

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VIII

NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 1990

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Gene Benitez . . . . . Vice President  
Kerry McCalla . . . . Secretary-Treasurer

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Dale Lewis  
Ben Neighbors  
Harold Phillips  
Bill Purson

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Nelson Brooks  
Spruce McRee  
Leonard Sanders

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Plans for the Spring Show are underway. The South Central Bell Headquarters building lobby has been completely redecorated since we had our show there two years ago. The lighting is greatly improved and the security is very good. The Board agreed that since the Hoover Mall space we used last year is no longer available we should try for the SCB lobby. I am confident that we will be permitted to have the show there this year. We are requesting the use of the lobby for the week of May 19 - 25. I should have a definite commitment from South Central Bell before the next Newsletter. That lobby is a big place so we will have plenty of room for exhibiting your work.

The last issue of the Newsletter ran an article from WOODSMITH MAGAZINE on plywood. Recently I found a grade that I had not heard of before, "Paint Grade" 3/4 inch Birch (on both sides). A local plywood dealer here in Birmingham has it for under \$30 a sheet. It was perfect for the project I had underway and saved me a bit of money. The surface is quite good and could be used for any number of shop projects. They don't book match the veneers and there are a few surface knots that are filled and smooth.

We will be ready to register students for the Woodworking, Carving and Turning classes at the February meeting. Registration is limited in each course so bring your check book!

Jim Caldwell

## NEXT MEETING - FEBRUARY 8, 1990

You are not going to believe this, but Gene Benitez, Vice-President and program chairman, asked Fred Baker and Leonard Sanders to come up with a program on workbenches. How in the world could anyone come up with anything of interest on this subject. Well, Fred and I talked about it and it became evident it would be a tremendous task, if not impossible, to bring our workbenches to the meeting. Fred's weighs some 800 pounds and mine some 300 pounds, either of which would require an awful lot of manpower to move. So, we did the next best thing — a friend of mine video-taped our benches in place in our shops. You will be getting a better look at them this way than if they were there in front of you. Both our benches were influenced by Issue No. 50 of Woodsmith Magazine. Of course, a workbench is still a workbench, but we all must have one and you might get some idea from these.

## LAST MEETING - JANUARY 1990

We were fortunate to have Dr. John Owen, an Ophthalmologist, convince us with the use of slides that we should never forget, for one moment, to protect our eyes from injury while pursuing our wonderful hobby, woodworking. We are glad John's mother, Ethel, is one of us and was instrumental in getting Dr. Owen to share with us his enormous talent and experience in the care of eyes. Dr. Owen is associated with the Norwood Clinic and the Eye Foundation and through these affiliations has seen "it all" when it comes to eye problems. He averred

there are some 2.4 million eye injuries each year, many of which could be avoided through the preventive measure of wearing safety glasses. It was surprising to learn that there are numerous eye injuries resulting from bits of steel flying off a nail which has been struck by a hammer, something all of us do every day. Safety glasses will eliminate this problem. Dr. Owen suggests we get our eyes checked at least every two years. As for safety glasses, he recommends they be made of polycarbonate glass, with frames of impact resistant material, have mesh around the outside edges to deflect flying particles, and if you choose goggles be sure they have a gasket that fits close to your face. We all get "something" in our eyes from time to time and Dr. Owen stated if you can move the object, wash it out with water, but if it won't move see a doctor. We appreciate Dr. Owen's sharing this important information with us.

## DUES TIME AGAIN

If you were at the last meeting you know the matter of annual dues came up. Our outgoing Treasurer, Walter Barnett, and our incoming Treasurer, Kerry McCalla, assisted many of you in making your payment at that meeting. What a Bargain! For \$20 a year you get eleven programs, a Christmas party, door prizes each month, participation in our Spring Show, participation in Toys for Tots, a discount on material and supplies purchased at Acton's, the use of our ever growing library, and a monthly newsletter. Incidentally, our spouses are always welcome at our meetings, parties or field trips at no additional dues. That is \$1.66 a month, one of the most outstanding

bargains we will ever encounter. We must insist that your dues be paid by February 28th, however, and it is the policy of the Guild to drop those members from the roll who do not comply.

