



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XI NUMBER 2 FEBRUARY 1993

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to Sterling and Richard Brewer for presenting a very informative and interesting program at the January meeting. Thank you both for helping.

The Alabama Woodworkers Guild received a thank you card from Ron Mensinger of Children's Hospital in early January. It reads as follows:

Many children were delighted by your generous toys given to Children's Hospital.

We have video taped the different activities and are putting together a small presentation for a future member's meeting. I will call and set a date.

Thank you so very much for the great time and gifts received at your Christmas Party. We appreciated your warm kindness. Thank You.

Sincerely Ron Mensinger

Winter classes are scheduled to begin at David Traylor's shop on February 2 and 4. The Tuesday night class for advanced students is filled however, David indicated that there are some openings in the beginning class which meets on Thursday nights. Classes are ten weeks in length, meet once a week at 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Cost is \$75. You may contact David at 985-9620.

I haven't received any more information concerning the possibility of having Rude Osolnick for a seminar. The board will continue working on the possibility of having him here sometime this year.

I hope each one completed the program questionnaire on the back of Membership Application. Ed Sheriff needs your input for program planning.

It's time to begin to think about the projects that you are going to build and enter in the Guild's Annual Show. No definite time and location is set yet, however this should be finalized soon. Let's make this year's show better than any that we have had yet!

See you at the February meeting.

Fred

NEXT PROGRAM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1993 7:00 PM

There is this fearsome procedure we have all read and dreamed about but didn't have the willingness to engage in — STEAM BENDING. One of our number, Ivan Kronberg has made many Windsor chairs which require bending the back piece. Ivan is going to demonstrate how easy (??) it is. He uses a Coleman Burner as his source of heat. He is going to get to the meeting early, get the steam going (cooking) and by program time be ready to show us how it is done.

LAST PROGRAM — JANUARY 1993

The employment (not paid) of a member or members of the Guild to bring our program again proved to be certainly a worthwhile hour. Sterling and Richard (the

old man and his son) who are in the business of making custom furniture demonstrated the art of attaching veneer by vacuum press. Most of us have never entertained the notion of tackling this process but thanks to the Brewers we might now be tempted to invest in the equipment required. First off you must have a vacuum pump. Here we must give credit and appreciation to the Brewers for having done all the leg work to track down equipment and know-how to get this job done. After several passes at a plastic bag, into which is inserted the object to be veneered, they found one that was sturdy enough to hold up to the pressure of the vacuum. A small table (4' x 4') is used to hold the vacuum bag and object to be veneered. A hose fitting is attached to one end of the bag where the hose of the pump attaches and the other end is where the object is inserted into the bag. When the object is in place, the open end is folded over and clamped in place and the pump is turned on. It is amazing to watch the bag collapse and gradually attain a skin-tight cover over the object being veneered. The pump is left on until 25# pressure is attained after which it must be turned off. It usually takes about a day to cure. The piece being veneered at the meeting was a jewelry box top and after attaining the proper pressure the bag was absolutely tight and uniform over the veneer. The uniform pressure is the key to this pressure, and the Brewers showed us slides of some of their work which includes veneered furniture. We greatly appreciate their bringing this program to us.

There was a movie by that name some years ago and it has nothing to do with this report except as a medium of getting into it. We received a call from the EAST ALABAMA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION which was formed just a few short years ago. They will visit us at our February meeting. They feel some kinship to us since it was our Guild that inspired them to form one in the Anniston area. A delegation of them came to one of our meetings, and we provided them with some of our material and they went home and got started. We congratulate them and we know they are doing great because we receive a copy of their newsletter each month. We look forward to their visit and encourage you to be hospitable to them.

DUES — TIME FOR, AGAIN

We forgot to mention in the January Newsletter that January of each year is the time for paying our dues. Please come to the February meeting prepared to deposit your \$25 for the year 1993.

DOOR PRIZE

It is so nice to have Mary Spanos now in charge of securing our registration at the meetings and selecting the door prize from the hundreds available at Acton's. Mike Key, who has handled this job for several years, which we appreciate, is a nice enough fellow but there is no way he can compete with the good looks of Mary. Dennis Wood won the door prize which was a nail puller. (Just so you will know, the door prize is worth up to \$15 each month.)

President Baker is already thinking and working toward this year's seminar when a professional is brought in for the enjoyment and inspiration of our members. Fred has contacted Rudi Osolnik who did our summer seminar several years ago. Rudi is interested in coming back but he attends so many such seminars he was not certain he will be available at the time we want him. More as developments occur.

SHOW AND TELL

The fun part of our monthly meetings is the Show and Tell and January was no exception. We had a plenteous supply of interesting entries this month. HAROLD PHILLIPS had some weed pots of dogweed; a carving (ostensibly a likeness of the Newsletter editor) of a face (??) by FRANK JONES; a wine rack designed to hold glasses and bottles made of walnut by BEN NEIGHBORS; a clock made of walnut (to satisfy the desires of his wife) by FRANK RYERSON; a toy car (a 1957 TR5) by BEN LANDRUM; an oak bowl made from an exquisite piece of oak by IVAN KRONBERG; band sawn boxes, encased in specially made presentation boxes, made of cocobolo by ED SHERIFF; several pieces of steam-bent ash for use by anyone having a need for them by IVAN KRONBERG. It is your time to bring something next month.

