

# Guild News

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## January Program

Our "new" Program Chairman and Vice President, Dale Lewis, is starting off with a bang. There has never been a topic in our Guild more prominent and has met with more response than finishing our projects, that is, putting a good and proper finish on them. You are in luck. Dale has invited Roger Keel of Keel Refinishing to enlighten us on this subject. A former member of our Guild, and one who put on a program for us several years ago on this very topic, is Tim Holmes. Tim now works for Roger and together they have prepared for us a program on finishing techniques. Since both of these men have many years of experience in finishing and refinishing, now is the time to bring your questions and expect to get some answers.

## December Meeting

Our annual Christmas party was as enjoyable and outstanding as any we have ever had. Food? Man, did we have food. You girls, wives and/or girl friends, did yourselves proud making and sharing with us your favorite recipes and you could tell by the empty dishes just how successful you were in tempting our palates. We had about 90 in attendance. It was nice to see the members who had participated in the Toys for Tots program win gift certificates for their efforts. More about the T for T program elsewhere in this newsletter. Then we had our usual sing-along accompanied by Linda Caldwell, the lovely lady who keeps Jim Caldwell happy. It was also at our party we bid Mike Key adieu, but just from the rigors of the Presidency. Mike has been an inspiration to everyone, and though we hate to lose him we are glad to have Dan Browning step into Mike's big shoes. We also want to thank all of the other officers, board members and committees for their work last year. There were additional toys brought to the meeting and those, together with those brought to the November meeting, total 1,004 toys lovingly made by our members for this project. After a lot of "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" wishes to each other, the party was adjourned until the same time next year.

## Guild Newsletter

Getting back into the furrow (groove) of putting together a newsletter is a bit scary, to say the least. It is more frightening, however, to try and envision being in, or getting on, the InterNet Connection — or InterNet Cyberspace. What does all that mean? I have absolutely no idea. There is an old song Frank Sinatra used to sing called "I'll Do It My Way," or some similar title. There are times when I wish I had, and could use, a computer but since I don't and can't I'll have to do it my way. I have to pound it out on my BROTHER Correctronic Electronic Typewriter No. 340. It has a 60,000 word-spell dictionary built in and if I misspell a word it rings a bell to let me know. It isn't nearly as modern a way to get the job done but with perseverance the job

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy New Year and welcome to what I believe will be a year of excitement, fun, and education as a member of the Alabama Woodworkers Guild. I'm looking forward to some great programs, workshops, field trips and, of course, the usual fun and fellowship at our monthly meetings.

Our first order of business is to thank Mike Key for an outstanding job as president over the last couple of years. Drop by and pat Mike on the back and say "thanks."

We're all looking forward to a great year with Dale Lewis and his committee scheduling the programs. Our January program featuring Roger Keel has all the makings of a great start for the new year.

By now you've noticed that we convinced Leonard Sanders to come out of retirement and once again handle the duties of newsletter editor. Leonard's dedication to the Guild and his knowledge and creativity are certainly an asset to our organization.

There is information in other parts of the newsletter about committees being formed to assist with various activities this year. These committees need your help as a member or supporting cast. I believe in the old adage "two heads (or maybe three) are better than one." Contact a board member and volunteer to help.

As usual our Christmas party was a great success. Many thanks to all who contributed food, time and effort. A special thanks to Ronnie and Sue Acton. Their help and support are invaluable to the Guild.

What a great response to the request for toys for needy children! Ben Neighbors did his usual outstanding job coordinating and promoting this very worthwhile endeavor. Ben is stepping down after a number of years as coordinator of this program. His efforts and success over the years will be a tough act to follow.

Last, but not least — Just a reminder that January is the time to pay your 1997 dues.

Dan

## *Biography of a President*

Someone has suggested that the members would like to know more about our Guild officers as well as other members who take a lead in our activities. Since this is the first of such biographies, we will begin with our new President, Dan Browning. Dan was born and raised in Bowling Green, Kentucky. After finishing primary and secondary schools, he was graduated from Western Kentucky University with a degree in Social Studies. After teaching school for several years, he was employed by the Social Security Administration where he worked 32 years, retiring in January 1995. During this time he managed to get married, have three sons and a daughter, and get transferred to Birmingham. How did he hear about the Guild? He heard there was a group of fellows who called themselves a Guild and they were having evening woodworking classes. He wanted to know more about woodworking so he joined Fred Baker's class in 1988 and became a woodworker and a Build member. He has a well equipped shop, including a central dust collecting system, and his favorite projects are furniture and whatever Mrs. Browning wants made. He prefers to work with cherry, walnut or mahogany.