## SEMINARS

President Caldwell announced we will have at least one, and probably two seminars this year. The one we had last year, when Rudy Osolnik put on a day-long demonstration of his artistry with a woodturning lathe, whetted our appetite for some more. Pres. Jim hopes to attract two such prominent personages in the woodworking profession and is actively pursuing this project. If you have any suggestions, or have any influence with such people, please let Jim know about it.

## SPRING SHOW

We're not going to let you rest a moment. If you haven't already started, then you best do so, because May 1990 will be here sooner than you think. This activity has been one of the better projects our Guild has engaged in. It is simply "fun," as well as inspirational, to make your best project, enter it in the show, have it judged on its merits (or not judged, according to your wishes) and have the public admire the work we do with wood. Any, or all, of us would like to have a blue ribbon, or any ribbon, to show for our work. After all, why do we engage in woodworking? Usually it is to produce something for our family or friends, or in a few cases for profit. But generally, it is for fun. Most of us try to make each project the best we can, and with each subsequent project try to make that project better than the last. It could be said the Spring Show is an enlarged Show and Tell, like we have at each meeting. No matter what you enter in the Show whether it is a large object or a small one, and there are always plenty of

Alabama Woodworkers Guild Newsletter is published monthly for its members and other interested parties. Guild meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday at 7:00 P.M. at Acton Moulding & Supply Co. Information concerning the Guild may be secured by writing P.O. Box 506, Helena, Al 35080 or calling the Editor, Leonard Sanders, at 822-6876.

both, just make whatever you make best and join in the fun of a two or three day show. It will be held at the South Central Bell lobby downtown if all necessary arrangements can be made, and probably the week of May 21st.

## SHOW AND TELL

We had three entries in this category last month. One member (whose name escapes the editor, with apologies) showed us his Extension Roller Stand he made to use as an extension to his table saw; Sterling Brewer showed us two, of some ten, carved panels depicting Bible scenes, he is preparing for a client to become the top of a dining room table; Dale Lewis showed several small bowls and boxes turned on his new lathe; and Ben Neighbors showed a segmented, stave bowl. We appreciate these gentlemen sharing their work with us.

## DOOR PRIZES

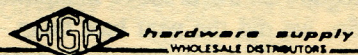
We always enjoy this little moment when someone is rewarded for remembering to sign in. We normally have two prizes, but having two left over from the Christmas Party, we had four. The winners were: Don Asbeck, a quart of Danish Oil; Ed Nichols, a vise-grip clamp; Mr. (don't know his first name) Knapp, a gift certificate from Fred's Sharpening; and Steve Back, a Fred's Sharpening gift certificate. You can't win if you fail to sign in.

## KERRY'S ANTIQUES

Over the years we have come to appreciate the fabulous collection of antique tools Kerry has collected. At the January 1990 meeting he shared with us how he engages in national and international auctions of antique tools. He displayed a Scotch Brace he purchased in this way, and it came with an unbelievable set of some twenty bits, all of interesting contour and uses. For \$6 a catalog showing the items for auction, their range of suggested prices, and the deadline for placing your bid are included therein. If you win the bid, you are notified and payment is tendered. The next notification you receive is from U.S. Customs announcing your object has arrived, and upon paying the duty you may pick up your purchase. Sounds like much fun. Thanks, Kerry.

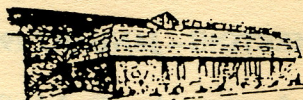
## BRIDGE CITY TOOL WORKS

Some, if not all of us, have received a catalog from these people and had our appetites whetted by the marvelously beautiful tools they sell. The tools are too pretty to use, but oh so lovely to look at. Bill Purson showed us three he received for Christmas; a marking gauge, a scratch awl, and a sliding bevel. Rosewood and brass at its prettiest — thanks, Bill.

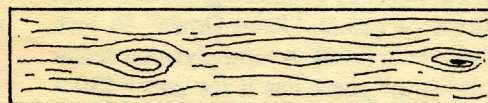


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## A QUESTION FROM THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Who was the lady who sat by Clifford Saxon, on his left, and wanted to know something about Plantation Shutters? If she will call him at 823-4467 he will tell her.