The end of the year having just occurred, the status of our finances at December 31, 1992 is presented below:

INCOME

| SOURCE | AMOUNT |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| | From 1991 \$2,047.25 |
| Acton's (from sales to us) | \$815.97 |
| Dues | 3,050.00 |
| Turning Seminar | <u>770.00</u> 4,635.97 |

DISBURSEMENTS

| | | |
|---|----------|-------------------|
| Riverchase Print & Copy | 2,265.29 | |
| Postage stamps | 45.00 | |
| Stationery & Supplies | 13.91 | |
| United Trophy | 6.39 | |
| Acton — Gift Cert., Door Prizes, Material for Coat Rack | 697.90 | |
| Guest Speakers | 165.00 | |
| Turning Seminar | 381.65 | |
| August Show (annual) | 702.29 | |
| Toys for Tots | 18.90 | |
| Gift Certificate | 25.00 | |
| Christmas Party | 672.99 | |
| Total Disbursements — 1992 | 4,994.32 | 4,994.32 |
| Balance Year to Date | (358.55) | |
| Balance December 31, 1992 | | <u>\$1,688.90</u> |

LIBRARY

We don't want you to forget we have a library just stuffed with reference books, woodworking magazines (about six) that come on a monthly basis, a few video tapes and the finest librarian a guild could have, Frank Jones. Frank opens shop about an hour before each meeting and stays open until meeting time. If you ask him he probably would see to it that you could borrow something after the meeting. Just so you won't think we are putting you on, check out the library at the next meeting.



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.

You probably don't know we exchange NEWSLETTERS with several guilds from other sections of the country. By reading what some of them are doing we get a feel for whether we are doing as much as we can for our guild. The January 1993 issue of The Michigan Woodworkers' Guild, Redford, Michigan had a very interesting article entitled History of Screw Making. Knowing you would find it of interest, and with appreciation to our Michigan friends, the article is reprinted here.

The first item is an open house lumber sale. Ivan Kronberg will hold his sale from 8:00 to 12:00, Saturday, February 13th. He will have some walnut, oak, persimmon and cedar, both lumber and bowl blanks. He says Elsie will have coffee and rolls to bribe you with so you will buy more and more. Ivan's address is 1720 Driftwood

Lane. Turn off Hwy. 31 at the Riverchase entrance and his house is only a couple of blocks up in there on the right. The second item is a Craftsman Bandsaw. This saw is about 25 years old but still runs. I have bought a new saw and need the space the old one takes up. The first \$25 gets it. Somewhere along here I guess I had better tell you the saw is mine, Leonard Sanders, 822-6876.

History of Screw Making

The earliest known screws date back to Roman times. These were primarily wooden, although some gold and bronze screws were also used for jewelry. Screws all but disappeared until about 1480, when they became popular for clock making. These screws had hand cut threads and slots, and were primarily of soft bronze and brass. The first practical screw thread cutting machine was not developed until 1568 by a French mathematician, Jacques Besson. Incredibly, most screws were still made by hand for the next 150 years because they were considered more precise than screws cut with Besson's machine! Iron screws seem to have been originally just nails with twisted shanks. During the 16th century, gunsmith's and armorers found that more holding power could be obtained by twisting the shanks of the nails they used to hold the firing mechanisms to the gunstocks. That was a great as long as the firearms did not need to be disassembled. But as they soon found out, the twisted shanks made the nails almost impossible to remove. Somewhere along the line someone cut a slot in the head so that the nail could be twisted back out of its hole. This worked well, but the slot had to be cut by hand, so twisted nails with slots were used only for demanding or otherwise special applications. By the end of the 18th century, a machine had been invented which could make a better screw-nail with a finer thread. But since it was still regarded as primarily a nail, it was still hammered in place. The threads were used for removal. Because the threads were so fine these new machine made screws-nails did not seem to have the holding power of the old hand made versions. About 1780, the joiner-toolmakers of London introduced a long handled (London pattern) screw driver to allow the easy installation and removal of the machine-made screw-nails. When installed, the cabinetmaker commonly bored a starting hole with a twist gimlet that had an auger point. The screw-nail's blunt point was then inserted far enough for the first threads to catch, and the screw-nail could

then be driven, and woodworking hasn't been the same since. With the coming of the Industrial Revolution, and Eli Whitney's demonstration of the American System of interchangeable parts, screws and other threaded fasteners took on more importance. The old methods of hand cutting threads or using crude lathes to automate the process, had to be improved to allow for true interchangeability, and to meet surging demand. In 1800, English inventor Henry Mausslay designed a lathe based on the lead screw, which allowed precise and repeatable thread cutting. This method of cutting threads remained the preferred method until early in the early 1900's. First mentioned in a US patent in 1863, screw threads are today formed by rolling a wire blank between two grooved dies. Under tremendous pressure the grooves in the dies cause metal to flow into the grooves, forming the threads. The method did not catch on until the early part of this century because the available wrought iron blanks tended to split under the pressure of the dies. Today, with improved steel making technology available, virtually all threaded fasteners are made by rolling. Reference: The Heritage of Mechanical Fasteners.

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