



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VII

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DECEMBER 1989

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Nelson Brooks President
 Ron Acton 1st Vice President
 Frank Jones 2nd Vice President
 Walter Barnett Treasurer
 Kerry McCalla Secretary

Jim Caldwell Board of Directors
 Ivan Kronberg Board of Directors
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 Ben Neighbors Board of Directors
 Leonard Sanders Board of Directors
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CHRISTMAS PARTY • 6:30 PM • DECEMBER 9th • HELENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank all the members who have made hundreds of toys for our Toys For Tots Program. The workmanship is great and the variety of toys is unbelievable. There are some very creative people in our Guild, and it certainly comes out this time of the year. Because of your hard work I know the kids will be smiling and happy on Christmas morning. Thank you.

As this will be my last message as your President, I want to thank all of you who have supported me the past two years. I especially want to thank the other officers and directors for their hard work and advice. Also want to thank Leonard "Pop" Sanders, our Newsletter editor who tried to keep me straight, Ben Neighbors, Toys For Tots Chairman, Mike Key, Sound Committee Chairman and Ronnie Acton and his people for getting his shop ready each month so we can have a place to hold our meetings. I believe we have one of the finest group of people in any Guild or any other type club in the USA, and as our new officers take over with new energies and ideas I know it will only get better.

Two years ago when I became President I adopted a theme of participation and education. I feel we have come a long way in both areas. Our participation in Spring Shows, classes, regular meetings, Toys For Tots and sharing of knowledge has gone way up. In the education end we now have three types of classes, General Woodworking, Wood

Turning and Carving. This year we spent over \$600.00 in new books for our growing library and hope to add more plus some videos in the future. By now I hope *participation and education* has become part of you and will continue to be so. I will continue to be one of the Guild's biggest supporters and also help spread the word about our Guild.

Again thank you, see you at the Christmas Party. Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year.

Nelson

NEXT MEETING - CHRISTMAS PARTY

Last year we nearly filled the social hall at the church, and this year we expect to finish the job by filling it up. It is the time we bring our wives (or, if you can't bring your wife, bring someone else's wife) or all the family you wish to bring. Just remember to bring a covered dish or dishes to feed your brood — and if everyone does this, there will be more than enough to go around. The Guild will provide coffee, tea and bread. What a great time we have. We see each other in a different setting, under different circumstances all of which lends itself to getting to know each other better (or worse). It is at our Christmas Party we traditionally have the drawing for the tools and prizes to those who participated in the making of Toys For Tots, and what a time

that is. Our advertisers and supporters plus Ronnie Acton always contribute fabulous prizes and tools for our drawing — and in addition a little money is taken out of our treasury to add more tools and prizes to the pot. This year the plans call for a sing-along after dinner and the drawing, so bring your atomizer to spray your throat so you may vocalize to the utmost. After all the above you drag your full stomach home and look forward to January's meeting. Directions: The road in front of Acton's is Highway 17 — If you are coming from the East go past Acton's about three blocks and turn right on Highway 58. Naturally, if you are coming from the West, turn left on Highway 58 about three blocks before you get to Acton's. After getting on Highway 58, it is only about six or eight blocks to the Church on your right. You can't miss it. Build up some pleasant memories by being there.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A strange thing happened at the election. There were no nominations from the floor, and the slate of officers and directors for 1990 were elected unanimously as presented by the nominating committee. Some might even say they were "railroaded" into the jobs. Not so. Each of them had been coerced, threatened and bribed into taking the jobs, so how could you say they had been "railroaded?" Seriously, a fine group of leaders were

ected, and we can look forward to another year of progress for the Guild. Your officers and directors for 1990 are as follows:

FOR THE YEAR 1990

President	James (Jim) Caldwell
Vice-President	Gene Benitez
Secretary-Treasurer	Kerry (Antique) McCalla

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frank Jones	Ben Neighbors
Mike Key	Harold Phillips
Dale Lewis	Bill Purson

