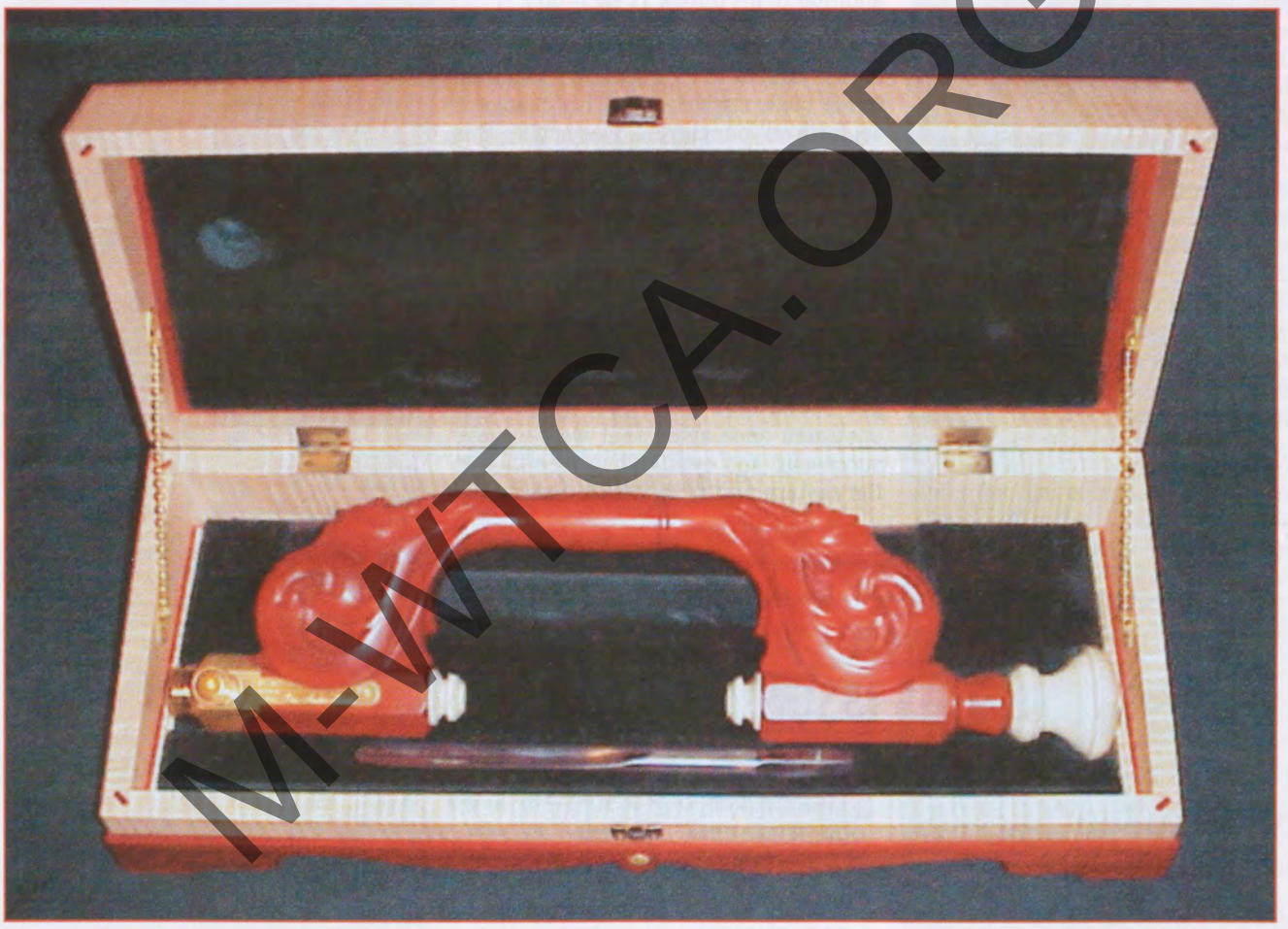
The Gristmill

A Publication of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association



A handmade bloodwood brace crafted by Andre Milette. Story on page 18.

December 2002 No. 109

CHAFF

Lagniappe

As I write this, I think back to this date one year ago when I wrote my first CHAFF Column as your new president. The word LAGNIAPPE, I think pretty much sums up my feelings about the past year. I have, in fact, received "a little something extra" from all of you and my wife Jean, our unofficial secretary. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have been involved in the affairs of this outstanding association. I think all of us working together can keep M-WTCA a viable association and have fun doing so.

The Long Range Planning Committee, with Mel Ring as chairman, has developed a membership survey, which is an insert in the September issue of the GRISTMILL. The committee needs your response. It is important that all of us participate, so do me a favor and complete the survey today and mail it today. It is not too late to do so.

Ron Cushman, our vice president for scholarships, has resigned this office due to a medical problem. We owe Ron a vote of gratitude for his past work and dedication on behalf of M-WTCA. We wish Ron a complete and fast recovery. Don Rosebrook has been elected to this office. The board of directors has approved an amendment to our by-laws to provide for a vice president of membership, and Ed Hobbs has been elected to this office. I am sure many of you will hear from Ed regarding membership retention and growth. Ed will need your help and suggestions. Tom Lamond has been appointed as editor of our membership directory, in addition to his duties as secretary.

The board of directors has approved higher classes of membership in addition to our basic membership. This change is set forth on your current dues notice. This higher level of membership is, of course, voluntary. M-WTCA is a 501(c)(3) not for profit association. Membership dues in excess of the basic dues are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

The Winston-Salem meeting was a wonderful success. Ed and Kathy Hobbs and all of their co-hosts did a fantastic job. The success of this meeting had demonstrated once again that we can have successful and outstanding meetings in the eastern part of M-WTCA territory.

– Willie Royal

DECEMBER, 2002 • NO. 109

IN THIS ISSUE

THE GRISTMILL

N. 109 **December, 2002**

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THE GRISTMILL is the official publication of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association, Inc. 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; and to share knowledge and understanding with others, especially where it may benefit restoration, museums and like institutions.

COMING UP

Mid-West Tool Collectors Association National Meetings

Spring, 2003	June 12, 13, 14, 2003. Green Bay, WI. Don and Sue Tubman (262) 835-4658.
Fall, 2003	Oct. 16, 17, 18, 2003. Bowling Green, KY. Doug and Paula Cox (502) 863-1407.

M-WTCA Area & Other Meetings

Area N Meeting	**Jan. 11, 2003.** Stuart, FL. Paul Remelius (561) 287-0855
Area Q Meeting	**Jan. 11, 2003.** Hillsborough, NC. Robert Oehman (919) 858-8506.
Area P Meeting	**Jan 25-26, 2003.** York, PA William Warner (717) 843-8105
Area N Meeting	**Feb. 7 & 8, 2003.** Peach Meet Madison, GA Doug Fowler (706) 629-8604.
Area A Meeting	**Feb. 8, 2003.** Medina, MN. Don Bosse (651) 735-3590
Area I Meeting	**Feb. 15, 2003.** Springdale, AR. Emery Goad (888) 889-3340.
Area F Meeting	**Feb. 21-22, 2003.** Nashville, IN. Joseph Greiwe. (812) 934-2747.
Area B Meeting	**Feb. 23, 2003.** St. Francis,WI Don Tubman (262) 835-4658.
Area Q Meeting	**March 8, 2003.** Charlotte, NC. Bob Fields (704) 393-1282.
Area N Meeting	**March 15, 2003.** Mount Dora, FL Phil Baker (941) 485-6981.
Area E Meeting	**March 23, 2003.** Rockford, IL Gary Johnson (815) 636-1464.
Area D Meeting	**March 30, 2003.** Papillion, NE. Al Fetty (402) 223-5842
Area N Meeting	**April 5, 2003.** Barberville, FL. Phil Baker (941) 485-6981.
Area F Meeting	**April 6, 2003.** Franklin, IN. Norm Heckman (317)422-8482
Area A Meeting	**April 26, 2003.** Hastings, MN. Don Bosse (651) 735-3590
Area D Meeting	**May 4, 2003.** Humboldt, IA. LeRoy Witzel (515) 332-3649.
Area E & J Meeting	**May 11, 2003.** Quincy, IL George Wanamaker (309) 836-6872.
Area Q Meeting	**May 17, 2003.** Hickory, NC. Bob Fields (704) 393-1282.
Area Q Meeting	**July 26, 2003.** Raleigh, NC. Ed Hobbs (919) 828-2754.
Area A & B Meeting	**Sept. 13-14, 2003.** LaCrosse WI. Larry Thorson (608) 788-7753.

Dates must be cleared with Gary Johnson (815) 636-1464. E-mail tinstools1@aol.com.

Items stolen

Two early, valuable and unique catalogs were stolen from Martin Donnelly at the M-WTCA national fall meeting in Winston-Salem, NC.

The books taken include an 1867 Stanley Catalog and a ca. 1860s A. and W. T. Stanley Metric Guide. The 1867 catalog was stamped on the inside cover in blue ink showing that the catalogs were originally part of the Stanley Archives.

Donnelly said that if the catalogs are returned to him, no questions will be asked and no action will be taken.

Officers Named

Willie Royal was re-elected president of M-WTCA at the October meeting in Winston-Salem, NC. Several new officers also were elected by the membership.

Ed Hobbs was elected to the newly created post of vice president in charge of membership. The president appointed Robert Oehman to replace him as a director of Area Q. Don Rosebrook was chosen as vice president of scholarships, filling the the position vacated by Ron Cushman.

Other officers were re-elected: John Wells, treasurer; Tom Lamond, secretary; Don Tubman, vice president-meetings, and George Wanamaker, vice president-elections.

New Directors Elected

By George Wanamaker

Elections were held in August and September for new directors.

There were positions open in all areas except M and R. However, only one area, Area C, actually had an election. Because all areas except C had only one nominee, there was no need for an election and the nominees were appointed to office.

The following new or incumbent directors took office at the meeting in Winston-Salem.

Area A, Wayne Anderson; Area B, Bob Kloes; Area C, Michael Slasinski; Area D, LeRoy Witzel; Area E, Ralph Brendler; Area F, Matt Borders; Area G, John Kesterson; Area H, Phil Whitby; Area I, David McDonald; Area J, Michael Urness; Area K, Sam Strauss Jr.; Area L, Don Jordan; Area N, Nelson Coressel; Area O, Rod Galster; Area P, Tim Bailey and Jason Miller, Area Q, Bob Fields.

These and other directors and officials are the people who do the work of managing the business of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association.

Miss the Meet?

Due to the GRISTMILL deadline falling during the meeting in Winston-Salem, NC, full coverage of the national conference will not be published until the March issue. Look for award winners, photos and Auxiliary articles at that time.

AREA MEETINGS

Hoosier Hospitality in Abundance at Darley's Barn

By Jan Cover

In the cool pre-dawn darkness of Aug. 25, early-bird toolers from the central Mid-West began arriving on the premises of Darley' s Barn in South Whitley, IN, for the early-autumn M-WTCA Area F tool meet.

Karen Cover and young James greeted folks by lantern at the gate with registration packets and a reminder of the doughnuts and coffee in the barn. Martin Donnelly snagged the first notable find of the morning - a rare adjustable wrench to which he was drawn by flashlight and (he insisted) a special sixth sense that operates most efficiently in the dark.

The unpredictable weather and strong rains of the previous three days proved of little distraction to those planning to attend this increasingly-popular annual event. By 9 a.m., the sun-drenched farm in northeastern Indiana had welcomed 150 members, spouses and guests from Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Indiana, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and New York, with long rows of dealer-tables and tailgates filling an open grassy field flanked by trees and cornfields.

A number of members excused themselves from the brisk dealing to set up displays on tables provided inside the barn annex (display theme: "Cabinetmaker's Plow Planes of the Central Mid-West"). Among them were John Sindelar of Edwardsburg, MI, who laid out an astounding display of 12 fine ivory-tipped plows, and Tod Herrli, of Mississinewa Valley Workshop fame, with a fine display of specialized plow planes for rail and stile construction in assembling raised panels.

Everyone loves a good auction. At 9:30, a loud call went out across the field to assemble near the barn for a no-reserve catalogued auction of 50 fine antique and collectible tools. The auction was called by Bill Baxter, well-known tool auctioneer, with bookkeeping by his wife, Teri. Among the items going into new hands were a Stanley Bedrock 602 square-side, a super-large brass millwright's plumb bob, a rare-marked rosewood ultimatum brace, complex molders, an unused NOS set of Greenlee socket-firmer chisels, a Norris stuffed plane, wooden planes made in Indiana, embossed axes, a Birmingham iron smoother, and much more. At lot 25, Jan Cover stopped the auction to present a $100 and $75 voucher (good for tool purchases on the premises) to the first- and second-place display winners. He then gave away a nice Stanley Bedrock 605C to a non-member guest by random drawing from an old hat, and two additional $50 vouchers by drawing.

The high lot of the second half of the auction was a Stanley Miller's Patent 41 Combination Plane with fillester bed and fence, which was hammered down at a reasonable $925. The event finished with Lot 50 - a beautiful spalted maple decorative vessel hand-turned by Chris Berger, who donated the full hammer price to the Darley' s Barn Area F expense fund. Wes Groot says he got a bargain at $195.

And everyone loves good country cooking. At 11:30, the schoolmarm bell rang out the call for everyone to come into the barn for Scott Darley' s excellent hot buffet meal, complete with dessert. Phil Cannon and Mel Ring are said to have gone back for thirds. By 1:30, most folks had packed up and turned the horses home, ending a fun-filled day of good tooling and great fellowship. Next year the 2003 Darley' s Barn Area F meet will occur on Sunday, Aug. 24, and promises to offer more tools, even more people, another high-quality catalogued auction, woodcraft demonstrations, and a fresh helping of Hoosier hospitality. Direct inquiries to Jan Cover.

Area A & B Tool Meet

By Hollis Feeser

The 8th annual joint area A&B tool meet was held in Rochester, MN, on Sept. 14 and 15 at the familiar venue of the Apache Best Western Hotel.

More than 100 persons took in the Saturday and Sunday activities. Members from eight states joined the activities of Saturday afternoon parking lot trading and evening auction and the Sunday activities of floor trading, displays, demonstrations, whatsit and a special tour for the spouses.

The meet ended with Sunday lunch and fond farewells to fellow M-WTCA members, spouses and guests. Areas A&B will meet again next September in La Crosse, WI.

Bill Watkins is in charge fo the Whatsit session at the Area A & B meeting in Rochester. Photo by Hollis Feeser.

Indiana State Fair Tool Exhibit

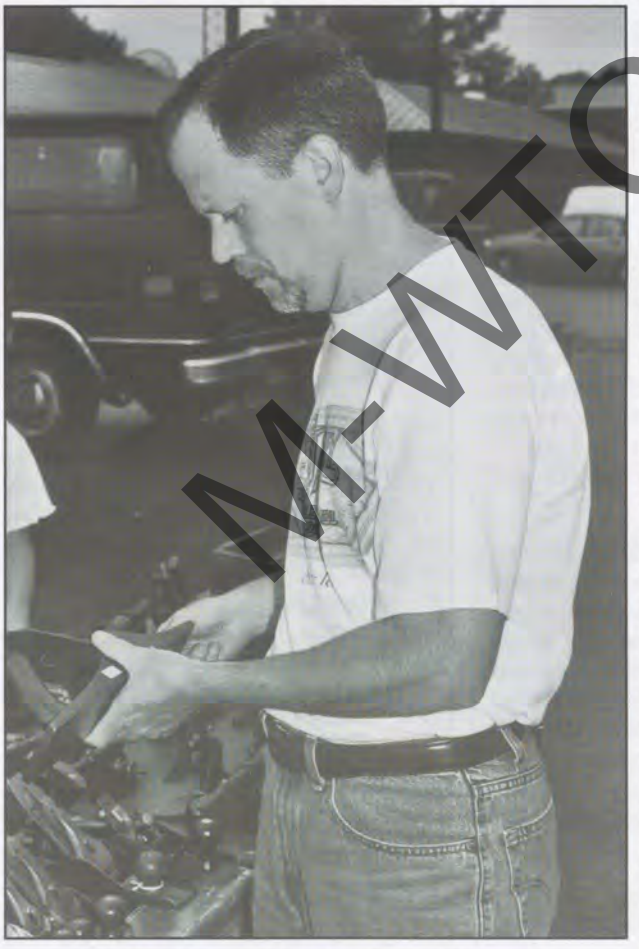
By Matt Borders

We've all done it. We crowd so many things into our already hectic lives that we wind up asking ourselves why in the world we ever agreed to do whatever it is we are doing. We've bitten off more than we can chew and we know it, and we swear to ourselves that if we ever get out of this mess we're in we're going to disconnect the phone, change our name and move to the Klondike.

In spite of that almost daily promise to myself, there is and always will be one thing I'll never turn down: Mo Arnold's yearly invitation to help out at the Indiana State Fair. You see, I need that few hours every year to recharge my batteries and remind myself that there's more to life than mortgage payments and trucks with leaks I can't find and can't afford to fix anyway.

About two weeks prior to going, I told my young son Lane about our planned trip to the fair. Lane was of course excited and began a litany of things he expected to see while there. Whenever the word fair was mentioned, his eyes would light up and he would say, "See cow? See horses? See tractors? See Mo?" As the days went by, his priorities obviously changed for by two or three days prior to going Mo's name had moved steadily to the top of the list, even overtaking cows as the premier attraction of the fair.

Those of you who have visited the Indiana tool group's exhibit at the fair know there's always an abundance of tools on display, and this year was no exception. In addition to the tools on permanent display, Mo Arnold, George Saucerman and Keith Thomas provided everything from pipe wrenches to pit saws.



Don Bosse contemplates a purchase at Rochester's Area A & B meet. Photo by Hollis Feeser.

As usual, the lion's share of tools belonged to Mo. Along with goose wing axes, wrenches and myriad other tools of every description, Mo also provided the most unique item on display: a Japanese handsaw "captured" during Mo's tour of duty in World War II. The saw itself is not particularly rare or unique but, as with so many of Mo's favorite tools, it's the saw's connection to history that makes it so special. You see, Mo was stationed aboard a ship carrying landing craft in the Pacific. One particular landing craft attached to Mo's ship had the somber task of carrying the body of Hoosier journalist Ernie Pyle off the island after a sniper killed him. In addition to Pyle's body there was, thrown in by some unknown soldier for some equally unknown reason, a small Japanese saw, its pattern strange to a young man from rural Indiana. Mo has kept that saw for more than 50 years, a memento of a place, a time and an occasion he probably would rather forget.