## COURSES OF INSTRUCTION

Continuing the program of providing courses of instruction for the benefit of our members, the following courses will be offered:

1. Basic Woodworking, taught by Fred Baker, beginning March 13, will run for 10 weeks, restricted to 20 students, and will cost \$48.

2. Basic Woodturning, taught by Dale Lewis, beginning March 13, will run for 5 weeks, restricted to 10 students, and will cost \$33.

3. Carving, taught by Ivan Kronberg and Jerry Vines, beginning March 13, restricted to 10 students, will run for 10 weeks, and will cost \$48.

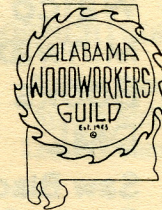
Due to the amount of administrative procedures involved in putting these classes together, it is necessary to require students to commit to the class of their choice at the February meeting and make payment of the required tuition. All three classes will be explained at the February meeting. Those students who find it necessary to withdraw after committing may receive a refund up to the time of commencement of classes, but none thereafter.

## BUY - SELL - TRADE

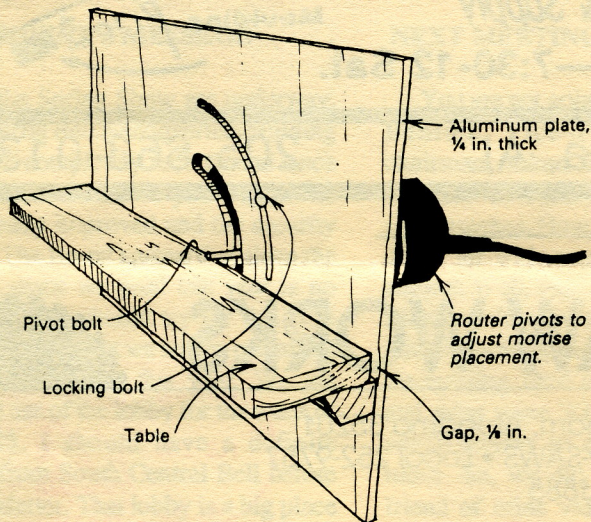
If you would like to be able to make your own moulding and edge table tops, you need a SHAPER.

For sale - Craftsman Cast Iron Shaper. Complete with table and several carbides, & tipped cutter, never been used.

Call James Johnson at 871-0375.



### 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 1/8-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.

## ARE YOU ACTIVE

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed,  
Or are you just content that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the crowd,  
Or would you rather stay at home and complain both long and loud?

Do you give a little time and help to make things tick,  
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the "clique?"

There's quite a program scheduled: that means success if done,  
And it can be accomplished with the help of everyone.

Some come to all the meetings and help with hand and heart;  
Don't just be another member, but take an active part.

Think it over member, are you right or wrong,  
Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

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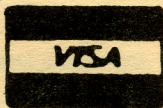
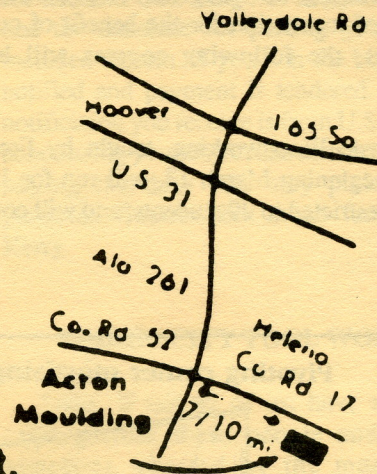
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6 to 4:30 M-F.—7:30-12 Sat.



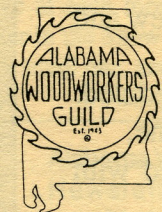
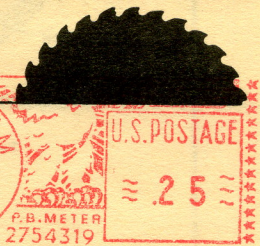
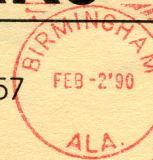
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