



Newsletter

Volume II No. 11 November 1984

Toy Show

December 14 and 15,
Friday and Saturday

Agenda:

Set up Friday afternoon and early Saturday morning.

Show open to public, Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Presentation of toys to "Toys for Tots", Saturday 6:30 p.m.

Following the presentation will be a covered dish dinner and Christmas party with entertainment.

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From the President ...

Gentlemen,

I hope that those who attended last month's meeting enjoyed yourself and learned as much as I did. Brad Packard's demonstration of cutting dovetails on a tablesaw was outstanding. Ronnie Acton must also be congratulated on his hospitality and tasty refreshments. The turnout was great; the headcount was 91.

Our November meeting will also be at Acton Moulding & Supply. The feature of this meeting will be a hands-on workshop for toymaking. Ronnie Acton has been generous enough to make available all of his Inca tools: Bandsaw, Jointer-planer, and Table Saw. In addition, his inventory of Hegner scroll saws will be available for any special cutting of toy parts that you may need to do. I encourage all of you to bring toy plans or toys that you are working on to the November meeting.

In this newsletter you will find an entry form for the Toy Show. Please fill it out and return it to us as soon as possible. We need this information to make final plans and to take care of all the details. Your prompt response will insure a successful show.

By the way, the *Birmingham News* and Channel 13 has shown a great interest in our show and there is a good possibility they will be at the November meeting.

I recently saw an article in the *Houston, Texas Woodworkers Guild Newsletter* that interested

me. Guild members periodically hold short seminars or workshops. This ongoing project allows many members to share their knowledge about various phases of woodworking.

These seminars are usually half-day or one-day weekend sessions. At every guild meeting a list of members willing to teach, the subject matter and meeting times are posted. Members can then choose which subject they would like to know more about and attend the seminar.

This method of sharing knowledge and skills works, and would be a terrific way for our members to get better acquainted. Why don't we give it a try. Included in this newsletter is a mini-workshop form. Fill it out; send it in; and let's get the ball rolling. Possible Ideas: Use of jigs, lathe work, bowl turning, dovetails, sanding and finishing techniques, cutting tapers, cabriole legs and carving.

Your knowledge and ideas, no matter how insignificant they might seem, can benefit all of us. See you in November.

Thanks,
Spruce McRee

Next Meeting

The November meeting will be held at Acton Moulding, Millwork & Tool, Thursday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m.

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Woodbutcher of the Month

This month the chatter caught up with Ronnie Acton, one of our most, if not the most, enthusiastic member of our guild. Boy, I wish I took shorthand! This guy chats your leg off when he knows he has your ear.

Ron was born and raised in the vicinity where he now lives and operates a thriving business, the megalopolis, Helena. At the age of twelve, Ron began butting into the construction trade with several of his relatives. Working on weekends, he soon learned to hit the nail with the hammer, the steel nail rather than the one at the end of his thumb. Claiming to be the king of "go-fors" at first, he soon progressed. The Wm. T. Booth Construction Company was his next stop. There he learned the commercial millwork trade.

In early 1977 he built the first building for his business. It was 7200 sq. ft. At first he concentrated on cabinet work. In 1979 he added the molding division and in the last two years has included into his business more specialty items: architectural moldings, circular windows, custom built doors and windows, custom homes requiring special moldings and premium custom cabinetry. His complex now is 19,000 sq. ft. with an additional 3700 sq. ft. under construction.

Ron's latest venture is his supply store where he represents leading tools and woodworking related products. His goal is to be able to supply machinery, wood and related products to the woodworker who demands quality merchandise at a reasonable buck.

It's interesting to note that Ron, although he builds things every day, has never built a project for his personal use. His tip is for anyone who decides to do woodworking for a living, do your personal projects first or you'll never get around to them.

Ron is extremely pleased with the growth our guild has enjoyed, and amazed at the talent of our members. He feels we are headed in the right direction and would

like to see us grow and provide more educational projects.

Ron is married to Brenda Sue and they have two beautiful children, a daughter, 11, and a son, 10, who help in dad's business, periodically. I must commend Brenda Sue. You think our wives have to put up with a lot of sawdust; I salute you Mrs. Acton. As for you Ron, I am honored to be associated with a guy who so much enjoys his family, his work, and has such constant enthusiasm.

We are grateful to you, Ron, for sharing your home and yourself.