Not to be outdone, Saucerman and Thomas each provided impressive displays of their own. Being an accomplished blacksmith himself, George displayed smith-made tools of every description that were all made from rasps. To varying degrees each bore the telltale signs of the raw material used, but I was impressed with the complexity and craftsmanship of each piece, many of which required close inspection to prove they were not factory made.

Keith's display could best be described as cutting edge. Saws of every conceivable shape and size adorned one entire wall, complete with descriptions of their various uses. I really wanted to try out the pit saw Keith brought, but since I had neglected to bring credit references and a note from my wife I had to settle for the "look. don't touch" approach.

For me as for Lane, visiting with the folks from the M-WTCA is really the highlight of the whole state fair experience. Sure, the tools displayed are interesting and instructive, but the people are what make our organization work and listening to them explain each treasured item and the stories behind it are what keep me and thousands of others coming back year after year.

Thanks as always to Mo for letting me help (if that is the right word for sitting quietly and trying not to break anything) and to George and Keith for their displays and for tending the exhibit. Thanks also to Bill Tangman, Charles Smitha, Nan Lutenske and Dick Opsahl for minding the store and making this year's exhibit as popular as ever.

AREA MEETINGS

M-WTCA Spring Meeting Franklin, IN

By Matt Borders

Chilly temperatures and heavy rain might be enough to deter some people, but it takes more then inclement weather to sideline the members of Area F. Take the spring meeting in Franklin, IN, for example. Some 170 people descended on the Johnson County Fairgrounds April 21 on a day most would consider much more conducive to napping, and were repaid for their efforts with another of Norm Heckman's great get-togethers.

If you've never attended the Franklin meeting, you'll be amazed at how much activity there is in such a short period of time. This year, the meeting ran for just seven hours. But in that time there were demonstrations by Art Redinger on working with a shaving horse as well as Dennis Maddox and Robert Autison from the Circle City Carving Club, not to mention all the buying, selling and swapping at the tables.

Having a meeting measured in hours instead of days also has the effect of changing the "tactics" of buying and selling tools. At longer meetings you have time to walk around trying to look disinterested while making mental notes about which tools to acquire. Then you casually stroll back to your own table, secure in the knowledge that you have at least a day to make enough money to buy what you want, by which time the price will probably come down anyway because the current owner doesn't want to pack it up again. Well, things just don't work that way in Franklin.

I managed to look disinterested for perhaps 30 to 40 seconds (a new record for me). Then I noticed that things were disappearing off of tables at an alarming rate. My friend Stan would find me to tell me of something he spotted that might interest me and, by the time I got there the thing would be gone. If it weren't for the fact that she was out wheeling and dealing for tools herself I would suspect my wife, Celena, of being involved, but she was too busy finding levels to be running around begging people to hide things from me. I guess I'm going to have to develop a training regimen for next year: say 50 wallet pullouts twice a day coupled with wind sprints.

Norm did a fantastic job orchestrating everything, but he wants me to be sure to point out he didn't do it alone. Along with his wife, Shirley, special thanks are owed to Art and Sally Redinger, Robert Autison and Dennis Maddox for their great demonstrations, and to all that stayed to help clean up afterwards. Norm extended his thanks to all the members that attended and helped to make Franklin such a success.

Next year's show has been scheduled for Sunday, April 6, and we hope to see you all there.

Wanted:

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Description: Male or Female 18-22 years of age Graduating high school seniors or college students

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Be willing to: Travel to Mt. Vernon, participate in public speaking, wear 18th century style clothing, work a 5-day week for 10 weeks, (June through August), take field trips, learn about George Washington and his estate. You would: Receive a weekly stipend, live in modern quarters at Mt. Vernon, use this time as an opportunity to do additional research, and possibly receive college credit.

For additional information or application, contact: Doug Cox 2938 Cynthiana Rd. Georgetown, Ky. 40324 (502) 863-1407 domepa@peoplepc.com

Where to Send What...

Please note where to send what so it will reach the right person.

Send changes in address, phone number or e-mail to: KLM Computer Services, c/o Kerry McCalla, 104 Engle Ct., Franklin, TN 37069, phone (615) 791-6198, e-mail kmccalla@bellsouth.net.

Request GRISTMILL copies from: Bill Baader,4183 Hominy Ridge Rd., Springfield, OH 45502-9510, phone (937) 969-8530.

Pay membership dues for current year: Send your check made out to M-WTCA to John Wells, Treasurer, P.O. Box 8016, Berkeley, CA 94707. Please write RENEW and your name and address on your check. Do not use a new member application to renew an existing membership.

Submit materials to The GRISTMILL: Send to Mary Lou Stover, Gristmill Editor, S76 W19954 Prospect Dr., Muskego, WI 53150, phone (262) 679-1412.

Obtain GRISTMILL advertising or information: Contact Paul Gorham, 81 1 Robin Glen, Indianapolis, IA 50125, phone (515) 962-5207, e-mail pgorham9@mchsi.com.

Obtain scholarship applications: Contact Don Rosebrook, 3832 Henry Road, Prairieville, LA 70769, email hopeful@eatel.net.

To list area meetings: Contact Gary Johnson (815) 636-1464, email tinstools1@aol.com.

OBITUARIES

Duncan Wilkie Rabey Jr.

By Roger Rabey

Dad died July 26 at the Medical Center, Columbus, GA, after complications from an interstate automobile accident. He was 79.

Duncan Wilkie Rabey Jr.

Though a native of Savannah, GA, Rabey lived in several areas of the country during his 33-year service in the U.S. Air Force. He served as pilot, range safety officer during the Gemini and Apollo space programs at Vandenberg AFB, CA, and Cape Canaveral, FL, and as commanding officer of the Clemson University ROTC until his retirement in 1975. Retiring full colonel on a Friday, he began work the next Monday at Clemson's College of Engineering for the next ten years. Retiring for good in the mid-1980s, he gave his full attention to his Stanley tool collection, which he had begun accumulating in the early '70s. He was one of the charter members of Mid-Atlantic Tool Collectors Association (which later deferred to Area Q).

In 1985, he took me on my first "tool trip" to the national M-WTCA meeting in Columbus, OH. Having a great time together and then convincing me what a great organization it was, he talked me into joining as a life member, which he was as well. Beginning that year, he and I would schedule at least one national meeting every year, plus a couple of regional meetings, memories and times together that I'll cherish always.

Dad loved "things," and as an engineer, he enjoyed figuring out how these "things" worked. But as much as he loved gadgets, he enjoyed people more. He never met a stranger, would walk up to anyone and begin a congenial conversation, and routinely made his weekly trips to the various flea markets, hardware stores and antique spots with and to visit his various tool buddies. He enjoyed telling how he came upon some of the tools in his collection, and it usually involved some funny or interesting incident involving other people. Some of his closest friends were tool collectors . He always impressed upon me that the relationships the tools brought to him were much more important than the tool itself.

Survivors are his wife of 50 years, Evelyn Paty Rabey of the home in Clemson, SC; sons, Duncan W. Rabey III of DeBary, FL, the Rev. Dr. Roger Rabey and wife Dolores of Huntington, WV, and Stephen Rabey of Charlotte, NC; and six grandchildren. Memorial services were held July 30 at the Fort Hill Presbyterian Church of Clemson, SC, with several tool friends from surrounding states joining the large number of family and friends.

David Allen Burnell

By Phil Baker

A longtime member of M-WTCA, David Allen Burnell, died Feb. 28 at the Halifax Medical Center, Daytona Beach, FL.

He enjoyed collecting tools and attended may local and national tool shows. He also liked sports and NASCAR auto racing.

David, 52, moved from New York to Florida in 1970. At the time of his death he lived in New Smyrna Beach. He is survived by two sons, Jody and Michael, his parents and a sister. Internment was at Seapines Memorial Gardens in Edgewater, FL.

Ken Lord

By Dave Heckel

Kenneth M. Lord, age 66, of St. Charles, MO, died Oct. 13, 2002. He was a life member of M-WTCA, a past director of Area J, the host of the St. Louis, MO, M-WTCA meeting in October 1993, and an avid tool collector, antique collector and a well-known flea market and sale buyer.

Ken was known for his interest in the St. Louis hardware companies, Simmons, Winchester and Shapleigh. He always was a source of information on Keen Kutter, Winchester, Diamond Edge and Stanley tools and other items.

He was the parts manager at Westport Dodge in St. Louis for many years before he retired in 1998. Anyone who met Ken was an instant friend of his, "That's for sure!" That was his favorite response when you talked with him.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Ann Litteken, a daughter, three sons and five grandchildren. Burial was in Belgrave, MO.

Scholarship Applications Available

Applications are being accepted for four $1,000 scholarships to be awarded by M-WTCA for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Children or grandchildren of M-WTCA members are eligible.

Don Rosebrook is chairman of the committee. Guidelines for the scholarship program are found in the back of the directory under "Policies, Procedures and Practices."

For a scholarship application, contact Don Rosebrook, 38352 Henry Road, Prairieville, LA 70769-4708; email hopeful@eatel.net.

TOOLS

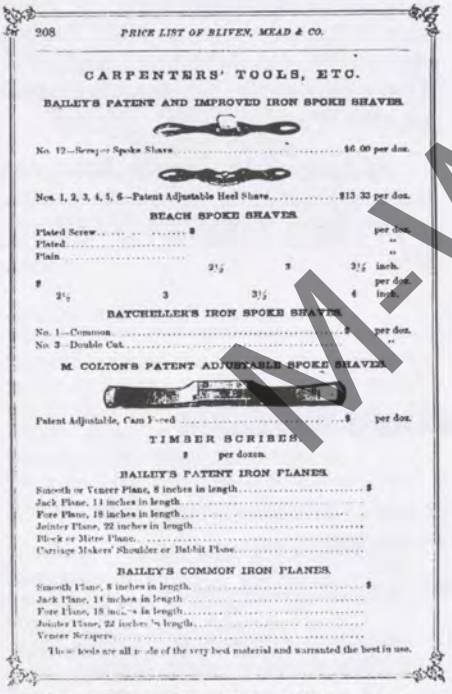
Leonard Bailey in Boston, 1863-1869: The Years After the Civil War

Part 3

By Paul Van Pernis and John G. Wells © 2002

The End of the Civil War Is in Sight

With the onset of the Civil War in 1861, Leonard Bailey's tool business appears to have rapidly collapsed. As the North turned its manufacturing energies toward the production of items essential for the war effort, inflation rose rapidly and the market for high quality hand tools quickly evaporated. Bailey had no doubt incurred large debts in expanding and moving his tool business to Boston. In the economic turmoil of the early years of the Civil War, his business suffered. Bailey was forced to give up his house in Winchester,[1] MA, and move his family to a walk-up apartment at 13 Merrimac St. in the industrial section of Boston, just a few blocks from his workshop at 73 Haverhill St.



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Plated ..... "
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2½ 3 3½ inch.

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No. 2—Double Cut ..... "

M. COLTON'S PATENT ADJUSTABLE SPOKE SHAVES.

Patent Adjustable, Cam Fixed ..... $ per doz.

TIMBER SCRIBES.

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BAILEY'S PATENT IRON PLANES.

Smooth or Veneer Plane, 8 inches in length ..... $
Jack Plane, 14 inches in length .....
Fore Plane, 18 inches in length .....
Jointer Plane, 22 inches in length .....
Block or Mitre Plane .....
Carriage Makers' Shoulder or Rabbit Plane .....

BAILEY'S COMMON IRON PLANES.

Smooth Plane, 8 inches in length ..... $
Jack Plane, 14 inches in length .....
Fore Plane, 18 inches in length .....
Jointer Plane, 22 inches in length .....
Veneer Scrapers .....

These tools are all made of the very best material and warranted the best in use.

Fig. 1: Bliven, Mead & Co. 1864 catalog.

It's clear that despite his business difficulties and the difficult economic times, Bailey hung on. He likely spent the years between the outbreak of the Civil War and the beginning of economic restoration, late in the war, with few if any employees. He sold what tools he could, predominantly spokeshaves, and spent his time improving his miter plane and belt maker's plane. Although Bailey claimed to have published price lists for his tools in 1858, 1864, 1865 and 1866, no copies have turned up.[2]

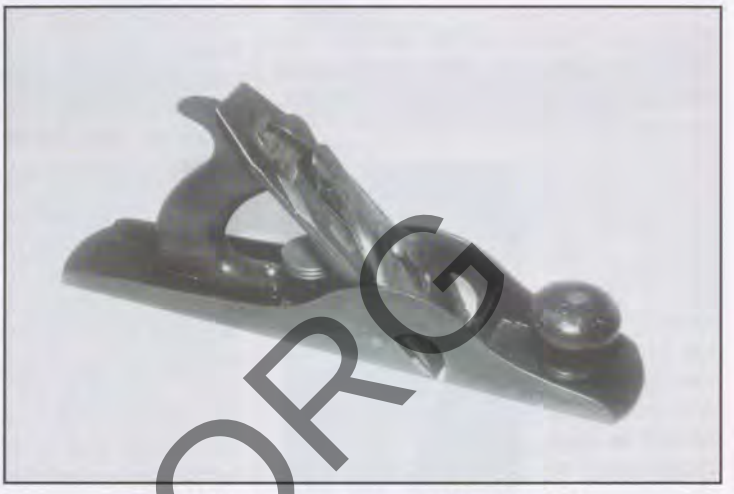

Fig. 2: Vertical post carriage maker's rabbet plane.

By early 1864, with the end of the Civil War in sight, economic conditions improved steadily in the North. The enormous wealth that was accumulated by those who benefited from military spending fueled a rapid and spectacular recovery. In great need of capital to revive his tool business, Bailey took on two partners, Thomas Balcom and Charles Bradbury,[3] and formed Leonard Bailey and Company. Balcom and Bradbury seem to have been only financial backers for Bailey's business, and there's no evidence that the were directly involved in the daily operation of the business.

Bliven, Mead & Co. Offers Bailey's Patented Planes.

This new partnership appears to have met with some success as Bliven, Mead & Co., a hardware dealer in New York, featured Bailey's tools in its new illustrated[4] catalog published in 1864. This is the earliest known published offering of Bailey's planes. Bliven, Mead & Co. devoted a full page to an illustrated offering of 17 of Bailey's shaves, (Fig. 1) and on the bottom of another page under the heading, "Bailey's Patented Iron Planes," they offered four sizes of Bailey's vertical post bench planes (8 inch, 14 inch, 18 inch and 22 inch), a carriage maker's shoulder or rabbet plane and a miter plane. Under a second heading, "Bailey's Common Iron Planes," they offered four sizes of split-frame planes[5] and a veneer scraper. Bailey's belt maker's plane is not listed in this catalog. We don't know when Bliven, Mead & Co. began offering Bailey's spokeshaves but since there is a full page of illustrations of them and no illustrations of Bailey's planes it is possible the firm had been selling the shaves successfully for some time before it began carrying Bailey's planes.

Almost immediately following the publication of the Bliven, Mead & Co. catalog, the Russell and Erwin Manufacturing Co. published a 436-page illustrated catalog in which it offered the same range of Bailey's planes and shaves that were offered by Bliven, Mead &Co.

Fig. 3: Vertical post plane disassembled.

Fig. 4: Bailey, Woods logo seen on a few planes.

Bailey's Vertical Post Rabbet Plane

On Bailey's vertical post rabbet plane the cutter projects through openings on both sides of the plane to permit workng both right and left hand rabbets. (Fig.2) This was a major innovation and combining it with an adjustable cutter should have made the rabbet plane an instant marketing success. But, the extreme scarcity of surviving examples makes it clear the market was not ready for an expensive special purpose plane.

On the other hand, Bailey's vertical post bench planes seem to have been modestly sucessful. At least three major hardware dealers listed them in their catalogs and enough examples have survived to indicate they were beginning to gain acceptance. This is an early indication of the inevitable change that took place in the last half of the 19th century from the traditional hammer adjusted wooden plane to a screw adjusted cast iron plane. The logic of this change seems indisputable today, but at that time it was almost revolutionary to a trade that had used wooden planes for many centuries, and was committed to a tradition of handing down ways of working from generation to generation.

Fig. 5: Cutter adjustment nut. Woods' name has been removed.

From a manufacturing standpoint, vertical post planes were enormously sucessful. Even a casual comparison of their simplicity of construction (Fig:3) with the construction of the split-frame plane will convince the observer that vertical post planes were not only much less expensive to manufacture, but the work could be accomplished by less skilled workers.

In a pattern that would repeat itself, Bailey's partnership with Balcom and Bradbury didn't last long. In the 1866 Boston City Directory, Bailey is listed as sole proprietor of the business. Although the conditions under which Bailey separated from his partners are unknown, it is likely that Bailey's insistence on putting more emphasis on innovative design and quality manufacturing than on running a profitable business disappointed his business partners.

Bailey's Split-Frame Spokeshave

On June 19, 1866, after a six-year hiatus, Bailey applied for and was granted patent No. 55,599 that applies to a cutter-clamping device for spokeshaves. The cutter clamp was moved to the front of the spokeshave, and was replaced by a wedge-shaped device that applies pressure to the cutter from the top rather than the front. Collectors often call this a "split-frame" spokeshave.[6]

Bailey, Woods & Company

In 1867, Bailey formed a new partnership with a Mr. Woods; the new company was named Bailey, Woods & Company. Very little is known about Woods. We are even uncertain of his full name and identity. The most probable candidate is Soloman A. Woods of Boston[7] who was the sole licensee of Woodbury's patented improvements for Woodsworth's planning machine and who subsequently founded the very successful S. A. Woods Machine Co. in Boston. This company gained a very high reputation among lumbermen for its innovative design of high-speed planers. Regardless of the true identity of Woods, the partnership began with great expectations. Bolstered by the infusion of new capital from Woods, they immediately ordered two expensive dies. One was a large die used to hot-stamp plane irons with the Bailey, Woods & Co. logo featuring a graphic of a vertical post plane (Fig.4). The other was a circular die used to imprint the new business name

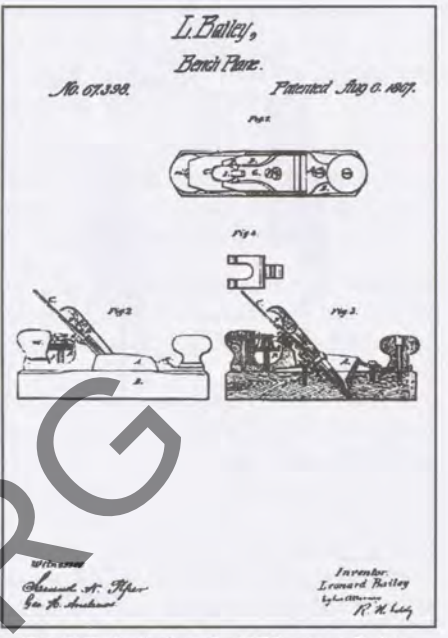

Fig. 6: Bailey's Aug. 6, 1876 patent for his third and most successful cutter adjustment.

and Bailey's patent dates on brass adjustment nuts with a single stamp. (Fig.5) If we are right in our assumption of Mr. Woods' identity, it is easy to understand that he may have found Bailey's business acumen wanting, and almost immediatley, decided to limit his losses by dissolving the partnership. It would follow that he would require Bailey to remove his name from the firm and all of the items produced by the firm to avoid responsibility for future debts.

