

GuildNews

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President's Letter

It's really hard to believe that we're half way through the year. They say "time flies when you're having fun." Well these first six months have truly been fun for me and I hope for each of you. While we were having fun a number of good things happened in the Guild. That is a real tribute to all of you folks who volunteer your time and effort. In order to brag on the Guild a little I thought it would be appropriate to give a brief recap of some of our accomplishments. We've had six outstanding programs (three of the six were presented by our own Guild members). Other accomplishments include Children's Hospital tours, a demonstration at Home Depot, Bo's Show, a hot dog supper, a new banner, the Beginner's Woodworkers Class, expanded library, and a significant increase in our membership (we currently have 152 members). The list is not all inclusive but quite impressive. Thanks to each of you who put forth all that effort and time to make these things possible.

The next six months should be just as interesting and educational as the first six. I know Dale Lewis has some great things planned for our programs. We're also looking forward to the George Hatfield seminar on August 2, a silent auction, and certainly, a yearly

highlight, the annual Woodworkers show. So, let's all get involved and work toward building on our accomplishments and make this six months the best ever.

See you July 10th.

Dan

Next Program - July 10, 1997

Another fine program on its way. Several years ago the Alabama Forge Council did a program for us, much to our amazement at their talent and what they do with metal. These men have adopted forging metal as a hobby and it is fascinating to watch. They will have a propane forge, anvil and all the tool trimmings. Heating the metal, investing temper into the metal and making a chisel are just some of the things they will bring and perform. Come expecting a fine show and let the sparks fall where they may.

Last Program—June, 1997

Just in case you wonder why we make an effort to report the substance of the last program, it is simply because some of you were not present and we want you to know what you missed. You missed a good one in June. Our long-time faithful member Ivan Kronberg

shared with us some of his secrets of making Windsor chairs. He has made many of them, and as you might imagine they don't go together accidentally. Ivan introduced us to a text book by Michael Dunbar that eases the strain of designing and making the several parts of these chairs. These chairs go back some 200 years and then were usually painted rather than stained. There are some 47 holes that have to be drilled in the seat, legs, stretchers, etc. There are usually some 24 pieces that have to be made and all but three are turnings. The seat is glued up from several pieces and shaped so as to be comfortable. He uses a side grinder to make the scoops employing 25 grit paper and gradually working up to 400 grit. He finishes his chairs with MARK VI finishing oil and caps that off with a polyurethane "wash", poly cut 50% with mineral spirits. We do appreciate Ivan putting the program together for us and from the comments we heard, he certainly succeeded in educating us about Windsor chairs.

Turning Seminar— August 2, 1997

We are in for another in the series of professional seminars which we believe make us "duffers" better woodworkers. An

old friend of our Guild, John Jordan from Antioch, Tennessee, is bringing us George Hatfield from Sydney, Australia. George is a professional turner and is Associate Editor of *Australian Woodworker Magazine*. He is in the U.S. to be a demonstrator at the American Association of Woodturners annual convention in San Antonio in July. As we have in the past, it will be necessary to charge a fee for the seminar—\$30 for members and \$40 for non-members. Since these professionals have traveling and living expenses to endure, they have to charge for their services. The meeting will begin at 9:00 and end at 3:00. If you find this of as much interest this year as you have in the past, there will be about 50 of you present that Saturday. You may sign-up for the meeting at this (July) meeting.

The Show

Time is moving along and you should have at least started your *Show* project. There may be a few of you who aren't familiar with our *Show*. Since the first year of our existence, 1983, we have had a show of our projects for us, and the public, to enjoy. We have had juried shows for at least ten of the last years and that just adds to the excitement. Imagine for a moment, you have made a bowl, table, chair, chest of drawers, workbench, intarcia hanging, toy, tool, jewelry box, tool box, cabinet, or anything you have crafted from wood and after the judge has examined and critiqued it, has awarded you a first, second

or third place ribbon. What a wonderful feeling of accomplishment you will have. Besides that, you can see what your friends in the Guild make in their spare time and get ideas from them. The place and date of the *Show* have not been announced yet, but get your "stuff" on line and when it is announced you will be ready.

Show and Tell

A most popular part of our regular meeting is when we have a *Mini Show* (as in *The Show*) of projects made by our members. Just as in *The Show* we learn and get ideas from the showing and telling about these projects. At the June meeting we had three showers:

George Shoppert	Old Ford Cars
Claude Holland	Letter Openers
Matt Panozzo	Pens

There aren't words to describe the quality of these offerings and those at other meetings. Bring some of *your* pieces for us to see this month.

Toys For Children

Having begun participating in the *Toys For Tots* program that encompasses most of the U.S.A., almost from the beginning of the *Guild*, we are now calling it Toys for Children. Pete Jenson is our liaison with Childrens Hospital and is doing a great job with it. It is obvious he has feelings for the children, and he will arrange to escort you on a tour of the hospital by calling him at

663-7624, and he guarantees you will come away from that tour with the determination to go home and make a bunch of toys. There is a little different twist to the toymaking this year. We are being asked to make toys all year long rather than just at Christmas. The hospital has children having birthdays and other occasions all year long, and if they have a little something to give that child when this occurs think what a wonderful feeling the child will have. Pete reports there have already been some 300 toys made by us this year, and the hospital is just thrilled to be getting them and is asking for more. Now you must not neglect the year-end drive in which we have made 1,000 or more for them for a lot of years. These interim toys are just icing on the cake. Call Pete and get an idea of what is needed and not needed.