Dick Beecham

Build Safety Into Your Projects

Reprinted from *Hands On*, a Shoppersmith Publication.

Dolls, wagons, trucks and cars ... they're all popular among children's playthings. Unfortunately, toy related accidents still cause thousands of injuries each year.

High among children's injuries are falls on or against toys, swallowing or choking on small parts, placing tiny toys or parts in noses and ears, and cuts from sharp edges and points.

Certainly *all* safety considerations are based on common sense. But when making toys, give an extra thought ... you might prevent an injury. Remember these tips:

- Avoid sharp edges and points.

- Avoid hinges where small fingers could get caught.

- Avoid small parts or projections that could easily break off.

- Avoid lead base paints, chemical stains, and finishes. (Best solution is to leave toy projects unfinished.)

- Avoid long strings or cords that could cause entanglement or strangling.

- Frequently inspect toys for damage and discard toys that can't be fixed.

Finally, if you're building a chest or box for toy storage, be sure the lid is lightweight and can be opened from within. The lid

should stay open when raised and not be able to fall on the child. Make sure there are fresh air holes in the box and lid. Also, watch for sharp edges that could cut and toy chest hinges that could pinch or squeeze.

Remember, a safe toy is a fun toy!

We Need Your Type

The Guild is looking for a donor of a manual or electric typewriter. If you have or know of a typewriter which is in working condition and can either be donated to us or sold to us cheap, please notify Spruce McRee.

Y'awls Point

Let's have your comments and suggestions. Address them to:

Dale Lewis
 Newsletter Editor
 1720 Driftwood Lane
 Birmingham, AL 35235

Comments will be passed on to appropriate committees and may be printed when appropriate. Let us hear from you.

Also, we'd like to hear from other Guilds who read our newsletter.

For Sale

4" Jointer for use with Craftsman 9" or 10" Table saw (mounts on saw). \$60.00

Wanted

14" Rockwell or Powermatic Bandsaw (used). Contact Fred Sandlin 663-7524 or 252-5121.

Toy Show Entry Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Type of Toys Entered: _____

Number of Toys Entered: _____

Mail to: Alabama Woodworkers Guild
 P.O. Box 327
 Pelham, AL 35124

Mini-Workshop Form

I will be willing to host a mini-workshop on _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Workshop Location: _____

Date: _____

Approximate Length: _____



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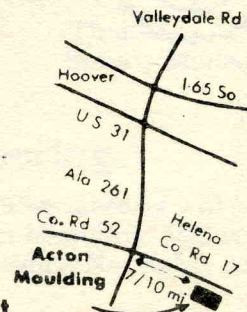
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6 to 4:30 M-F.—7:30-12 Sat.



County Road 17

Helena, Al.

205-663-0130

Attention

Kraftsman Corner

The object of the Toy Show is to make and enter quality, prize winning pieces. Pride in workmanship is always extremely important. A unique benefit of this show, however, is that some needy kids will get some finely crafted toys. We want to make sure, however, that all deserving kids get a toy. Let me encourage you to make as many toys as possible. Even if they aren't all prize winners, you can bet that they will be appreciated by the children who receive them.

Small Sanding Drum

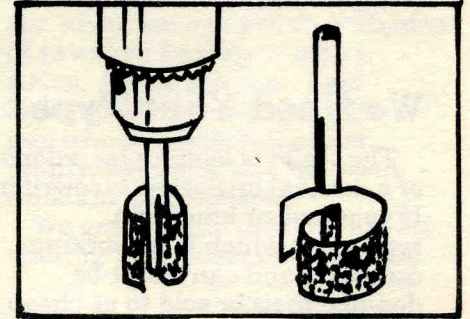
I make a lot of small toys with short radius curves. Most sanding drums are too large for these curves, so I had to make my own.

My sanding drums are made from aluminum rods of various diameters. All of mine are 5" long with a 2" slot cut in one end.

In use, I slip a piece of sandpaper in the slit, chuck it in the drill press and sand away. As I move the workpiece up to the rod, the sandpaper curls around

the rod to form the drum. As an alternative, you can put rubber cement on the back of the sandpaper to fasten it to the rod, or secure it with a rubberband.

John K. Seidel
Atlanta, Georgia



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Birmingham, AL 35203
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Ala WATTS 1-800-292-4032

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