

GuildNews

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MAY 1999

President's Message

We had a real good turnout for our demonstration at Lowes a couple of weeks ago. It was especially nice to see so many of you just being there to give us your support. Our display of toys and other items was a real "attention getter". I'm sure we could have sold the entire bunch if we had wanted to. All in all it was a real nice day . . . if you're part of the 75-80% of Guild members who did not show up you missed a lot of fun. That leads me to another point that has bothered me for some time . . . that is, relatively little participation in Guild Activities by the majority of members, or, to put it another way, most of the work done by a few members. This seems to be the way all organizations are run but it does mean a hardship for a few members. You folks have many ideas about how to improve on our organization and you have the skills and knowledge to make major contributions. The Guild needs your input and active participation. So, how about it, share your ideas and skills with the group, Enough about that!

I'm really looking forward to our annual hot dog supper (May 13th - 5:30 PM) this is always a fun evening and an opportunity to meet your family and friends as well as fill up on free hot dogs and deserts.

Reminder . . . our annual show is

coming up in a little over three months. If you haven't started on that "special something" you better get busy.

See you May 13, 1999

Dan

Next Meeting - May 13, 1999

Hey, you all, this is the first of our social gatherings we have each year, the other one being the Christmas party. Our Hot Dog supper is intended to give us an opportunity to bring the family so they may see where and what we do on the second Thursday night each month. In addition to that we have the chance to become better acquainted with our fellow members. (Believe it or not there are some of them worth getting to know better). There will be hot dogs with all the trimmings. Certain Board members have accepted the responsibility for gathering all the food and drinks, AND cooking the "dogs". The smell of cooking hot dogs is just as American as Motherhood and Apple Pie. Mark your calendar so you won't miss this gathering and so you can make points with the Missus (or Husband, whichever is appropriate) and have a great time yourself. It all starts at 5:30 on May 13th.

Last Meeting - April 1999

Ivan Kronberg had to beg off on doing the program in April due to a Navy reunion being held in Florida. In lieu thereof, Charlie Ard came up with an able substitute, Dale Lewis. Dale is certainly no stranger to our Guild having been a charter member and has contributed so much down through the years. Dale has developed a truly special end table (end, as opposed to middle) that not only has a triangular top with decorations to enhance its appearance, it has three legs. Now these aren't just your everyday run of the mill legs, they have the shape of a lady's leg complete with high-heel shoes (we can only assume he is a "leg" man). There have been many questions down thru recent years how he goes about making those perfect legs. This was the subject of his program. He makes the leg and foot separately. One reason for the separate foot, he wants to be able to color the foot (usually black) like for a dark shoe. Later the foot is epoxyed to the leg. The legs are band sawn much like cabriole legs (Queen Anne) in that after one pass has been made the length of the leg, the cut-off is taped back in place to maintain the rectangular shape of the blank and so on until all four sides have been cut.

From there on, it is the arduous task of using rasps, sanding machines, including random orbit, to create the final "fantasy legs" as he calls them. If need be he dyes the wood and finishes it with lacquer or waterlox. We appreciate Dale fitting us into his busy schedule.

Door Prize

It was Bill Wiggins who walked off with the gift certificate to ACTON'S, and we hope he doesn't spend it all at once.

Charlie Brown

It has been only a few months since the passing of Charlie who was a prominent member of our Guild almost from the beginning. Charlie was a prolific toy maker, and he may have started the trend of seeing who could make the most toys at Christmas. One year he made a few more than 300 toys, and not just any toys, but beautifully designed and finished toys. Meredith Brown, Charlie's granddaughter, has asked us, the Guild, if we will look in our cabinets or wherever we tend to put things and see if any of us might happen to have one of his toys. She would very much like to acquire one as a nostalgic keepsake of him. It is not hard to appreciate how his grandchildren would feel about him because we felt the same way. Please look around and if not a toy, maybe you have a plan or a picture that would help.

Annual Show

The time has come for us to be getting serious about our projects for the 1999 SHOW. Most of you have participated in one or more of our shows but a few of you newer members may not be familiar with it. It has become an opportunity for us (you) to make something you are not ashamed of, in other words PROUD of, and would like to have it judged for its uniqueness, how well made it is, and how it is finished. The categories are ample enough for everyone to find a niche they can fit into such as the following: Traditional Furniture, Contemporary Furniture, Wood Turning, Wood Carving, Small Objects (little boxes etc.) Toys, Shop Tools and Jigs. That list opens up a huge range of prospective projects which should make it easy to fit into. Now you don't have to be a Dale Lewis to enter, either. There are three classes of woodworkers we recognize so as to not eliminate anyone from entering: Advanced, Intermediate and Beginner. With the extensive list of possible projects, and the classes of skill you have, there just isn't any reason for not making SOMETHING and entering. The SHOW will be held again this year at the Hoover Library in what they call the Gallery, and it is a splendid place to hold a gallery type show such as ours. The dates are August 14 - 21 so you have about three months to get the job done. Get to it!

Toymaking

Just a reminder we should be making toys all year long and have been doing so to some extent. So far we have contributed some 100 toys THIS YEAR and to add to that Pete Jensen, our former Toy and Children's Hospital Chairman, has made and sent 100 from his new home in Texas. If you feel inclined, make a few toys and deliver to one of our meetings. Paul Mancill, our current Chairman, will deliver them to the hospital.

