

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VIII

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SEPTEMBER 1990

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you didn't make it to the IWF '90 show in Atlanta you missed quite a show. There were actually a few dealers selling to the small shop and hobby trade. Some nice discounts were being given by some of them. All of the large tool makers had extensive displays with experts available for answering questions. Your next chance at such a show will be August 1992.

At the risk of jeopardizing my source, if any of you are interested in firewood at a good price Joseph Lumber Co. has a scrap pile they sell for \$.90/hundred pounds. Sometimes they sell it by the load for \$20 to \$25 depending on how you negotiate with them. The mill makes pallets. They buy mill cut green hardwood (oak, poplar, hickory, ash, sycamore and gum in rough order of quantity) in 4x6 and 6x6 sizes and resaw it for their needs. Cut-offs and scrap are piled outside for sale. You have to sort through and load it yourself. Lengths are usually short but there is no bark, perfect for burning in wood heater fireplace inserts. If you get there before cold weather they usually have a good supply. Some of the material is good enough for resawing and air drying for making toys and other small items. Don't expect FAS quality though! Some times there is a pile of thin stuff 1/4 to 1/2 inch x 3 ft or so. Most is poor quality but you can often pick out a few good pieces for toys and other projects. Joseph's is located approximately 7 miles from Chelsea on Shelby County 47. They are not open on the weekend.

Speaking of toys, I hope all of you are well on the way to making your share of the 1000 toys we plan to give to Toys-For-Tots this year. Plan on getting your toys in by the November meeting!

See you at the meeting September 13.

## NEXT PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 13, 1990

Gene Benitez, our excellent program chairman, has a most interesting program lined up for us. Dr. Jim Kassner, (a PhD from Tuscaloosa) has had an interest in building clocks for some years. Now you notice we said building clocks — but what we didn't say is they are built entirely of wood — yep, the works too. Dr. Kassner says there were some of these clocks made as far back as the Revolutionary War. We are told these clocks last, after up and running, up to 100 years. Humidity, as you may well imagine, is the biggest problem since the parts of the works, of which there are 180, react to humidity as all wood does. Dr. Jim says the clocks may be disassembled, cleaned and restored to service in a few hours, and oh yes, lubricated. Wonder what grade oil he uses? The clock is known as the Phoenix Clock, and yes, he has kits for sale. Most of us have seen similar clocks in catalogs, but now you have the opportunity to see one in person and ask questions about it.

## LAST PROGRAM AUGUST 1990

We were treated to a program filled with nostalgia, emotion and inspiration by Ben Neighbors who is chairman of our annual Toys for Tots program. This will be the third year Ben has taken care of this important phase of our Guild activities. It was decided early in our existence that with the number of talented woodworkers we have in the Guild, we have an obligation to engage in active participation in community affairs, and Toys for Tots was selected to be that activity. Two of our members were invited by Ben to "show and tell" what they are going to make this year. Ethel Owen, who made 43 aerobats last year is making a ping pong game and a clown on strings (like a yo yo). Charlie Brown, who is known for his airplanes and cars in prior years, is going to make stilts (you know, kids put their feet on blocks attached to poles and walk on them), and he is going to make some small boxes (cigar size) which he says children love — they put their most precious possessions in boxes so no one will borrow them or become attached to them. Ben displayed a small bench and some jewelry boxes of which he has already made ten. A list was circulated at each of the last two meetings where members were asked to commit to some number of toys or other objects so we might get some indication of the response. The response is FANTASTIC. You people are quite a bunch. All we have to do is ask and you respond. If you weren't at the last two meetings doesn't

mean you are excluded from participating. Our goal is 1,000 toys (objects) this year after coming off a fine year in 1989 with almost 800 toys (objects). Ben reminded us to be careful not to make things too small that a child can swallow; don't use toxic paint; and make the objects substantial enough to withstand the battering children usually give their toys. Ben says, "YOU NEED TO FIND A REASON TO DO, NOT TO NOT DO."

### THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

We instituted a new wrinkle at our 1989 Spring Show which was held at the Hoover Mall — A box with slot in the top was set out with small slips of paper provided, and the public was invited to indicate which of our offerings most exemplified excellence in woodworking. The public spoke loud and clear in 1990 and awarded the honor to Ed Ramsey. We think this is the third year Ed has entered one of his fabulous sculptured rocking horses. This year was no exception — Ed outdid himself in a way we did not believe possible, and that was to make a more beautiful horse than in previous years. Congratulations, Ed, and we look forward to more and better from you in the future.

