

The Gristmill

Published for the members of the
Mid-West Tool Collectors Association

Cades Cove,
Smoky Mountains

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From the President

As I begin my term in office, I would like to remind all members of the stated purpose of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association. Article II of our by-laws has three sections which begin with these three phrases: to promote, to study and to share. We need to accomplish these three goals as we interact with each other.



will do my best to look out for the interests of our members and our organization.

-Dave Heckel

I follow 12 past-presidents whose knowledge, skill and ability I must attempt to blend as a model for reference. These 12 men were all different in their approach to the guidance of the organization. I am honored to have met and talked to each of these leaders. Some only as a hello, some briefly, some in much discussion and all in camaraderie about collecting tools. This leads to the fact that, yes, I am the 13th president. But 13 has always been a lucky number for me. All through my life, it has occurred, and good things have happened. It is a good omen.

Please get involved, whether it is helping at a local area meeting, giving a program, setting up a display at the semi-annual national meeting, writing an article for The GRISTMILL, or running in your area's election to be a director. Our organization needs you to step forward and keep us moving ahead.

Our purpose of sharing knowledge and information is always supported. It is so wonderful to see members talking about new discoveries, swapping patent copies and talking tools in a language only tool collectors can understand. One of the security guards at the recent Rockford, IL, meeting said, "You people talk a foreign language. So many numbers and names that mean nothing to me." The Mt. Vernon and Tools for Humanity committees are all making strides in sharing our knowledge and abilities where they help others. The Internet and Long-Range Planning committees are looking to the future of M-WTCA.

Please read the article on the National Building Museum's request for help in this issue of The GRISTMILL. I

Building Museum Project Needs Displays

By Dave Heckel

Recently, I was contacted by the curator of the National Building Museum in Washington, DC.

The museum is planning an exhibition on "Do It Yourself: Home Improvement in 20th Century American Culture." The museum is searching for artifacts to display in the exhibition.

The staff is especially searching for trade catalogs, marketing materials, tools and general historical consulting assistance. This search is also looking for advertisements, how-to materials, building components, cartoons, toys, games and film/video segments as they relate to "Do it yourself."

This exhibition opens next September and closes in May 1998. The museum is looking only for the loan of items. The staff will arrange for packing, shipping, insuring and returning of objects for the exhibition. An illustrated catalog and brochure will be published.

If anyone wants more information, please contact this Area P director who has agreed to be the Coordinator/Facilitator to the museum:

*Don Stark, 596 Trail Road North
Elizabeth, PA 17022-9679*

Write On

THE GRISTMILL wants articles of all kinds about tools, makers, users, early industries, etc., photographs, old advertising cuts, and anything relating to M-WTCA. Material should be typewritten, and submitted on disk when possible (any ASCII-based word processing program). Shorter articles preferred. Deadline: **Jan. 10 for March** issue. Send to:

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THE GRISTMILL is the official publication of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association, Inc., and is published quarterly in March, June, September and December.

The purpose of the association is to promote the preservation, study and understanding of ancient tools, implements and devices of farm, home, industry and shop of the pioneers; also, to study the crafts in which these objects were used and the craftsmen who used them; also to share knowledge and understanding with others, especially where it may benefit restoration, museums and like institutions.

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**Mid-West Tool Collectors
Association National Meetings**

- Spring, 1997** **June 19, 20, 21, 1997.** Peoria, IL. Holiday Inn. Contact: George Wanamaker (309) 836-6872.
- Fall, 1997** **Sept. 25, 26, 27, 1997.** Knoxville, TN. Holiday Inn World's Fair. Contact: Jim Conover (615) 531-2076.
- Spring, 1998** **June 18, 19, 20, 1998.** Columbia, MO. Holiday Inn. Contact: Jim Price (314) 399-2341.
- Fall, 1998** **Oct. 8, 9, 10, 1998.** Decatur, IL. Holiday Inn. Contact: Terry Klingelhoef (618) 632-6127.

M-WTCA Area & Other Meetings

- Area O** **Jan. 10-11, 1997.** San Diego, CA. Allen Foster (510) 652-6769.
 - Area N Meeting** **Jan. 10-11, 1997.** Oak Hill, FL. David Burnell (904) 424-1795.
 - Area P Meeting** **Jan. 26, 1997.** York, PA. Bill Warner (717) 843-8105.
 - Area M,N,Q & K** **Jan. 31 - Feb. 1.** Madison, GA. Phil Baker (941) 485-6981.
 - Area K Meeting** **Feb. 8, 1997.** Rogers, AR. Gordon Bradford (501) 636-4383.
 - Area J Meeting** **Feb. 9, 1997.** Louisiana, MO. Bill Ringhausen (573) 754-5065.
 - Area A Meeting** **Feb. 15, 1997.** Hamel, MN. Howard Loomis (612) 448-5837.
 - Area N Meeting** **Feb. 21, 1997.** West Palm Beach, FL. Bill Bilancio (407) 833-6299.
 - Area B Meeting** **Feb. 23, 1997.** St. Francis, WI. Don Tubman, (414) 835-4658.
 - Area N Meeting** **Mar. 7-8, 1997.** Mt. Dora, FL. Paul Mikula (407) 365-4686.
 - Area E Meeting** **Mar. 23, 1997.** Rockford, IL. Gary Johnson (815) 636-1464.
 - Area F Meeting** **Mar. 31, 1997.** Nashville, IN. Mo Arnold (317) 251-7513.
 - Area N Meeting** **April 4, 1997.** Barberville, FL. Phil Baker (941) 485-6981.
 - Area Q Meeting** **April 5, 1997.** Charlotte, NC. Willie Royal (704) 366-7081.
- M-WTCA meeting dates must be cleared with Terry Klingelhoef (618) 632-6127.*

**Peoria planning
already under way**

By George Wanamaker

Looking to Peoria, IL on June 19-21, we have some great things planned.

We have seminars on hammer making, Sargent tools and, for those with computers, one on using the computer and the Internet.

For the Auxiliary, we have a make it and take it project along with other programs. There are many places to shop for everything, including a large shopping mall and several large antique malls within four miles. We have 12,000 square feet of trade and display space and plenty of motel rooms.

You will only have to set up once. "Parking lot" trading will be held inside the trade room on Thursday starting at 7 a.m., to avoid the need for all dealers to post a \$2,000 bond and buy a \$50 peddler's license (required by city ordinance to be business out in a public area). You can also trade from your room if you wish on Wednesday, just like the good old days of the Mid-West.

The M-WTCA theme is "Patented Measuring Tools of the 20th Century." The Auxiliary theme is "The War Years." There will be the usual awards for the Best Stanley Display, Best One Tool Display, Most Unusual Display, Best Display in Theme and ten Judges Choice awards.

Mobile home toolers, you need to make arrangements through the Civic Center Holiday Inn. They are working on closing a street behind the motel to use for mobile home parking during the convention.

For more information or to get questions answered, call George Wanamaker after 7 p.m.

On the Cover

John Kinnemeyer's display, "Chisels, Carvings and Carvers," won the Best of Show in Theme award at the national meeting in Rockford, IL. Wood carvings at the Baldwin Piano Factory were featured along with carving tools. Photo by Mike Slasinski.

Notice

THE GRISTMILL welcomes articles about favorite tools. Tell us about the tool and why it's your favorite. Include a photo and send to the editor.

Knoxville gearing up

By Jim Conover

Knoxville, the Smokies and the Holiday Inn look forward to hosting the membership again - this time on Sept. 25, 26 and 27.

Start planning now for your display. The theme will be primitive tools, which ought to be broad enough for most everyone to set up a display. Plenty of attractions will be available, including the Museum of Appalachia.

George Washington's Barn Dedicated at Mount Vernon

By E.J. "Al" Renier

The Mid-West Tool Collectors Association was among those honored by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union at the dedication of George Washington's 16-sided barn at historic Mount Vernon on Sept. 27.

In August, members of the M-WTCA Mount Vernon Committee were invited by the regent and vice regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association to attend the official dedication and to participate in the luncheon honoring contributors to "George Washington: Pioneer Farmer."

Committee members and their wives attending were: Warren and Alta Leemaster, Mel and Loretta Ring, Howard and Mary Lou Loomis, Bill and Norma Rigler, Philip and Harriot Baker and Al and Elayne Renier. Roger Mudd acted as master of ceremonies for the ceremony.

Highlight of the dedication ceremony was "The Placement of the Wheat" on the floor of the barn by 400 elementary students for the "Inaugural Treading." Following a ribbon-cutting at the door of the barn and presentation of the treading horses, the treading took place. Al and Elayne Renier were among those chosen to be inside the barn during the first ceremonial treading.

The following statement is from the dedication brochure which was distributed at the luncheon following the dedication.

Mid-West Tool Collectors Association

"Since 1992, the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association has enthusiastically supported Mount Vernon's restoration program by locating woodworking tools for display, and, in some cases, for use in construction projects. The tools, discovered through a nationwide membership network, are similar to those used by George Washington's craftsmen. The search resulted in gifts of planes, chisels, hammers, saws and



Kerry McCalla installed directors at the Rockford meeting. Present were (from left): Jack Devitt, John Perzinski, Mike Slasinski, Gary Johnson, Norman Heckman, Milt Bacheller and Bob Gilmore.



New president Dave Heckel (front left) takes the oath of office from Mel Ring as five past presidents attended.



Out-going president Jim Price (right) receives his past president's pin from Ron Pearson.

New Directors Elected

Fifteen directors were elected in their areas this fall.

Named to the Board of Directors were: Area A - John Perzinski; Area B - John Hensen; C - Mike Slasinski; E - Gary Johnson; F - Norman Heckman; G - Jack Devitt; H - Milton Bacheller; I - Craig Guy, Emery Goad; J - Dale Kirby; K - Jim Conover; L - Dave Miller; N - Paul Mikula; O - Bob Gilmore; P - William Warner.

All terms will expire in 1999 except Craig Guy's. He was elected to fill the unexpired term of Tom Mueller in Area I, which ends in 1997.

Photos by Mike Slasinski and Mel Ring



Other officers elected were (from left): Doug Cox, vice-president elections; Bill Rigler, treasurer; Don Tubman, vice-president meeting planning; and Mel Ring, secretary; and Ron Cushman (not shown) vice president scholarships.

By Mary Lou Stover

more. One of the fascinating aspects of the Pioneer Farmer program is the hands-on demonstration of early building techniques. Through the generous assistance of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association, visitors are not simply bystanders. They have taken their turn at the carpenter's bench with a plane or chisel, playing their roles in what surely must be - in terms of participation - one of the most extensive barn raisings ever."

Following the luncheon, Mrs. H. Taylor Morrisette, regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, presented Al Renier with a plaque made from cherry wood on which a horseshoe was mounted. The following statement was engraved on a brass plate attached to the plaque.

A piece of Mount Vernon cherry wood featuring an authentic horseshoe used for treading at George Washington's 16-sided barn presented to Mid-West Tool Collectors Association at the official dedication September 27, 1996.

Following the presentation of the plaque, members of the M-WTCA Mount Vernon Committee were asked to stand and be recognized. A copy of the dedication brochure and the plaque were presented to M-WTCA President Jim Price at the M-WTCA banquet in Rockford, IL on Oct. 5.

Board of Directors Supports Mount Vernon Giving

At its meeting in Rockford, the Board of Directors unanimously supported the continuation of voluntary contributions to the M-WTCA Mount Vernon fund by members. Provisions will be made for contributions to be included at the time members pay their 1997 dues.

Contributions to the Mount Vernon fund are deductible.

Walter Marx of LaCrosse, WI, has hit a goal most of us will never reach. He has worked at the same job for 50 years.

And it's a job any tool collector would love. He's employed at Kroner Hardware, which was started 120 years ago by a German immigrant in LaCrosse. A story in the *LaCrosse Tribune* quoted Walter: "There aren't many stores like this...It's the kind of place you can find a lot of things you can't find anymore." His area of expertise? Tools, of course.

Higbee, MO, may be little, but it packs a mighty wallop.

In September, M-WTCA received a record number of new applications - 116. Of that number, 60 were directly attributable to an article in *Rural Missouri*, an electric cooperative publication. It contained a nice article about the recent Higbee meeting, especially extolling the fun of collecting old tools. It also told readers interested in joining to send \$20 to the treasurer, Bill Rigler. A lot of them were and did.

They just don't make hammers like they used to. Nope, they're making them better. At least that's what the *Wall Street Journal* says.

Cooper Industries' Hi-Viz Pro hammer, with a fluorescent orange, golf grip handle, drives nails better by shifting more of the tool's weight toward the striking surface. The color also makes it easier to find - on the job or on the shelf.

Vaughn & Bushnell Manufacturing Co. added a cushioning feature to avoid tennis-elbow-like soreness suffered by frequent hammer users. A wood and rubber insert in the top of the Steel Eagle hammer fits between face and claw.

Not to be outdone, **Stanley** is also working on new features for its Contractor Grade hammer, but we're not yet sure what those are.

Such changes are expected to increase hammer shipments to \$94.1 million in 1996 - a 2.3 percent rise. It's good to see that competition still works.

If you're looking for some good reading material, check out **Todd Friberg's** new book, "*Patented Ameri-*

can Sawsets."

Thanks, Todd, for putting together information that will be extremely helpful - and interesting - to collectors.

Todd's from Rockford, IL, and so are **Pete Cullum** and **Paul White**. The latter "Boys From Rockford" recently put on quite a show on Windsor chair making for the Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild. The guys have become so good at their craft that they now teach classes. Pete makes the chairs; blacksmith Paul makes the tools needed to do their thing.

A big thank you to **Fred Malott**, a past president, who donated many tool books to M-WTCA. Auctioned off at the national meeting in Iowa, the books have new owners to admire them as well as learn from them. The sale added \$1,875 to Mid-West's treasury.

Hillary Kline showed up at Rockford wearing the craziest tie. Similar to those loud fish ties kids give their dads at Christmas, this tie was in the shape of a crescent wrench - appropriate since Hillary is president of the Missouri Valley Wrench Club.