Bailey was probably unhappy about losing a business partner who had a good supply of cash. But, he wanted to continue using the new dies, so he removed as much of Woods' name as he could from the dies and from items that had already been stamped.

Apparently, this was before he used the die to stamp very many adjustment nuts – none has been seen with the name Woods intact. He also ground out most of Woods' name on the few plane irons bearing the stamp with the Bailey, Woods & Co. logo.

Bailey's Most Important Patent

Bailey's third cutter adjustment, covered by his Aug. 6, 1867 patent. (Fig.6,) is probably the single most important innovation in the development of the adjust-

Continued on page 10

Leonard Bailey in Boston, 1863-1869: The Years After the Civil War

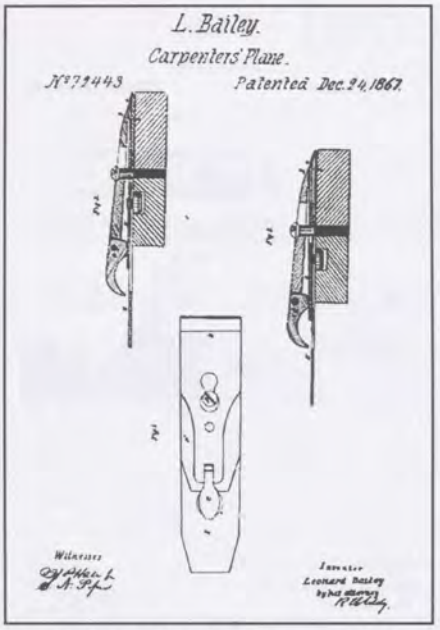

Fig. 7: Bailey's Dec. 24, 1867 patent for a thin parallel cutter and cap iron.

Continued from page 9

able carpenter's plane. This adjustment is still used on most of the planes made by makers in all parts of the world.

The adjustment mechanism is simple and efficient. A yoke-shaped lever, pivoted on a shaft at its center, engages a groove in a brass adjustment nut. When the adjustment nut moves along a threaded shaft, the upper end of the lever moves the plane iron.

The Aug. 6, 1867, patent also describes a method for closing the mouth in a wood-bodied transitional plane that has been enlarged due to wearing away of the plane bottom. It suggests moving the frog, which is attached by screws in slotted holes, forward and inserting a shim in the throat to support the back of the iron. It didn't lake Bailey long to realize that the same technique could be used to adjust the size of the mouth opening for fine or coarse work.

Bailey's use of a transitional plane in the patent drawing for his third adjustment mechanism seems puzzling until one realizes that it was his intent to design an adjustment mechanism for a wood bottom plane that was as effective and easy to use as the one on his vertical post plane. The patent drawing even shows the adjustment nut mounted on a vertical threaded shaft so the appearance and operation of the plane would be very similar to that of a vertical post plane. In the final production models, he mounted the threaded shaft horizontally on the rear of the frog, because the frog was now a separate casting attached to the upper frame with screws in slotted holes to facilitate adjusting the mouth opening.

As soon as he began producing transitional planes with the new adjustment mechanism he realized that this new adjustment mechanism could be easily adapted for use on his metallic planes. Basically, he substituted a frog with the new adjustment for the pivoting frog on his vertical post plane. He attached the frog to the plane bed with screws through slotted holes in the frog, which simplified assembly and provided a way to adjust the size of the mouth opening.

Bailey's Patented Thin Cutter

Bailey's new adjustment system needed one additional element to make it work smoothly: a thin parallel cutting iron and cap iron of uniform thickness. Traditional tapered plane irons tend to wedge tight or work loose when used in an adjustment mechanism that slides the iron between the face of the frog and the back of the lever cap. Wedging is more pronounced when the lever cap is kept tight to reduce chatter.

Bailey claimed that his thin parallel plane iron, being substantially thinner than a traditional tapered plane iron, was much easier to sharpen. His accompanying thin parallel cap iron has a high arched section at the front. This efficently transmits the lever cap's clamping force to the leading edge of the cap iron, where it is most effective in preventing shavings from wedging under the cap iron. It also assures that the lever cap clamps the plane iron to the plane body just behind the cutting edge to eliminate plane iron chatter. Bailey's thin parallel cutting iron and cap iron are covered by a Dec. 24, 1867, patent No. 72443 (Fig. 7). Bailey probably applied for this patent early in 1867, shortly after applying for the patent for the third adjustment mechanism.

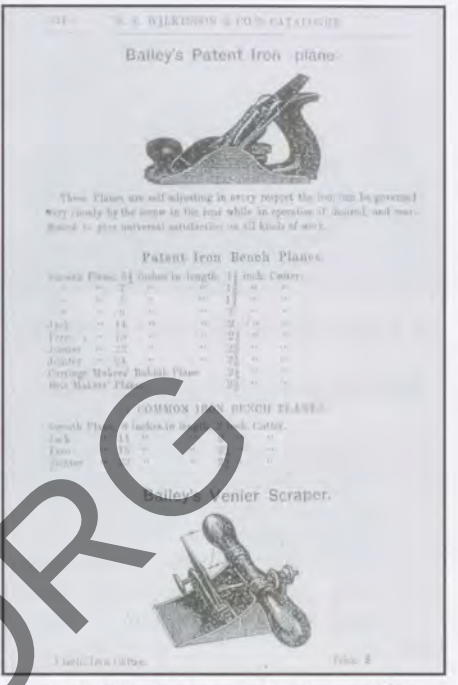

Fig. 8: Bailey's planes in Wilkinson 1867 catalog.

J. Wilkinson Hardware Co.'s Illustrated Catalog Offers Bailey's Patented Planes

The A. J. Wilkinson Hardware Co. advertised Bailey's patent wood and iron planes in the April 27,1867, through June 9, 1867, issues of the Scientific American. In mid year they published a 160-page illustrated catalog (Fig. 8)[8] that included two pages of Bailey's planes. Wilkinson offered eight sizes of vertical post bench planes (adding the 5-1/2, 7, 9 and 24 inch lengths to those previously offered), a vertical post cabinet maker's rabbet plane, a veneer scraper, a miter plane and (for the first time) a belt maker's plane. The firm continued to offer four

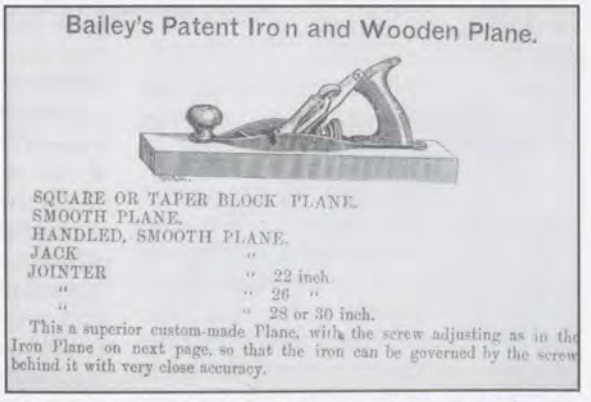

Fig. 9: Bailey's transitional planes in Wilkinson's 1867 catalog.

Fig. 10: Bailey's No. 6 Type 1 transitional plane. Photo courtesy of Walter Jacob.

sizes of "Bailey's Common Planes," which were undoubtedly his remaining Series D split-frame planes. On another page it offered Bailey's transitional wood bottom planes with his new adjustment mechanism patented Aug. 6, 1867 (Fig.9). This is the first time Bailey's wood bottom planes or his new adjustment mechanism were offered for sale in a published catalog.

The listing of wood bottom planes included two versions of the No. 5 (Stanley No. 25) block plane: the very rare "square" shape and the more often seen "tapered" or boat shape.

A Type 1 No. 6 (Stanley No. 26) transitional plane is shown in Fig. 10. The cutter in this plane is Bailey's thin parallel iron, patented Dec. 24, 1867, with the Bailey, Woods and Co. logo showing a vertical post plane (Fig. 4). The adjustment nut is stamped with L. Bailey, Boston, and two patent dates in five lines. Later adjustment nuts were stamped with a circular stamp with Woods' name removed (Fig. 5).

Transitional planes that were made by Bailey in Boston and later sold to Stanley Rule and Level, as part of Bailey's unsold inventory, were taken to New Britian and stamped with Stanley's Eagle trademark. These are known as Type 2 transitional planes. Since Type 2 transitional planes are much more common than Type 1, it is apparent that Bailey sold more of his transitional planes to Stanley than he sold prior to that time.

In the mid 1800s, patent applicants were granted protection for one year from the date of application and many inventors, anxious to get their inventions to market, began selling their products as soon as they filed their application. If Bailey followed that procedure, he may have begun selling transitional planes with the Aug. 6, 1867, adjustment as early as the winter of 1866-1867. This timing fits in with A. J. Wilkinson & Co.'s ads beginning in the April, 1867, issue of the Scientific American offering Bailey's patented iron and wood planes.

It is also likely that Bailey began making metallic planes with the new Aug. 6, 1867, adjustment shortly after he began making transitional planes. The temptation to get his latest design into production and to market would have been too great for Bailey to resist, even though it may have been a better business decision to postpone their introduction until he sold most of his stock of vertical post planes. His planes with the new adjustment mechanism were sufficiently close in appearance to his vertical post planes that he either didn't consider the expense of a new engraving justified or he wanted the option to sell either style of plane.

Metallic Bench Planes With A Three-Screw Frog

Bailey's first metallic bench plane, with the new Aug. 6, 1867, cutter adjustment, had a separate frog, mounted on an I beam frog seat cast on the bed. The frog was attached to the frog seat with three screws in slotted holes: two screws side by side in the center of the frog and a third screw through a tab extending from the rear of the frog. The slotted holes allowed changing the position of the frog to adjust the size of the mouth opening for fine or coarse work. It was much less expensive to manufacture than a vertical post plane and could be assembled without hand fitting. Model numbers are cast in the back of the frog and the lever cap to make it easy for unskilled workers to assemble the correct parts.

The small bearing area on the top of the I-beam frog seat was machined on a metal planer or shaper, and the bottom of the frog was hand filed.

The I-beam frog seat is not symmetrical, and the distance between the screws that hold the frog down and the front edge of the I-beam frog seat is very small (Fig.11). Consequently, the downward force applied to the front of the cutter while taking a heavy cut caused the frog to tip forward and a third screw was used at the rear of the frog to counteract the rotation. On later Boston Bailey Type I planes Bailey made the I-beam frog symmetrical. This increased the distance (or lever arm) between the hold-down screws and the front edge of the frog seat that prevented the frog from tipping forward and eliminated the need for the third screw (Fig. 12).

From the rear of the plane (Fig. 13) we see the tab on the rear of the frog for the third screw, and Bailey's early two-piece cutter adjustment nut. The two piece adjustment nut provided a way to compensate for wear caused by friction

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Fig. 11: Frog seat in Bailey plane with the three-screw frog.

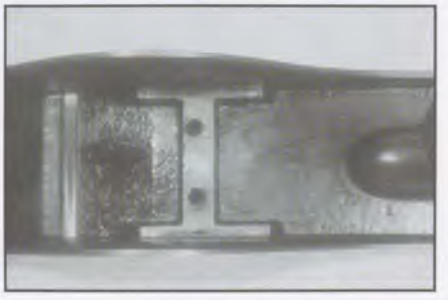

Fig. 12: Frog seat in Boston Bailey Type 1 plane.

Leonard Bailey in Boston, 1863-1869: The Years After the Civil War

Fig. 13: Adjustment nut and third hold down screw on three-screw frog plane.

Continued from page 11

between the ends of the yoke-shaped lever and the groove in the adjustment nut. The face of the adjustment nut is stamped with 'Bailey's Patent" and two patent dates in four individually stamped straight lines. Later adjustment nuts are stamped with a circular die which has had most of Woods' name removed (Fig. 5). The lever cap used on these and subsequent Boston Bailey Type 1 planes has a banjo-shaped spring set in a narrow recess.

Judging by the small number of these planes surviving they were probably made for a very short time.

An Unusual Bailey, Pre Type 1 Plane

A very unusual early Bailey plane is shown in Fig. 14. Whether it preceded or followed the three-screw frog plane is unclear. The early looking version of the banjo spring suggests it preceded the three-screw frog plane, but the symmetrical I-beam frog seat and the two-part cutter adjustment nut imprinted with the circular stamp indicate it came between the three-screw frog plane and the Boston Bailey Type I plane. That presumption still leaves unanswered the reason for the heavier frog hold-down screws. Perhaps Bailey was still unconvinced that two screws and a little more leverage would prevent the frog from tipping forward. The heavier threaded rods used to anchor the handle and front knob remain a puzzle.

Fig. 14: Unusual early Bailey plane. Courtesy of Clarence Blanchard.

Boston Bailey Type I Planes

Bailey further improved the design of the metallic bench plane to make it easier to manufacture and went into production on what we now call Boston Bailey Type 1 planes (Fig.15). He made the I-beam frog seat symmetrical (Fig. 12), eliminated the third screw and replaced the two-piece adjustment nut with a one-piece nut.

Bailey still had unfinished castings and parts for vertical post planes that he wanted to sell and decided to offer them with his new patented thin parallel irons. When he machined the castings for these planes, he cut the mouth opening slightly smaller and installed the frog a little further forward so the thin irons fit in the planes leaving an appropriate tight mouth opening. A traditional tapered iron is too thick to fit though the mouth opening in these planes (Fig.16). He used lever caps with banjo springs on a few of these planes when he ran short of lever caps without springs.

Type 3 Miter and Belt Maker's Planes

Bailey's new adjustment mechanism worked so well that he redesigned his miter plane and his belt makers plane to incorporate both his new cutter adjustment and his patented thin parallel plane iron.

The Type 3 miter plane[9] has a 2-by-3- inch steel plate, with a hole for the tip of the adjusting lever (Fig. 17). It is screwed to the plane iron with two small screws and serves the same purpose as the later, more familiar, small oblong plate. The sliding forebed still uses gib screws to fit it to the plane body casting. They were eliminated when shouldered ways were machined in the plane body of later Type 4 miter planes. The adjustment nut is stamped "L. Bailey, Boston. Patented, Aug. 31. 1858," which is the patent date for the lever cap.

Fig. 15: Boston Bailey Type 1.

The belt maker's plane has the new cutter adjustment, the lever cap has "Patented, Aug. 31, 58" cast around the keyhole, and the adjustment nut is stamped with Boston and "Aug. 7, 1855" for Bailey's first cutter adjustment (Fig. 18).

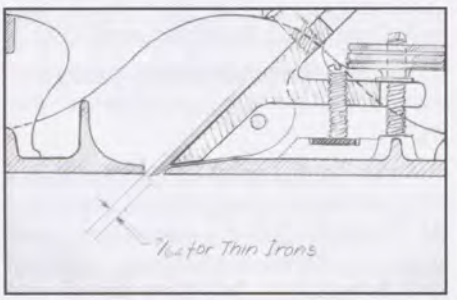

Fig. 16: Vertical post plane with a small-mouth opening for Bailey's thin cutter.

Bailey, Chany & Company

Early in 1868, Bailey took on another new partner, Jacob Chany. Chany again appears to have been only a financial partner. The partnership was named Bailey, Chany & Company, and was located at 53-57 Causeway St. in Boston. The building was originally five stories high and it had a ground floor area of about 1200 square feet. The entrance was from Lancaster Street, implying that Bailey Chany & Co. was on an upper floor.

In 1868, Bailey, Chany & Company released a sales brochure (Fig. 19). They used the old engraving of a vertical post plane, probably to sell existing stock of those planes and to sell the new Boston Bailey metallic plane.

The selection of transitional planes expanded to 14 sizes, and Bailey's pat-

Fig. 17: Bailey's Type 3 miter plane.

ented thin plane irons and cap irons are mentioned for the first time. Bailey's common iron planes (Series D split-frame planes) are no longer listed; presumably, all of their stock had been sold.

Bailey, Chany & Co. was now making 25 models and sizes of planes plus 17 models of shaves.

The Bailey, Chany & Co. brochure also listed a 3-inch (Type 5) veneer scraper. The handles are pointed on the ends, the upper corners of the cutter are clipped at 45 degrees, the adjustment wheel is stamped BOSTON and it has a nice feature line just inside of the outer edge (Fig.20).

Finally, Bailey had achieved his goal: a competitively priced cast iron plane with a sensitive cutter adjustment mechanism and a lever cap which in conjunction with a cap iron and parallel thin cutter substantially reduced "chatter." He had singlehandedly overcome design obstacles that had stymied plane makers for centuries. He had "invented" the modern woodworking plane. Not only did it work extremely well, it could be manufactured at a reasonable cost and retained the design characteristics and finely machined details that made Bailey's planes practical and aesthetically pleasing.

Bailey Sells His Patents to the Stanley Rule and Level Co.

Yet despite all this he chose, at the threshold of his own business success, to sell his plane and spokeshave patents to the Stanley Rule & Level Co. Maybe he realized he needed more financial backing, production capacity and marketing capacity to successfully capture a larger share of the tool market. Maybe he was under pressure from all his creditors for the money he owed them. Maybe he simply realized after his successive business failures that his strengths were in invention rather than financing, management, marketing and distribution. We don't know. Whatever the case, on May 19, 1869, Bailey, sold his patents to Stanley Rule & Level Co., giving them the exclusive right to "manufacture and vend" his cast iron and wooden bench planes, scrapers, and spokeshaves under the seven tool patents he had been granted since 1855. In return, Bailey received a 5 percent royalty on the cost of manufacturing these items. Six days later, Bailey, Chany & Co. sold their business including existing stock and machinery to Stanley Rule & Level Company for $12,500.

The existing stock that Stanley Rule

Fig. 18: Type 3 belt maker's plane. Photo P-TAMPIA v.II. Courtesy of Roger K. Smith.