EX OFFICIO DIRECTORS

(All Past Presidents)
Spruce McRee
Leonard Sanders
Nelson Brooks

Director of Public Relations –
Sterling Brewer

KERRY'S ANTIQUES

After having missed the October meeting, we were pleased to have Kerry McCalla back on the job of sharing a few of his fabulous collection of antique tools. The tools are interesting to see, of course, but what makes them meaningful is Kerry's presentation of the description of the tool and the history of its use. This month it was drafting tools. You know, straight edges and all that sort of thing. Kerry began with the proclamation that "Beauty is a straight line." From there he proceeded to display his tools. The first was a two-foot folding drafting rule, if you can imagine a draftsman using a folding rule. Then a parallel rule — one that consists of two rules about a foot long, attached to each other by a swivel bar at each end so it may be "walked" across the drawing (just like the navigator uses

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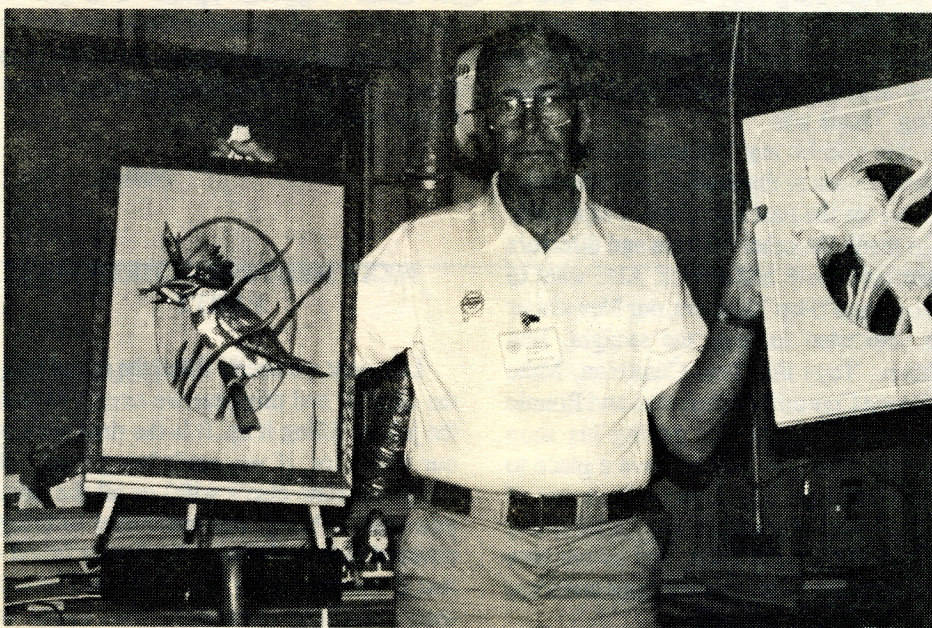
when plotting their position on the chart of a ship); a British ivory protractor; and a centering rule, by Appleton, which has a zero in the center and is marked off in one-half inch increments to each end. We appreciate you Kerry and hope you never run out of tools to show us.

CARVING AND WOODTURNING CLASS

What do you think of the Guild forming either or both of these type clubs as subsidiaries of the Guild? Of course, the purpose of either would be for those members of the Guild who have no interest in woodworking except in these areas and would like to focus their attention just to that activity they are interested in. If you have any thoughts on this, please let Nelson or Jim Caldwell know.

TOYS FOR TOTS

As of the November meeting only some 450 toys had been brought to Acton's. This isn't 1,000, the goal set by Ben Neighbors back in the summer, but we expect at least that many (450) will have been brought since our last meeting, or will be brought to the Christmas Party. Please finish them and bring them in — the need is there according to the Toys For Toys people, and we want to continue to do our part.



LAST MEETING – NOVEMBER 9th

You might say it was Carver's Night. Ivan Kronberg has been teaching our carving class, assisted by Jerry Vines, and both of them are superior carvers. The class has produced some fine works and the first of the "students" to

show his wares was Bob Moore. Bob has made a child's shoe measuring some six inches long, three inches wide and about six inches tall. It looks like a child's shoe that has been bronzed — wrinkled and with its laces hanging loose. Very realistic looking. Bob also showed us a relief carving of an eagle he began in 1971 and hopes to complete some day. Way to go, Bob. Rolf Kreuger also had some good works to show us. He had done one of the shoes, like Bob's, plus some oak leaves carved from oak, and splendidly done. Then he showed us a carving of a Bittern — what's a Bittern? It is a bird. It is seated and has its head pointed straight up as if pointing its bill at a cloud. Very lovely carving. Then Bill West showed and described his shoes (like Bob's and Rolf's) and a Bittern. These fellows show promise and we look forward to seeing more of their work. Thanks, very much, men.