If you're flipping TV channels, you may spot some familiar faces.

Bill Rigler is showing up on segments of the PBS series, "Collecting Across America." The crew spent 12 hours with him at Ledford Mill in Tennessee, reviewing his collection of tools. And **Faye Beckwith** has been seen with her sewing collection on the TV program, "Today at Home."

Roy Underhill, well-known for his popular PBS television series, "The Woodwright's Shop," has a new book.

"*The Woodwright's Apprentice: Twenty Favorite Projects From 'The Woodwright's Shop'*" features projects for the novice as well as the experienced woodworker. It is published by the University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hills, NC 27515 and sells for \$29.95 hardcover; \$17.95 paperback.

Tips for this column are welcomed by *The Gristmill* editor.

M-WTCA Names Award Winning Displays

By John Wells

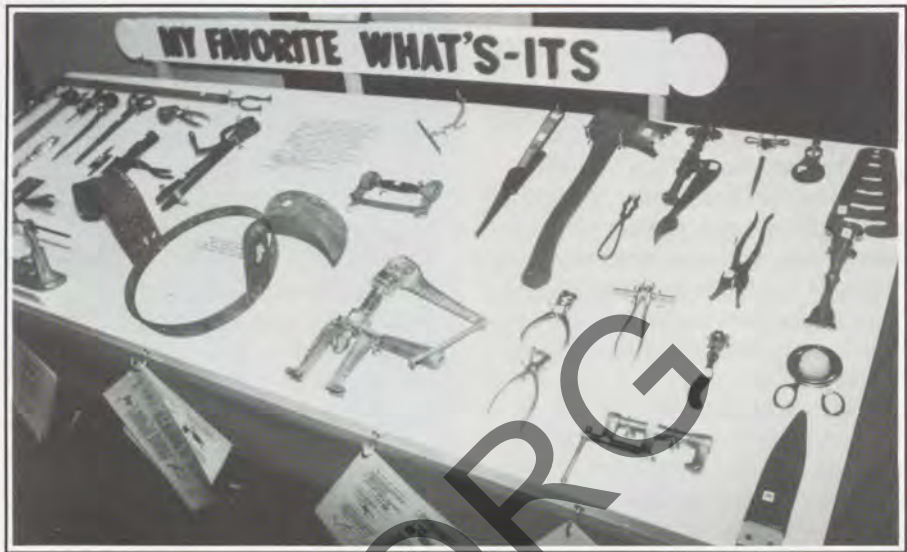
The Rockford meeting may not have set a record for number of attendees, but it certainly set an enviable standard for level of organization and quality of meeting facility. The superb banquet dinner was nothing short of memorable. I hope you took time away from trading tools to enjoy the Time Museum. It is the most spectacular display of time pieces that I have seen, including those in the Science Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum, both in London.

The outstanding quality of the displays at Rockford made it difficult for the judges to make final choices. They wished they could have given more major awards.

Best of Show in Theme: Chisels, Carving Tools and Mallets award was won by John Kinnemeyer for his display titled "Chisels, Carvings and Carvers." The display depicted wood carving at the Baldwin Piano Factory over a period of almost 125 years, showing actual carving chisels used by Baldwin carvers, examples of the carvings produced and many interesting photos of carvers working in the Baldwin factory. During the peak popularity of the piano, Baldwin employed more than 1000 employees, of which only six were master carvers. They made more than 12,000 pianos per year so each of the carvers had to complete on average all of the carving on one piano every day.

The **Best of the Show Out of Theme** award went to Jim Price for his display "Countersinks Used in Bit Stocks." This display featured the tools that are used to make the inverted cone shaped depression in a piece of work that receives the head of a flat head screw. I knew that countersinks were a useful tool and that there were a few interesting patented countersinks such as the Wheeler Countersink but I never dreamed that there were so many interesting examples and variations. Of course, Jim included a wealth of carefully researched information with his display that made it a real winner for interest as well as educational value.

The **Best One Tool Display** award



Jim Mau's "My Favorite Whats-its" received the Most Unusual Display award.

was given to Ronald W. Pearson for his display titled "An Unusual Scale." The description included with the display reads "A beautifully crafted steelyard or hanging scale recently discovered in a Southwest, Phoenix, Arizona Antique Shop." The scale is truly spectacular. A lovely bull's head sculptured in bronze and a delightful turned bronze rosette grace the weigh end of the scale. A beautifully turned bronze weight hanging from a finely crafted traveling support complete the weighing end of the scale.

The **Most Unusual Display** award was won by James Mau for his display titled "My Favorite 'What's-It.'" Jim always brings an outstanding display and this time he distinguished himself for his ingenuity in creating an interactive display that let the viewer try to figure out what each displayed item was used for before peeking at the correct answers that are illustrated on cards hanging on the bottom edge of the display.

The **Fred Curry Award** for the Best Stanley Display was won by David Heckel for his display titled "Stanley Architects Rules." David developed an ingenious way of displaying rules so you can see both sides of all of the rules. He mounted them between two sheets of glass in a wood frame that pivots around a horizontal axis. He says he got the idea for the display while he was

making a quilt frame. David's display included both the boxwood and ivory versions of the Stanley Architects Rule. I didn't know there were so many variations. David points out subtle differences in material – two types of boxwood were used – and differences in size and style of figures used on the rules. There is also a rare variant that has graduations on the edge of the rule and one with English graduations.

Judges Choice awards:

Jack Devitt: The Maul Wall and Ohio Made Chisels.

Cliff Fales: Spiral Screwdrivers of Decatur, IL.

Ray Fredrich: Nail Pullers.

John R. Henson: The Competitive Edge.

Gary Johnson: H.C.Marsh Co. Connected Manufacturers.

Tom Lamond: Specialty Spoke Shaves with Removable or Repositionable Handles.

George Mustybrook: W.F.& John Barnes Manufacturers of Foot, Hand and Steam Power Machinery.

Mike Slasinski: Log Marking Hammer Patterns.

Terry Thackery: 19th Century Chisels Used in the Midwest.

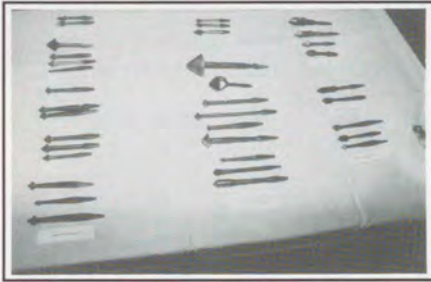
John Walkowiak: Percussion Tools.



The Fred Curry award for best Stanley display went to Dave Heckel for his display of Stanley scales and architect's rules.



Ron Pearson's unusual steelyard won Best One Tool award.



Jim Price's display of countersinks used in bit stocks won Best of Show Out of Theme.



Rockford host Gary Johnson.



John Henson's "The Competitive Edge" won a Judges Choice award.



Top award winners (from left) John Kinne Meyer, Ron Pearson, Jim Mau, Dave Heckel and Jim Price.



Award winners present at the Saturday dinner included (from left) Mike Slasinski, George Mustybrook and John Walkowiak.

How Displays are Judged

Displays are judged by a new panel of three judges selected for each meeting. The panel works very hard to make selections that are impartial and consistent with the principles outlined in the three P's which places a heavy emphasis on the educational value of a display. However, it is inevitable that part of the judges decision is based on subjective evaluation that includes visual impact and personal preference. This is the reason for having three judges and for changing the judges at each meeting. So, if a display that you worked hard preparing didn't win an award, don't give up. There will be a brand new panel of judges at the next meeting and their decisions are final.

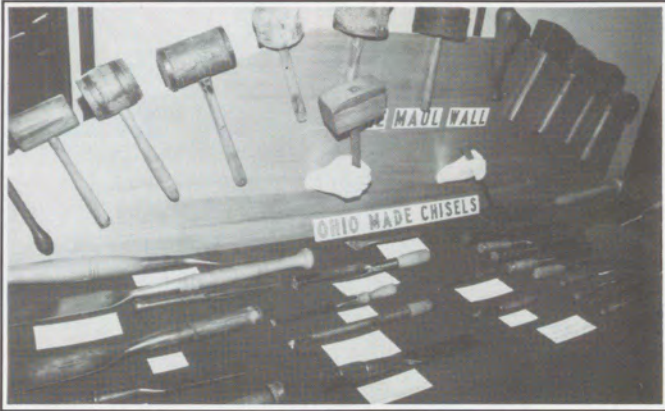


Other Rockford award winners included (from left) Ray Fredrich, Jack Devitt and Gary Johnson.

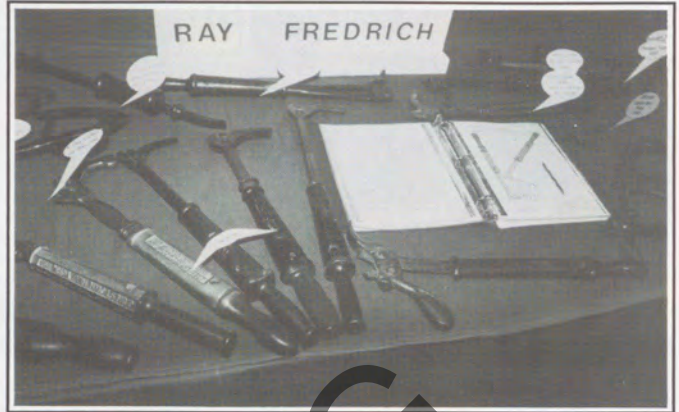


John Walkowiak, setting up his display of percussion tools, which won a Judges Choice award.

Rockford



Judges Choice: The Maul wall and Ohio-made chisels, by Jack Devitt.



Judges Choice: Nail pullers, by Ray Fredrich.



Judges Choice: H.C. Marsh Co., by Gary Johnson.



Judges Choice: W.F. Barnes & John Barnes, by George Mustybrook.



Judges Choice: Cliff Fales' spiral screwdrivers of Decatur, IL.



Judges Choice: Log marking hammer patterns, by Mike Slasinski.



Judges Choice: Terry Thackery's 19th century chisels.



Judges Choice: Specialty spoke shaves with removable or repositionable handles, by Tom Lamond.

Photos by Mike Slasinski.

Rockford Scenes



Bill Carter visiting the Time Museum at the Clock Tower Resort.



The Trade Room drew constant traffic.



Tooling in the parking lot makes Phil Baker's pet dog-tired.



Charter member George Mustybrook displays a Barnes company coat during his talk at Rockford.



The Hospitality Room with refreshments and tidbits attracted a steady flow of people each night.



Jim Mau prompts guesses at the What-It session along with Gary Gergini, Milan Ramsey and George Wanamaker.

Garfield Farm Museum Meet

In memory of J. Francis Pfrank
By Richard Chapman

On Aug. 4, the fourth joint M-WTCA/EAIA meet was held at Garfield Farm Museum. Registrations numbered 135, with 198 people attending. Members from all the Mid-west states were represented. In addition to the 50 trade tables, several displays and demonstrations were provided by the members.

Richard Byrne, Oak Creek, WI, displayed some of his work and demonstrated his craft, working on a series of replica postage stamps he is carving. Ivan Dye, Belvidere, IL with the assistance of his grandson, Jonathon Marino, demonstrated shelling and cracking corn. They were conveniently set up next to the chicken house. Vern Hasse, Fort Wayne, IN provided a display of old farm wrenches. John McKiernan, Richmond, MI displayed and demonstrated his technique making Windsor chairs. Jim Moffet,



Jonathon Marino shelled corn at the Garfield Farm meeting.

Photo by Richard Chapman

Indiana State Fair

By Matt Borders

I don't know what you do for a living, but after a while, working at a hardware store can get to be more than a little trying. I realize it's not as technology heavy as some other jobs; I don't spend all day staring at a computer screen, but I still find myself longing for a slower-paced life where the reward you got was directly related to how hard you worked.

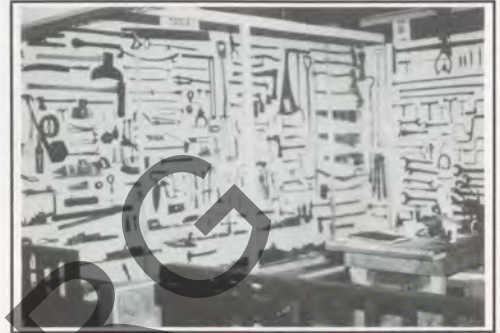
I like the idea of being tired at the end of the day, not all keyed up about the customer you argued with regarding the proper use of a screwdriver. I guess I shouldn't brag, but, thanks to some friends of mine, I get to experience just that sort of life, if only once a year and more or less from the sidelines. You see, every year, Mo Arnold graciously invites me to take part in the activities at the

Modesto, IL had a display of old items used around the farm. George Wanamaker, Macomb, IL demonstrated rope making. During the day I noticed a lot of the young people wearing new hat bands made from George's rope. Leo and Dolores Winckler, Aurora, IL, had a display and demonstrated the art of tin-smithing. Although her demonstration was not registered, Margaret Farley, Metamora, IL was observed conducting several sessions with a vintage lawn mower.

Over 50 members interrupted their morning's activities and participated in the optional farm hand breakfast. At ten o'clock in keeping with the past format, the show was opened to the public. The museum reported that 199 people were admitted that day. Your efforts resulted in six new members and one renewal. A special thank you to my wife Pat at the registration desk, to Paul Simanski, to Jerry Johnson and his museum staff and to each of you that attended for it is your participation that makes this format possible.

Indiana State Fair's Pioneer Building.

Even though I'm not out in the hot sun, dressed in denim overalls and working the steam-powered machinery, I still get an idea what the sort of life I



Whats-its and assorted tools were so popular at the Indiana State Fair that M-WTCA members will be back next year.

described would really be like. Mo, being an excellent judge of ability, keeps me inside the Pioneer Building, where I am less likely to get hurt, but there I learn just as much about our agrarian heritage as if I had actually paid attention in school.