Lowe's Demonstration

What a surprise to have around 20 of our members show up at the new Lowe's on Valleydale road. Here they came with tools, wood material and a bunch of enthusiasm to show the customers at Lowe's as they came and went what a bunch of bohunks, like us, can do with a piece of wood. There was dovetail making, chip carving, bowl turning, small birdhouse turning, scroll saw making of small cutouts for children, miter saw cutting of material to make an adirondack chair (adirondack being defined as a

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sturdy outdoor chair used by the Algonquin people living mainly north of the St. Lawrence River), fastening boards by use of biscuits, and Charlie Yerby marching around waving application blanks in the air trying to attract new members. It turned out to be a pleasant day and accomplished what we started out to do – advertise our GUILD. Oh yes, we can't forget the delicious Pizza and cokes provided by the DeWalt people. When we get this opportunity again, all the rest of you will want to take part.

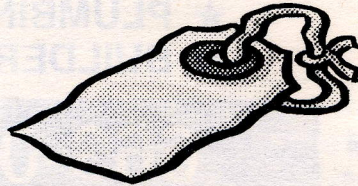
Shop Visits

Continuing the home shop visits to our members' homes, we have Charley Yerby on tap for May. The Saturday following our Hot Dog Supper, May 15th, you may visit his shop and find out what and why he is able to produce what he does. These visits have proven to be very interesting and well attended by our members. Charley will tell you how to get there at the next meeting.

Woodturning Seminar

Another successful seminar was conducted last month. This year, since it dealt with woodturning only, we joined forces with the Alabama Woodturners Assn. (many of whose members are members of our GUILD too) and had some forty-two present for John Jordan's spectacle. After expenses were met, there was enough left over to divide

between the two groups for enhancing our "kitty" for future use. Well done.



For Sale

We are glad to list tools of our members so they may make room for new tools and others may secure these tools and have such tools for the first time. This month we have: An 8" Craftsman Tablesaw with a Biesemeyer fence and a 10" DeWalt Radial Arm Saw. Both of these machines are in excellent condition and are \$200 a piece. You may call Bill West at 871-9326 for further information.

Lest We Forget

Our Guild has been hosted by Sue and Ronnie Acton, you might say, from the beginning. There was a short time when we met at Pelham High School. But for all practical purposes we have met at Acton's and Ronnie is a charter member. There is no telling how much it has cost them to be our hosts but they have never wavered, they want to be our hosts. It wouldn't hurt to thank them from time to time so they will know we appreciate their generosity. It also wouldn't hurt if you have need of something they sell to drive a

couple of extra miles to get it from them. The Guild officers and directors hereby express their thanks to them and wish for them continued success in their business.

In Memorium

We regret to report the passing of Lucius M. McIntosh, a member for several years. We offer condolences to his family.

Bet You Didn't Know

In the October 1998 American Woodworker a reader asks: Why is the standard feed speed for most thickness planers around 26 feet per minute (fpm)? I changed a sprocket on my planer and slowed the fpm from 26.2 to 19.5. This has increased the cuts per inch from 51 to 68, resulting in a smoother planed surface with less tearout on hard-to-plane materials. Are there any drawbacks to a slower feed speed? The Answer: You're right, reducing a planer's feed rate will give you more cuts per inch, resulting in a smoother finish. But according to experts in Delta's engineering department, more cuts per inch wear out the knives faster, because the knives get hotter. It can also cause burning of some woods. The common 26 fpm speed is a happy compromise. It is slow enough to give you a fairly smooth finish but fast enough to ensure a reasonably long blade life and prevent burning.



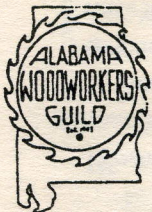
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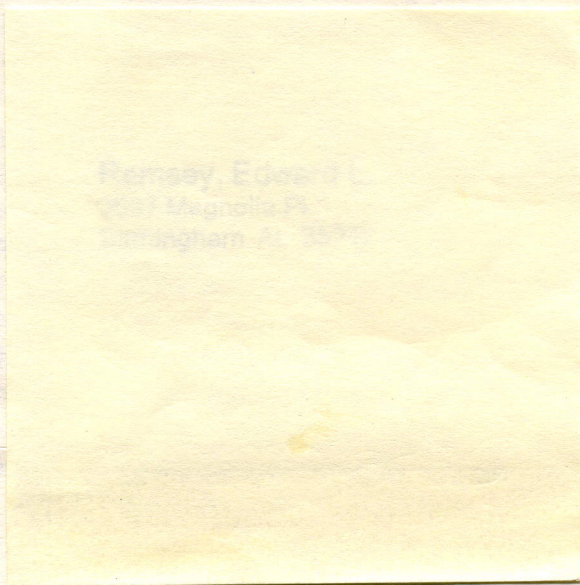
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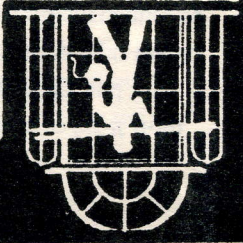
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