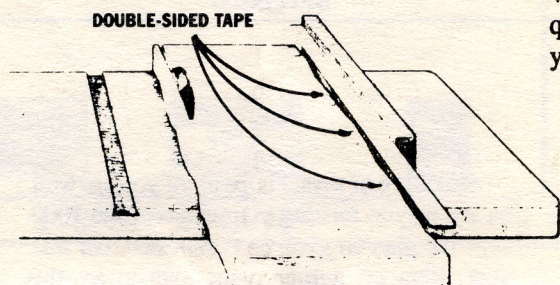
### FALL SEMINAR SEPTEMBER 22, 1990

Thanks to Bill Purson who, according to Sterling Brewer, has such a well organized work shop that even his saw dust is separated and categorized by type and content, we will have really a great seminar on **F I N I S H I N G**. According to the questionnaire answered by many of you last year this is the subject you most want to know more about. "The Art of Finishing" will be the subject of the seminar and will be put on by a friend of Bill's, artist Henry F. Barrow of Washington, D.C. It will take place on Saturday, September 22, 1990 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will charge a fee of \$25 if paid by Sept. 13th meeting, or it will be \$30 at the door. It will be held at Acton's. Plan to bring a lunch, a note pad and pen. The seminar will include slides, samples, discussions, questions and answers and demonstrations. We are very fortunate to continue to offer quality seminars like this, and we hope all of you will attend.



### Parking a Sander

When using an orbital finishing sander, I find it helpful to have a 12-in. sq. piece of carpet close by. The power can be turned off and the sander safely set on the carpet before it has come to a complete stop.

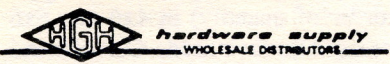


### Getting the First Edge Straight

To get a straight edge on one side of a board that has two irregular edges, attach a straightedge to one side with double-sided tape. Then run it through the tablesaw with the straightedge against the fence. The tape won't damage the wood the way nails will.

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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.



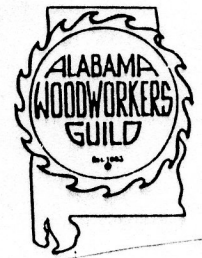
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# ALABAMA WOODWORKERS GUILD FALL SEMINAR



## "THE ART OF FINISHING"

Presented by: Washington DC artist Henry F. Barrow

Date: Saturday, September 22, 1990

Place: Acton Supply, Helena AL

Time: 10 am to 5 pm, at-the-door registration 9-10 am

Fee: \$25.00 if paid by 9-13 meeting; \$30.00 at-the-door

Comments: Plan to bring a lunch, a note pad, and pen. Seminar will include slides, samples, discussions, Q & A, and demonstrations.

### SEMINAR OUTLINE

#### A. THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR FINISH

1. Is it just the end or is it complete?
2. The right choices/considerations
  - a. Dust
  - b. Durability
- c. Appearance
3. Time/Effort/Return Curve
4. Care and Precision

#### B. SURFACE PREPARATION

1. Machine Work
2. Hand Work
3. Edges and Details
4. The Quality Job or T/E/R Curve

#### C. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. Stains
2. Fillers
3. Sealers
4. Putty

#### D. FINISHING PRODUCTS

1. Labeling
2. Chemistry
3. Experiments and Samples

#### E. TECHNIQUES

1. Brushed
2. Padded
3. Ragged
4. Sprayed

#### F. TYPES OF FINISHES

1. Shellac
2. Varnish
3. Oil
4. Oil and Varnish
5. Lacquer
6. Wax
7. Novelty

#### G. RUBBING & POLISHING

#### H. LACQUER, SPRAYED

1. Equipment
2. Safety
3. Quality Control
4. Clear Coat
5. Steel Wool/Polish
6. Stencils
7. Construction to facilitate the finish

#### I. NOVELTY & DECORATIVE FINISHES

If the notes taken at the last meeting are correct there was only one exhibitor, Frank Jones. Frank attended our last Carving Class and has become an avid chip carver, specializing in lettering. His offering was a plaque on which was carved "I Can Resist Anything But Temptation" and was very nicely done too. Thanks, Frank. More of you should do the same.