I wish I could say I was more help to Mo, but mostly I stand back and listen to him answer questions regarding the tools on display. In my defense, I will say that I talked to a vast number of children (someone a little closer to my own level) and supervised quite a few as they tried thier hands at making an axe handle, a favorite activity of young and old alike. In fact, more than one became rather possessive of the spokeshaves we had loaned them and the (alleged) axe handle itself, one young craftsman of about 6 graciously taking the time to teach other children all about the craft of which he had become a master (explaining that he had been here last year). Next year, the budding young Roy Underhill will probably be demonstrating timber framing.

Thanks again to Mo, as well as Dick Opsahl, Charles Ewing, George Saucerman, Woody Woodruff, Jan Cover, Clifford Allen, Calvin Askren, Allen Rodebeck, Richard Cole and Norm Heckman, al of whom gave generously of their time and expertise to make this year's exhibit yet another success.



(Top photo) At the "Slasinski Museum" Vickey Hogg examined Indian artifacts. (Below) Demonstrator Carl the Carver and Paul Miller (Jerry Henze's grandson) check out a piece of Carl's work. Photos by Mike Slasinski

Kenneth A. Christy
 A lifetime M-WTCA member, Kenneth A. Christy died Sept. 24 in Metamora, IL.
 He collected general woodworking tools, especially Keen Kutter and Winchester. He was a member of EAIA and the American Society of Engineers.
 A former occupational engineer, Christy retired in 1985 as manager of Hallmark Fixtures Operations in Metamora. He graduated from Illinois State University, Springfield College and Bradley University, all in Illinois. Burial was in Metamora at the Oakwood Cemetery.
 He lived in Metamora and is survived by his wife, Mary; two daughters, Susan Shea of Springfield, IL and Sally Ellis of Rochester, IL; three sons, Gregory of East Peoria, IL, the Rev. Douglas of Luka, MS, Timothy of Sacramento, CA; and 11 grandchildren.

Saginaw - Area C

By Mike Slasinski

If you look at a Michigan map, you will see that Saginaw is not the easiest place to get to, but despite that, 96 M-WTCA members and their guests made it to the Area C Aug. 10 meet. Members came from as far away as Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, New York and from throughout Michigan.

By 8 a.m., trade tables were set up, coffee, juice and doughnuts were served and trading began. Goose wing axes, planes, measuring tools, boxwood and brass carpenters' tools were among the tools seen on the trade tables. Everyone marveled at the fantastic Woodman of the World display set up by Bob Greenwood and the beautiful wood carvings demonstrated by Clyde Ferguson of Flint.

Auxiliary members enjoyed taking a trip to a nearby country craft store. The weather was perfect and after a morning of buying and selling, a catered lunch was served. Door prizes were awarded and Judy Gambrel was the winner of the tool-decorated afghan. Everyone was then invited to Mike and Barb Slasinski's newly-remodeled home for a tour of their museum filled with logging tools, Woodland Indian items and many other collections. Special thanks to the Larsons, HENZES, Gambrels and Carters for helping to make this a very special Mid-West get-together.



Henley Award Committee Named

Members of the Marion Henley Award Committee have been announced by Dave Heckel, M-WTCA president.

They are: Ivan Risley, a past president, chairman; Mo Arnold and Ron Mossing, directors; Erv Schaffer and Bill Linstromberg, past directors; and Mary Lou Stover, Executive Board member.

Nominations for the award are welcome. Contact Risley for information or check the Polices, Procedures and Practices section in the back of the M-WTCA Directory.

Tom Mueller

A director of Area I, Tom Mueller, 49, of Salinas KS died unexpectedly March 28.

Missing him would be an understatement. He was one of the nicest guys you've ever met.

When it came to auctions, he was always there and would attend two or three in one day if he could. His sons ran his furniture restoring business when he was gone to pursue his real avocation, collecting old tools. He was a competitive bidder, but he was always fair. If he knew you wanted a tool for your collection, he wouldn't bid, but if you were buying with plans to resell, he'd bid until he got what he wanted.

He was the kind of person who usually was in the background, but was always around when you needed help.

-Ivan Risley

Committee Named

A Long-Range Planning Committee has been formed and charged with the job of looking at the issues that will affect M-WTCA. Members of the committee are Ron Cushman, Dave Heckel, Al Renier, Don Tubman and chairman Howard Loomis.

Sawsets Made by Charles Morrill & Company

By Todd Friberg

Quite often in the industrial marketplace a solitary company or individual will enter an established market, take control of that market and become the standard by which the competition is judged. In the turn of the century realm of sawsets, the above description most certainly applies to Charles Morrill and his company. Over a span of 23 years his genius created no less than 13 sawset patents, a large portion of these he marketed successfully.

Charles Morrill and his company marketed 12 different sawset models from the late 1800s into the 1920s. The Morrill company offered models numbered 1/2, 1 (four versions), 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 95 and the "Special." In the following text is a description of all the different sawsets models sold to the public.

One of the most common sawsets found in the United States is the the Morrill No. 1. Offered in several versions over a period of decades, these examples represent one of the most widely used patented American sawsets. First patented in 1880, the early version of Morrill's model No. 1 (Fig. 1) is characterized by a Gothic looking cast iron wing nut used in adjusting the setting anvil and saw thickness stop. Model No. 1, when held in a horizontal position, uses a top lever arm to drive the setting plunger into the saw tooth. The saw is then forced against the setting anvil which bends (sets) the tooth. As is the case with all of Charles Morrill's sawsets, the finish work on this model is outstanding. Both main body components are finely finished, leaving a well buffed surface.

In 1886, Charles Morrill patented a new style sawset (Fig. 2) which was next in line to be offered as model number 1. Offered only in the late 1880s this model is the most difficult to find of all the Morrill sets. Mechanically, this new style sawset was a drastic departure from the Morrill's typical horizontal setting operation. Based on a vertical leverage cam, the setting anvil is actually forced down onto the saw

instead of the usual method of forcing the saw onto the setting surface.

What appears to be a marketing blunder concerning Charles Morrill and the quick demise of his vertical cam sawset seems to have occurred at this time. I have noticed that catalogs listing the vertical cam set as model No. 1 also list the older style Morrill sawset as model number 1 in the same issue. What a nightmare that must have been trying to sort these orders.

The third sawset to be offered as model No. 1 began to appear in catalogs in the mid-1890s (Fig. 3). This newest style had a vertical setting anvil adjustment along with an angled screw adjustment for different blade thicknesses.

Morrill model No. 1 was used to designate a new style sawset for the fourth and final time in the late 1890s. Although at first glance this sawset seems to be a throw-back to the earliest model number 1, it does have a few differences (Fig. 4). The body of this last version tends to be more bulbous around the area where the saw blade rides. Another difference is the way the handles are finished in a half-cylindrical form for hand comfort compared with the flatter styles used on other Morrill sets. Also, the front wing nut used in adjusting the setting anvil had been changed to a knurled nut.

Model No. 1/2 was offered for a short time along with the earliest form of the model number 1 sawset. This was essentially the same tool, the difference being a narrow plunger used for small band, scroll, and jig saws on the model 1/2.

Sawset numbers 3 and 4, like the numbers 1/2 and 1, shared the same tool frame (Fig. 5). The only difference between the two parts is the shape of the plunger. Model No. 3 has a V-shaped plunger which was used on smaller crosscut and circular saws. A square plunger tip was fitted to Morrill model No. 4 and was used on the larger types of crosscut saws such as M-tooth and perforated lance patterns. The sawset itself did experience a few obvious design changes in the many years it was offered. Originally, the setting anvil was locked and adjusted by means of a wing nut as was the bottom guard for

positioning the blade. Later models (mid-1890s) had the anvil adjusted and locked with a toggle device. The bottom blade guard was also replaced with an adjustment screw which ran tangent to the setting anvil. The last change occurred after 1900 with anvil toggle lock being replaced by a knurled nut.

Charles Morrill offered the Godzilla of plunger and anvil (also referred to as a punch and anvil) type sawsets in his No. 5 (Fig. 6). Measuring a full fifteen inches long, this set was manufactured for use on large timber and board saws, setting saws from 6 to 14 gauge. As with models 3 and 4 any early wing nuts were eventually replaced with knurled nuts.

Numerically, the next sawset model offered by Morrill was the No. 10 (Fig. 7). Although this example was offered for a lengthy period of time, this set is rarely seen. Model No. 10 resembles the version of model No. 1 that has the vertical anvil adjustment with one large difference. Attached to the angled adjusting screw on the bottom of the sawset is a rather large support bar. This particular sawset is designed to set small band, scroll and jig saws, which explains the large support bar needed to guide the smaller saw types.

Model No. 11 was designed to do essentially the same task as the model 10, to set jig, band, and other types of small, thin saws (Fig. 8). The overall form of the number 11 is similar to that of most Morrill sets, a horizontal plunger and anvil type of sawset. A blade guard with an enclosed screw adjustment is the distinguishing feature of this set. This model first appeared in catalogs in 1888 and was offered for approximately 30 years.

Charles Morrill also sold a sawset designated model 95 in reference to his 1895 sawset patent number 532,175 (Fig. 9). This tool featured a round eccentric setting anvil, a first for a Morrill set. The addition of this new feature allowed for a very fine adjustment in the amount of set applied to given saw. Graduations on the setting anvil were also added to the model 95 giving the saw filer a reference to work by. Model 95 was one of the Morrill company's best selling sawsets and was sold well into the 1920s.

Although Charles Morrill died in April of 1897, the sawsets patented in

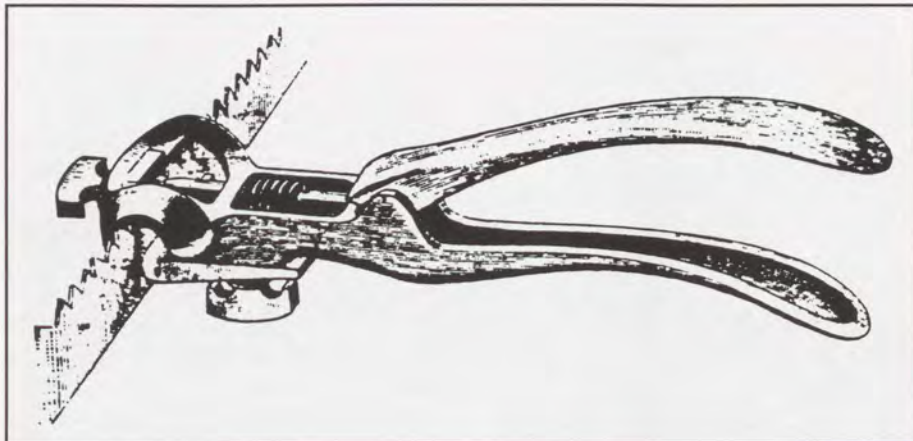


Figure 1

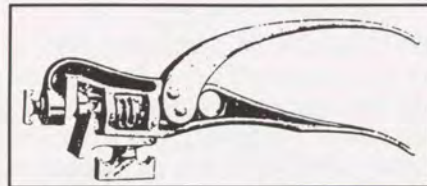


Figure 5

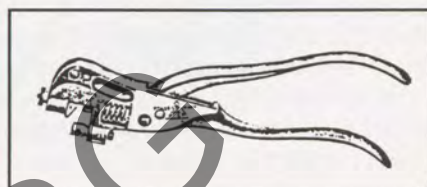


Figure 6

his name continued to accumulate. Three patents filed by his wife in his name appear in 1901, 1902, and the last in 1903. The Morrill company flourished for many years after his death with many of the existing models continuing to sell well along with the addition of a new sawset. Covered in one of three patents granted to William Morrill (whom I believe was a son) the "Special" was introduced after 1900 (Fig. 10).

Collecting Morrill sawsets is a study of minute changes. Going beyond the obvious design changes one sees a never ending series of manufacturing, material, and marking deviations. At one point in my collecting career I stopped buying Morrill sets. How many Charles Morrill No. 4's does one person need anyway? On closer inspection, I realized how much different these tools can be and still be the "same." I have since mended my collecting ways concerning Morrill sawsets, as one corner of my sinking basement is proof.

I would like to thank Paul Morgan and Hank Allen for sharing information which helped make this article possible.

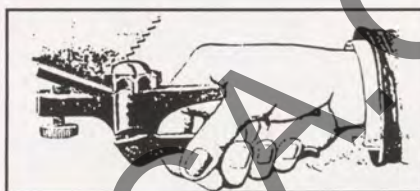


Figure 2

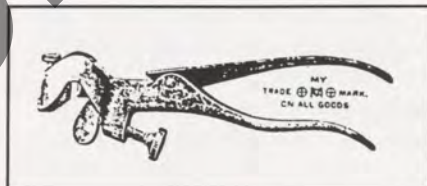


Figure 7

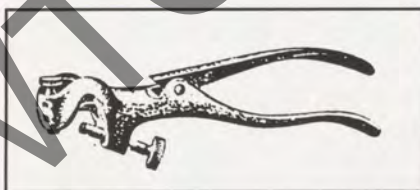


Figure 3

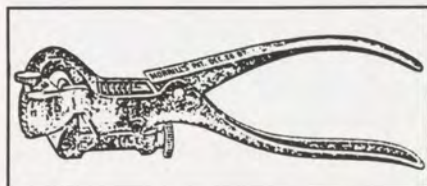


Figure 8

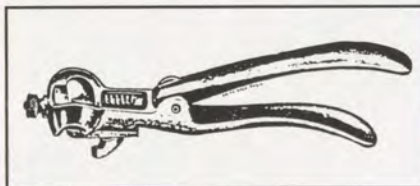


Figure 4

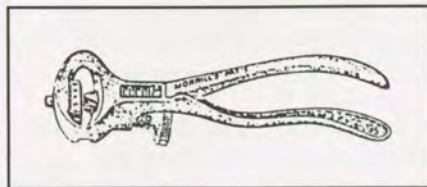


Figure 9



Figure 10

Todd Friberg's new book "Patented American Sawsets" can be ordered from Osage Press, PO Box 5082, Rockford, IL. 61125-0082. The price is \$23.95 plus \$1.50 handling and shipping. For information, call (815) 398-0602.