Fig. 20: Bailey's veneer scraper, Type 5.

and Level purchased from Bailey, Chany and Co. included the specialized machines and jigs that Bailey had designed to make production of his planes easier plus a substantial stock of parts and completed planes. Stanley stamped its eagle trademark on the toe of all of the transitional planes included in the sale. These examples are referred to as Type 2 transitional planes. Stanley Rule and Level must have inventoried the goods included in this transaction and if that inventory were made available to researchers, it would add a great deal of information to what we now have.

Production rates for Boston Bailey Type 1 transitional planes and metallic planes in 1867 through 1869 were probably significantly higher than for prior models because each plane took less time to make. Bailey, Woods & Company and later Bailey, Chany & Company may have made between 1,000 and 1,800 of these planes and had a substantial unsold stock at the time they sold their business to

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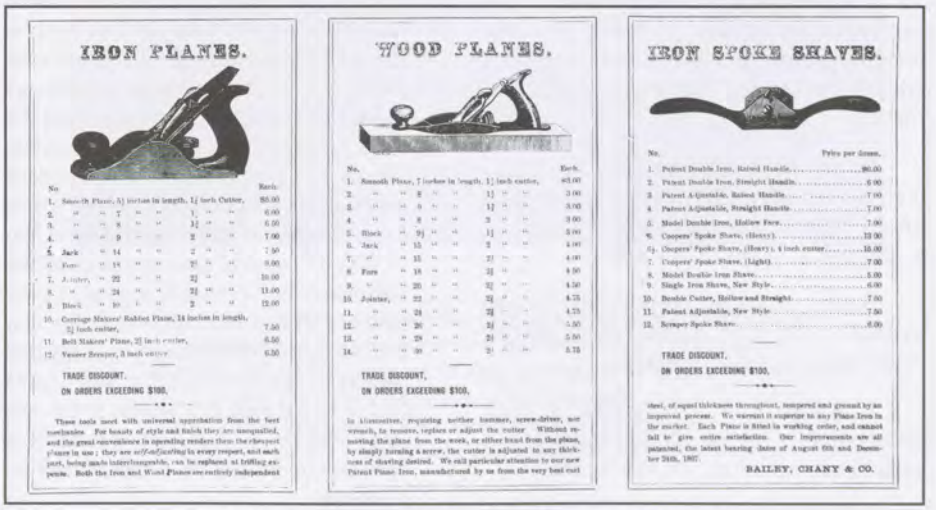


IRON PLANES.

WOOD PLANES.

IRON SPOKE SHAVES.

Fig. 19: Bailey, Chany & Co. brochure. Courtesy of Pat Leach.

Leonard Bailey in Boston, 1863-1869: The Years After the Civil War

Continued from page 13

Stanley Rule and Level Co.

The earliest Stanley shirt pocket catalog dated January, 1870, does not mention the number of Bailey planes that had been sold. The Jan. 1, 1871, Stanley shirt pocket catalog states that 6,500 Bailey planes had been sold. That's an average of 342 planes per month in the 19 months since Stanley acquired Bailey's business, and must have included sale of the planes that Stanley acquired from Bailey, Chany & Co.

Bailey's Contributions to the Modern Carpenter's Plane

Bailey's important contributions to the development of the carpenter's plane in America include:

1. Cutter adjustment by a yoke-shaped lever and grooved adjustment nut (his third cutter adjustment). It provided sensitive cutter adjustment with minimal backlash.

2. A cam lock lever cap. It is easy to use and clamps the cutter firmly in place.

3. A keyhole opening in the lever cap and an adjustable lever cap screw, which accommodates cutters and cap irons of different thickness.

4. An adjustable frog attached with screws through slotted holes, which allows adjusting the size of the mouth opening to suit different classes of work.

5. A thin parallel plane iron and a cap iron with an arched forward section, which applies firm pressure to the front edge of the cutting iron, eliminating chatter.

6. An effective and economical method for attaching plane handles and knobs by using a simple threaded rod and a cylindrical screwdriver nut.

Bailey was also responsible for the overall form and appearance of the carpenter's plane including:

1. A cast iron bed rounded at both ends, polished on the outside and finished with black japanning on the inside.

2. Full-length sideboards with high rounded checks at the frog sloping down to low skirts that terminate in a quarter round at each end.

3. The use of rosewood for the open tote and front knob highlighted by a brass adjustment nut and brass nuts for both the handle and knob.

Credits and Thanks to Our contributors

Special thanks to Roger K. Smith for permission to use material from P-TAMPIA Vols. I and II. Those two works are a treasure trove of information on all patented planes.

Thanks also to Tom Lamond for permission to use material from Manufactured and Patented Spokeshaves.

Thanks to the following people who loaned planes or other material for study or photography or provided other input: Mike Armstrong, Ragnhild M. Bairnsfather, Clarence Blanchard, Gene Frankio, Phil Frankio, Steve Habitz, Charles Jacob, Walter Jacob, Lars Larson, Earl Latham, Pat Leach, James Man, Dave Paling, Jack Schoellhamer, David Stanley, Don Rosebrook, David Russell, Harold Unruh and Bill Wilkins.

Foot Notes:

1 The 1854 deed for Bailey's house in Winchester suggests a prior relationship between Bailey and Cephas Church, one of the partners in the Church and Lane Piano Forte Co. (see Part I of these articles). Church hailed from Amherst, NH just a few miles from Bailey's hometown of Hollis. It's likely that Cephas Church knew Leonard Bailey and his family before Bailey moved to Winchester. Church may have persuaded Bailey to come work for him in Winchester. He sold Bailey a house he owned near the factory, and he also appears to have been instrumental in providing the initial funding that allowed Bailey to establish his tool business in Boston. The deed papers for the house indicate that at the time Bailey bought the house, Church owed him $1,000. It's not at all clear why he owed him that money, but it certainly suggests a prior business arrangement between Bailey and Cephas Church. When Bailey sold his tool patents to Stanley in 1869, it was Cephas Church who signed as a witness to the sale (see PTAMPIA I, p. 268). Further research is necessary to discover the details of their relationship

2 In testimony given by Bailey in the fall of 1877 and spring of 1878, during the lawsuit brought by Stanley to keep Bailey from manufacturing the Victor planes, Bailey states that he had issued four advertising circulars prior to 1867. These were Bailey's 'Old Circular" of 1858, Bailey's Price List No. 1 of 1864, Bailey's Price List No. 2 of 1865, and Bailey's Price List No. 3 of 1866. No copies of these lists are known, but when Bailey referred to his lists No. 1, 2 and 3 he may have been referring to the listings of his planes published in the 1864 Bliven, Mead & Co. catalog, the 1865 Russell Erwin catalog, and the 1867 A. J. Wilkinson catalog.

3 The 1860 U.S. Census lists Charles Bradbury as a "trader" and Thomas Balcom's occupation is listed as "engine manufacturer."

4 The use of illustrations in catalogs was uncommon in the early 1860s.

5 As used elsewhere in the Bliven, Mead & Co. catalog the term "Common" was used to designate a less expensive basic version of a tool as compared to the more expensive "Improved," or "Extra" version. Therefore the heading "Bailey's Common Iron Planes" is presumed to refer to his split-frame planes, which were not the latest and hence not the most improved model.

6 See Thomas C. Lamond, 'Manufactured and Patented Spokeshaves..." p. 136-159, for more information regarding Bailey's spokeshaves.

7 We haven't found any definite confirmation that Soloman A. Woods was the Woods that was Bailey's partner for a short period in the winter of 1867-1868. But, his name, place, time and interest make him by far the most likely candidate.

Soloman A. Woods had an early interest in mechanical devices and in 1851 he moved to Boston to take ajob with Solomon S. Gray to learn about the machinery used in the manufacture of doors, sash and blinds. In 1859, he bought Gray's business, which included a woodworking planer that Gray had begun to build but hadn't succeeded in completing. Woods solved the mechanical problems and improved the design of the planer so it became a functioning machine. In 1854, he formed a new partnership with Gray and on Aug. 22, 1854, Gray and Woods obtained a patent on the improved planer. In 1857, they opened a store on Sudbury Street in Boston for the sale of their planer as well as machinery – mostly woodworking – by other makers. In May of 1859, Woods purchased Gray's interest in the firm, and in 1860 obtained

another patent on improvements in their planer.

In 1865, Woods obtained the sole license fo rthe Woodbury patented improvements on the Woodworth planing machine. In 1866, he began building a large factory on Dorchester Avenue in South Boston to manufacture it.

In 1873, Woods merged his business into the S. A. Woods Machine Co. Inc. with $300,000 of paid up capital stock, and with himself as president. This company eventually became the leading designer and manufacturer of heavy duty, high-speed woodworking planers. By 1914, the company's fastest machines, known as "The Planers of Woods," had cylindrical cutter heads, self-centering profile and side heads, and were capable of dressing lumber at speeds of 350 feet per minute.

J D. Van Slyck's, "New England Manufacturers and Manufactories," v. II 1879, p.721-723.

S. A. Woods Machine Co. "Woods Side Heads and Profiler Heads," Boston, 1914, p.1 9.

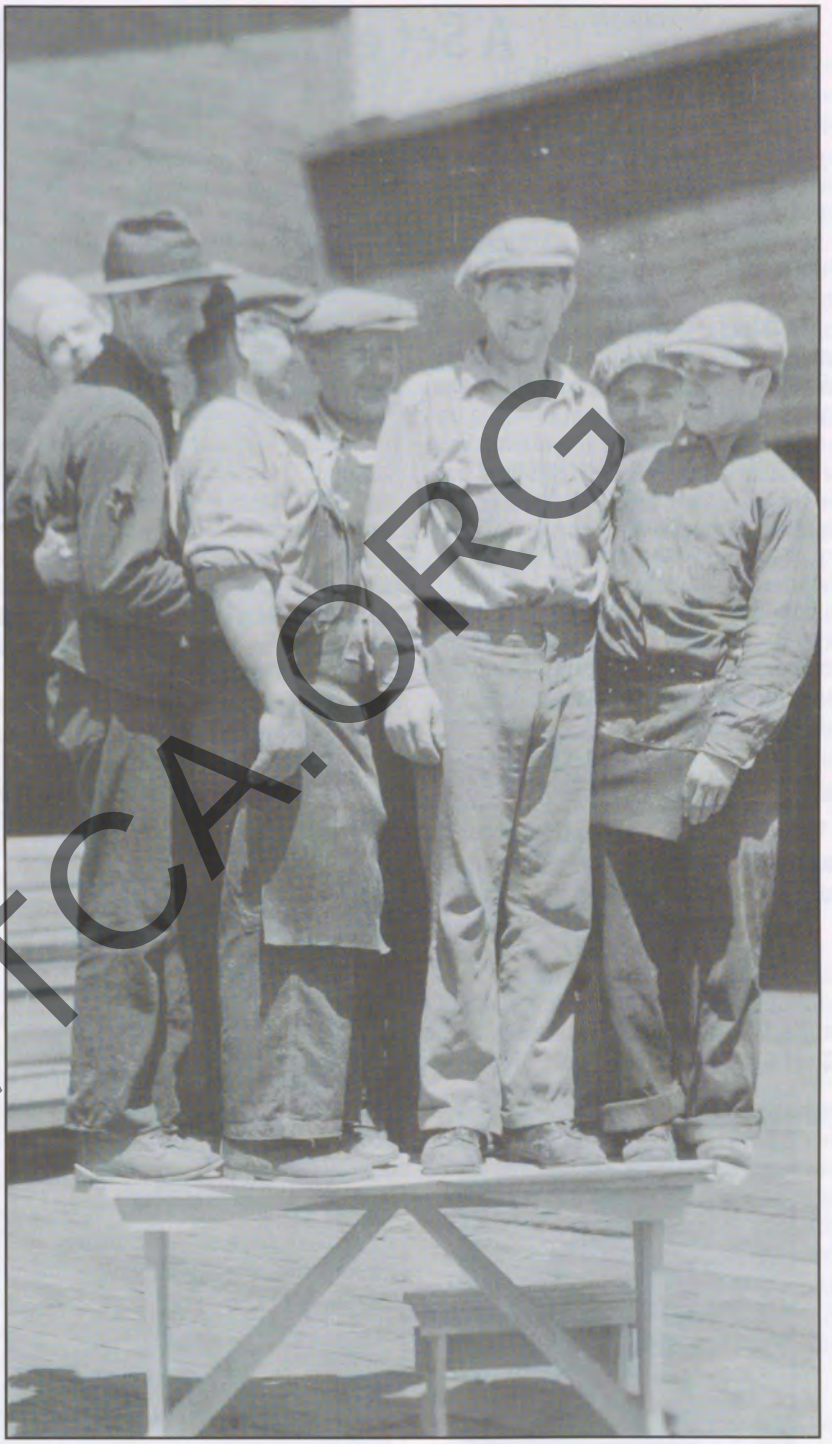
Roger K. Smith, "P-TAMPIA," v.I p.324.

8 The same engraving of the vertical post plane that was used in the Wilkinson catalog appeared in the advertising section of the 1867 New England Business Directory. Kenneth D. Roberts, "Wooden Planes in 19th Century America," p.209.

9 John Wells, "Leonard Bailey's No. 9 Block Plane," The GRISTMILL, March 2000, pp.12-15.

10 Roger K. Smith, "P-TAMPIA," v.II p. 27.

Just Standin' Around



This picture of seven workmen standing on a small table (circa 1936) was purchased by Bob Reek when the Walworth Times, a newspaper in Walworth, WI, was cleaning out its files. Lumber in the background indicates to Reek that the picture was taken at the Walworth Lumber Co., the only lumber yard in town, where the tables were built. Written on the back of the picture is the price of the table, $3.25 delivered in carton wholesale.

TOOLS

A Set of 17th Century Bitstocks

By Eric M. Peterson ©2002

The Royal Ship Vasa

This greatest of all warships of its age was launched into the Baltic at Stockholm on Sunday, Aug. 10, 1628. In constructing her, the king had nearly bankrupted Sweden, adding additional features and more cannons. It was a joyous and festive day as the Royal Ship Vasa was launched with all her flags and banners flying before a huge crowd of citizens and dignitaries. Out she floated into the harbor, ... rolled over, and sank.

Then for centuries she lay on the bottom of the sea until finally she was raised from the seabed in 1961 and installed in a magnificent special museum building, housing the entire ship![1]

In 1625, a Dutch master shipwright had been appointed by Sweden to build the Vasa. But no one knew the proper dimensions for a ship now mounting 64 guns, and she was top heavy.

The Tool Study

In our studies of ancient braces, my wife, Neville, and I have learned that the single best source of the oldest braces that have absolute provenance is material recovered from dated ship sinkings. As a result, we have visited a number of museums and institutes that while not displaying them, do contain these items in their storage vaults.

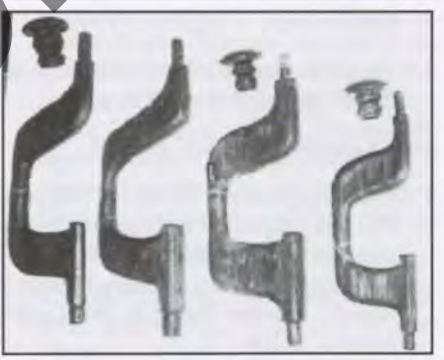
Patrick Hoglund

Patrik Hoglund, of the Vasa Museum in Stockholm, generously provided us with access to the bitstocks that had been recovered from the Vasa, and he provided English translations of appropriate museum documents. These tools had been put through the lengthy PEG preservation treatment and were now stored under special conditions in the museum's vault. The museum had a surprising number of these handmade wooden bitstocks. However, on reflection, the number should not have been surprising since this was, after all, a huge ship made of wood displacing 1,210 tons, was 69 meters long and had a crew of 445 men. The ship's carpenters would be much needed and busy. They were required to bore holes to join most pieces together either with treenails or forged iron fasteners, which in any case required the drilling of holes of various sizes.

Hoglund arranged for our detailed examination of the braces and our photography. He cautioned they had been underwater for over three centuries and were fragile.

When we laid the various braces out on the examination table, it became evident that several were nearly identical except for size and that the sizing was graduated. This made perfect sense since these were not 'braces" as I use the term, but were 'bitstocks.[2]" Braces with chucks permitting interchangeable bits had not yet been developed. What we were examining were a set of four bitstocks that would have held bits of four sizes. The metal bits were absent, having been lost to the salt water long before, and the socket for the bit's tang was replaced by a hard clinker-like residue. (This was the finding with all the bitstocks we have seen that were salvaged from the sea from this time period.)

The bitstocks are of the expected Dutch pattern despite their being on the Swedish king's ship. Since the Vasa sunk in 1628 that would make them 17th century. I can assure you that these four bitstocks are as identical as handmade wooden tools can be to bitstocks I have examined that were recovered a century earlier and which will be presented in detail later. These tools differ in pattern from the usual Swedish braces made in the latter half of the 17th century. Also I have no doubt that the same man made all four of these bitstocks. He undoubtedly was a Vasa ship carpenter, and we can assume that he worked on the building, or at least the finishing, of the Vasa. He obviously did not make them while at sea.



The Set of Bitstocks

When we laid out the inventory of tools this grouping became obvious.

These bitstocks were found in a "carpenter's chest" located on the lower deck, starboard, beam 21. All were damaged to some degree and have been repaired by the Conservation Laboratory in 1996. As a result of their long immersion, all have an uneven rippled surface and have a "bluish" discoloration to their surfaces. The necks were found cracked and were repaired. This is a common defect in this pattern brace. The problem relates

Table of dimensions

#	L-mm*	W-mm	T-mm
18452	430	140	23
18453	375	127	25
18454	400	145	28
18455	290	95	20

* loa, without Head or Neck attached

to the mode of retention of the neck on the spindle, which is a through and through wooden dowel passing through a grove on the spindle. (This pattern of bitstock when made a century earlier often had two dowel pins and all of these cracked off.) The spindle is an integral part of the upper body of the bitstock, as opposed to being a separate piece as it was in later designs.

The bitstocks are rather lightweight in their construction, suggesting that they had held small diameter bits at one time. I believe these bitstocks, and similar ones found elsewhere, are the early equivalent of the English "boatsway." They were used to drill pilot holes for the larger augers needed to provide the holes for fasteners.

The bitstock No. V-18452 is shown here in more detail. It is a Dutch pattern bitstock.

Since Gustavus Adolphus, the king of Sweden, wished to build the finest ship possible, he looked for the best master shipbuilder of the time, and selected the Dutchman Henrik Hybertsson. Therefore, it is not surprising that the bitstocks found are clearly Dutch in pattern. Also, in as much as the brace itself originated in Holland and spread to the Baltic via the tool kits of Dutch ship carpenters and shipbuilders, we should expect no less. A great deal more will be offered on this topic elsewhere.