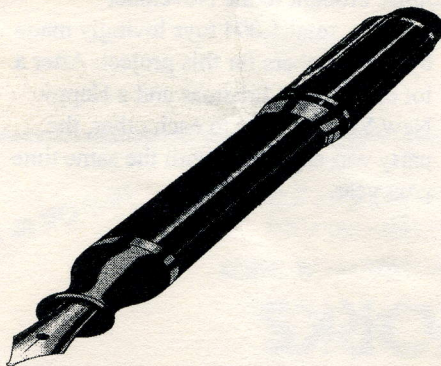
can be done. We all should take a moment to address Steve in person and tell him how much we appreciate his efforts last year to keep us informed and encouraged in our membership. It is my hope you will also address me face to face and tell me what it is you want in a newsletter. If you don't, you will just have to be satisfied with what you get — Me, and My Way.

## *Dues Time Again*

The January newsletter of each year always contains a reminder your dues of \$25 is due and payable in January. There are always a few who either forget or miss the first couple of meetings and end up left out of the Guild Roster. Only those paid-up members at the time we go to press will be (or ever have been) included in the book. Make Charlie Yerby work for his money signing Membership Cards at the January meeting when you pay your dues.

## *Program Committee*

Something of a different concept is being tried with respect to our monthly programs. Vice-President and Program Chairman Dale Lewis will have some help. Dale appointed



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 PM at Acton Moulding & Supply Co. Information concerning the Guild may be secured by writing P.O. Box 506, Helena AL 35080.

## *Fiddle Bow Bread Knives and the World Wide Web*

Several months ago I decided to make some fiddle-bow bread knives. Friends in Mobile have one, love it, and use it all the time. I knew that the woodworking part would be fairly simple: A little band sawing, rasping and sanding. However, the problem came with trying to find a source for the blades. There was a woodworker at the Bluff Park Art Show selling these knives and I politely asked him who supplied his blades. He politely told me that he wouldn't tell me that on a bet. So next I located some knives sold in area kitchen shops. I copied the name and number of the manufacturer which was in Oregon (or somewhere out there) and called them. They impolitely told me there was no way

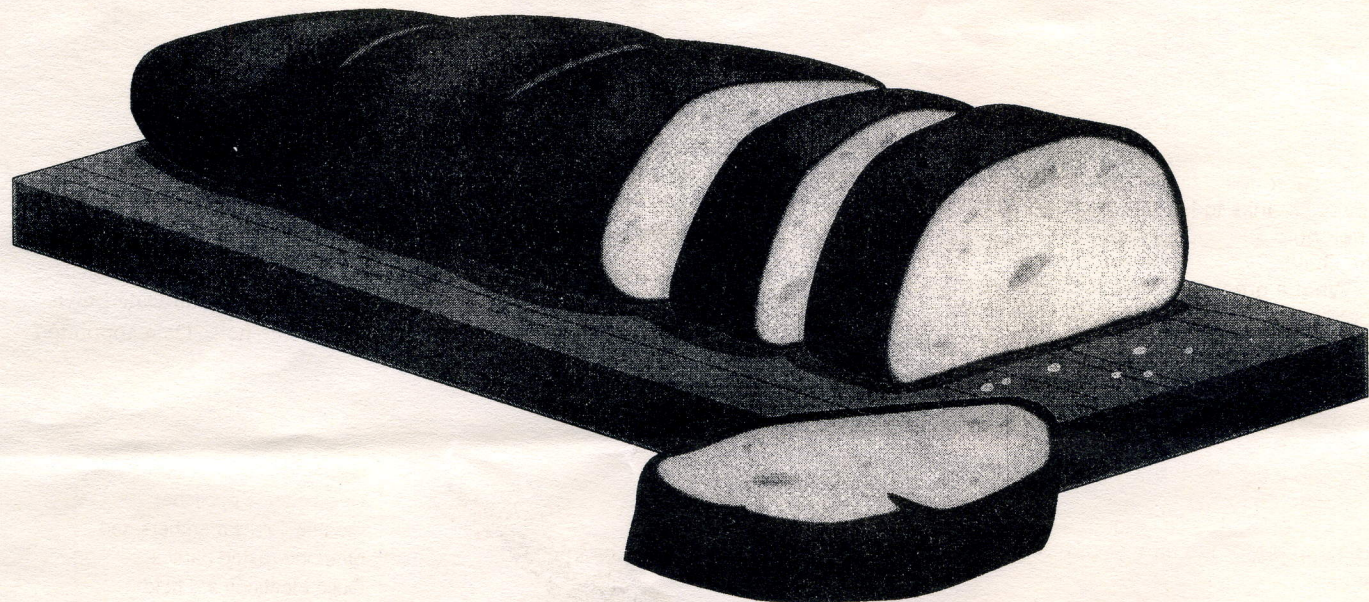
they could give out such sensitive information. This was getting irritating but I was even more determined to find a source for the blades.