Harvesting Grain in California

The cover picture of the THE GRISTMILL, No. 84, September, 1996 and the comment "The equipment must have been quite heavy to require such mule power" prompted me to write. The number of mules were required because they were providing the power to not only cut the grain, but to thresh, clean and probably bag it as well. The power is transmitted through a large drive wheel. The machine was probably a copy of the 1830s invention of Hiram Moore of Climax, MI. Here is how the Hon. E Lakin Brown remembered it in the late nineteenth century.

Machine Which Cut and Threshed the Wheat Address of Hon. E. Lakin Brown

Although because of the infirmities of age I am constrained to be absent from this reunion, yet I yield to the urgent request of your secretary that I would write a few words to be read in your hearing. ... It may be of interest to say that on my arrival at Bronson, Nov. 5, 1831, I found my old friend and fellow townsman from Vermont, and subsequently my business partner, H. B. Huston, occupying a little store nearly opposite where the court house now is, the only framed building in what is now Kalamazoo; and that there were not more than four or five log cabins in the same bounds, and that on reaching Schoolcraft, just then surveyed and platted, I found my friends Thaddeus Smith and family and Addison Smith occupying a store and dwelling, the only building in the place, a rather large log cabin.

A circle of 40 or 50 settlers between timber and prairie were the sole occupants of that beautiful prairie. Settlements had just begun to be made on all the prairies in the county, but I think not a single settler had built his cabin in the timbered land or openings.

Of course, the breaking plow had been started, and crops began to be grown; but the facilities for cutting, threshing and cleaning grain were of a very primitive character. A threshing floor was prepared by removing the prairie turf, and horses were driven around on the wheat till it was shelled



This photo shows a Moore & Hascall harvester and thresher. Note the similarity to the cover photo on the September issue of the GRISTMILL

out, and advantage was taken of a breezy day to clean it by raising it and letting it fall in the wind.

The first framed barn built in the county is still standing in good repair and condition upon my farm at Schoolcraft, in which the floor was made wider than usual to make convenient room for the horses as they were driven round and round to tread out the grain. At the same barn the first horse power thresher on the prairie, and probably in the county, made its advent and first experiment in threshing wheat. The separator had not been invented, and the wheat fell in the chaff just behind the cylinder. Mr. Richard Patten soon began to manufacture fanning mills, one of which I still have in use, and, with all the modern improvements, I doubt whether a better mill has ever been made than was made by Richard Patten at Harrison's corners, Prairie Ronde.

The wonderful improvements that have been made in the methods of harvesting grain since the pioneers first came to Kalamazoo county will justify me in devoting part of the brief remarks I have to make to that subject. It is but a few years since the world's harvests were cut entirely with the hand sickle. While I lived in my native state

(Vermont) I never saw but one grain cradle, though I think the cradle had begun to be used in sections more devoted to grain growing. I remember that my father, having a few acres of rye to cut, and which the exigencies of hay-making did not leave him time to cut with a sickle, hearing that a man in a neighboring town had a grain cradle, sent me to engage him to come and cut the rye. He came, and being liberally braced up with New England rum, he cradled the rye; and I remember the awkward, clumsy, right-angled instrument with which it was done. But the cradle was in common use here and in all the great grain lands of the country when I came, and it did not seem likely that a better instrument for the purpose would be invented.

But in the first decade of the settlement a new invention appeared, originating in this county, a machine which for magnitude, ingenuity and efficiency and perfection of its work as a harvester of grain, I think I risk nothing in saying was never equaled on earth. I think it was in 1837, that Hiram Moore of Climax, a farmer and not a mechanic, conceived the idea of cutting and threshing at one operation, the abundant wheat fields of the prairies by horse-power. Having

somewhat matured his plan, he went to Rochester, N. Y., to have his castings made, and build his first machine. In 1839 he appeared on Prairie Ronde with a machine which cut and threshed the wheat, delivering it uncleaned from the chaff, in large boxes, which were alternately filled and replaced by others, the farmer following with wagons, carrying the boxes and hauling the wheat to the barn. More machines were built at Schoolcraft and many farmers had their wheat cut by them.

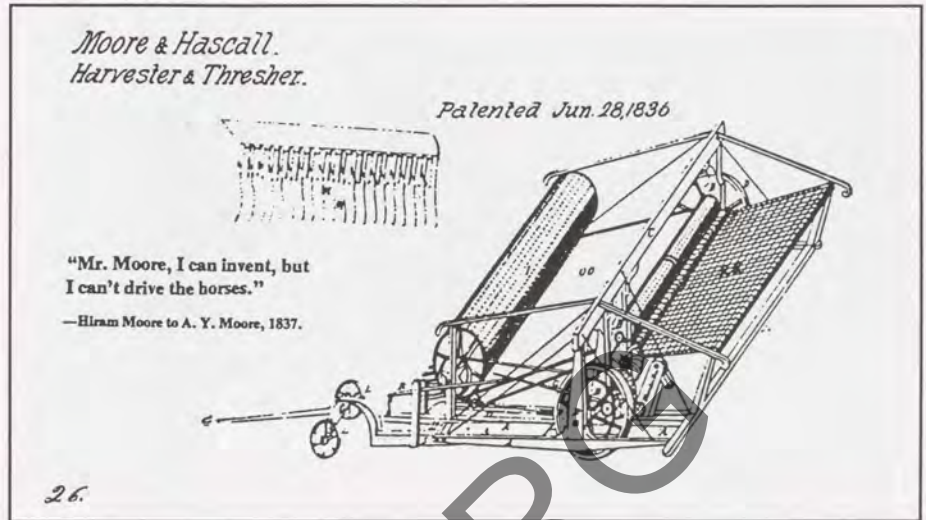
In the meantime, Moore was busily at work to improve his machine so that it would cut, thresh, clean and deliver the wheat in bags. This was accomplished in a few years, and the perfected machine was extensively employed on the farms of Prairie Ronde and Climax. The machine cut a breadth of 14 feet and was drawn by 16 horses, having four drivers, or rather riders, a man to operate the machine and another to tie the bags as they were filled, and no cleaner or more perfect harvesting was ever done.

And what became of the machine, and why was its use discontinued? I was riding with the inventor on the prairie one day in harvest time, and we passed by a field where a reaper was at work. The reaper had just been invented and was being introduced. Neither Moore nor myself had seen one operate. We stopped, went into the field and watched the work of the reaper.

Suddenly Moore turned to me and with a sad look, said, "That will kill my machine." "How so?" said I. "You see," said he, "that cuts the wheat well by horse power, and that's the great point. The farmer can cut his wheat with his own team, and without the great number of horses and men that my machine requires, and he will save the straw, and the fact is, my machine is done for."

The prediction was fulfilled, at least in so far as this country was concerned. The machine continued to be operated a few years longer, gradually being less used as the use of the reapers increased, until about the year 1852. Some of the machines were left to rot down where they stood.

One, however, was taken to California by George Leland, shipped



around the horn, and was successfully operated there; others were subsequently built there, and now, after 40 years, and notwithstanding all the various improvements in the modes of harvesting, I notice, even while writing this, an article in the New York Tribune, in which it is said that the great grain fields of California are being harvested "by the great machine that cuts, threshes, cleans and bags the grain at one operation." In California it finds conditions exactly suited to it. Great fields of grain and a rainless harvest time, so that the grain becomes dry for the thresher without risk or injury. It is likely that it will always be used there. Such is the history of a great and original invention, ante-dating all but the primitive modes of harvesting grain.

You all know how, within a few years, the reaper has developed into the harvester and binder, that with no more than his ordinary help harvests the farmer's broad acres, which he fears not to sow lest he should not be able to harvest. The traction engine and the

thresher and separator have superseded the treading out of the grain, the flail and the horse-power thresher.

About the year 1852, Hiram Moore, the inventor of the great harvester, sold his beautiful farm on Climax prairie to one D. C. Reed, and removed to Great Lake county, WI, where after a residence there of several years he died. And this D. C. Reed afterwards become the inventor of the famous spring tooth drag, in which a bent, flat bar of spring steel is substituted for the old and time honored spike tooth; and which has had so many imitators and caused so many legal contests in which the inventor has uniformly been successful, and which has proved so great a benefit to agriculture, and has rendered the names of Kalamazoo and D. C. Reed famous throughout the world wherever the soil is cultivated by civilized man.

Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society Vol. XVIII pp 553-556

Submitted by: John McKiernan

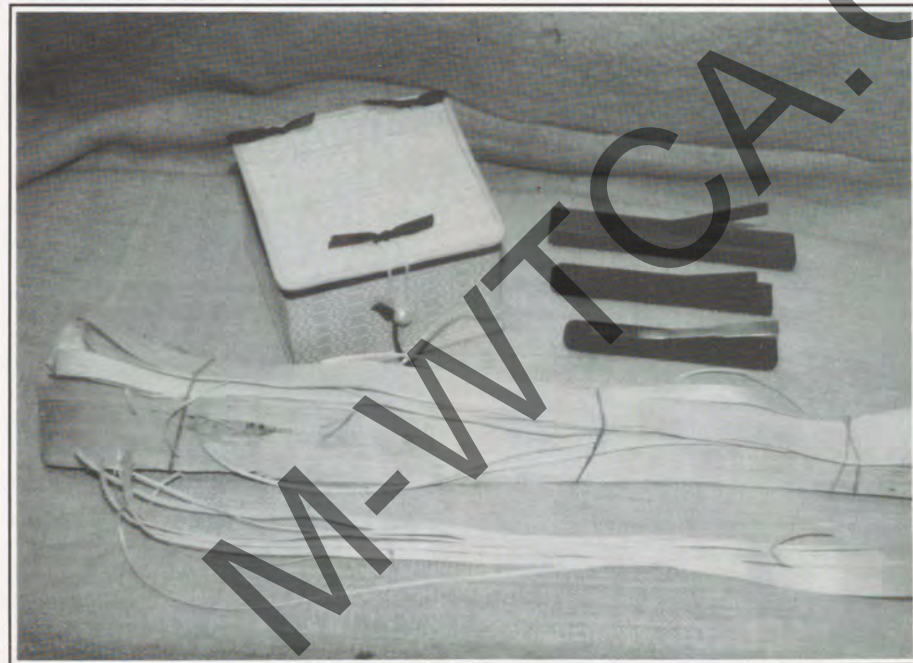
M-WTCA Home Page

Check out M-WTCA's web site on the Internet. Our address is <http://www.mwtca.org>

Basket Makers and Their Tools



Miniature baskets approximately 1.5" high with molds using 1/64" weavers. At left is the smallest of the nested baskets — a No. 1 kitten head. In the center is a mini kitten head and right, a round bottom necklace basket.



Slitters, material for making poplar boxes. The Shakers also developed a process of weaving 1/16" strips of poplar (quaking aspen) into a wood cloth that was used to make various shaped fancy boxes for the outside world. Some villages did so well they eliminated the aspens on their property, as well as buying trees from their neighbors. Quaking aspen is a trash tree but good for making wooden shoes and Shaker boxes.

By Bill Rigler

The earliest known documented basket makers, who showed the human race how, were the birds and gorillas.

Here in the United States we think of the Shakers and their pounded brown ash baskets, made on a wood mold; the Nantucket Light Ships where they made baskets with wood bottoms out of reed and cane on wood molds; South Carolina and their sea grass baskets; Georgia for long pine needle baskets; the Appalachian mountain white oak baskets; the Plains corn shuck baskets; Florida's palmetto leaf baskets; Mississippi river cane baskets and baskets made out of bark, willow, grapevines, straw, poplar, etc.; and the Southwest Indian tribes who made such lovely baskets out of local grasses.

All of these baskets have three things in common. One: You use the basket making material readily available in your locale. Two: The various tribes of American Indians taught the invaders their secrets of basket making. Three: Availability of good basket material has continuously diminished primarily due to urban sprawl.

The new Americans mechanized and developed techniques to mass produce utility baskets until the marketplace disappeared. Then basket makers, like the Shakers, produced more delicate, aesthetically beautiful baskets for decoration or gentler use.

My specialty is pounded brown ash Shaker baskets. The Shakers developed the mold system to produce standardized utility baskets that would always fit the space already available. Brown ash was standard for the northeastern Shaker communities. Shakers had to produce items for sale to the outside world to buy the items needed that they could neither make nor grow.

The Mount Lebanon and Canterbury communities specialized in small delicate baskets out of materials measuring down to 1/32 of an inch wide. They developed devices that helped them split growth rings to satin, and developed slitters that split the satin material to size plus making the molds to produce the uniformly sized

beautiful ornate baskets. During their heyday they produced and sold about 250,000 baskets. Survivors are highly sought and bring prices in the four figures.



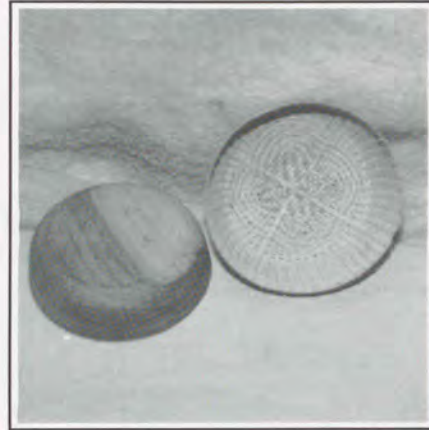
English tools for sizing width and thickness.



French tools for splitting, sizing width and thickness.



Moroccan splitter, standard thickness cutter and a one-width splitter.



Picture 2: A 5" mold and saucer basket with quatrefoil woven bottom. Brown ash/black ash is a swamp tree that grows in the upper Michigan area and upper New York and the rest of the northeastern United States and Canada. Unlike most woods where you split the wood with a small froe or knife into the thickness desired, brown ash is hammered on with a maul or sledge. In fact, the Shakers used a trip hammer to separate the growth rings. Thick rings were used for handles and rims; thinner growth rings were split to satin (in half) for weavers and uprights. Once split to satin, the Shakers devised slitting tools that slit 2"+ wide material into 1/32" to 1/2" material to be used as weavers. Most uprights were 1/8" to 1/4" and most weavers were 1/16" to 3/32".