Below we see the classic Dutch body

pattern. Some of the less obvious Dutch characteristics are the shape of the bearing portion of the neck. The bearing portion's diameter is greater than the mating bearing portion of the body. Also the terminal portion of the neck is beveled inward. The chuck has been reduced in diameter so that a ferrule can be fitted about it. This ferrule was made of elk horn and was lost to the sea. Rarely fragmentary remains of elk horn are found on these ancient bitstocks recovered from the sea. Indeed, a bitstock from the Vasa and not discussed here has a portion of such a ferrule. The spindle shows the groove that received the wooden dowel pin that was placed slightly off center through the neck. The chuck has an opening of rectangular shape to contain the flat-rectangular tang of the bit. The body is slightly chamfered. It is from this basic pattern that the Scandinavian pattern brace evolved some decades later.

The five turned rings on the head and the decorative turnings on the neck are more characteristic of a Dutch influence than early Scandinavian.

The Royal Ship Vasa contained other wooden braces that have been recovered in the whole or in part. One was found broken through the grip into two parts. Its wood had the feel of having been petrified; and indeed it seemed cracked across the grip like a piece of rock. This brace had a dissimilar shape. The body was a simple open-C shape without any embellishments, and the head-neck was carved in a shape like a pear. Someone else and not the man making the bitstocks described above had made this tool.

Another bitstock raised from the Vasa was found in a barrel and was in good condition. This bitstock, however, is unique in my experience as it is a wooden cagehead brace made with four individual wooden dowel-like posts connecting two flat wooden plates. In the museum's archival description, this assembly has been listed in Swedish as "a chin-support/plate (?)" This most unusual tool will be presented at a later date. From its structure and pattern I believe a third ship carpenter made it.

A related article on another Swedish wooden cagehead brace appeared in a recent issue of The GRISTMILL.

I am indebted to Mark Guthrie of Orsa, Sweden for his assistance in procuring our access to the Vasa Museum and arranging our visit with Patrik Hoglund.

A visit to the Vasa Museum is easily a whole day's project. It is the most visited museum in all Scandinavia, and for good reason. The huge new museum contains the whole large three-masted ship and yet does not appear the least crowded. There are many explanatory exhibits and the tours are conducted in English. A fine restaurant, bookstore and movie theater add to the features available.

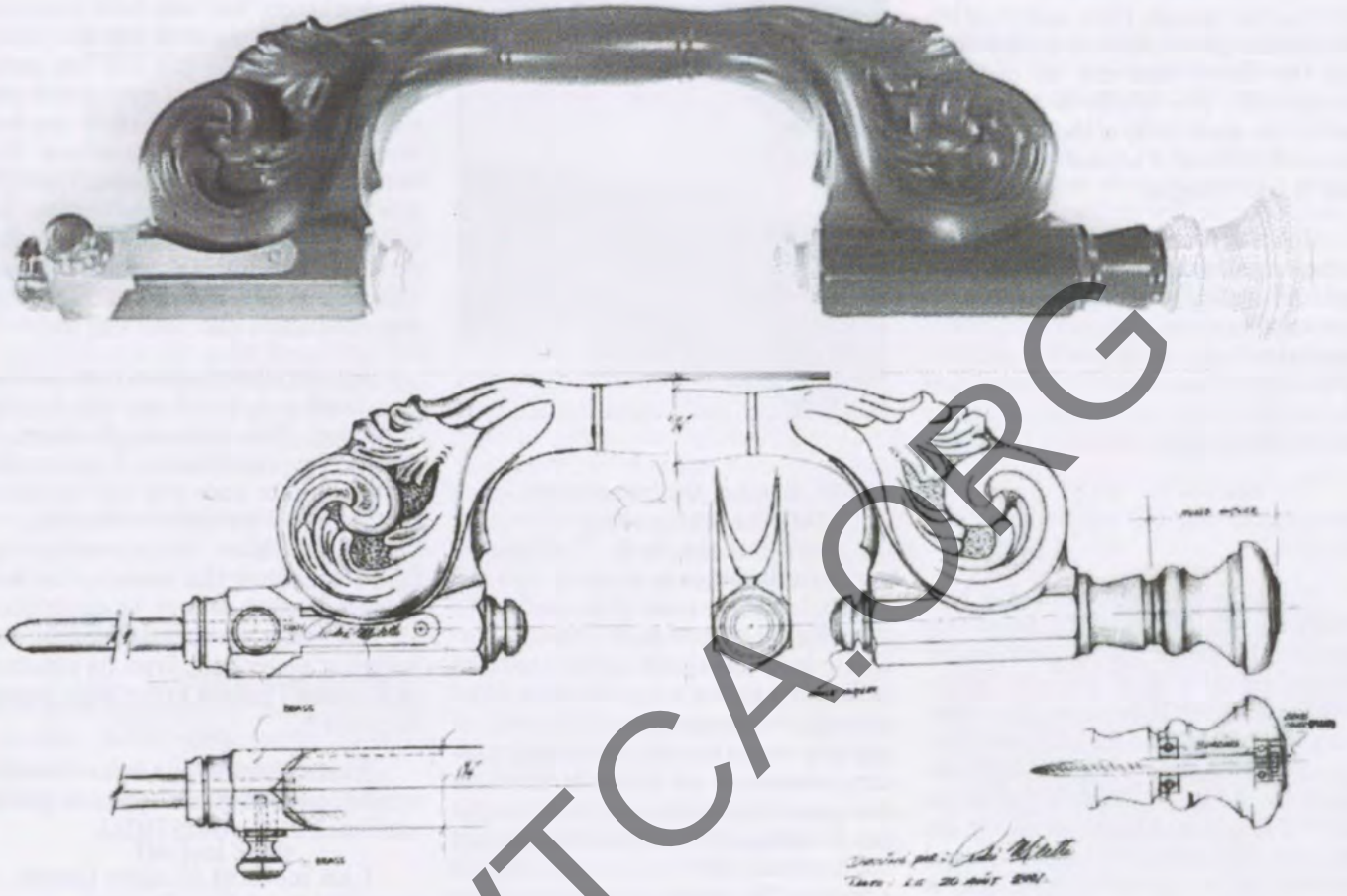
The author, Eric M. Peterson, is a long time member of M-WTCA and a collector and student of braces.

1 http://www.vasamuseet.se/indexeng.html

2 "Peterson, Eric. "Nomenclature & The Anatomy of Wooden Braces." The GRISTMILL, December 1999, issue 97 and in Ambacht & Gereedschap, April 2000 (The Netherlands).

COVER STORY

A Handmade Bloodwood Brace by Andre Milette



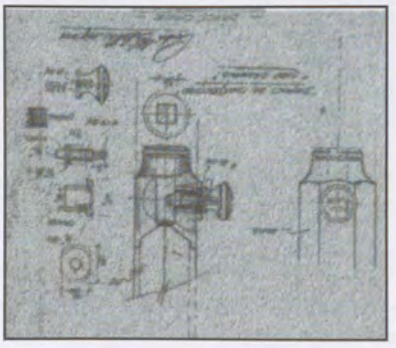
By Eric M. Peterson ©2002

Andre Milette, the Canadian wood sculptor, is not a tool collector. He does make a few ultra fine tools for wood sculptors and a few planes of unique and pleasing design from exotic woods.

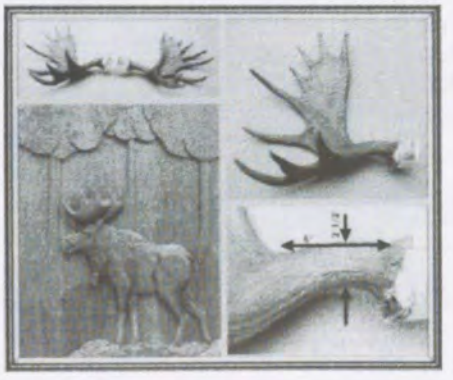
He decided to make a brace for his own enjoyment and began studying brace designs. Eventually he created a brace unlike any other. When he finished, this brace was the result. He showed it to a mutual friend, Jacques Heroux, a tool collector and M-WTCA member. Jacques was impressed and knew that I would be also, and so Jacques sent me some color photographs. To say that I was interested would be the understatement of the year. With Jacques' help Andre and I were quickly able to come to a suitable agreement.

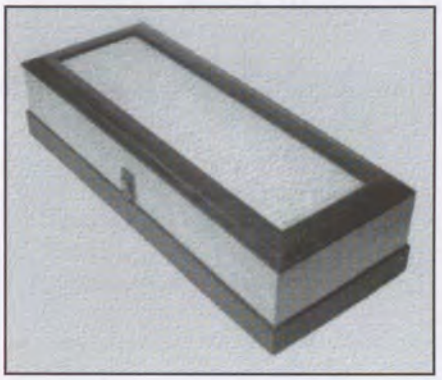
When in due time I received the brace, I was thrilled. It is a tool that will be treasured by collectors for generations.

This brace is actually a working tool with nothing undersized about it. While never intended for the shop, it could go to work immediately. Andre, in addition to his creative and artistic skills as a wood sculptor, is revealed to be a master machinist when the beautifully designed and machined chuck is examined.



Andre chose bloodwood for the brace's body. This uncommon and beautiful wood has a striking red color and a uniform firm fine grain. It contrasts artistically with the brass color of the chuck. But the truly unique material is the head, which at first glance appears to be ivory,





but is actually a turning made from a Moose antler. The total combination of materials, colors and carving is striking.

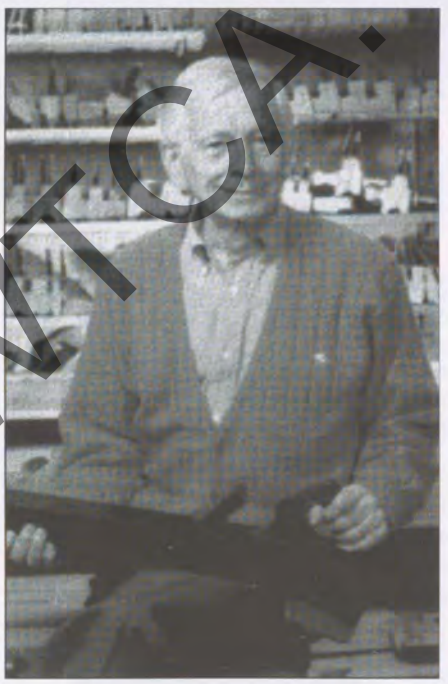
In addition, Andre designed and made a presentation box for the brace. Here he used bloodwood and tiger maple. He engraved a brass plaque for the top. The box is as lovely as the brace. The joinery can only be described as perfect.

Andre included the shop drawings for the woodcarving and the chuck, which are shown on the first page.

In the photo above, Andre is carving the bloodwood brace surrounded by his carving tools.

I have seen a number of color photos of his planes and they are almost enough to cause me to take up plane collecting. He makes working planes that are works of art and yet functional, and he holds a patent for the adjustment of a plane's blade.

As we all know, it is wonderful to have friends. And making new friends is a great bonus of membership in the tool collecting fraternity. Over the years I have been fortunate in developing close friendships with others who are involved with old tools. Utilizing the opportunities of the Internet, I have discovered and corresponded with many persons of similar interests in many countries. Jacques Heroux in Canada is one such friend. And I am grateful to him for introducing me to Andre's work. Fortunately for me, Jacques is not a brace collector. He is pictured below amongst his planes. His collection of Canadian planes is substantial.



The bloodwood brace is not a copy of, nor is it based on, some traditional pattern. Rather, it was made with intrinsic artistic attributes in mind. As a new tool, it was signed and dated by the maker by an engraving on the chuck and bears the tool touchmark that Andre places on all his creations.

The brace is large. It is 17 5/16 inches length over all and has a throw of 3 5/8 inches. It weighs 2 pounds and 2 ounces (968 grams). Andre also made a bit of polished stainless steel to fit the brace. It is also quite sturdy being a half-inch quill bit 8 18/16 in length and weighing 4.75 ounces (137 grams).

References:

Andre Milette. Wood sculptor and maker of edge tools for violin and bow makers. 491 Place Bellevue, Pointe-Du-Lac, Quebec, Canada G0X 1Z0. (819) 377-0937.

The author, Eric M. Peterson, is a longtime member of M-WTCA and a collector and student of braces. <donicker@gulftel.com>

BOOK REVIEWS

A Primer on Axles

Not many people need to have carriage or wagon axles made these days, but "Carriage and Wagon Axles for Horse-Drawn Vehicles" is an interesting read for those who like history.

The book reprints articles on 19th century axle-making from trade journals of the time. Probably the two best known sources are the Hub and the Carriage Monthly, both published in the mid-1800s.

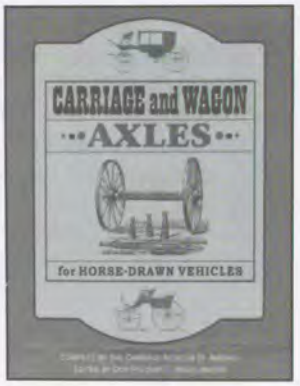
Compiled by the Carriage Museum of America, the book gives an in-depth view of the development of axles, from wooden ones handmade by wheelwrights for wagons and carts to iron axles forged by blacksmiths to lathe-turned iron and steel axles made in factories. Besides showing techniques, the articles provided a forum for craftsmen of the period to share ideas and thus improve technology.

They also gave tips on solving problems. Sometimes that was simple:

One correspondent in an 1887 Hub complained about axle boxes leaking oil. The foreman of Sheldon Axle Co. (Auburn, NY) advised: "Don't use so much oil."

--Mary Lou Stover

Carriage and Wagon Axles for Horse-Drawn Vehicles Compiled by the Carriage Museum of America. Softcover, 250 pages, $29.95. Astragal Press, P.O. Box 239, Mendham, NJ 07945, Phone (866)543-3045, Email astragalpress@attglobal.net



American Planers

From A (Adams Co., Dubuque, IA) to W (Wright and Sons, JD, Brooklyn, NY), Ken Cope provides information on more than 300 builders of planers, shapers and slotters in the early machine tool industry.

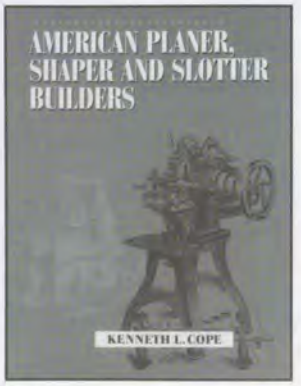
His newest book, "American Planer, Shaper and Slotter Builders," includes builders operating between 1830 and 1910. Some are previously unknown and most are no longer in business. As usual, the author of five other books related to the machine tool industry organizes his massive and prolific research well. Readers will find a glossary of terms, an alphabetical directory of makers and a parts identication guide for typical tools.

The directory provides information on each company's products, dates of operation, a short history of most and excellent illustrations of the 19th and early 20th century equipment. The more than 1,000 illustrations were reproduced from original catalogs and contemporary periodicals, largely accounting for their clarity and quality.

In the machine tool industry for 40 years, Cope obviously knows what he is writing about.

--Mary Lou Stover

American Planer, Shaper and Slotter Builders By Kenneth L. Cope. Softcover, 208 pages, $24.95 Astragal Press, P.O. Box 239, Mendham, NJ 07945, Phone (866) 543-3045, Email astragalpress@attglobal.net



A Teller of Tales

How tall are the tales told by Herb Kean in his newest book, "Tool Tales"?

Actually, the stories are factual but told in Kean's humorous style. They are a compilation of the many articles he has written over the years for The Tool Shed, The Chronicle, Carpenter Magazine, New Book of Knowledge, Patinagram, newspapers, museums and libraries.

The tales are short and witty, just right for those hard-to-find minutes of relaxation. His style is "down home" and downright friendly, as if he was just sitting and talking with you in the tool room.

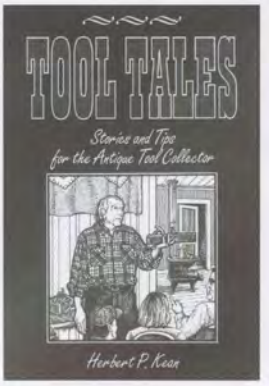
The book has serious moments as well, such as chapters on rot restoration, three-arm plow planes and insuring your tool collection. It's on my Best Seller list.

Kean has also written antique tool price guides, a book on restoring old tools and, with the late Emil Pollack, a widely respected reference book on collecting antique tools.

Robert Garay, editor of The Tool Shed, periodical of CRAFTS (Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society of New Jersey), did the photography and the late Henry O'Neill, former vice president of CRAFTS, the cartoons. Kean's wife, also contibuted a cartoon that any collector's wife can relate to, for sure.

--Mary Lou Stover

Tool Talks Stories and Tips for the Antique Tool Collector By Herbert P. Kean. Softcover, 200 pages, $17.95 Astragal Press, P.O. Box 239, Mendham, NJ 07945, Phone (866) 543-3045, Email astragalpress@attglobal.net



This Stanley Tools advertisement promoting Stanley tools as Christmas presents ran in publications in 1956. A bench plane sold for $10.25 (John Kinnemeyer Collection).

2002 Special Publication Stanley Tools Brochures

By now members have received reprints of six Stanley pamphlets from M-WTCA's Special Publication Committee

This year, the committee had to select a possible reprint that would fit into a reduced budget. The last Stanley reprint was in 1981, so it was decided to reprint a group of small brochures, instruction book or sheets and a sales catalog. They were selected for their history, usage and desirability. They are not the scarcest Stanley paper items, but each shows a scarce tool or advertising feature.

Some facts about each item:

STANLEY TOOLS – In Sets circa 1925. Four-color sales brochure of the sets of tools that Stanley marketed. Includes the scarce "Four-Square" assortments.

STANLEY TOOLS circa 1932. Two-color brochure showing a basic assortment of tools and portable electric tools. One of the few listings of the scarce 100 Plus Everlasting chisels with the composition handle.

STANLEY "forty-five" Plane dated 7-1-30. Operating instructions, parts listing and lists of the scarce Special Cutters and the Special Bottoms. 12 pages.

STANLEY Combination Plane No. 46 instruction sheet circa 1925. Very scarce "how to use" sheet. Shows the unusual 13/16" cutter and the skewed depth stop on the match cutter.

The Joy of Accomplishment dated 10-37 (October 1937). For the user to select tools needed for a home workshop. Has the very unusual "Toolbox of America" logo on the back cover. This logo was only utilized for a short time (1936-37), before it was changed to "The Toolbox of the World." This change was made to take into account the recent purchase of facilities in Sheffield, England. 8 pages.

