

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIII NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1995

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Dale Lewis
Ben Neighbors
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Spruce McRee 1983 - 1986
Leonard Sanders 1987
Nelson Brooks 1988 - 1989
Jim Caldwell 1990 - 1991
Fred Baker 1992 - 1993
Ed Sheriff 1994

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past year has been a really good one. We had many interesting programs on many different subjects. We learned about building airplanes, boats, and hunting bows. We learned how to do many things, such as inlays and marquetry. Ed and Richard did a fantastic job for the Woodworker's Guild in 1994. We owe them a big Thank-You!

For those of you who could not make it, you missed a great Christmas party. The food was good, the company was great, and Ronnie did a wonderful job as Santa Claus. Leonard and Frank did sing a solo. (Don't give up your day jobs.) We had another record year for Toys For Tots. Ben Neighbors did his usual wonderful job organizing this for the Guild.

For those who are interested, Dale Lewis and Nelson Brooks have a show going on in York, Alabama through the 6th of January. They are showing some of the neat and unusual things that they have made.

Our first meeting is January 12. Make plans to attend and bring someone new to the meeting. Remember to pay your dues in January.

I am really looking forward to 1995 and working with the Guild. Wallace has some really good ideas for programs and has some already lined up. One program will be on segmented turning and another on turning pens and other small objects. We want to learn some new things this year and get some new people interested in the Guild. The best way to do that is for you to tell us your ideas

and what you are interested in. We will be needing your help to make 1995 the best year yet!

Mike

NEXT PROGRAM JANUARY 12, 1995 • 7:00 PM

We begin our new year with the programs being arranged by Wallace Williams, our 1995 Vice-President and Program Chairman. To quote Wallace: "We usually think of woodworking as creating masterpieces in furniture, turnings, fine inlay or carving and similar intricate areas. This program will highlight another side. **THINK SMALL AND HAVE FUN** will focus on the production of a number of small articles that are useful and fun to make. The all-star cast will be composed of Guild Presidents Mike Key, Nelson Brooks and Jim Caldwell, and in addition, the grand old man of **TOYS AT CHRISTMAS**, Ben Neighbors, will demonstrate their skills and creativity and secrets for making a number of useful and playful items. (Rumor has it there may be some (?) extra door prizes at the meeting.) Hope you can and will make this one.

LAST PROGRAM NOVEMBER, 1994

What a wonderful surprise! Bill West, long-time member of our Guild, was persuaded by Richard Brewer to bring several of his "shop-built" tools he has

become noted for. He opened his program by saying he didn't know his tools were notorious since they just seem perfectly normal and natural to him. Over the years he would just appropriate whatever materials he needed from the scrap pile or his wife's kitchen and, if absolutely necessary, buy those parts he couldn't find through a discount catalog. He was asked if he ever bought anything new to which he replied, "why buy if you can make?" Bill has, over the years, done some stained glass panels, and if you do this you must have a grinder to shape and straighten the edges. So, what do you do? You take the bottom half of a pressure cooker, make a platform, bring the grinding stone up through the middle, add a sewing machine motor, and you have a stained glass grinder. I wonder if any of our carvers caught what he said about straight razors — that they make fine carving tools after a little shaping. You can make carving tools from butcher knives, also. All shops need a grinding station. Bill's was made from a double end mandrel (some 12-14" wide) with a grinding wheel, buffing wheel both with leather and cloth, all powered by a sewing machine motor. Now, these motors come from discarded sewing machines, not from a catalog. By now you should have gotten the message Bill West does wondrous things with whatever is at hand and does it very well. Then the lights were dimmed so he could give us a slide show of his shop. This you won't believe — he has some 150 electric lamps hanging from the ceiling, stuck in any available corner, standing on

FRANK JONES' PARTY

For some reason unknown to us Frank rose to his feet and invited any and all of us to his house for a wiener roast. We don't know what ulterior motive may have been lurking in his devious mind but there were some eighteen members showed up at his house and even on the day of the ALABAMA-AUBURN game (Bama won). It certainly was a nice gesture on Frank's part, but this gentleman has been making nice gestures to our Guild for many years. He is the only Librarian we have ever had, and he does a creditable job of running it. He has brought us several programs over the years, and for a retired jeweler, he is a most talented woodworker. Thanks, Frank.

SHOW AND TELL

One of the best moments at our meetings is when our members bring some of their handiwork for us to admire. We had two with offerings: Jim McCorkle had a miniature carousel, beautifully made, and he pointed out the horses were made from a Japanese wood, pallonia. Bob Moore presented a beautifully made trophy box for a knife (a big knife). He pointed out the lining of the box is made from the material used in the head lining of automobiles. Thanks men, and some of the rest of you bring something next meeting.