Hand-carved thickness cutter.

Bailey's Patent Model

By Phil Whitby

This is the second part of the article on Leonard Bailey's patent model improvement in bevel planes which appeared on page 10 in the June GRISTMILL.

Leonard Bailey remained at Stanley about four years until termination of his contract in 1873, at which time he established himself as L. Bailey & Co. in Hartford, CT. Not being able to produce planes under his original patents, which he had licensed to Stanley, Bailey set about acquiring new patents for a new and radically different line of planes, the Victors. It is among these new planes that Bailey was granted patent no. 189,415 for an improvement in bench planes. The model was submitted to the United States Patent Office Feb. 16, 1877.

The model itself is not a functional plane and was not intended to be. It shows the adjusting mechanism that is the essence of the patent in reverse, or a mirror image of what was later to be produced as the Bailey gear adjuster. The reason for this was apparently so the patent inspector could examine the mechanism and its various parts without having to disassemble the model.

Flat gray/green paint covers all exposed surfaces of the model, so no particular part is more prominent than any other. Bailey was experienced at applying for patents, and we can only assume he knew what the patent inspector would want to see, and this model meets that criteria. Unfortunately, the original patenting tag that was attached to the red ribbon has been lost, understandably. These paper tags became brittle after 100 years or more and any careless handling could easily lead to their being separated from the model.

Research Using City Directories

By Robert B. St. Peters

PUBLISHERS OF THE DIRECTORIES HAD NO INTENTION THAT THEIR BOOKS BE CONSIDERED TO BE THE CORNERSTONE OF TRUTH AND ACCURACY FOR ALL AGES TO COME. They undoubtedly wanted reasonable accuracy without spending a fortune in verifying it.

Transcription of Information: Once the information was gathered, it had to be transcribed into some sort of generalized format for the publisher. Could someone else's handwriting be read? When was information typed? Was the transcription done locally or in the city where the publisher was located.

Undoubtedly most publishers had little or no local information or knowledge.

Publication: Publication regularly occurred outside the locality of the city involved. Errors in transcription, typesetting, and binding regularly occurred. Pages are sometimes omitted, or are partially out of order.

Frequency of Publication: Not all cities had directories available to them annually. Frequently the publishers changed. It is unlikely that incorrect information was relayed to the publisher for correction in a subsequent edition. It is also quite possible that the publisher maintained no permanent office or connection with the city for whom the directory was to be published. Information gathering was probably done rapidly and with as much economy as possible. Perhaps only advertisers had verifiable input before publication.

Conclusion: The questions raised concerning potential errors in gathering information and manner of publishing should not invalidate the use of directories as very useful tools; indeed, they appear to be the largest single source of information available to tool collectors in the United States. However, while we tend to believe that city directories are accurate, we should not rely upon them as the sole source of information regarding the spelling of a person's name, an occupation, place of employment or residence. While other information may be scant, the total, unsketched reliance upon city directories should not be made.

The information contained in city directories should not be relied upon as an exclusive research tool.

We tend to believe that because information is more than 100 years old and is reduced to written form, it must of course be accurate. This is a serious mistake. A variety of questions concerning accuracy must be asked.

Purpose of the Directory: Do we really know the primary purpose of the directory? Perhaps it was a business aid; or would verify the residence and credit worthiness of a customer; or was partially an advertising medium. Was it used primarily by businesses? It was probably not in the hands of the everyday citizen and people had little opportunity to suggest corrections. Certainly it was not a census nor was it ever intended to have that alleged degree of accuracy.

Gathering of Information: How was information gathered? Initially, one might assume, by a house to house or business to business canvas. Information was handwritten by the gatherer. What was the educational background of the gatherer? Names have certainly been misspelled. My family name, in its french form St. Pierre, was often recorded as "Semper." Were the gatherers local or from the city of the publisher? If the occupant was not at home, how was the information gathered? Perhaps from neighbors, relatives or friends. Were these people able to make fine distinctions. It is not known if postal records were available or whether the mail was delivered house to house.

Secondly, in a subsequent edition of a directory, if information could not be verified, was the prior tenant, owner, address, occupation or other information assumed to be correct and re-published? This assumes the editors or gatherers of information had access to a prior edition of the directory. Sometimes a death occurred and the subsequent year's directory continued to list the individual.

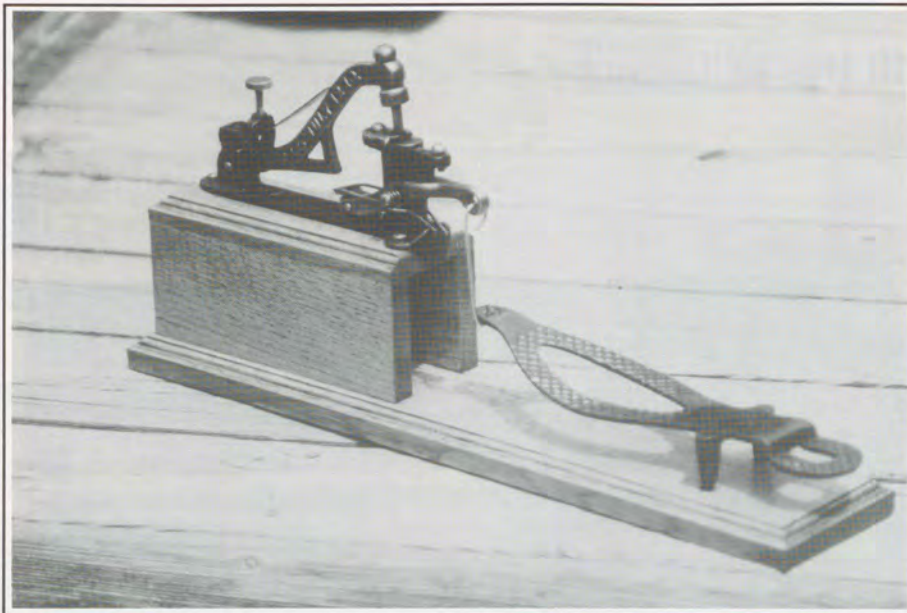
Were prior census records used? Or was there even local access to these records?

BEAR IN MIND THAT THE

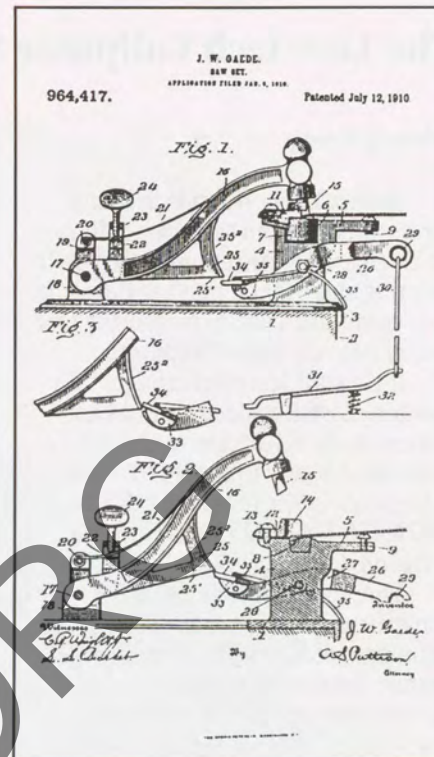


Toolin' Around

Vanity license plates continue to show M-WTCA members' craze for their hobby. Here are a few seen at tool meets by photographer Mel Ring.



A Buckeye sawset.



This “Junk” Pile Hid a Gem

By Al Fetty

At a recent auction that really didn't have very many tools, I started digging through a promising looking box of “junk” and came up with the tool shown in the photo above.

After a group of us looked at, played with, and tried to determine what it was, I decided that it was a rather unusual style of sawset. How it was operated didn't become completely apparent until another gentleman pulled the shoe-shaped piece out of another box. At that point, it became obvious this was a treadle-operated sawset.

After talking with my sawset-collecting friend, Dale Clark, I sent a photo to Lars Larson, who searched the patent records and came up with the patent documents.

For the record, it is a Buckeye sawset that was patented on July 12, 1910, by J.W. Gaede of Cleveland, OH. It is designed to attach to the edge of a workbench or counter and is connected to the treadle piece, which sits freely on the floor, by means of rod or chain. When the treadle is pushed down, the trigger is raised which in turn lifts the hammer. At the peak of its travel, the trigger releases the hammer, which is forced down by a spring and strikes the saw tooth. The trigger is designed so that it automatically resets itself for the

next “trip.”



Family Reunion in Rockford

The DeLays got together for a homecoming at the national meeting in Rockford, IL.

As John DeLay said, “It was quite a reunion; we all love tools.” The brothers combined it with a family reunion in Lake Geneva, IL, where they had an early celebration of their father's 90th birthday. Reminiscing were (from left) Emmet E. DeLay, Albany, NY; John F. DeLay, Guilford, CT; William E. DeLay, Cedar Rapids, IA; and Robert DeLay, Omaha, NE.

The Low-tech Caliputer Still Has Its Uses

Wayne Feely

Slide rules were made in many forms ranging from tie tacks, cuff links, cigarette lighters, money clips to training aids 8 feet long. One slide rule that combines a useful measuring tool and a slide rule is the Caliputer.

It is a stainless steel caliper, combined with a slide rule, that has several built-in features useful to a machinist. It was invented by Thomas P. Faulconer who obtained U.S. Patent 2,874,478 (Feb. 24, 1959) covering this novel device.

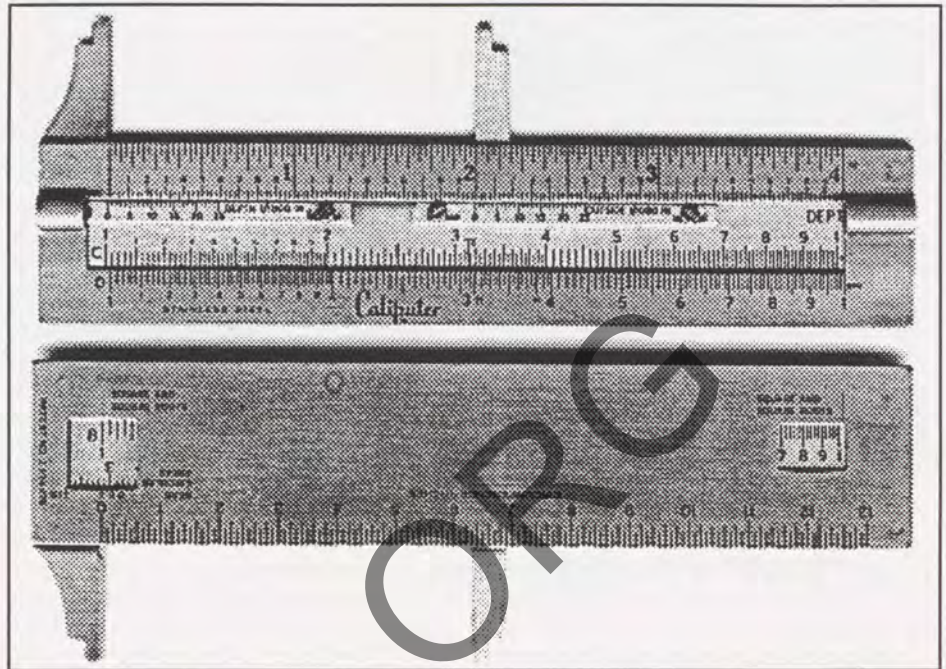
The front face of the rule is constructed in much the same way as a standard caliper with adjustable vernier measuring scales for inside, outside and depth measurements. Two models were offered with either English or Metric scales.

A lower set of scales on the front face corresponds to the "C" and "D" scales of a slide rule. These scales are logarithmic where the distances between the numbers are proportional to their logarithms. With logarithmic scales numbers can be multiplied by adding distances and divided by subtracting them.

On the back of the rule is a "B" scale that appears in a window with an index mark. For any number on the "C" scale set over the index on the "D" scale (the number 1) its square appears at the index on the "B" scale. Conversely, for any number set on the "B" index its square root is found on the "C" scale over the index on the "D" scale. The "B" scale has two complete sets of numbers. For numbers with an odd number of digits, the left hand portion of the scale is used and for even digits the right hand scale. There is a second mark in the window on the back of the rule. When the diameter of a cylinder is measured with the caliper, the circular area appears in the window marked "Read circular Areas." The volume of the cylinder can then be found by multiplying its circular area by its length.

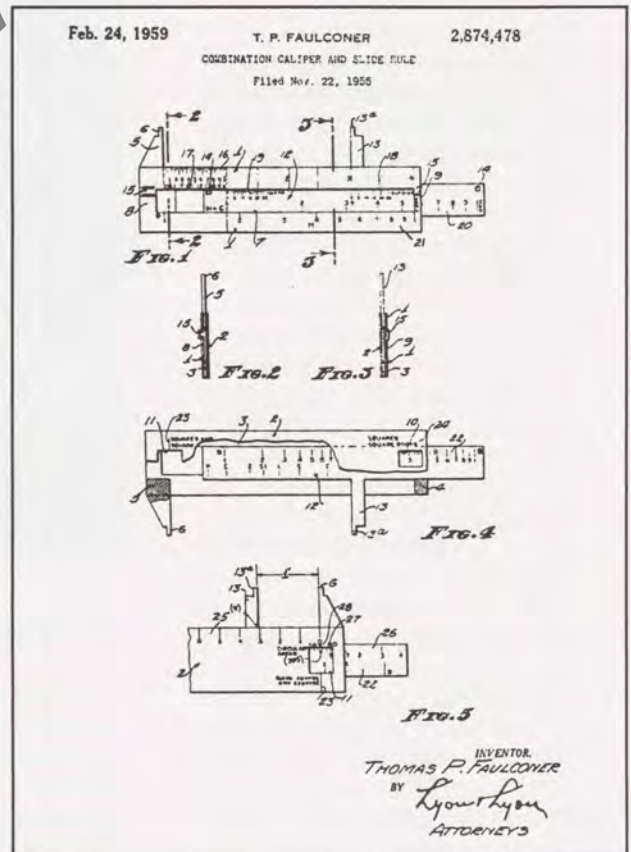
There is also a scale on the back of the rule which gives the circumference of a cylinder directly.