Facts about Tools dated 1946. First post-World War II sales brochure. Features the "Happy Carpenter" figure. Descriptions of hand tools and tips for their use. Printed on a low quality paper that is subject to deterioration.

All of these items were placed in envelopes for shipment and storage. Printed on the front of the envelope is the cover of the Stanley Rule & Level Company 1897 Pocket Catalog showing the Stanley "Imp" riding on a No.16 block plane. His flowing hair, the trailing reins, and the bird in flight suggest the "speed" that the plane can achieve.

Since a majority of M-WTCA members are interested in Stanley Tools, the committee hopes that this year's special publication will be enjoyed by the Stanley tool collector and the members as a whole.

– Special Publications Committee

ADVICE

How to Perform a Patent Search on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Website for Patents Predating 1976

By Scott Garrison

The U.S. Patent website is a great help to tool collectors. Take these steps to obtain information:

• Log onto the U.S. Patent Office website <www.uspto.gov> and select "Manual of Patent Classification" which can be found under the drop down menu under "select a Search Collection."

• At this point, one of two things can be done. First, you can select the "Class Number and Title" which allows you to scroll down through the entire list of classes and select those that best describe the item being searched. Alternatively, you can refine the search by selecting the "USPC Index." This leads to a screen which enables one to perform an alphabetical search for the term, correlating the term to an applicable class and subclass.

Classes are broad categories created by the Patent Office to categorize various technologies. Within each class is a series of subclasses that further categorize the class itself. Clicking on the class or subclass numeral will provide further definition to the class and/or subclass. As an example, class 144 identifies patents pertaining to 'Woodworking." Within class 144, are a number of subclasses, including subclass 329 pertaining to 'Woodworking -Processes." Subclass 329 is further broken into subclass 359 pertaining to 'Woodworking -Processes - Mechanical Cutting or Shaping" which in turn includes subclass 376 for 'Woodworking - Processes - Mechanical Cutting or Shaping - Longitudinal Sawing." Finally, subclass 376 is further narrowed to subclass 377 for "...Longitudinally Tapered Work or Product" and subclass 378 for "... - Log or Cant Sawing"

As should be evident, the Manual of Patent Classification allows one to search a class and to continually refine the subclass until the appropriate search limitations are reached. Though subclasses in most instances can be narrowed via additional subclasses, as described in the above example, the Patent Office simply refers to a single class and subclass to classify patents. For instance, Class 144, Subclass 378 would refer to 'Woodworking - Processes - Mechanical Cutting or Shaping - Longitudinal Sawing - Log or Cant Sawing". On a patent this would be identified as Class 144/378.

Often a patent is not categorized under a single class/subclass. For instance, patents relating to saws can be classified under Class 76 for Making Metal Tools and Implements, Class 83 for Cutting, Class 144 for Woodworking, etc. Of course each class would contain appropriate subclasses. Therefore it is possible, and even likely that a patent will be categorized under a number of appropriate classes and subclasses.

• Clicking on the subclass number brings you to a definition of what that subclass covers. When you believe that you have selected the appropriate class and subclass, clicking on the 'P' icon will take you to the complete list of patents covered by this class/subclass combination.

As an example, in order to locate the patent that protected the cutting of graduated teeth on a handsaw, I first narrowed the search to Class 76/29 which pertains to "Making of Metal Tools and Implements" and more specifically to "Saw-Making or Furbishing Devices or Machines that cut teeth by means of die cutting." By next clicking on the "P" I was provided a list of all patents that were classified under this Class/Subclass combination. I then narrowed the search by viewing the patents until I found what I was looking for, U.S. Patent 133,190 to Samuel Bevan. You should note that Bevan's patent could also have been found by narrowing the search to either Class/Subclass: 76/75 for "Making of Metal Tools and Implements - Saw-Making or Furbishing Devices - Feeding;" or 83/917 for "Cutting - Notching."

• For these older patents one has to find the correct patent by trial and error. In other words each of the patents must be viewed individually to determine if the correct patent has been located. A TIFF Image Viewer is needed to view the older patents. The Patent Office recommends AlternaTIFF, a free viewer for Windows Operating System, and Quicktime version 4.1 for Apple Macintosh. Each of these programs can be reached through links at the Patent Office's website. I use AlternaTIFF and have had great results with it.

It should be apparent that this is a trial and error technique. By choosing a class and subclass and subsequently viewing the applicable patents, one can often identify additional classes and subclasses that are perhaps even more appropriate to one's search.

WHY I LIKE IT

MY FAVORITE TOOL

My favorite tool now is a compound miter box.

It took me 71 years to find it. I bought this Royle & Cots improved miter box at the Area B meeting in LaFox, IL, in August. The patent date is July 20, 1869.

It's the only one I have ever seen, and I am very happy to have it in my collection.

– Roy Randall, 17 Woodlawn St., Geneva, IL 60134

A STUDY ON...

By Don Bosse

If I were to ask you how your research is coming along, how would you respond? Many would give a puzzled look and reply "what research?" As collectors, most of us have a certain type of tool or manufacturer's line of tools we strive to find and collect. In the pursuit of these items we expand knowledge of them by observing what makes each one different or unique. If you were to describe your tools to another member, odds are you would say I have one of this type, and if you compare it to this other one you can see a difference, and so on, and so on. In our own way each of us performs a study of what appeals to us. In most cases it is an unconscious effort, but for some it becomes an obsession.

Studies are similar to jigsaw puzzles. At first it's just a couple of pieces that fit together. Then a picture starts to form, and we dig through many more pieces looking for that one piece that will help bring it all together. Well, sometimes that piece is missing, and nothing is more aggravating than to be so close to the end and not be able to finish the puzzle. That's the point where most of the researchers listed in this column are. They need your help. Just one key piece of information can make a world of difference.

Case in point, this issue's latest researcher is Randall Harris. Randall collects and is researching "Bailey and Stanley No. 1 Bench Planes." He has some pieces missing from his study and needs your assistance. He is requesting a picture of a vertical post, No. 1 Bailey-Boston that he can reproduce. He is trying to determine if any No. 1 planes exist with the "P" or "X" trademarks (as listed in Roger Smith's type study). Also, were any of these planes produced with a "BB" type cutter? And, lastly, why was the Bailey 1867 trademark stamped upside down on the lower half of the cap iron? If you own or know of the piece of information that can complete his work, a call would be greatly appreciated. He can be reached at:

Randall Harris (812) 963-5817. 3524 N. Red Bank Rd., Evansville, IN 47720
bearplanes@insightbb.com

If you would like to be added to this list, please contact me at:
Don Bosse, 8154 9th Street Place North, Oakdale, MN 55128. (651) 735-3590 or email me: <mwtcabosse@worldnet.att.net>

The researchers:

Tom Lamond (516) 596-1281
*September 2002
"American Axe Makers and Markings"

Charles Beatty (616) 637-9265
*September 2002
"Edge Tool Makers Named Beatty"

Don Bosse, (651) 735-3590
*March 2002
"Early development of the Millers Patent Planes"

John Freeman (415) 752-2857
*Septemher 2001
"Liberty Bell Plane Series Mfd. by Stanley"

Allan Klenman (501) 383-2321
*September 2001
"Axe Makers of North America"

Todd Friberg (815) 938-0602
*September 2001
"Pre-1920 Saws, Saw Steel and Saw Working Tools"

Mel Miller (300) 274-4973
*June 2001
"Davis Levels"

Lou Nachman (704) 875-1833
*December 2001)
"Montgomery Wards Earlier Lakeside Hand Planes"

Jay Ricketts (404) 78-0266
*September 2000
"No-set Saws"

John Adams (931) 732-4400
*June 2000
"Small Trimming Planes, All Makers"

E.J. "Al" Renier (612) 937-0393
*March 2000
"Tools of the Nordic Nations"

Ray Fredrich (847) 398-2642
*March 2000
"Patented Mechanical Nail Pullers"

Tim Everette (910) 739-7163
*March 2000
"102 and 103 Block Planes"

Cliff Fales (313) 987-3849
*September 1999
"Spiral Ratchet Screwdrivers"

Chuck Prine (412) 561-6408
*September 1999
"Carpentry Planemakers of Western Pennsylvania and Environs"

John Wells (510) 848-3651
*September 1999
"Metallic Mitre Planes"

Charles Hegedus (770) 974-7508
*September 1990
"Stanley Pocket Levels"
"Sargent's Shaw's Patent"

William Warner (717) 843-8105
John Tannehill (717) 464-4378
*September 199
"E.W. Carpenter Patented Planes"

Bob St. Peters (618) 462-0229
*September 1999
"Israel White 3 Arm Plow Planes"
"Bench Planes (wooden) With Crout Style Cutters Affixed to Their Soles"

Milt Bacheller (508) 699-2570
*September 1999
"Patented & Manufactured Marking Gauges"

Don Rosebrook (504) 673-4049
* September 1999
"Levels"

Emery Goad (316) 838-3465
*September 1999
"Bicycle Tools Pre-1920"

Scott Lynk (802) 877-3775
*December 1999
"Stanley Special Rules and Stanley Rules Not Listed in any Catalog"

Tom Lamond (516) 596-1281
*December 1999
"All Known Brand Names & Logos Used By Local Wholesale Hardware Concerns"

* Denotes GRISTMILL issue with full details of the study listed.

Medallions: Were They Cast or Stamped?

By Phil Baker

Three patents have been found that relate to the manufacture of saw medallions.

The earliest patent is by F. Washbourne dated Dec. 31, 1867; a Dec. 21, 1869, patent by Daniel T. Munger followed. C. Glover's patent of Dec. 27, 1887, was the third.

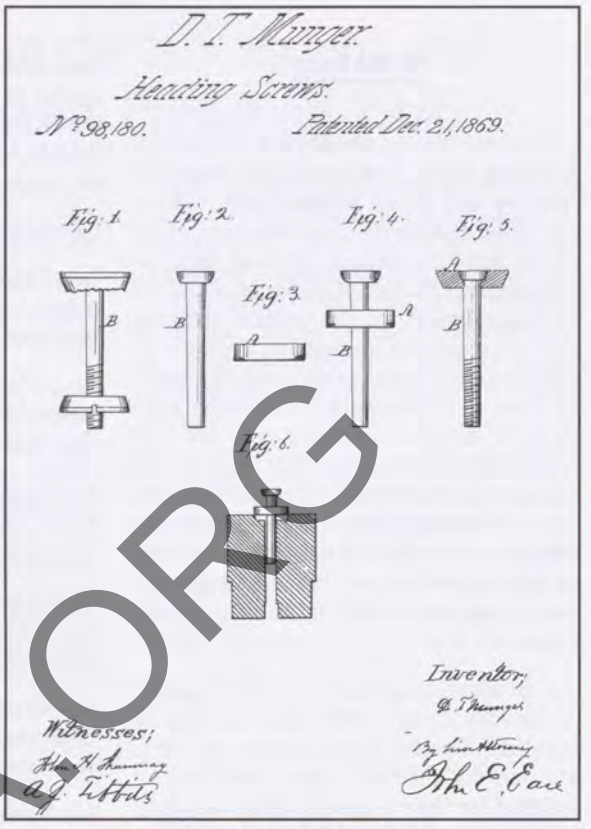
It should be noted that the three patents referred to the bolts used to fasten the handle of a saw to the blade as saw screws with the medallion being called a label screw. The threaded portion of the saw screw is called the shank.

Other terminology may be of value. We know what a saw handle is. It is called the frame in the 1867 patent. Swage is used in the 1887 patent description. The swage is a tool used by workers in metals for shaping their work. The swage is held on the work or the work on it and a tool such as a hammer or press is used to strike it. A swaged piece has been shaped by means of a swage.

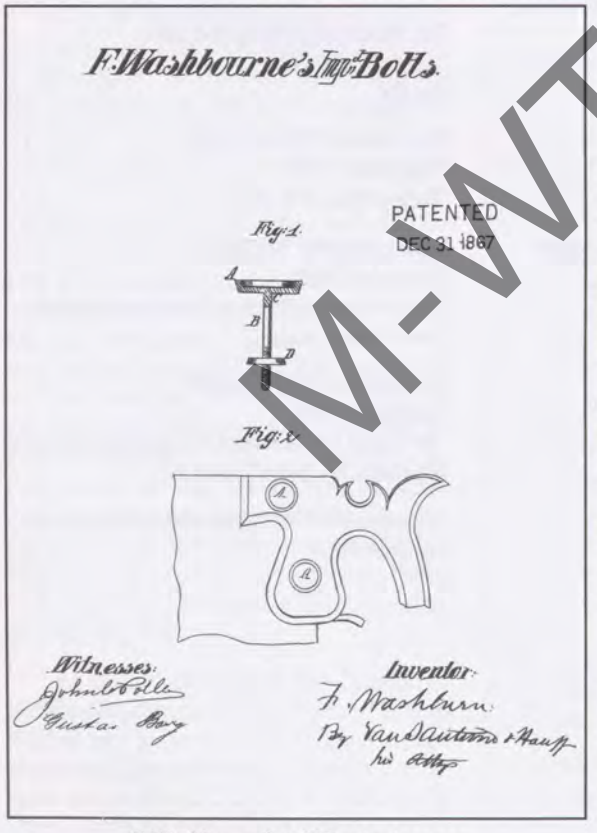
The three patents will not be described in their entirety. There will be enough wording to allow a comprehensive discussion on the development of saw label screws and common saw screws.

Washbourne's patent relates to the making of screw bolts, such as are used to attach the blade of a saw to its frame or handle. Such bolts have hitherto been made of one piece of metal. The ordinary mode of making them was to cast them, the head and shank being made in one piece. In the case of those which are used for fastening the blades of hand saws to their frames or handles, the material employed is brass, which gives a handsome finish to the handle.

Among disadvantages or defects of screw bolts when thus made are their brittle character, their coarse and rough appearance, the large percentage of material which is wasted in the manufacture and their large cost.



Munger's patent dated Dec. 21, 1869.



F. Washbourne's 1867 patent paper.

In producing screw bolts for saw frames or handles, or other purposes, according to the invention, the patentee used wrought metal only (save for the nut) and formed the head and shank entirely separate from each other. In screw bolts for saw frames, he used sheet brass, and cut out the heads by means of punches or other suitable implements, and afterwards struck or swaged them up to the form required by means of dies.

The patent papers show the head of a screw with a concavity formed on its upper surface by means of suitable dies. The upper surface of the head is, if desired, impressed from the face of the die, with a trade mark, or with the name of the maker, or with ornamental characters. The shank, or body, is made of wrought wire of the proper diameter, which is cut off to the proper length. One end, after being made square, (author's note: to prevent turning in the handle when tightened) is attached to the under surface of the head by brazing or soldering, after which a screw thread is formed on the other end of the shank. Richardson Brothers of Newark, NJ, and Harvey Peace of Brooklyn, NY, used this patent.

Richardson Bros. shank brazed to head. Pat. Dec. 31, 1867.

Daniel Munger of Waterbury, CT, had the Dec. 21, 1869, patent assigned to himself and Rufus Hitchcock. The patent is entitled Heading Screws. In the patent description it is called an improvement in the method of heading screws and rivets. Also this invention relates to an improvement in screws such as used for saw handles.

A Woodrough & McParlin saw screw carries the 1869 patent date.

Before this, saw screws were formed entirely from cast metal or the head soldered to the shank of the screw. Both constructions are liable to break, inasmuch as the cast metal or soldering is not sufficiently strong to withstand the strain upon the saw, and this difficulty exists in screws, rivets, etc., for other purposes.

According to the patent papers, these difficulties are entirely overcome. The invention consists of forming a perforated disk as a blank for the head, and in a blank for the shank, the said shank being previously upset so as to form a small head and conically shaped neck. Then the formed shank was placed through the perforation in the disk. Both disk and shank were set into suitable dies. The shank was driven through the disk until the head was embedded into the disk, and the disk driven into the dies so that that part of the disk immediately below the head of the shank contracted closely around the neck of the shank.

This result is practically demonstrated by cutting open many of the heads, which are found to be the same, and this union of the two parts is the strongest possible to be made, inasmuch as, in striking up, the metal is hardened or condensed about the head and neck.

Author's note: This design makes no provision for spurs at the juncture of the head and shank. Therefore there is some difficulty in preventing the screws from turning in the wood handle.It is not unusual to see screws on the label screw side to have been slotted by the saw owner in order to tighten the handle.

Woodrough & McParlin of Cincinnati, OH, Sargent & Co. of New York, and two warranted superior eagle imprints from my inventory of saw screws are struck with this patent date.

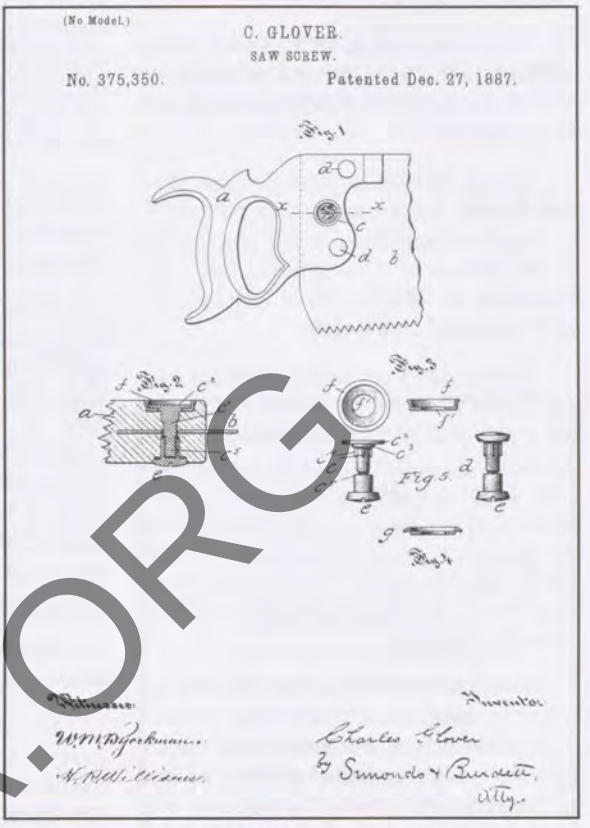
Glover's patent of Dec. 27, 1887, states that he has invented certain new and useful improvements in saw screws. The improvement relates to the class of screws that are adapted for use in securing a saw blade to its handle.

Glover wrote: Prior to my improvement there were in use saw screws having the broad head of its class with the screw-shank brazed to the under side; but such a screw is open to the objection that the head is pulled off too readily. Another screw of this class is made by connecting the end of the screw shank to the head by swaging the parts together. The objection to this screw is that the head is liable to become loose upon the shank and to turn around, thus disarranging the reading matter usually stamped upon the head of the screw... a further objection is that the peculiar method of making requires that the whole head shall be made of comparatively thick metal.