In desperation, I turned to the World Wide Web! Yes, I surfed the WWW for fiddle bow bread knife blades. In the course of a couple of weeks, I talked to several very nice woodworkers from all over the country but still no luck. I did web searches on bread, blades, kitchen utensils, knives and finally on meat cutting. Eureka! I followed a Mexican company's Home Page back to the U.S., back to Alabama and landed at a company about a mile from where I work in the

Oxmoor industrial area. I called this company somewhat pessimistic that I would hit another dead end. I told them what I was trying to make and their reply was: "Sure, no problem, how many do you want?" I had a dozen blades the very next day,

Is there a moral to this story? I think there is but that's not my intention here. At the January meeting, I plan to show off a fiddle bow bread knife and accompanying bread crumb catching cutting board. And, if you ask, I may even tell you where I got the blades. In fact, I know I will!

Paul Mancill  
Board Member



a committee consisting of Charles Ard, Nelson Brooks and Walter Bryant (Charlie, Nellie, and Wally) who are expected to dream up and make recommendations for programs. With this kind of talent assembled at one time, is there any doubt we will have an outstanding program at every meeting this year? They solicit your input if you have a suggestion of someone who could bring the kind of program we badly need or recommend a topic to them for the same purpose.

**Library**

Our Guild Library has been in existence at least ten years and has grown into a respectable entity. Frank Jones has been the only Librarian we have ever had, and he does and has done a truly fine job of keeping up with our assets. Plans are under discussion of building another shelf/case due to the "full" conditions of the cabinet in use. There are several periodicals such as *Fine Woodworking*, *Popular Woodworking*, *Wood Magazine*, *Woodsmith* and *Woodworker's Journal* which come monthly or bi-monthly and may be checked out at our meetings. We may be able to expand this service soon but until the present procedure is changed, get what you want before our meetings. There is a considerable number of hardback volumes dealing with woodworking on every subject imaginable. You are missing a good opportunity if you don't avail yourself of this opportunity.

**Publicity**

It has been some time since we have had a person designated to serve as Publicity Chairman. Paul

Mancill, recently elected to serve on our Board, has accepted this responsibility. If you have any connections with a major community or urban newspaper, let Paul know so he may secure for us a little publicity about our organization and its activities. For instance, President Dan Browning happened to be in the offices of Hoover's Hometown Newspaper recently and mentioned during his conversation something about our twelve year history of making toys at Christmas. BINGO! There was an article in the November 28, 1996 paper telling our story and a picture Dale Lewis took at the November meeting of some of the toys our people had made. Just little things like this can bring us new members, different programs, and even scrap materials like we got in October, 1996. Hand Paul a note about anything like this you may know about. If you aren't sure if your connection may be useful, ask him about it. (See story from Paul elsewhere herein.)

**The Show**

The Show? Yes, it is not too soon to be thinking about, or starting on, our projects for the 1997 Show. A committee consisting of Charlie Ard, Chairman, Ed Sheriff, Nelson Brooks and Mike Key has been formed to promote and expedite the participation of every member of the Guild in our annual display for the public. Hundreds of people visit and admire our Show each year. The comments are flattering and result in our members being buoyed in spirit and filled with determination to do it again and better next year. There are a myriad of categories you may

enter, none of which are particularly difficult to negotiate and besides you will have great fun making the project and when the show is over you will have the project to take home for family, friends and neighbors to admire. Now, what are you waiting for?

**Evening Classes**

Plans are under discussion to make available to our members some evening classes in some form of woodworking. Right now Fred Baker and Mike Key are the designated hitters (no, instructors) for the class. It probably will be held in the Spring and if you would like to see some particular subject taught in the class, please tell Fred or Mike about it. We have had these classes in years past, and they were always fun and instructional.

**For Sale — Trade — Buy**

We have for many years tried to accommodate our members by providing a means of acquiring, disposing of, or trading something for something else. We have a tremendous opportunity for anyone wanting the following: BAND SAW, 12", saw/sander, Craftsman with legs; DRILL PRESS, 15", floor model with vise, mortising set, Craftsman; JOINTER-PLANER, 6", with legs, Craftsman; TABLE SAW, 10" direct drive, with table, Craftsman; SCROLL SAW, 16", Craftsman; LATHE, wood turning, 37", 12" capacity, Franklin Foundry, with set of tools. All these tools have motors and are ready to use. Call George Bates at 871-2020, or see him at 4237 Shiloh Drive, Birmingham 35213. If any of you others have anything that fits this category write it out, or call the editor, and it will be included in the next NEWSLETTER.

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