Surface or lathe speed in (ft/min =FPM) can be easily calculated by



simply dividing the diameter (inches) on the "C" scale by 3.82, which is marked by "M" on the "D" scale. When this ratio is set, then for any RPM read on the "D" scale the corresponding FPM is found on the "C" scale. This relationship can be expressed as: $\text{Diameter}/3.82 = \text{FPM}/\text{RPM}$.

Even today, in the electronic age, the Caliputer would still be a useful measuring device in a machine shop, as it gives a lot of information quickly and conveniently.



The Bench Plane Used By the “Barracks Furniture Maker”

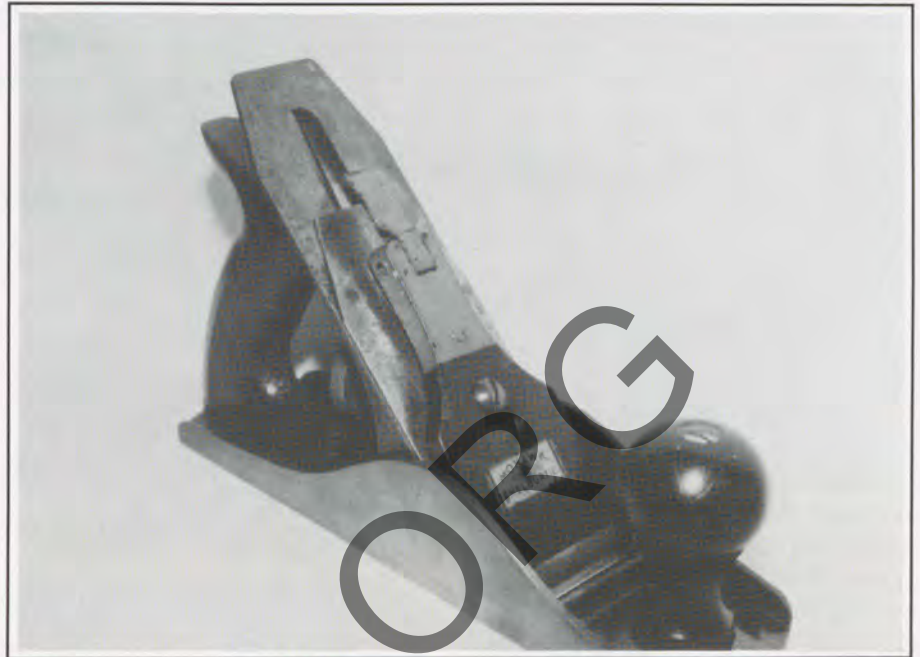
By Paul van Pernis

Thirty days after Pearl Harbor, my father was assigned to Camp Polk, LA (now Fort Polk), as a first lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps. As a newly-trained pathologist, his assignment was to get the medical laboratories up and running for the camp hospital. The camp was under hasty construction in the “Piney Woods” and was to become a two-division tank camp. Gen. George Patton was the camp’s commanding officer.

Dad arrived while the Louisiana Maneuvers were underway along the Sabine River. The hospital was still under construction, but barracks for the officers had been finished just across the road from the hospital. Dad was assigned a room in the barracks along with three other medical officers. Other rooms in the barracks were assigned to other officers from units participating in the Louisiana Maneuvers. Two of these officers were Lt. Col. Omar Bradley and Lt. Col. Dwight Eisenhower.

My mother stayed in Grand Rapids, MI to finish out the school term as an elementary school teacher. Dad very much wanted Mom to join him in Louisiana, so requested and received permission to be quartered in one of the two-bedroom houses that the Army was building in nearby Leesville, LA. The houses were not to be furnished and these newlyweds didn’t have much furniture, so Dad decided to make some himself.

A trip to the Leesville hardware store resulted in the purchase of a handsaw, a hammer, a square and a bench plane. Lumber was in great demand for all the construction at Camp Polk, and little wood was available for non-military use. The only wood Dad could get was jack pine, and that could only be obtained in 1-by-4-inch and 1-by-2-inch dimensions.



A Shelburne Mohawk bench plane has special memories for Paul Van Pernis.

He set to work in his barracks room at night when he was off duty. He worked by the light of the single light bulb hanging from the ceiling. Power tools, even if available, wouldn’t have been much use because the barracks room had no electrical outlets. That little wood shop produced a table, four benches, a hutch, a blanket chest and a bed frame for the new house. Dad used a stain to pickle the wood and bring out some of the grain and then added several coats of varnish. He said it looked “a little like oak” when it was all done.

One night, while working hard in his barracks, he was given an order from Bradley, whose room was across the hall, to quit all the hammering and sawing because he was accustomed to retiring at about 9 p.m. From then on, Dad had to get his work done before Bradley’s bedtime.

That furniture moved to the new house when Mom got to Camp Polk, and moved back to Michigan with my Mom when Dad was shipped out to the Pacific Theater. It was still being used when he was discharged as a lieutenant colonel in June of 1946. Dad then started his career as a pathologist at Butterworth

Hospital in Grand Rapids, MI. They used that “Louisiana Jack Pine” furniture until they had enough money to buy real furniture.

About 40 years later, in 1982, my Dad had an opportunity to visit then-retired General of the Armies Omar Bradley at Fort Sam Houston Hospital in Texas, where Bradley lived after his retirement. He gave my Dad a copy of his book about the second World War and, in autographing it, made reference to his remembrance of ordering the “barracks furniture maker” to stop all the racket he made at night..

The furniture is long gone, the other tools have been lost, or loaned out to never return, but that Shelburne Mohawk bench plane is part of my tool collection. That plane, along with some other tools of my father’s, and several tools that belonged to my grandfathers, will always be my favorite tools and part of my permanent collection.

Auxiliary Pages

All material for The Women's Auxiliary Pages should be sent to THE GRISTMILL editor:

Mary Lou Stover
S76 W19954 Prospect Drive
Muskego, WI 53150

Women's Auxiliary Officers

President	Mary Gandenberger
Vice President	Sue Tubman
Secretary	Marylin Gorham
Treasurer	Sally Marsh
Asst. Gristmill Editor	Sue Tubman

Mary's Message

If you were not in attendance at the meeting in Rockford, IL, you missed a great time! The weather was sunny and warm; the tours and programs kept us busy and interested; and the fellowship with our friends and new friends will sustain us until next June in Peoria when we can again recharge our batteries!



We want to encourage new members to come to Peoria in June and get to know our Auxiliary. We have our own displays, programs and a place to gather to visit one another and take a few stitches on the quilt.

This is your invitation to join us on Thursday afternoon in Peoria for an informal reception to honor first-time attendees and to share in a "show and Tell" session. Bring something you would like to share with the group or just sit back and enjoy the others' sharing time. Watch your mail for further information. We want to get to know you and renew our "old" friendships, as well. Wives of M-WTCA members are automatically members of the Auxiliary.

Auxiliary Awards at Rockford

Faye Beckwith won Best of Show and Most Original awards for her display of sewing tools in the Auxiliary competition at the national meeting in Rockford in October.

Ann Merin's tea cup sampler was chosen Best of Theme, carrying out the "conversation pieces" exhibit theme.

Other winners:

Most Nostalgic: Mary Gandenberger, "Meaningful Pieces."

Most Unique: Kathie Johnson, Watkins collection.

Most Educational: Shirley Lindstromberg, spool holders.

Most Fun: Peggy McBride, variety of pieces made in Iowa.

Judges Choice awards went to: Harriot Baker, china place settings; Lee Bentrup, bird/carvings; Joey Gilmore, buttons, Barbara Huber, glass pieces; Carole Meeker, washing machines; Ramona Ramsey, sewing tools; Pam Rosebrook, crazy quilts.



Faye Beckwith shows off a heat lamp from the 1890s at the Auxiliary's Show and Tell. Judy Gambrel, who arranged the Rockford Auxiliary programs, watched.

Oops

Alice Larson's recipe on page 7 of the Auxiliary cookbook needs correcting. The Macaroni Fruit Salad ingredients should read:

Boil 1 lb. of orzo macaroni

Thanks

Thanks for all the cards and well wishes from my friends at Mid-West. I am recovering from a heart attack suffered shortly before the Rockford meeting. I'm at home now and doing quite nicely.

-Margaret Farley



A flapper-era hat was just one of many modeled at the Auxiliary luncheon at Rockford. Sue Tubman photo

My Favorite Things

By Marilyn Gorham

Oh, what wonderful memories came back while searching the house for "some of my favorite" childhood dolls, books, games and other treasures of various kinds.

One day as I walked past the quilt rack holding the sunbonnet-baby quilt, I was struck with an idea for a display at the Davenport meeting. The quilt made by my maternal grandmother after my birth in 1930 would be the background for all of my old, but very special, playthings. Maybe no one would be interested in my treasures, but they would at least fit the Depression Era theme.

Many fun hours were spent playing in the third floor attic with my brother, sister and friends. My Shirley Temple doll and Arranbee doll, Patsy Ann, have survived well over the years in their original clothes, but have new shoes and socks now. Tea parties were fun with my green glass dishes and the carved wooden red apples which opened up to



Marilyn Gorham's Best of Theme display at the Davenport, IA, meet included her favorite childhood toys. Photo by Helen Watkins

reveal tiny wooden tea sets. Of all the Old Maid cards I've seen over the years, I like mine the best because the pictures on the face of the cards are so clever and the characters names so creative; I'M. Cranky, Iva Lipstick, Weary Stoops, Mr. I. Never, Azz I Said, Yotta Fall, Hazel Hazzit and Lemmie Think, to mention a few. A few of my favorite books, which

have such great illustrations, were *Noodles Wants to Be a Rover* and *Little Chick That Would Not Go To Bed*, both by Edna Groff Deihl; *Raggedy Ann's Lucky Pennies* by Johnny Gruelle; and *Poppy* (a fairy), by Anne Perez-Gueera. Those, along with many others, are visible in my home today where they can be enjoyed.

The small maroon trunk with brass trim and leather handles was used for doll clothes, etc., when I was young, but today holds many of my small treasures like the bird and Scottie Dog candle holders for birthday cakes, Matryoshka doll (wooden, with two smaller dolls inside), dishes, small alphabet rummy cards, and quite a few of the small human and animal figurines we kept on what-not shelves in those days. Many will remember those, I'm sure.

My fondness for the Dolly Dingle paper dolls, the darling chubby little characters created by Grace Wiedersheim (later Drayton) in 1904 and later became better known as the Campbell Kids, has inspired me in later life to collect a few Campbell Kids items – I love those cute faces. The early Campbell Kids were chubby because at that time a chubby child was thought to be a healthy child. You've probably noticed that the Kids of today have trimmed down a little.

As you can tell by my ramblings, reminiscing about my childhood is easy, Displaying many of my favorite treasures was a delightful and fun experience.



Faye Beckwith's Victorian-era sewing room won Best of Show among Auxiliary displays at the Rockford meeting.

Depression Years: Iowa Women and the World They Lived In

By Kathleen Holmes

What a pleasure to receive the Most Original Display award at Davenport at my first M-WTCA Auxiliary meeting.

The display represented the heritage that is my husband's, and now mine. His family went through some tough times in the Depression years. However, he and his brother never felt as if they were deprived of anything necessary.

The display centered on the women's view of the Depression. These items are now treasures, especially to the Holmes' family. Home, church and school were the circles in which the women revolved. Occasionally, some politics and entertainment became a part of their lives.

Items in the display included the wooden recipe file used by Grace Holmes during the early years of marriage as cookbooks were too expensive. Reflecting her economy are the snap-top canning jars in which she canned garden produce and meat at butchering time. The wry humor of Will Rogers contained both political satire and the everydayness of life.

The little iron car is a repro of one for which my husband Cecil's father bartered. A fruit-potato masher was also used daily. A kerosene lamp (Cecil's grandparents received it as a wedding present in 1898) was lighted nightly in the home of Charles and Mary Ann Frank, Cecil's grandparents. Electricity did not come to many of us until the late '30s or early '40s.

The small New Testament was one Dale Holmes carried off to college in the 1920s. In the Bible, when it came into our possession, was the insurance identification card. A hired man carved the horse's head for a hobby horse when Cecil was about 5-years-old.

A sock darning certainly had much use as money was tight and clothing was repaired rather than replaced. The cooking utensils in the basket were



Kathleen Holmes' display won the Auxiliary's Most Original Display award at the Davenport national meeting. Photo by Sue Tubman

common in every 1930s-era kitchen as was the towel in the basket. A basket was put to many uses and needed to be sturdy.

The school bell was used by several in the family who taught in country schools in the Hudson District in Iowa. And finally, the last item is Cecil's baby book (received as a gift from his aunt) dated May 10, 1929.

Cookbooks Available

The Auxiliary cookbook will make a nice gift for yourself or someone else. To order, send a check payable to M-WTCA Auxiliary for \$8 each plus shipping of \$2.75 for up to three books to Mary Gandenberger, 5171 Willnet Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45238

Making a Point for Collecting Needles

By Joey Gilmore

As a needleperson, I have always been fascinated by the sewing notions used by people through the years. I became interested in needles when I was reading an article and discovered that needles have never been made in the United States.

The first needles were very costly as they were handmade and required a 10-step manufacturing process. As the process became mechanized, needles became more affordable. By the early 1900s, needles were given away in packets as advertisements or promotions.

I had been buying these packets

when I spotted them as they were sewing notions and also, I found the variety interesting. All collectors know how these small collections can get out of control. Imagine my amazement when I discovered what a variety I had collected, enough for a display. Needle packets make the perfect display. They are small, light weight, almost unbreakable, colorful and most people are familiar with and have even used a needle. Happy collecting, watch for the fun needle packets but be careful, it could get out of control.

Auxiliary Pages



Carrol Olson's display of aprons won a Judges Choice award at Davenport. Photo by Mel Ring

A New Home For Apron Display

By Carroll Olson

The apron patterns I displayed at Davenport have a new - and good - home.