Glover's objective was to provide a wrought metal saw screw that would possess all the advantages and none of the disadvantages of other saw screws. The improvement consists in the combination of a saw screw with its shank threaded and having an integral head, with a shoulder beneath the head and integral projections extending along the shank for a limited distance to prevent the screw from turning in its socket in the handle, and a flanged cap or recessed finishing piece of thin metal and having a central opening that fits about the shoulder beneath the head of the screw, and a nut by means of which the screw is held in place.The label screw's face is sunk or raised, by means of dies, for a desireable symbol and suitable lettering.

An opening in the cap portion of the label screw receives the unthreaded end of the shank. Those two pieces are swaged together when struck with the die or dies to complete the process.

Continued on page 26



C. Glover's 1887 patent paper.

The back of the 1869 patent. Note the juncture of post and body.

Woodrough & McParlin label screws from 1887. 1869 patent left; 1869 patent on right. Note the swage circle.

Medallions: Were They Cast or Stamped?

Continued from page 25

This patent refers to the fact that the common screws are formed of one piece of wire through the endwise compression of the shank.

Henry Disston & Sons Co. cast their saw screws before using this patent. E. C. Atkins of Indianapolis, IN, Woodrough & McParlin of Cincinnati, OH, and Montague & Woodrough of Chicago, IL, also employed this patent.

Patent dates for saw screws are usually found stamped on the face of the label screws. It is not uncommon to have the date appear on the back side of split nuts. Disston's label screw for the 1887 patent has the date 27, 1887 stamped in the mirror image. There are four Disston saws with this patent date in my possession. One is a correct stamping and three have the reversal.

I looked carefully at all saws in my collection plus a multitude of saw screws that had been removed from "junk" saws. This led me to check the back side as well as the face. This research seems to confirm material found in the patent papers.

Casting marks were very evident on those screws until the patents were used. Three surprises were found on the back of screws. An early eagle warranted superior c. 1850 had a neat keystone enclosing the shank, an H. DISSTON c. 1850 had a mirror image of H. DISSTON in two places that do not reflect the H. DISSTON on the face, and a c. 1875 H. DISSTON & SONS also has a keystone around the shank. This is my pitch in favor of cleaning tools.

While on the subject of label screws, saw screws and medallions, a patent by John Wallwork of Philadelphia dated Feb. 19, 1869, should be included. The patent is entitled "Improvement in attaching handles to saws." This patent is directed to the mechanic who has a saw with a broken handle and wishes to replace it.

The inventor states in the patent papers:

My invention consists in passing the screws which fasten the handle to the blade of a saw through adjustable slotted plates and through openings in the handle sufficiently large in diameter to permit the said screws to be adjusted laterally until brought in line with the holes in the saw blade... The object of my invention being to facilitate the attachment of saw handles to blades in which the holes for the fastening screws have been already punched.

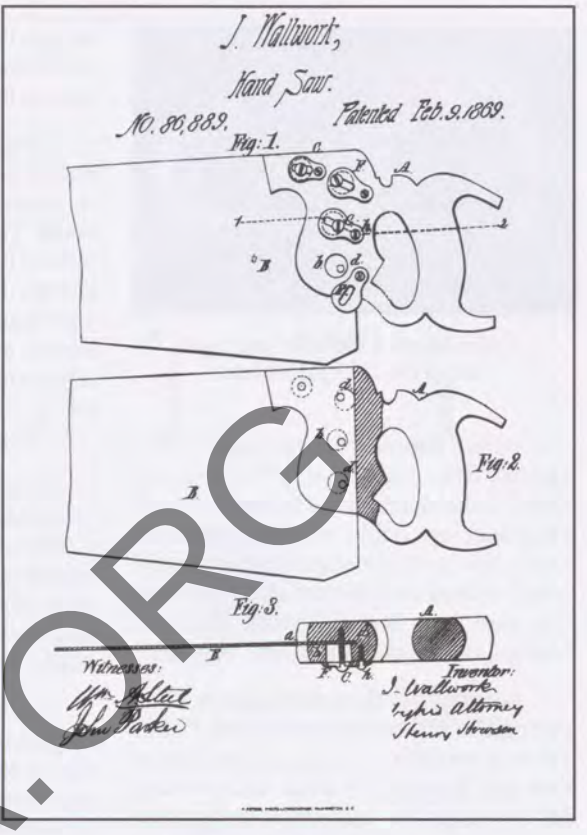
The positions of the holes which are made in a saw handle for the passage of the fastening-screws, are determined, not by actual measurement but by the aid of the eye alone. Although by long practice the operator is enabled to make these holes in very nearly the same positions in each handle, the variation is sufficient to demand that holes should be punched in each plate to correspond in position with those of that particular handle which is to be fastened to it.

It consequently happens that a handle can be fitted to no other saw blade than the one for which it is especially intended, unless other holes be punched.

Although, in manufacturing the saws, this plan results in but little inconvenience, it is found to be very objectionable when a handle is broken at a place remote from a saw factory. Because no other handle can be fitted to the blade until new holes are punched in the latter, it must often, in the absence of proper tools, be thrown aside as useless.

Instead of making holes in the handle, of the same diameter as that of the fastening screws, I form openings having a diameter large enough to cover the slight variations in position of the holes in the saw blade.

These openings are covered by slotted plates pivoted to the handle by screws or pins. They then can be adjusted to any position over the said openings, or turned



J. Wallwork's 1869 patent paper.

Disston's label screw for the 1887 patent has the date 27, 1887 stamped in the mirror image.

A c. 1850 warranted superior had a neat keystone enclosing the shank.

to one side for the same. Screws may then go through the openings and be fastened to the wood on the back side of the handle.

Words in this patent paper seem to explain why two identical saws by the same maker seemingly having all screws located equally don't. In all my experience with saws I have never found a handle to match the holes found in a blade.

Irv Schaffer's book "Hand Saw Makers of North America" was used to obtain material on makers and dates of manufacture. There seems to be very few label screws by American makers before 1840. There will be exceptions. I have a saw by RICHARDSON & CO BOSTON FULTON WORKS with a large label screw. This 1 1/4" diameter screw sits on the surface of the handle and appears to have been struck as a coin. The same information is stamped, with an eagle, on the blade. So far I have found no information on this maker. Information on this tool would be greatly appreciated.

Lars Larson has been wonderful in providing the patent information.

The Keystone Works Label Screw

Recent study of saw medallions involved the research of patent dates found on medallions. The three patent papers used referred to fasteners used to attach the handle to a saw as saw screws and label screws. From now on I will refer to saw handle fasteners as saw screws and label screws.

My study of Disston label screws that are known indicate that the Disston company at any given date used label screws that were alike on all their saws regardless of their quality or design.

Two in my collection show a very rare eagle. The first saw screw has KEYSTONE WORKS cast in it (Screws were cast at this time, according to patent papers). Both screws have the fully spelled HENRY DISSTON and PHILADELPHIA, which is uncommon. The first saw is a large 30-inch rip saw, 5 teeth to the inch except for 4 inches at the tip which is 6 teeth to the inch.The blade is stamped in an arch HENRY DISSTON with PHILAD forming the base. PHILAD abbrevation is a first time for me. PHILA and PHILADA are the ones commonly used. LONDON SPRING WARRANTED is stamped below PHILAD. The second saw is in a half-back saw 14 inches long. Both label screws have 13 stars, although not in the same configuration.

Irv Schaffer's book, "Hand Saw Makers of North America," contains a wealth of information.It includes a detailed history of the Disston saw. Disston's first known catalogue came out in 1850. It is the first known reference to the Keystone Saw Works. This is helpful in my forming a date for the first saw at 1850 plus or minus.

There is an interview in Schaffer's book that appeared in the Iron Age publication Aug. 14, 1890, given by David Bickley entitled "Half a Century With the Disstons." He states that in 1847 the factory burned. There were two other fires at a later date with no detail.

Solid early information on the Disstons is scarce. To back up my theory of a date for the two label screws there is a considerable change between Disston's first eagle and the one that followed. There is a possibility that a fire destroyed the first molds for casting (patent papers indicate all saw and label screws at this point were cast) and the screws in my saws were used a short time before the next fire. Another theory I think more likely is this: After the first fire, the screws were made but it was found difficult to produce the label screw because of its detail. It is very difficult to see what the eagle is doing in the half-back saw label screw. At that time Disston had the molds made for his second type eagle.

It will be greatly appreciated if anyone can add or detract from what is written. The important thing is to maybe someday connect all the dots for all to study.

– Phil Baker

M-WTCA AUXILIARY

Decatur Show and Tell and Welcome to First -Time Attendees

By Arlene Fritchen

Judi Heckel, host, welcomed everyone to the Auxiliary Show and Tell program at Decatur. Four first-time attendees were welcomed and each was presented with a small gift. Many interesting items and stories were shared by the women. All women are invited and encouraged to attend and become involved.

Joey Gilmore showed an old flag and told about it. It would be part of her display. Helen Devitt had an article from the Farmland News, a northwest Ohio publication, which pictured her in the complete outfit she made as a 4-H project in 1952. It is now in a display of 4-H projects from the last 100 years at Ohio State University. Her husband Jack's picture was also in the paper with his polled Hereford. He had mistakenly signed "Betsy," his animal's name, when the reporter asked for his name.

Peggy Mcbride displayed unusual earrings, but her big show was two lovely antique quilts she had purchased while on one of their trips. A hand-crafted Christmas stocking was shown and discussed by Sally Leu. A very unusual reading was given by Rita Zamzow who had also written it. She made you feel you were there as she grew up.

Susan Witzel talked about photo plates. You can get Melmac plates with your grandchildren's photo on them. They are very useable for the table or are great just hung on the wall. Christmas stockings were Linda Wade's show. She has crafted stockings for the entire family depicting their likes or professions. They will be wonderful family treasures.

First-time attendees at the Show and Tell session were (left to right): Marietta Riese of Lansing, KS; Rebecca Ward of Lenexa, KS; Sherry Stanley of Englewood, OH; and Dee Horning of Odon, IN.

Conni Newby displayed a lovely quilt which she spent many hours finishing. Carol Olson mentioned that it will be the Auxiliary's 20th anniversary in 2003. Maggie Risley was the first president. Many good friendships have developed since this group was started.

A neatly framed Dolly was displayed by Jackie Young. Phyllis Moffet showed some more of her unique collection. This time it was unusual antique clothes hangers and clothesline.

Pat Peaser works at a museum and told how to launder very old clothing to remove the spots. This was very informative. Maureen Henze proudly showed a bear she had crafted. It even had jointed arms and legs. Helen Watkins talked about the book "The Shunning," by Beverly Lewis which was one of a series from the Heritage of Lancaster County.

Nancy Barker showed pictures and told about her doll collection. Ann Boltz brought one of her jewelry sets from her collection. She said it is rather difficult to find the complete sets.

Women's Auxiliary Officers

President	Ann Boltz
Vice President	Arlene Fritchen
Secretary	Helen Devitt
Treasurer	Barb Slasinski

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

Candlewick Glass Display

By Judi Heckel

Candlewick is the name of a pattern glass that was manufactured by Imperial Glass Co. of Bellaire, OH. The line of Candlewick was introduced in 1936 and was discontinued in 1982.

The name Candlewick comes from the crystal-drop beading that was applied to the edges of the pieces. These beads were freely added to the various plates, bowls, stemware and serving pieces. This term came from the embroidered beads that were added to coverlets and bedspreads.

The Candlewick pieces in my display at Decatur came from my mother-in-law, who chose the pattern for her wedding. She gave her collection of Candlewick to me and I have added quite a few pieces to the original collection.

I use the Candlewick for special occasions such as Christmastime entertaining. My pride and joy of the collection is a punch bowl, tray, ladle and 12 punch cups.

The display won a Judges Choice award.

Table Talk - The Napkin Speaks

By Helen Devitt

Since I do not collect glass or china or pottery or silver or stainless, what is a possibility for a display at Decatur? Then I spotted several books on folding napkins at the library. They interested and challenged me and so grew into a display.

I learned several facts about the history of napkins. They have not always existed. The first dining tables were usually long rectangular shape and the table clothes made to fit, but then another cloth was put over this so that there was a point of fabric in front of each diner. Clothing was of extravagant fabric that was difficult to clean and seldom laundered and table manners often included eating with few utensils so this point of fabric was tucked under the chin to catch food, keep the front of clothing clean as well as used to wipe the diner's hands.

About the 15th century actual napkins, or serviettes, came into use. They were tied abound the neck to protect the ruffs and laces. Thus the cliché "To make both ends meet" has its roots - - a stout gentleman trying to tie his napkin at the back of his neck.

Nowadays the napkin may be paper or fabric to protect clothing and for cleaning the hands. It may be simply folded or rolled in a napkin ring. But to emphasize the decor, I tried some various shapes. The flute, bat, single fan and lily in various colors and patterns were positioned in goblets or glasses and the palm leaf and fleur-de-lis folds were tucked into napkin rings. Laying on color and design appropriate plates were the cock's comb in pastel plaid fabric on a crystal snack tray, a peach colored candle on a peach floral plate, a blue plaid sailboat on a white plate with blue rim, and a white linen rocket on a china plate. The princess fold was done in brown on a tan and brown plate, the red buffet fold which holds the tableware was perched on a white plate. The black arum lily fold was on a pewter-look plate with the words "Health, love and wealth and time to enjoy them."

To live we must eat and drink. A well cooked meal, served in a pleasing manner can truly be enhanced by an interesting place setting and a unique napkin fold. Why not try your hand at napkin folding?

This display won a Judges Choice award.

"Table Talk - The Napkin Speaks" by Helen Devitt won a Judges Choice award at Decatur. Mike Slasinski photo.

Judi Heckel's "Candlewick Glass" display won a Judges Chocie award in Decatur. Photo by Arlene Fritchen.

One Hundred Years Of Table Settings

By Sue Tubman

Have you ever wondered what it must have been like around your great-grandmother's table? Where did the custom of lingering over a meal, discussing important aspects of our daily lives come from? Was it as important then as it is now? And was it as difficult?

I don't have the answers, but I do have some of the important table accoutrements from different eras, the earliest dating back to ca. 1780 and the latest ca. 1880. I cannot date the linens I have used, but they illustrate different crochet techniques that could have been prevalent during the period. As for the actual table discussions, I will leave that to your imagination.

Feather Edge Wares

Several British potters produced the "feather edge" wares. For more than 150 years, beginning in the 1750s, they made many examples, mostly for the American market. As an example, Enoch Wood in one consignment shipped 262,000 pieces of feather edge! In Josiah Wedgwood's catalog, a medium size service would have consisted of the following 146 pieces:

2 19-inch oval dishes; 2 terrines for soup; 2 17-inch oval dishes; 2 sauce terrines; 2 17-inch round dishes; 4 sauceboats; 2 15-inch round dishes (platters); 2 salad dishes; 4 15-inch oval

Continued on page 30

"100 Years of Table Settings" by Sue Tubman won a Judges Choice award in Decatur. Mike Slasinski photo.

Table Talk - Sewing Room

By Sally Leu

When I thought of the Auxiliary display theme "Table Talk," my first thoughts were to go with dishes and things from the kitchen. One evening I started thinking about the items in my antique sewing collection and the more modern things found in my sewing room. Therefore, my display became a mixture of both old and new.

The antique portion of my display at Decatur had a Singer Featherweight sewing machine dated 1935 -1938. This is my favorite of my Featherweights, and it sews like a dream. The Lusterware pin cushions were from the 1930s and were made in Japan. Many of them featured animals and children. The lovely pin cushion dolls were popular in the 1920s. A special treasure is the one that someone found too

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One Hundred Years Of Table Settings

Continued from page 29

dishes; 6 salts; 4 13-inch oval dishes; 2 mustard pots; 4 11-inch oval dishes; 4 pickle dishes; 4 11-inch round dishes; 6 dozen flat plates; 4 covered dishes; and 2 dozen soup plates.*

The form of the particular feather edge provides clues as to both the manufacturer as well as the approximate date. The examples I had at Decatur included 1) asymmetrical or rococo scalloped edge with an impressed shell design, ca. 1780-1820; 2) shell rim with an even scallop and impressed design, ca. 1780-1820; and 3) an embossed edge with additional rim embossing, ca. 1820-1830.

Hand Decorated Wares

Pottery and porcelain were imported primarily from Great Britain for most of the 18th century and part of the 19th century. Manufacturers were keenly aware of the large market America became and their expertise had no equivalent here at the time. Many potters made patterns specifically for the American market, using American historical scenes and other patterns that were popular. Hand decorated as well as transfer patterns were prevalent.

Hand decorated pottery was made at first as a less expensive imitation of the Imari type of porcelains being produced by Worcester and Derby. The body is a soft paste, the glaze is soft, the blue is under the glaze and the other colors are on top where they will show wear and chip easily. The decorating process began with certain patches of dark blue being applied while the pottery was still in the biscuit form. Then the piece was glazed and fired. After this firing, the orange, yellow, green, red and pink shades were applied on top of the glaze. The piece was fired again.

King's Rose patterns follow the above description with the exception that there is rarely any blue in the patterns. Borders are distinctive and vary between a vine, sectional or solid. All have a prominent rose and fuzzy yellow balls. I showed several different patterns and one hollow piece (it's the only one I have). None is marked, but the underglaze blue and the texture of the soft paste indicates manufacture around 1790 to 1820.*

Lacy Sandwich Wares

If I have a favorite, it is probably this glassware. Consider, if you will, the methods of making these patterns. A wood carving was first made and a metal mold struck from the carving. Wood was used initially as a mold, but obviously this didn't work well under the heat of the glass-making process. Brass was later used and then iron. Deming Jarves, founder of the Boston & Sandwich Glass Co, had many patents developing pattern glass and improving manufacturing methods.

Sandwich's lacy period begins in the 1820s and extends through the 1880s. Many forms, from cup plates and open salts to sugars, creamers and compotes, were made. Entire table services became available with items too numerous to list here. As the popularity of the glassware increased, Sandwich products were considered the choicest of all. The glass itself was heavier than in other types, and of fine quality.

One needs to learn the weight, feel and "ring" of the glass to understand the early lacy pieces. The stippled background added sparkle to the item and the motifs had great charm. The Jarves patent for mechanical pressing made the patterned pieces possible and much less expensive than the cut glassware it emulated.

The display won a Judges Choice at Decatur.