DOOR PRIZES

Notices we say prizes, not prize, and that's because there are two of them. The purpose of this little exercise, of course, is to encourage you to sign the attendance sheets at the table where you get your badges. It is from these signatures the door prizes are drawn. In November, Ivan Kronberg gave one of his carved shoes as one prize and Oscar Griffin got that. Then there was a quart of stain, and Jesse Whitfield got that. If you don't sign in you don't stand a chance.

BIRMINGHAM SAW WORKS

Last call for a really fine and interesting tool sale. One of our advertisers and long-time supporters, Birmingham Saw Works, is having a stationary and portable tool sale aimed at the home workshop. It isn't often the

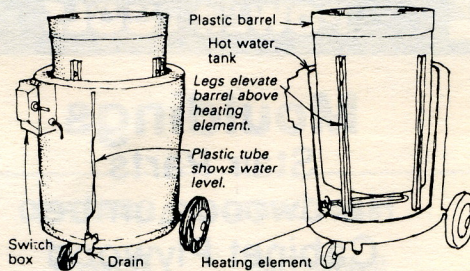
ome workshop is favored with the commercial or school shops, so here's your chance to possibly pick up that tool you have been wanting — and on sale. It will be held (the sale) on Friday, December 8th all day, and Saturday, December 9th, for a half day.

BUY - SELL - TRADE

We have a couple of items this month. One of our members wants to buy a couple of items: a Thickness Planer and a Lathe. Call John Fitts at 663-5211. Then we have for sale a Craftsman cast iron Shaper complete with table and several carbide tipped cutters. This machine has never been used. Call James Johnson at 871-0375.

The following **Methods of Work** is taken from **Fine Woodworking**, issue of September/October 1989, published by the Taunton Press, Inc., P. O. Box 355, Newtown, CT 06470, and is reprinted with their permission.

Homemade tank for heating PEG



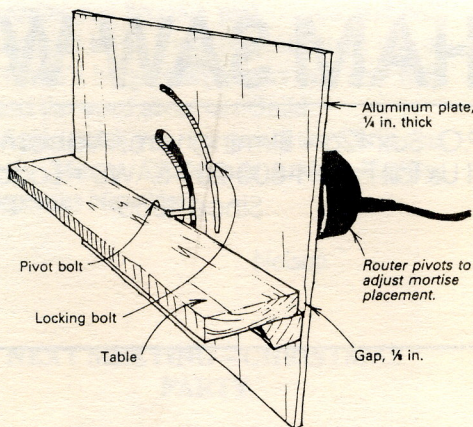
I've found soaking green wood in PEG 1000 helps reduce shrinkage of the stock I use for lathe projects. Heating the PEG shortens the time the wood must be soaked, so I built a make-shift double boiler to do the job. The main components are a salvaged electric hot water heater, a 30-gal. plastic barrel, a couple of lawn mower wheels and an old lever switch box.

The construction is simple. Remove the hot water tank from its jacket and saw both the tank and the jacket in half. Install the portion of the tank with the heating element and thermostat back into one of the half jackets and pack the space between the two cylinders with fiberglass insulation. Bolt four aluminum legs to the plastic barrel to elevate it above the heating element. Mount the switch box to the outside of the heater and wire it to the thermostat. A drain pipe with a T-shape pipe fitting is screwed into the bottom of the tank. The bottom of the T is plugged and the top is connected to a clear plastic tube that acts as a water-level sight glass.

Now, fill the hot water tank with water and the plastic barrel with PEG 1000. Set the thermostat to keep the PEG solution at the manufacturer's recommended temperature.

—Charles Manning, Port Townsend, Wash.