Arlene Reinche, a speaker at the Davenport meeting who has a large collection of aprons and told Auxiliary members about them, was impressed with my acquisitions. So much so that I decided it was time to share my treasures and gave them to her.

I began collecting old patterns, rick-rack, thread, bias tape and other apron items a number of years ago, buying at "good old days" prices. It was fun to share these in Iowa and it was satisfying to find someone else who appreciates those Depression era items.

New Reprint Out

By now, members will have received the J.M. Waterston Tools Catalog No. 25, reprinted by M-WTCA.

The original was loaned by Jim Conover.

The Special Publications Committee is seeking material to reprint in 1997. If you have a catalog, pamphlet or book that you think might be suitable, contact Conover, chairman of the Special Publications Committee.

M-WTCA Announces Scholarship Winners

Four children of M-WTCA members are in college this year, helped financially by scholarships granted by the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association. The scholarship committee, headed by Lewis Cook, announced the 1996-97 winners:

• **Kenneth Micheal Olsen** Son of Gary J. Blum, from Walnut, IA. He is a freshman at the American Institute of Business studying business management.

• **Hillary Jane Kimmons** Daughter of Gary Kimmons, Springfield, MO. She is a freshman at Southwes Missouri State University studying business.

• **Lettice Elaine Haver** Daughter of Terry Have, Covington, IN. She is a freshman at the Univeristy of Southern Indiana, studying secondary education-English.

• **Aimee Marie Carevich** Daughter of George Carevich, Riverview, MI. She is a freshman at Allegheny College studying psychology.

"We congratulate all of these representatives of M-WTCA to their various schools. We wish them well in their studies and in their endeavors," Cook said.

Scholarship Reminder

By Ronald Cushman

If a member of your family is currently attending college or plans to attend college, an M-WTCA scholarship might be his or hers.

M-WTCA awards up to four scholarships a year. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,500.

Appliactions are now being accepted for the 1997-98 scholarship year. Completed applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee prior to April 1, 1997. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

Basic guidelines for the scholarship program can be found in the back of the current M-WTCA Directory under Policies, Procedures and Practices. For a scholarship application and any additional information, write:

Ron Cushman, PO Box 257, Almond, NY, 14804



Scholarship winners, from top: Aimee Carevich, Lettice Haver, Hillary Kimmons and Kenneth Olsen.

Whatsit?

By O. M. Ramsey

Just got back from the Rockford bash, where we had lots of good whatsits.

Item TT everyone agreed was for treating smut, an infestation of seed for cereal grains. Some mention was made of competitive brands other than the "Gummer" brand. Don Bosse had done some research on the subject from an 1889 source that describes it as a fungus that comes in two forms: "Black Smut" and "Stinking Smut," both of which destroy wheat crops.

Item UU I found at an auction last spring and it was called a steel harness. Thanks to Jim Mau's patent search, we know now how it was used. In a logging situation, the double trees behind the horses doing the pulling would snag on rock stumps and old roots sticking up. This device was attached under the horses behind their front legs. The shortened tugs from the hames on the collar were attached to each side of each horse's section. Then a single chain was attached to the device between the horses to the log being pulled.

Item VV came from the M-WTCA display at Pioneer Village at the Indy State Fair last August. The piece was about 24 inches tall and a lot of the log center had been removed to cut down the weight. The bark had been re-worked to follow the taper at the top end. The top crotch is lined with leather. I felt that it was used by a farrier to position a horse's leg while shoeing the horse, but the bark being re-attached would serve no purpose other than vanity. Others thought it was a pivot post for a stir pole to make apple butter, but it is too low and unstable for that. Still others said it was a padded anvil for doing fine metal work. The jury is still out.

Item WW comes from Robert Delwich of Hendersonville, NC. It is a set of three pieces that came together from a family that was involved in commercial food canning. It appears that the long rod was inserted in the offset hole with the set screw on the copper piece and then used as a guide so as to apply heat (presumably) to another surface.



Item UU



Item WW

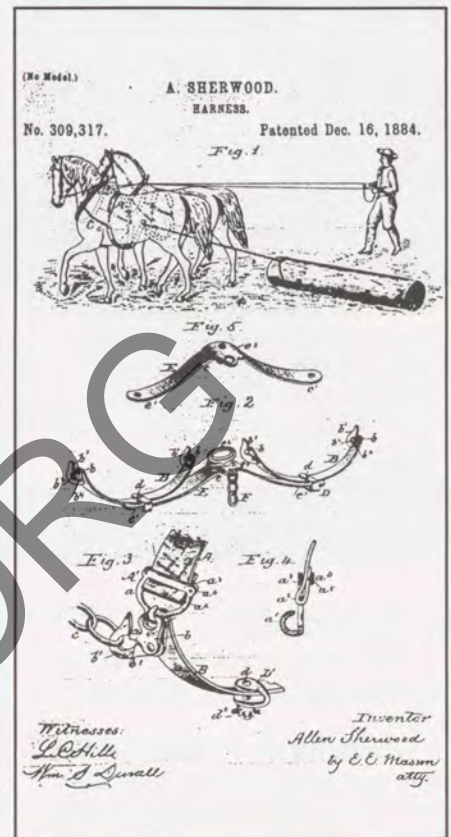
The third piece appears to be part of a set to punch a hole in fabric, or part of a set to attach metal grommets in fabrics.

If you have any input on these items or have another whatsit to submit, call me or write to:

O. M. Ramsey, 2038 Maples Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46816



Item VV



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Puzzled

By Hunter Pilkinton

Received a goodly number of replies to the semi-whatsit in the September 1996 GRISTMILL. Some wrote about this item only, while others answered all puzzles, and some admitted they hadn't a clue as to what it was.

The word puzzle gave no one any trouble, with one reply saying it took only 10 seconds to solve. The carpentry puzzle also was handled handily with all submitted answers correct.

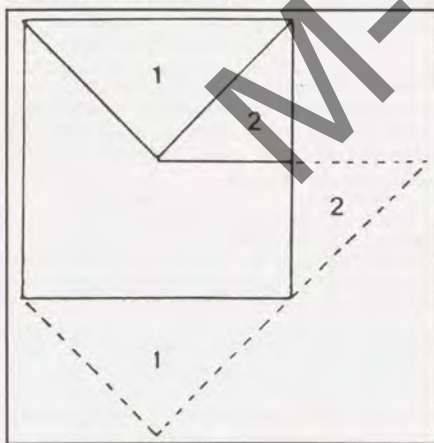
Replies were received, in no particular order, from Melvin and Katherine Simmons of Fayetteville, TN; James Hoffman of Stoughton, WI; Bob Rowell of Waterloo, Can. (Ontario); Ray Dillon of Whittier, NC; Hunter Martin of Paducah, KY; Jack McDaniel of Leander, TX; Ron Hubay of Toledo, OH; B. G. Thomas of Cheltenham, Ont., Canada; Dick Schusler of Whidbey Island, WA; and one from Jim Price of Naylor, MO.

Thanks to Philip Whitney of Fitchburg, MA, for the little math curiosities he sent me, discovered while doing research on crows!

Now for the answers:

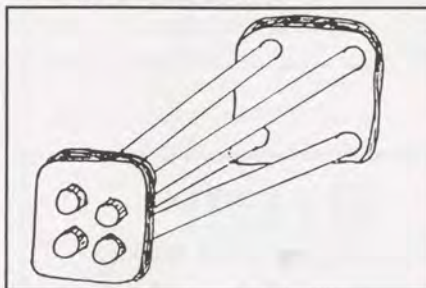
#1. What two words are anagrams of each other, one being a synonym for house and the other what it may be made of? ABODE - ADOBE.

#2 Carpentry puzzle - cut the irregular piece of plywood into 3 pieces and fit them together to form a 2-foot-square piece (see sketch).



#3 Semi Whatsit (see sketch). It is a nutcracker. I saw it in a gift catalog, but have never seen a primitive version or run into one at a flea market. Price says they are fairly common in the Ozarks.

One reply (from Dick Schusler) cited Patent No. 4,944,210 and said it was called a "Wisecracker," made in Richardson, TX (PO Box 851224). Melvin and Katherine Simmons gave Patent #4,944,219. I found it listed in Gavilans Catalog, Gardens Hills, CA.



Now for this issue's puzzles:
Puzzle #1. Just to get your juices flowing, interpret/read/translate these letter configurations into normal (?) phrases.

- a) ALLO Look
b) Look u Look
 Look
And C THAT O VEXES NOR XX UR
IT.

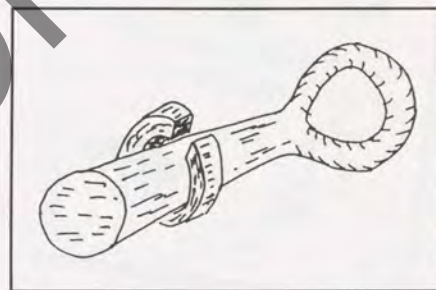
c) WOWOLFOL
These are from "More Mind Teasers" by Ralph Woods.

Puzzle #2. A teacher decided to punish her class for being too noisy by

assigning them the task of adding all the numbers from 1 through 100. One boy looked at the problem a while and wrote down the answer. The boy figured a simple short way to do it. Can you?

Puzzle #3. A man came to a bridge carrying 3 coconuts, each weighing 3 pounds. This, plus his own weight of 200 pounds exceed the weight limit of 206 pounds. When stopped, he said, "I can cross in one trip without exceeding the limit and carry my coconuts with me." How did he do it?

Semi Whatsit (see sketch). This is a cast steel piece 5 inches long. It is being sold today and has a very practical usage. Can you identify the tool and its use?



Address your replies directly to
*Hunter Pilkinton, 2431 Highway 13,
South, Waverly, TN 37188
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The Marketplace

FOR SALE

For Sale: 1,200 antique machinery-tool catalogs (1800-1960), 40 pictorial histories (wood, metal lathes, table, band, scroll saws, bicycle, sewing machine, unique hand tools, etc.). List - \$4. Also list of modern machine parts (tons), wood lathes, drill presses, etc. - \$3. Harold Barker, 3108 Klingler Rd., Ada, OH 45810.

For Sale: Lifetime wrench collection. Over 300 pieces. Mostly monkey (Coes, bicycle, railroad, B&C, Trimo, Stilson, S type, perfect handle, Fordson, International Harvester, Diamond) Also alligator, Ford, fence tools, locks, jacks and brass tools. Will sell all or in lots of 100. Harvey Gambrell, 2816 Beverly Hills Dr., Marietta, GA 30068. (770) 971-3610.

For Sale: Collection of 185 hand, breast & bench drills, chain drills, bits, angles & other accessories. many unusual and rare pieces. All different. Many restored to Fine. Ashcroft, Chip-A-Way, Consolidated, Craftsman, Dunlap, Enderes, Fulton, Goodell Bros., Goodell-Pratt, International, Millers Falls, Mohawk-Shelburne, North Bros (Yankee), Rusby, Stanley, Victor, Wichester & others. SASE gets list. B. Dwaine Simmons, 28 Dogwood Rd., Newnan, GA 30263-3106. (770) 253-5586 evenings.

For Sale: Ohio Tool #111 rosewood with ivory tips center wheel adjustable plow with eight original bits. 2 small chips in center wheel, otherwise fine cond. \$9,500. George Wanamaker, (309) 836-6872.

For Sale: European boxwood (Buxus Sempervirens). Excellent for replacing boxing, plane making, tool handles, musical instrument parts, engraving blocks, carving, turning, model making, etc. David Kingston, 4727 9th Ave., NE, Seattle, WA 98105-4728. (206) 632-1067.

WANTED

Wanted: Sandusky wood and metal planes, catalogs and advertising, and other tools marked Sandusky. Please send for my want list. Also seeking information about and tools marked F. or J. Forsythe. John Walkowiak, 3452 Humboldt Ave. S., Mpls, MN 55408. (612) 824-0785.

Wanted: Books, articles, patterns and pamphlets relating to blacksmithing, ancient locks and tinsmithing. Norm Larson, 5426 Hwy 246, Lompoc, CA 93436. (805) 735-2095 eves. or leave message anytime.

Wanted: Wood planes by J. Denison, J&L Denison, J.D. Denison and G.W. Denison. Ivan Lux, Minden, NE 68969. (308) 832-2495.

Wanted: Longtime collector seeks early technical related objects. Surveying instruments, compasses, transits, etc. Computing devices, unusual slide rules, assaying and bullion balances, surgical sets, medical curiosities, microscopes, telegraphy, scientific instruments, other interesting mechanical and technical objects made prior to 1910. Dale R. Beeks, P.O. Box 117, Mt. Vernon, IA 52314. Call collect: (800) 880-5178.

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ANTIQUe TOOL AUCTION AND TAG SALE - APRIL 5, 1997

Curry Collection:

#2½, #2, 2 #4, 2 #6, #7½, #8½, #20 L. Bailey Victor Planes - #6, # "B", Bailey Tools - SS5, SS4 L Bailey Split Sides Planes - #41 SR&L Pat., #38 Phelps Core Box Plane - 2 Robinson, Eagle Square Co. Square for Step

Callis Collection (1,000 units approx.):

Foot operated, 2 Jig Saws, 1 Lathe - 2 Carpenter Work Benches - 6 Tool & Machinist Cabinets - 2 Kids Tool Boxes w/Tools - Stanley and Wood Planes - Saws - Cooper Tools, Sheffiend Braces - Ult. Brace, Iron Braces - Brass Plumb Bobs - Blacksmith Tools - Large Glass Keen Kutter Show Case w/10 items - Levels - Grain Scales - Broad Axes - Hatchets - Wood Chisels, Carving - Broom Vise - Log Rulers - Beam Drills - Tractor Seat - Brass Padlocks - Cork Screws - Sheet Metal Stakes

SALE BILLS WILL BE OUT IN EARLY MARCH

(See picture - Leonard Bailey Bronze Scraper Plane, "L. Bailey's Patent - Aug. 7, 1855", ¼" high letters cast on frame - Page 40 Roger Smith Book, Vol. I)

The Marketplace

Wanted: All Winchester and Keen Kutter zigzag rules, a K200 compass plane by Keen Kutter, a Winchester tin sewing needle case and bullnose rabbet plane 075 and W75 and W75 by Ohio Tool and Winchester. Ken Lord, #3 Graham Lane, St. Charles, MO 63304. (314) 939-9167.