### DOOR PRIZE

The August door prize was a Back Saw won by Joe Knapp. It is the intention of engaging in this little exercise to get us to sign in so we may have some idea how many of our members are attending.

### ACTON'S DISCOUNTS

We want to remind our members occasionally there are a couple of discounts available to us by Acton's. First, when you become a member of the Guild, your name is entered in Acton's computer and when you buy anything from them you are afforded a discount of up to 10% on that purchase depending upon what it is. Then included in the advertisement on the back of our NEWSLETTER is a small box, and each month some item(s) with discounts are listed.

### LIBRARY

We need to be reminded from time to time that we have a growing library as a service to the members. Frank Jones is the Librarian, and he arrives early at our meetings so as to assist you in finding what you need in the library. We have had some very nice reference books donated by various people, woodworking magazines and plans to be perused. We are fortunate to have several national publications who are permitting us to reprint articles or shop tips from their magazines and in addition are contributing a subscription to their magazine. We appreciate the generosity of these publishers and recommend that you subscribe to one or more for your enlightenment and pleasure: FINE WOODWORKING, POPULAR WOODWORKING, WOOD MAGAZINE, WOODSMITH AND WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL. To determine if you want to subscribe, look them over in the library. Information about subscribing is in each magazine, or you may contact the editor for the address.

Continuing his crusade for safety, Gene Benitez closed out the August meeting by demonstrating a dust collector he made with a squirrel cage fan, some plywood and an air filter. A good grade of industrial filter paper is utilized by filtering the air that is drawn through it by the blower of the fan. A similar device may be constructed by utilizing a space/window fan. A cage is built to house the fan, and the three sides not containing the fan are closed up with a common furnace filter (which may be replaced or cleaned with a vacuum). Thanks, Gene.

### SEMINARS

We all know visual education far exceeds reading about it. Of course, if you can't get visual education then reading is what you have to do. A good many of us have attended seminars conducted by Highland Hardware in Atlanta. They acquire the very best in experts to conduct the seminars and the tools/equipment are top notch. The biggest expense is motel/meals if you attend a more than one day seminar. But, if you attend a one-day meeting you can do it all in one day just for the price of gasoline (getting to be no small item) and the seminar fee. The fees are very modest and worth every dime of it. The editor can supply you with a list of the fall and winter seminars for the 1990-1991 season.

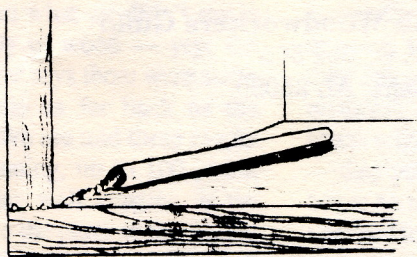
Most of you probably don't know who prints our NEWSLETTER. It is Riverchase Print & Copy located on U.S. Hwy. 31 where it junctions with Valleydale Road. Mr. Bob Jenkins is the owner and he has been more than accommodating on many occasions to get our NEWSLETTER out and delivered to Birmingham Saw, who places the postage on and mails it. The printer, Mike Martin, is the one who actually puts the thing together and he does a superb job. They have taken on additional work for us because of Kerry McCalla's departure. They are now preparing our mailing labels, keeping the active membership roster updated, and making the I.D. cards for each new member. The annual roster and membership cards are also printed by them. We appreciate their assistance and the quality job they do for us.

### HOMWOOD POLICE CHIEF

Just in case you didn't see it in the August 28th Birmingham News, there was a headline which said, "VETERAN WEST NAMED HOMEWOOD CHIEF". Who is WEST? None other than the Guild's faithful member Bill West, who is almost always present. Bill has been a Homewood Policeman for 24 years, having started as a patrolman, then sergeant and then lieutenant. We are proud of Bill and want to assure him that if we ever had any ideas about smart-lipping him when he was just a lieutenant, all those ideas have evaporated now that he is Chief. Congratulations, Bill.

### *The Last Straw*

When glue squeezes out on the inside corner of a joint, you can smear it all over trying to wipe it up, risk tearing out wood fibers by letting it



dry first and then chiseling it off, OR you can scoop the glue up with a plastic straw. Push the straw into the corner just enough to make it conform to the joint but not enough to collapse the straw, then slide it along scooping up the glue.

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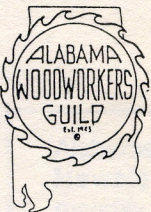
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