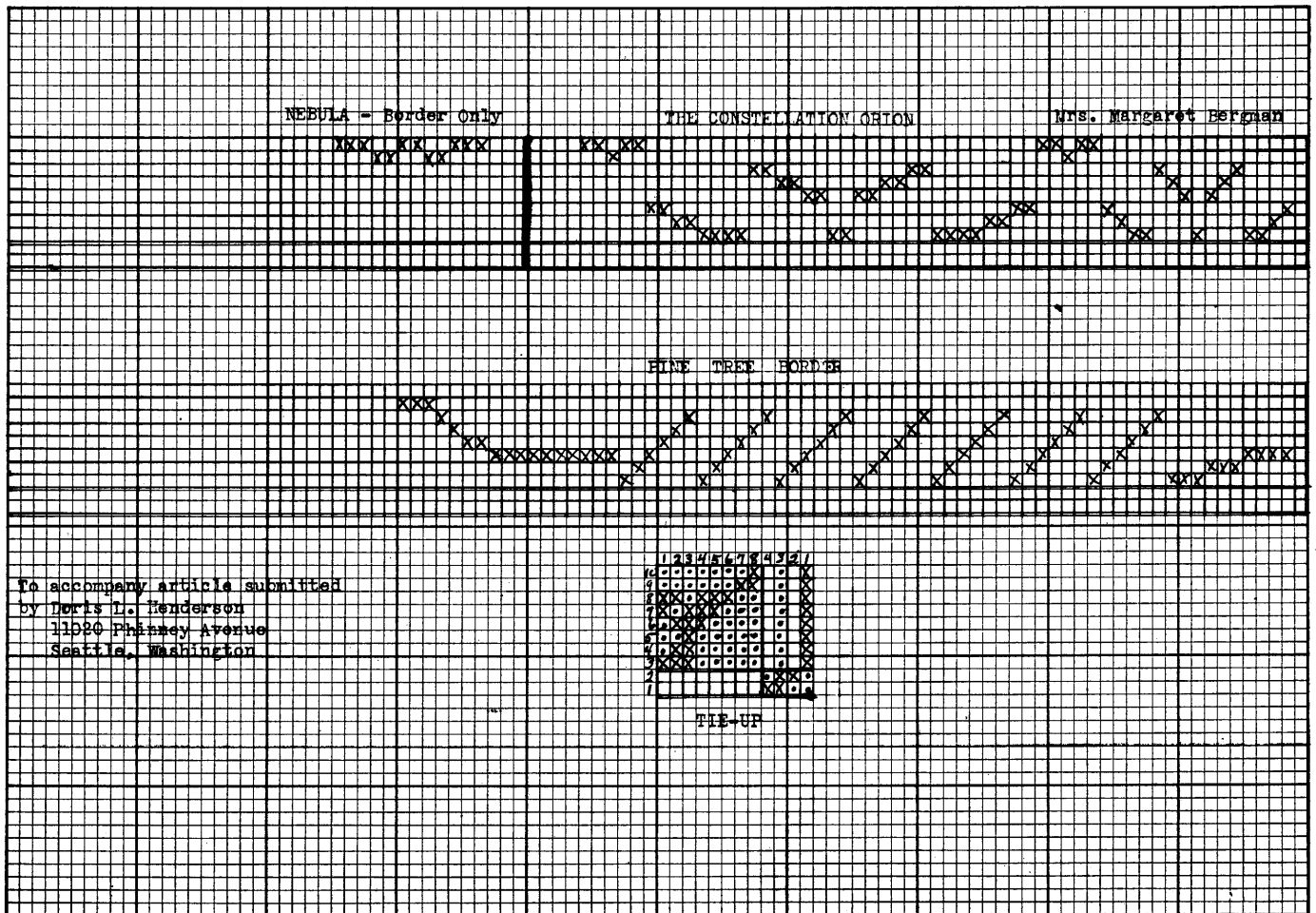
Illustrated is a handsome table cover in summer and winter weave woven by Mrs. O. M. Gaudy of Port Orchard, Washington from an original draft designed by Mrs. Margaret Bergman of Poulsbo, Washington. Bernat's #20 mercerized was used for the warp and #38 Scarlet Perugian Filler for the weft.

Perhaps the outstanding weaver in the Puget Sound country, Mrs. Bergman is a source of inspiration to other weavers and has done much to awaken interest here in the fascinating art of handweaving. Her weaving history is interesting.

Years ago, as a young girl on a farm in her native Jemtland, before she came to America to be married, Mrs. Bergman wove many yards of household materials — bed and table linens as well as yardage for clothing. One day a relative brought from the city a beautiful handwoven coverlet more complicated in design than anything she had ever attempted. Intrigued, she decided to copy it; evidently her effort was successful for she tells, in her very modest manner, that she made twenty-one

spreads on the many yards of warp on the loom intended for other things. She continued to work and experiment with more elaborate designs, some of them calling for additional harnesses on the loom, working without outside help since she had no textbooks or teachers, and in so doing acquired a thorough understanding of weaving, of draft writing and of the loom itself.

Then some 35 years ago this young lady came to America, became Mrs. Bergman and moved to the Pacific Northwest. She did not bring a loom with her and for several years her life on a farm in a new country was a busy one. Finally Mr. Bergman was persuaded to build a loom and Mrs. Bergman, intending to resume weaving as she had in Sweden, began to look around for suitable yarns only to find there were none readily available. Not daunted, Mrs. Bergman decided that if she could not weave bedspreads, or linens, she would have to weave rugs — rag rugs, since that was the material at hand. However, she saw no reason why her rugs should not be beautiful as well as serviceable so she used six, eight and



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FIGURE No. 1

ten-harness patterns and soon her rugs literally were the talk of the country and orders came from many places. And her designs were her own for Mrs. Bergman says that until 1928 she had never seen a weaving book.