Wanted: Planes or other tools marked E.C. Ring, Ringville, MS; E.C. Ring, Worthington, MS; or E&T Ring, Worthington, MS. Send description to Mel Ring, 35 Orchard Lane, Huntington, IN 46750-1744.

Wanted: Special use or special issue saws by Disston or others. I need Gauge, "Handy" Hand-saw, Joiner, Movable Backsaw and Turkish saws. Also #0 Davis Backsaw, #0 T. Taylor, #1 C. Bishop, #8 Half-back Bench Saw, #9 Improved Backsaw, #5 Square Hole Nest of Saws, #5 and #10 Plumbers Saw, #29 and #38 Combination, #70 Dovetail Saw, #76 "Centennial," #77 "Mechanic's Own," #80 Cabinet Saw, D-18 Flooring Saw, D-24 Pruning Saw, D-115 Diamond Jubilee. I will consider any saw, saw wrest or catalog of notable rarity. Please state price and condition. Jack Butler, PO Box 1554, Rolla, MO 65401.

Wanted: Stanley tape rules, Pacemaker, Glide-O-Matic, Power Lock layout rule, brick mason's spacing rule, #3610 or #3612, #7466 and any #7886 plastic case rule. George Wanamaker, (309) 836-6872..

Wanted: Sargent tools for tool box depicted in M-WTCA Sargent reprint of Fall, 1995, page 46. Also wanted: Sargent hammers, drill braces, drills, saws and chisels. John F. DeLay, 255 Colonial Rd., Guilford, CT 06437 (203) 453-4281.

Wanted: #4 size planes made by Sargent for Keen Kutter, Chipaway, Bluegrass, Cleancut, Oakleaf (Wm. Enders), Everkeen, 4-Most USA, Grant Gold Label, Harvard, Lakeside, Our Very Best (OVB), Shapleigh, John W. Smith, Towntalk and Westline. John F. DeLay, 255 Colonial Rd., Guilford, CT 06437 (203) 453-4281.

Wanted: To contact anyone who may have "Dutch" planes or other hand tools marked with the owner's initials PSL, MS or both. Richard Chapman, 5018 N. Tripp, Chicago, IL 60630 (312) 736-4246.

Wanted: Foot power drive for a Seneca Falls 11-inch screw cutting metal lathe. (I think this is the same as the one pictured on page 21 of the 1915 Sears Tools Machinery Blacksmith Supplies Catalog reprinted by M-WTCA.) Will settle for close-up pictures and/or measured drawings. Ed Hobbs, 4417 Inwood Rd., Raleigh, NC 27603-3315. (919) 828-2754.

Wanted: Quality and unusual slide rules, trade catalogs by K&E, Dietzgen, Gurley, Buff, Post, Queen, etc. W. Feely, 1172 Lindsay Lane, Rydal, PA 19046.

Book Review

Historical First Patents: The First United States Patent for Many Everyday Things (Travis Brown)

Review by Grace Jenkins Goss

This book about patents, once opened, will not let you put it down. It is crammed full of facts written ever so smoothly that the words just fly.

Brown scribes the early (1474) world's history of patents through current U.S. procedures, the patent office official sites, from New York, Philadelphia to Washington and patent model history. The most intriguing section tells how many models were submitted, their storage and viewing problems, the expense of maintaining

Wanted: Collection quality, decorated goosewing broad axes, Kelly Perfect full inscript axes and Lincoln embossed axes. John R. Henson, W5435 Hillsdie Drive, Merrill, WI 54452. (715) 536-7555.

Wanted: Kraeuter and Red Devil crescent wrenches in good condition. Roy Huntley, 1206 N. Spruce, Harrison, AR 72601 (501) 365-0053.

Wanted: 19th or 19th century tools/planes with owner marks: I. DINSMORE, J. DINSMORE, DINSMORE, I. HEMINGS, J. HEMINGS, HEMINGS, Roger Springate, 2408 Topeka Rd., Lexington, KY 40503. (606) 277-3660.

the models through the years from 1790. He not only tells the why, when and how the government disposed of the patent models, but who ended up with them, how much they paid and the new owners dreams. The introduction alone is worth the price of the book.

The first patents chosen by Travis Brown include the earliest, the first design, the first plant and the first of a U.S. president, plus a remarkable cross-section of the "firsts" in various fields from A to Z. Just to tantalize you, he included the very first patent issued to Samuel Winslow for processing salt, John Jenk's improvement of the scythe, Bakeland's Bakelite, Charles Newbold's plow and Abe Lincoln's patent for buoying vessels, just to name a few. With each of the 84 patents, Brown includes the drawings and an extensively informative biographical history of the inventor and his invention. He also provides an extensive inventor's bibliography section.

Historical First Patents would make a magnificent, timeless, addition to any library. What a great gift to give to those who collect, historians, or those who are young at heart and full of dreams. The price is about \$40.

To order, call 1-800-462-6420, University Press-Scarecrow Press. ISBN 0-8108-2898-7 (1994)

Advertising Information

ISSUE	COPY DEADLINE	DISPLAY ADS - RATES		
March	January 10			
June	April 10	SIZE	COST	WORD LIMIT
September	July 10	Full page	\$180	900
December	October 10	Half page	\$105	450
CLASSIFIED ADS - RATES		Quarter page*	\$60	225
\$.18 per word - ALL words.		Other sizes	\$9.50 per column inch	
\$3.50 minimum per ad.		(1 column is approx. 2-1/4" wide.) 25 word limit.		

*NOTE: For layout purposes, all quarter page ads must meet the following specifications: 2 columns (4-7/8") wide x 3-3/4" tall. This is called a "double column size ad." Photos - additional \$8 each (Polaroids not acceptable). Typesetting and borders are not included in the page rates. Special artwork will be charged at cost. We must have a sketch or rough drawing indicating how you want your ad laid out. Camera-ready ads are accepted at no additional charge. For your protection and complete satisfaction, ALL ads should be typewritten and double-spaced. If this is not possible, please PRINT legibly.

Payment must accompany ad. Make checks payable to M-WTCA. At this time, advertising will be accepted only from M-WTCA members in good standing. For information and membership application, contact Mel Ring at the above address or one of the officers whose address is shown on the inside front cover of this publication.

SEND ALL ADS TO: Mel Ring, 35 Orchard Lane Huntington, IN 46750
(219) 356-7471

MISCELLANEOUS TOOLS



Scrap Hatchet

The Scrap Hatchet is used by operators of Sole Cutting Machines for chopping the scrap from the main portions of sole leather. It is of sufficient weight to enable the operator to sever scrap pieces with one blow and is the best tool devised for this purpose.

Clicking Hatchet

The Clicking Hatchet is thinner and lighter than the Scrap Hatchet. Operators of Ideal Clicking Machines find this tool useful for trimming off the skirtings of upper leather stock.



Naumkeag Guard



A flexible steel guard used to protect the upper of the shoe from the abrasive pad while Naumkeaging the shank.

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UNITED SHOE MACHINERY CORPORATION
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
U. S. A.

The USMC Hatchet

A response and answer to Ken Runkle's question regarding the USMC scrap hatchet.

Shown is a page from the United Shoe Machinery Corp. catalog, Tools for the Shoemaker, probably from the 1930s or '40s. No date was found in the book.

The description of the tool is pretty much self-explanatory. Note a little sister: the clicking hatchet.

This USMC catalog is interesting as it offers 17 different style hammers and mallets. Also in the catalog are many tools and gadgets that most tool collectors would not recognize because of their specialty use in the shoe-making industry.

Jason Miller
PO Box 146
Refton, PA 17568

Regarding Ken Runkle's letter on the USMC tool, I have run across two wrenches with USMC in raised letters. Also, I have a wooden box, approximately 2 feet long, 8" deep and 12" wide

with the emblem stamped on it.

Larry Goodwin
RR 1, Box 71
Wellington, MO 64097

A Little Advice

I'm just responding to the article you had in the last issue of the GRISTMILL about how the antique magazine Yesteryear criticized antique tool collectors, saying that they were shrewd and willing to take advantage of the unknowledgeable and inexperienced tool collector. While I disagree with that assumption, I do feel that there are several areas that need to be worked on.

The first problem that I have noticed is that it seems as if all tool collecting organizations try to hide from the public. I was collecting antique tools for five years before I knew that there were clubs to join. And even then, it took me another year to get hold of an address of an organization so that I could join. I went to an Ohio Tool Collectors Association meeting last year and on front of the building it said OTCA. Now, that may be fine for members of the organization, but a person driving by would have no idea what OTCA stands for. They should at least spell out their name and say "Public Welcome" underneath. I'm not sure how the M-WTCA handles this, but I would hope you handle it differently.

Another thing that all the tool clubs could do is to set up a booth at one of the woodworking shows that travel the country. Whenever the show is at an area that the tool clubs represent, they could attend the show and set up a booth and show some of their tools and hand out flyers to the public. Woodworkers already have a genuine interest in tools and some of them probably have old tools lying around in their shop or they may even still use them. I still use mine, and they work better than any tool I could buy in a hardware store.

The second problem that I have noticed is that there are no books on antique tools available in any of the major bookstores. I have gone to Barnes and Noble and Joseph A Booksellers and have come up empty every time. I guess

that has to do with the publishers. But, it would be nice to look at a book before you buy it. That is one of the reasons why I don't order books from catalogs.

The third problem that I have noticed and one that will probably fix itself over time is that there are not enough books out there that talk about the value of the tools. John Walter came out with a book on collecting Stanley Tools and since then, the market has exploded. People have a genuine idea of what a Stanley tool is worth. And now that his second edition is coming out very shortly, the prices for these tools and the interest for the tools as well are going to go up. But what about the competitors like Union, Ohio Tool Co., Millers Falls and all the others? Are their tools not worth as much because they aren't Stanley, or are they worth more because there aren't as many of them out there? I have seen 50 Stanley No. 1s in my time but have only come across one Ohio Tool Co. No. 1. To me, the Ohio Tool Co. No. 1 should be worth five to six times more than Stanley.

So, that leaves the auction to determine what a tool is worth. And auctions can be deceiving because who knows what the person was thinking when they bid on the tool. I went to an auction in Peebles, OH, and saw somebody pay \$500 for a Stanley 55 that had no cutters, no box and had half of the plane missing. There is an old saying about auctions. It says that whoever wins the item at the end of the bidding ultimately loses, because everyone else thought the item wasn't worth what he or she had bid.

I have seen progress in tool collecting, as well. And one of the biggest areas is the Internet. I think it's great that you are on the Internet along with others such as Jon Zimmer and The Fine Tool Journal. It is just what we need to take our investment into the 21st century.

Mike Flaim
11 Carpenter's Run
Cincinnati, OH 45241

Send letters and art to:
Backtalk, THE GRISTMILL
Mary Lou Stover
S76 W19954 Prospect Dr.,
Muskego, WI 53150

Finding Tools Sometimes Easy

By Bill Rigler

For the past five years, my tool collecting has been limited to area and national meetings of M-WTCA and to some auctions. During this time, I have collected some very nice tools. I enjoy these tools, though the pleasure is not as long-lived as if they had been found during trips to garage sales, flea markets or just hawking antique shops selling glass and furniture.

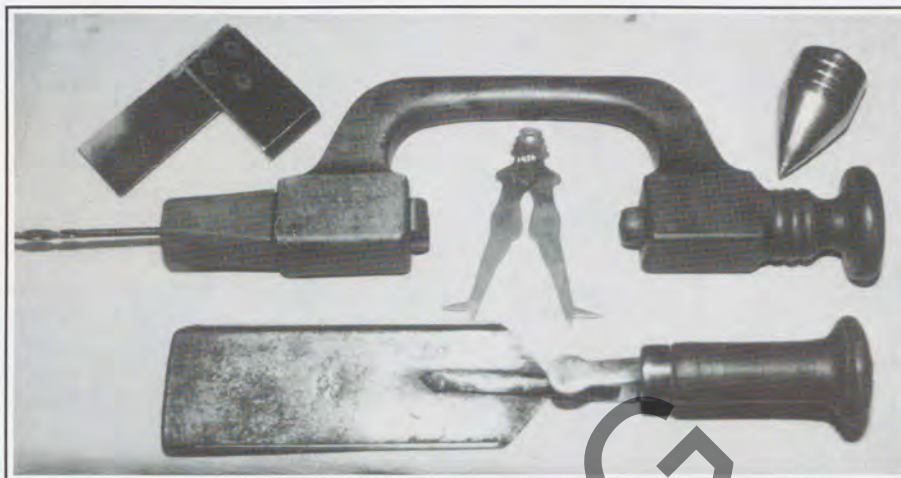
A case in point occurred when we stayed over with Mary Lou Stover for a few days on the way to a national meeting. Mary Lou, being the perfect hostess, arranged a visit with longtime friend Wally Anderson at his antique shop and trips to a flea market in Elkhorn (locals said there were no tools at this market) and a brand new antique mall, all in Wisconsin.

Every person who reads this will no doubt have their own story of a bargain find, but here's mine: found at the flea market, a wood brace with a clothes pin bit holder, that started at \$185 at 7 a.m. and bought by me for \$80 at 10 a.m. The brace is mint condition and lacked the bit and multiple pads. Life is tough.

Our forage that day produced one wood brace, one unique signed buttress, one 2 7/8" rosewood brass and steel square, one full-bodied brass dancing inside/outside calipers and one brass plumb bob. For a total cost of \$215, I thought I had died and gone to heaven, and it was all due to the thoughtfulness of Mary Lou.

Folks who visited my display at Stevens Point found that many of my favorite tools have stories that involve tool collectors whose effort got that tool into the collection.

These five tools will be those that Mary Lou Stover let me get.



These are tools bought by Bill Rigler, thanks to a friend.

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