Pivoting router mortising fixture



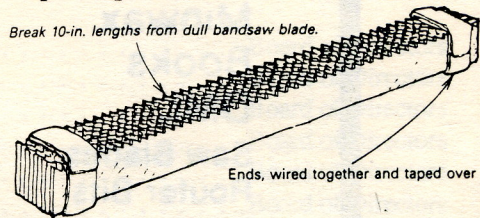
Because I needed to cut more than 400 mortises in a short period of time, I built this pivoting router fixture. With it, I can cut two mortises in about one minute, including the layout time, so the four hours I spent building the jig were quickly repaid.

The router is attached to an aluminum plate with a single bolt so it will pivot to adjust for the position of the mortise in the stock. The plate has two concentric slots centered on the pivot bolt: one for the mortising bit and one for a locking bolt and wing nut. A cleat to support the table is screwed to the plate and a hardwood table is glued and screwed to the cleat with a 1/4-in. gap left between the table and plate for chip and dust clearance. My aluminum plate is 1/4x12x20. I recommend 6061 aluminum with a hardness of at least T3. You can mill the curved slots in the plate by building a special pivoting fixture and using a milling cutter in the drill press. Or, if you're patient and careful, you can rout the slots with a router and double-flute carbide bits with a trammel or circle-cutting fixture. Take several light cuts. After the plate is completed, install the fence and attach your router.

To use the mortising jig, bolt or clamp it to the edge of a stout table or workbench. Adjust the router for mortise placement and depth of cut. Then, start the router and push the stock from left to right past the bit. Plunge the stock onto the bit for stopped mortises. Use stop blocks for repetitive cuts or draw layout lines on your stock to show you where to start and stop your mortise in relation to the bit's slot. Don't try to mortise pieces that are too narrow or are shorter than about 12 in. In addition, use the same caution you would with any router-table operation.

—James E. Gier, Pine, Ariz.

Super rasp



My pack-rat instincts paid off one day when I needed a heavy-duty rasp for a sculpture. Retrieving a broken 1-in.-wide bandsaw blade from the junk pile, I snapped off 10-in. lengths in the vise until I had a 1-in.-thick stack. I bound the ends together with wire and taped over the wire with duct tape. In about 10 minutes, I made the fastest-cutting, easiest-cleaning rasp I've ever had my hands on.

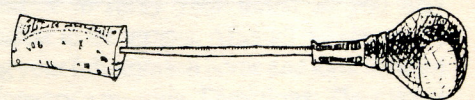
With a little more experimentation, I found that wider blades worked better and staggered teeth made a smoother cut. Blades can be added or subtracted to make rasps of specific widths. To release chips, flex the blades in the middle.

If you make a super rasp, please be careful. This monster eats knuckles with the same appetite that it eats wood.

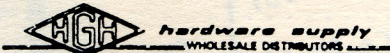
—Greg Connell, Lake Elsinore, Cal.

Quick tip: Cut a length of bicycle inner tube an inch or two long and stretch it over the middle part of your drill chuck. The rubber will make it much easier to spin the chuck open and closed by hand.

—Bill Webster, Chillicothe, Ill.



Quick tip: Use wine bottle corks to cover the tips of scratch awls, compass points and the like. The corks keep the points of your tools sharp, and they protect your fingers when you're

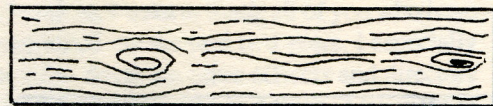


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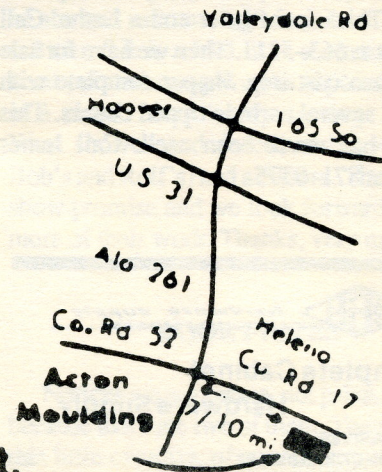
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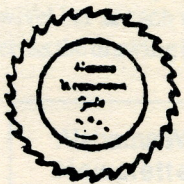
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