In 1925 she learned of Mrs. Atwater and through her of Bernat's — a source at last for different materials with which to work. In 1928 Mrs. Bergman acquired one of Mrs. Atwater's books and her introduction to Summer and Winter weave — a technique not in use in the Scandinavian countries. Summer and Winter weave is now Mrs. Bergman's specialty and she has developed many beautiful patterns.

By 1931 Mrs. Bergman and her weaving were pretty well known and it was in that year that invitations came to her to do outside demonstrations — in department stores, at Grange meetings, at Washington State College, at various places all over the state. Mrs. Bergman's home at Poulsbo is across Puget Sound from Seattle and many miles from other city centers. When invitations to demonstrate weaving came to Mrs. Bergman she was faced with the problem of easily transporting her looms to the various locations. Mrs. Bergman, as the reader probably senses, is not one to sit and wait for something to happen; this matter of transporting her looms was just another weaving problem to solve. Then she saw a folding bed . . . folding beds — folding tables — folding chairs — why not a folding loom? Work was started at once

on a loom that could be folded together, and after considerable experimenting she developed a loom that has worked excellently.

All these years, busy with her family, with life on a farm, and with her hobby — weaving — Mrs. Bergman felt that some day a lot of people would be interested in weaving and that when that time came she wanted to teach them the things she knew. People did come to her home and stay for several days or a week or two weeks as boarders to study with her. Then in 1935 one of the large department stores in Tacoma, Washington made it possible for her to have classes there which she kept up for nearly three years, creating and passing on to her many pupils some of her vast store of weaving knowledge.

Now in a little building close to the shores of Puget Sound in Anapolis, near Bremerton, Washington, Mrs. Bergman has established a school for weaving which also serves as headquarters for the Kitsap County Spinners and Weavers Guild. It was there, looking at the stars shining in the heavens over the towering pines so much a part of the Puget Sound Country, that Mrs. Bergman was inspired to work out the draft for "The Constellation Orion", which has been so beautifully woven by Mrs. Gaudy, one of her pupils.

Mrs. Bergman, quiet and unassuming, is indeed an inspiration to weavers.

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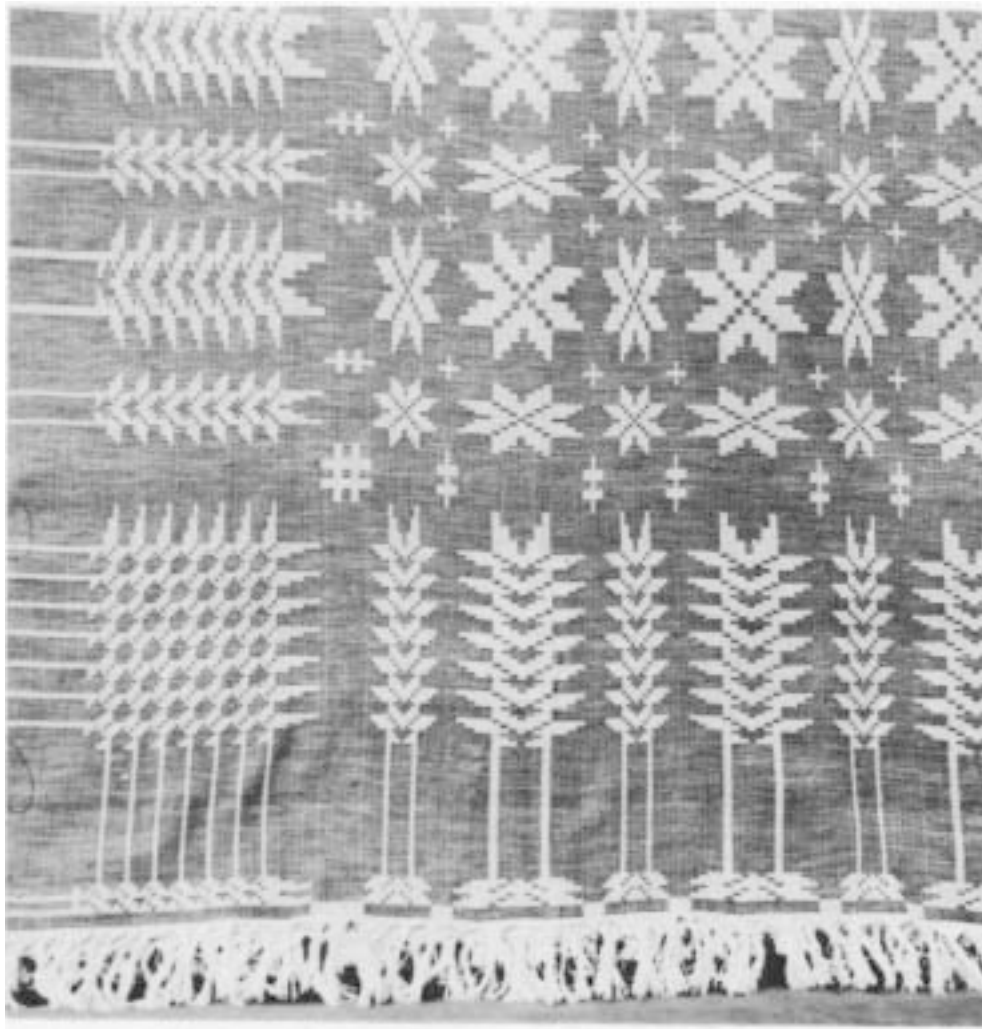


FIGURE No. 2