CRAIG NUTT

There may be some of you who won't recognize this gentleman's name. He was our SHOW judge this year and a long-time friend of our Guild. We have been to his shop and studio in Northport, Alabama a couple of times over the years (that's near Tuscaloosa, home of the Crimson Tide) (just wanted to throw that in). He is always a most generous and gracious host. He has also put on at least one program for us and has judged our SHOW on at least one other occasion. He is a nationally renowned professional woodworker and there is one of his tables, one with red peppers for legs, at the Birmingham Museum of Art. He has pieces in galleries and museums in several other cities also. There was a full-page story devoted to him in the October 31st Birmingham Post-Herald. One piece of Nutt furniture can cost several thousand dollars — or much more for an especially time-consuming piece, such as his Egyptian style desk that has legs shaped like dinosaur

claws. At the moment, he's working on a commissioned piece — a mahogany bed inspired by the traditional poster bed with pineapple-shaped finials. He says it is his own design, but a traditional form. He also says he doesn't do much stuff like that but this one appealed to him. Just thought you would enjoy reading about Craig, a good friend of ours.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas bash (party) was, again, a huge success. We had an enormous crowd all decked out in their best bib and tucker, full of cheer and raring for a fun evening, which they got. First off was an indescribable covered dish dinner. There is now way to describe some dozen meat dishes, an equal number of vegetables, salads, breads, drinks, all served on pretty Christmas plates with Christmas napkins and with high quality tools (knives, forks and spoons) to eat with. After gorging happily on the scrumptious food, and after depositing our worn-out dishes (from eating so much) we settled down to a song session. Linda Caldwell brought her special talent to the piano and there were printed song sheets to help the failing memories of the members (as to the words to the songs) and since they couldn't find anyone else to do it, Leonard Sanders assisted in the singing by getting each piece started. The climax to the song session was a duet. After searching throughout the Guild for qualified singers, the two who met the "specs" were Frank Jones and Leonard Sanders. It was so bad no one recognized the song and to this day the song cannot be identified. Then came Santa Claus (impersonated by Ron Acton) and very well, too. He came with a huge bag of goodies from his retail store which were distributed by lottery. Lovely gifts from Acton's which we very much appreciate. Then, as advertised, there was the drawing for gift certificates at Acton's for those members who participated in the Toys for Tots program. The winners were:

Grand Prize	Gene Benitiz	\$200
Ten Prizes	Ben Angwin	50
	Roy Bates	50
	Jerry DeVenny	50
	Frank Jones	50
	Wilburn Killian	50
	Joe Knapp	50
	Ivan Kronberg	50
	Bill Mahan	50
	Steve Onisick	50
	Dan Williamson	50

The annual party was drawing to a conclusion when retiring President Ed Sheriff was gracious in thanking the Guild for the opportunity of serving such a fine group during 1994. He was afforded a well deserved ovation. Then Ed called Mike Key to the podium and presented him with the gavel and wished him well during 1995. Mike responded by accepting the gavel and, on behalf of the Guild, presented Ed with a gift certificate as a measure of appreciation to him. The party was over and we adjourned, happy in the thought we had been to a really fine party and looking forward to the next one.

ED SHERIFF

Not the kind of topic you usually expect to see in the NEWSLETTER but one we, as a Guild, can take pride in. For, you see, it is becoming increasingly difficult to pick up a quality woodworking magazine without seeing his works featured. In the February 1995 issue of WOODWORK MAGAZINE he has a seven-page article and pictures on how to build a jewelry box. Then pick up the February 1995 issue of AMERICAN WOODWORKER and you will find (on page 93) a feature picture of his table lamp made of Rosewood, Birch, Acrylic, Rice Paper and with a dimmer switch. Congratulations to Mr. Ed, and we all say "Way to Go, Ed."

RICHARD BREWER

Just as with Ed Sheriff, an unusual way to put a title to a topic. Richard represented our Guild at an Atlanta Guild meeting in December. He has written an essay on the visit with interesting comparisons of the operation of the two respective Guilds. There isn't enough room to include it in the NEWSLETTER this month but it will be in the February issue.

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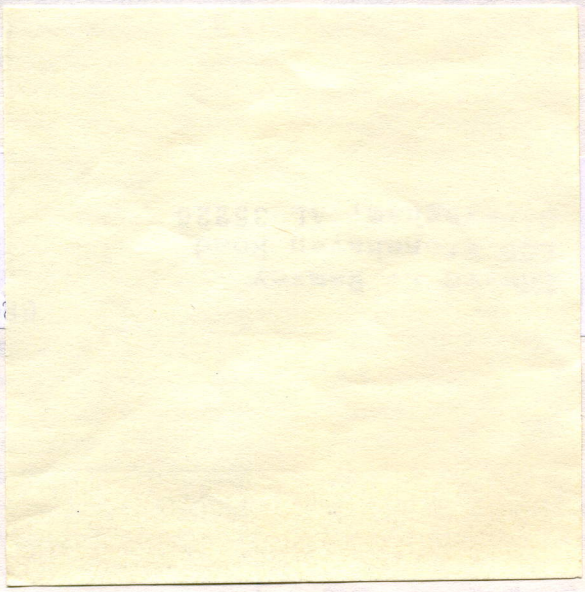
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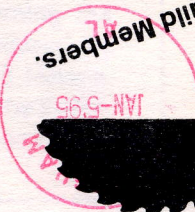
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