Silent Auction

No, this is not a Lady Di evening dress auction. This is a silent auction of tools or materials you no longer have a need for, and we are sure you know, one man's trash may be another man's treasure. We have

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.

done this several times and it is a lot of fun. What you do is scrounge around your shop and find a tool you haven't used in several years, and therefore don't really have a need for, and bring it to the auction. All the items will be displayed at the meeting; there will be auction slips of paper beside each entry on which someone will write what he will give for it and sign his name; the slip is turned upside down so the next bidder won't know the previous bid; at an appointed time (cut off) the bids will be announced and you can collect your money from the highest bidder and go merrily on your way. This will probably be done at our August meeting so be looking around for tools or materials you would like to auction.

Ben and Mary

Now what in the world does that mean? Well, all of us have come to know and appreciate Ben Neighbors over the ten years he did the Toys for Children project. Well it seems he has another interest along with his lovely wife, Mary. They have for many years participated in Meals on Wheels operating out of Trinity United Methodist Church in Homewood where they are members. The *Birmingham News* got wind of their efforts in this marvelous program and did an extensive write-up on them a few weeks ago. We appreciate their continued devotion to the community, and if there are

others among us that are doing something like this we would like to know about it. If we learn about it, we will put it in *The Guild News* forthwith.

Door Prize

There were actually two awarded at the June meeting. First off, Frank Jones had won it at the May meeting but didn't get his Acton's Gift Certificate. This was awarded tardily. Then, at the June meeting, having his name drawn, proceeding to the podium, grinning as usual, was Ed Ramsey. Way to go, guys.

Buy—Sell—Trade

We have just one this month. If any of you need to have something advertised in the *Guild News*, please let the editor know. This month Billy Horn, at 655-2806, has an 18" Delta Scroll Saw that is surplus and will sell it to the right buyer.

Notes from the Loft

This is the faltering first steps of an idea that Charlie Ard proposed several months ago: That is, to write an article each month about the goings on in the loft at Thuston's Saw Works on nearly every Friday afternoon—Honorable Fred Baker presiding. (I say "nearly" because sometimes the judge can't make it.) I have mulled over this Lofty idea for a while and, now, well, here goes.

First of all, if you haven't dropped by Thuston's on a Friday afternoon, you should. I do every chance that I get and I have learned something from every trip. Currently, Fred is building another of his beautiful European style work benches from 4/4 oak. Before this project, he built a series of very nice wall mounted tool cabinets complete with a bank of drawers. Before that it was through dovetailed blanket chests. Each of these projects entails using a wide variety of jigs, tools, and techniques and, needless to say, there is a lot to learn and Fred always takes the time to answer questions. (Even the dumb ones that I ask.)

Although Fred is primarily there to demonstrate tools and woodworking techniques, there are other, perhaps equally valuable gems of wisdom that are freely distributed by the members of Fred's Court which is composed of whoever happens to be there. For example: I have been given sagacious counsel on pruning, spraying and planting fruit trees, who to vote for, why the world is in such a mess, jazz music, and, the relative merits of hot weather as it directly relates to the financial well being of the Ard household. I mean this is really good stuff and you should definitely plan to drop by! Perhaps you could learn some woodworking techniques and, at the same time, contribute your solution to the Federal Deficit.

Paul Mancill



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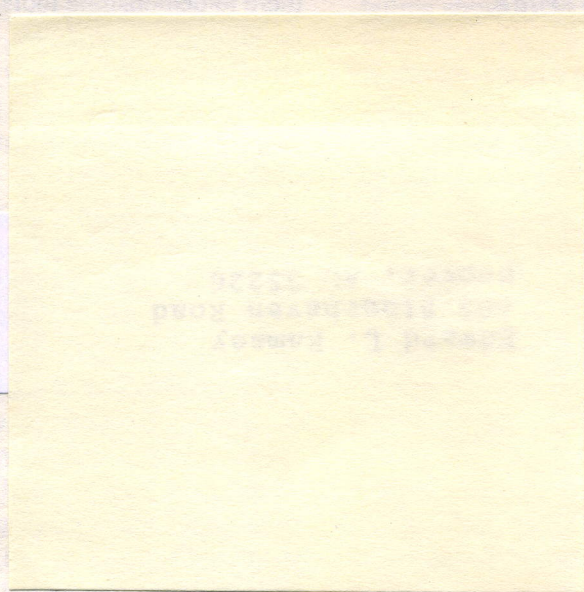
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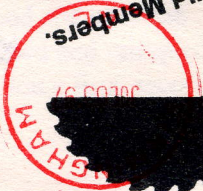
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