* Sources: Feather Edge Ware, Identification and Values, by Lisa S. McAllister. Anglo-American China, Part I and II, by Sam Laidacker. Sandwich Glass by Ruth Webb Lee

"Table Talk - Sewing Room" by Sally Leu won a Judges Chocie award in Decatur. Mike Slasinski photo.

"If This Table Could Talk" by Caroline Carter was named the "Most Nostalgic" display in Decatur. Arlene Fritchen photo.

Table Talk - Sewing Room

Continued from page 30

beautiful to use as it has no pin holes.

The second part of my display featured more modern interests. There was a modern day pin cushion made of wool and a wooden spool and needle holder along with other small items used in sewing today. A basket of fat quarters was a project recently acquired at a Thimbleberries Club meeting, and was, of course, a work in progress. Quilting books and magazines, and books on the history of quilts and their makers were an important part of the display, which won a Judges Choice award.

All of these items, both old and new, go together to create what I call my "Comfort Zone."

If This Table Could Talk...

By Caroline Carter

If this table could talk, it would tell you that:

The dishes are the Dogwood pattern. In the late 1960s a very nice china store in Lansing, MI, went out of business. My cousin bought the inventory and was selling it out of his basement. I had just received a check from an insurance policy and my husband, Bill, suggested I buy some dishes. I ended up getting a service for 12 plus many serving pieces. These have graced our table for many holidays.

The tablecloth was crocheted by Bill's mother. She lived in the country and didn't drive a car. She spent many hours crocheting to pass the time.

In 1950, I sent to Betty Crocker and got my silverware with Betty Crocker coupons and some money. This was used every day until about 10 years ago when I sent to the catalog again and got a set of stainless steel flatware.

My Aunt Alma was a very delicate lady and always served her jam in a fancy dish when she had guests. She even used it when she fed thrashers. I really don't think they appreciated her beautiful table.

The candle holders were turned on a lathe by Bill as a gift to me on one of our early anniversaries, and the vase was a gift from him on another special occasion.

The sherbet dish and goblet were gifts from my mother at my wedding shower and more were received many Christmases afterwards. She loved beautiful things. Bill loved making the glasses ring when he snapped them with his finger when we had guests.

TOOL MYSTERIES

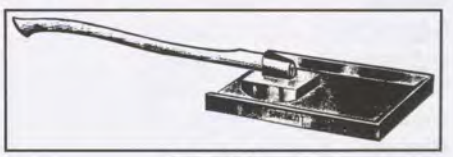
WHATS-IT?

By O. M Ramsey

Wow, what a response we got on the last issue. An all-time record. Keep it up, it makes the whole effort worthwhile.

Item 5-O That monster hunk of iron mounted on an ax handle, I've been informed by Dennis Scheel of Centennial, CO, is an assay tool used to pulverize ore to ascertain if it contains any gold or other precious metals. Manufactured by the E.H. Sargent Co.

Item 5-P From Jack Devitt of Ottoville, OH. Got responses from all over the country and many included a copy of the instructions sheet for using the "Keen Killer" poultry killing device. I was with Jack when he bought this tool at an auction last spring. It is made of brass and the blade looked as threatening as a putty knife. Consequently, some of the answers received would no doubt do a good job of cutting garlic, using a pair of old-fashioned sugar nippers. Then the dull blade would seem to be just the right tool to pry open oysters to impant the seed necessary to continue the growth of a pearl. According to the literature, they improved the tool by using cast aluminum with changeable razor sharp blades. Both metals lend themselves to being corrosion resistant. To properly use this tool, the fowl is placed head first into a funnel, a throat incision is made, and the bleeding is controlled and splattered all over.



Item 5-O

One of the phone-in respondants also noted that not only is it more safe, sane, faster than the old-ax chopping block, it has the approval of the designated rabbi. Lewis McDonald of Florida, an avid hunter, not only uses it for chickens and

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HELLO THERE

California
Dinger, Robert G. — Mission Viejo
Connecticut
Crawford, Doug — Norwalk
Florida
Corbin, Steve — Weirsdale
Kennedy, Tom — Orlando
Idaho
Riedesel, Dale — Twin Falls
Illinois
Angone, Ron — Oak Lawn
Colleran, Philip L. — Berwyn
Curry, Daniel — Arcola
Dawson, William — Matteson
Galassini, Brian L. — Winnetka
Glaser, Jeffrey — Batavia
McCallister, Brian — Gurnee
Mitchel, Leonard — Wilmette
Theilen, Kevin — Saint Charles
Tu rek, Bernard — Northbrook
Yurko, Ron — Streator
Indiana
Allen, Steven — Indianapolis
Dowden, James — Indianapolis
Fuhs, Carolyn — French Lick
Troy, Matthew M. — LaPorte
Iowa
Rencher, Brown — Riverside
Wagner, Donald L. — Montrose
Kansas
Rice, Milton — Liberal
Kentucky
Hayes, John — Lexington
Michigan
Babcock, Mike — Sanford
Engbretson, Steve — Sears
Harris, Harvey T. — Livonia
Webb, Frank — West Branch
Missouri
Wright, Glen — Jonesburg
Youngermann, John F. — Saint Charles
Nebraska
Reilly, Julie A. — Omaha
New York
Rogers, Walter 0. — South Plymouth
North Carolina
Belt, Barbara J. — Summerfield
Bristow, Robert — Cary
Brooks, Thomas W. — Hickory
Coble Jr., Scott — Charlotte
Coobs, John — Indian Trail
Fortunati, Benedict — Wilmington
Gloster, Casey — Browns Summit
Golden, Steve — Greensboro
Jordan, Richard — Gastonia
Kent, Dennis — Charlotte
Leimberger, Jeff — Durham
MacKenzie, Bob — Winston-Salem
Mixkie, Jane — Franklinton
Patterson, Edwin — Sanford
Peele, Michae — Raleigh
Smith, Mark — Gibsonville
Talbott, Greg — Staley
Thomas, George — Raleigh
Trueblood, David P. — Apex
Wells, Alan G. — Charlotte
Zobel, Richard — Raleigh
Ohio
Dunn, Wayne C. — Loveland
Huber, William — Greenville
Ontario
Louws, William — Saint Catharines
Pennsylvania
Angert, William — Manheim
Lookabill, Austin — Littlestown
South Carolina
Gray, Robbie — Florence
Holland, John — Donalds
Texas
Hemphill, Dean — Houston
Mitchel, Ross — Austin
Obert, Doug — Houston
Virginia
Cunningham, Richard P. — Forest
Smith, Paul B. — Hillsville
Upson, Bob — Drake's Branch
Weaver, Jack — Rural Retreat
Wisconsin
Kraak, Ernest — Salem
White, Kelly L. — Princeton
Wyoming
Wiersema, Tom — Laramie

TOOLTALK, OPINIONS

BACKTALK

Folding Sawing Machine

I am looking for information on the folding sawing machine, as I have one in my possession. Is there any way that I might obtain or look at a copy of No. 18? Thanks in advance for your help.

Warren Jarosch
4450 S. Regal Manor Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151

PUZZLED

By Hunter Pilkinton

Well, I'm undergoing a new and unwanted experience in my life. Early in August, I suddenly had some unsettling symptoms such as dizziness, double vision (two completely separate images), nausea and a slight numbness of the right side of my face (didn't improve my looks any, but no worse). After a visit to the emergency room at our hospital and several doctors' opinions, an X-ray, MRI and ultrasound tests, I was told I had experienced a mini stroke. This is one in which the patient, in time, recovers fully with no major lifestyle changes or medicine. But, after $4,000 worth of tests, etc., they still haven't pinpointed a cause. Currently, I still have unsteadiness so I must use a walker or wheelchair but I'm using a crutch sometimes and getting better. My eyes have corrected themselves, I can drive a car and even do shop jobs, as long as I am seated.

I've certainly gained a new perspective on life as a handicapped person. A 2-inch high door sill at a store is a big obstacle. 1 feel good and luckily I had no speech or brain effects.

On the last Puzzled, I received replies from B. G.Thomas, Cheltenham, Ont.; Tom Wyman, Palo Alto, CA; Jim Kuttner, Denver, CO; Ashley Kennedy, Evanston, IL; Les Brandt, Indianapolis, IL, and a phone call from 0. M. Ramsey (Whatsit Column.

The math problems gave our puzzlers no difficulty. The cutting of the cookie produced a variety of answers including instructions to cut it through the middle! No one got the semi-whatsit. One said it ought to be for gripping light bulbs, another whimsically suggested a cat-o-nine tails for flogging bad pirates.

And now for the answers to the September 2002 issue of The GRISTMILL puzzles.

PUZZLE 1 - Two children are given a large cookie to share. How can you ensure the cookie is divided when the the children cut it?

ANSWER - Let one child cut the cookie with the understanding the other child gets first choice after the cookie is cut. (Sneaky).

PUZZLE 2 - A man called to army duty left a pregnant wife and a will. The will divided his savings of $14,000 as follows in case he did not return. He did not. If the child was a boy, the mother was to give the son twice her share and if the child was a girl, the newborn was to get half the mother's share. The mother had twins, a boy and a girl. How was the money divided?

ANSWER - Let X = mother's share, 2X = boy and 1/2 X = girl. Therefore 3.5X $14,000. Solving this, the mother got $4,000, the son got $8,000 and the daughter got $2,000. I belive all replies were correct on this one. One commented the daughter got a "bum deal."

PUZZLE 3 - Can you spot the unique link between each of these words?

CALMNESS, DEFER, FIRST, HIJACK, NOPE, ROUGHING, and STUPID.

ANSWER -A misprint on roughing made it 'ROUGHTING" and all answers knew that ain't no fittin' word. Sorry for the boo-boo. All got this one, too. The link is that each word has 3 letters in alphabetical sequence.

SEMI-WHATSIT - (See Sketch)

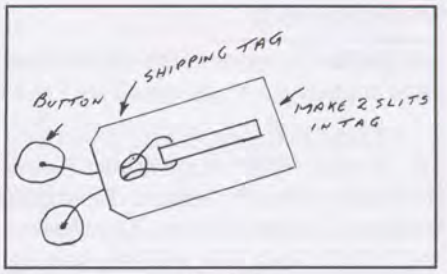
The gadget is a scalp massage/stimulator or just scratch your head when the answer won't come! It is currently available from several novelty gift shops, called the Tingler "replace stress with Shivers, and tension with toe curling pleasure." Price $24.95. Call or write and I'll give you a source, if your toes need curling.

And now for this issue's new puzzles.

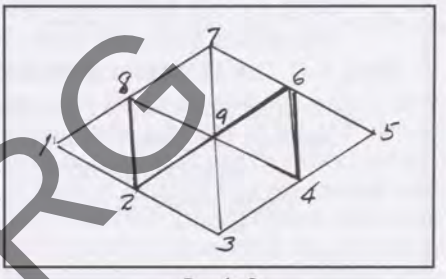
PUZZLE 1 - Remove 2 buttons, tied with string from the larger tag (see sketch). You have to make your own puzzle in this case, but you can have fun with the younger (and older) kids. Solution does not require damaging the paper in any way.

PUZZLE 2 - (see sketch) - The puzzle is made up of 16 equal length lines. Remove 4 of these and leave only 4 equal triangles. No leftover sides.

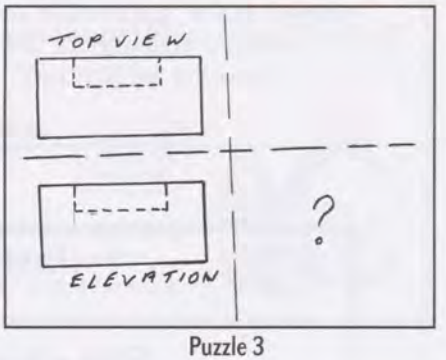
PUZZLE 3 - (see sketch) - Draw the missing view and an isometric view of the solid block shown, Dotted lines are invisible from front (elevation) or top (plan).



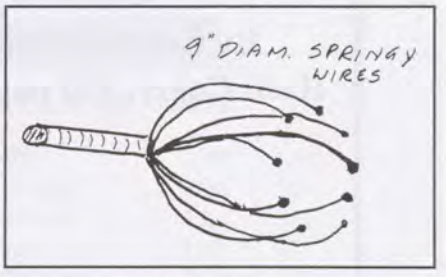
Puzzle 1



Puzzle 2



Puzzle 3



Semi-Whatsit

Puzzles this issue came from "Mathematical Puzzles for Beginners" by Geoffrey Mott-Smith and "So You Think You're Smart" by Pat Bataglia and from Popular Science of March 1945 (my archives). Have fun and send answers to me:

Hunter Pilkinton
2431 Highway 13 South
Waverly, TN 32185
Phone (931)-296-3218

TOOL MYSTERIES

WHATS-IT?

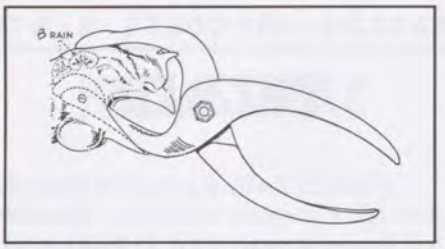
Continued from page 31

turkeys, but he removes the viscera from game animals.

Thanks to George Luteri, John Goss, Jim Moffet, Jim Plantikow, Lewis McDonald, Dennis Scheel, Lawrence Burch and Hunter Pilkinton. If you haven't heard more than you wanted, also included were different techniques for scalding poultry in order to pick the feathers efficiently. Look out Col. Sanders.

Item 5-Q The 18-inch long device with 11 tines or fingers which was certain we'd strike out on was identified by Charles Levine of San Francisco. A part-time weaver, he said the tool is used by weavers in doing tapestry work on a loom by inserting it in the warp to bridge over certain threads and beating down any puffy spots.

Hunter Pilkinton called just as I was



Item 5-P

wrapping up this column to inform me that this is a type of Hetchel used to comb the husks out of flax after it has been soaked to soften it. After the flax has shed the husks, it is pulled apart with this tool. Then the flax goes to the spinning wheel to be made into thread for making fine linen fabric.

Item 5-R This is most certainly a miter box of a rare vintage of the Royce and Co. of Anytown, USA. The owner wants to know if there are any other members in the area westof Chicago where the tool surfaced. I checked the EAIA toolmakers' directory, which only indicates Royce was in the saw and accessory business with no more information given. But someone gave this brief synopsis to EAIA in order to include it in the listing. The patent date of July 20, 1869 is noted on the tool. The patent was issued to Marvin Owen Royce of Boston, MA on that date. Roy Randall of Geneva, IL will appreciate any help you can give him.

Item 5-S

Item 5-S This hammer-looking tool surfaced when some of the kids were cleaning out the basement of my old house. The tool would have to be swung by two hands as it is too heavy for a one-armed swing. Perhaps it is a back-up tool placed down in a barrel to take the force of nailing a hoop in place.

If you have an unsual tool or gadget we'll see what it possibly does. Call or send information to:

O.M. Ramsey
8114-1A Bridgeway Circle,
Fort Wayne, IN 46816-2315
(260) 447-2099

BUY, SELL, BARGAIN

MARKETPLACE

WANTED

Wanted: Tools of any sort made by the Sandusky Tool Co. I don't have them all yet! Also, catalogs, advertising and related material. John Walkowiak, 3452 Humboldt Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55408 (612) 824-0785.

Wanted: Antique dental and medical instruments. Prompt payment in American dollars. Bill McDougall, 420 Grande Dr., Albuquerque, NM 87107 (505) 344-9272.

Wanted: Wood planes by J. Strode and G. Strode. Also any information on these makers. They came to Ohio from Berkeley, WV, early part of the 19th century. Max Stebelton, 5990 Hamburg Rd., Amanda, OH 43130 (740) 969-2613. E-mail: ms2613@greenapple.com

Wanted: Plomb brand mechanics tools. Any pre-Proto tools or tool boxes. Bob Byron, 19 Chennal View Lane, Hoquiam, WA 98550. (360) 532-2764. E-mail: bobbyron@techline.com

Wanted: Seeking material for book. All items marked "The Winchester Store" and all pre-1923 advertising, sports items and paper. Also ARMAX, BARNEY & BERRY, CRUSADER and HENDRYX items. Tim Melcher, (918) 786-8500. tmelcher@greencis.net and at www.the winchesterstore.com

Wanted: Seneca Falls Union table saw. Preferably with fence and miter gauge. Also drilling attachment for the Victor scroll saw. Steve Engbretson, 6771 40th Ave., Sears, MI 49679 (231) 734-2763.

Wanted: Reed Utica #10 hollow, Auburn Tool Co. Auburn, NY imprint on Grecian ogee. Bevel molding plane marked 1" catalog #144 on heel, planes marked R.D. Ship - John Hemmings - W. Bell Lex-ton, Roger Springate, 2408 Topeka Rd., Lexington, KY 40503 (859) 277-3660.

Wanted: ruined metal things worn, abused, burnt or crushed into uselessness. Timpepieces not worth fixing. Keys without locks; locks without keys. Worn stretched, broken and mended chain. Spent automatic weapons casings. All for a publicly-displayed project about entropy. Mark Koons, 1356 Maple St., Wheatland, WY 82201 (307) 322-2127. mkoons@wyoming.com

FOR SALE

For Sale: Hardware wholesalers' catalogs of companies no longer in business. Originals, not reprints. Send SASE for list. Bicking, 101 Carol Gate, Wheaton, IL 60187.

For sale: Coming to Florida this winter? Stop and see my antique collection for sale. Includes Stanley, Winchester, Keen Kutter items. Countless other items. Six miles south of Starke, FL., Hwy 301. Gilbert Crosley, PO Box 405, Hampton, FL 32044 (352) 468-1551

Wanted for research: Tools marked by a **Beatty**, catalogs, advertisements, or other information on the Beattys. If you have any, I would like to hear from you. Especially looking for a copy of a **Beatty Edge Tool Company** catalog dated 1899. Charles Beatty, 566 North Shore Drive, South Haven, MI 49090. (269) 637-9265 cbeaty@btc-bci.com

Advertising Information

ISSUE	COPY DEADLINE
March	January 10
June	April 10
September	July 10
December	October 10

CLASSIFIED ADS — RATES

$.18 per word — ALL words.

$3.50 minimum per ad.

DISPLAY ADS — RATES

SIZE	COST	WORD LIMIT
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Half page	$ 105	450
Quarter page*	$ 60	225
Other sizes	$9.50 per column inch	

(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 Paul Gorham at the address below or one of the officers whose address is shown on the inside front cover of this publication.

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Paul Gorham, 811 Robin Glen, Indianola, IA 50125 (515) 962-5207
email: pgorham9@mchsi.com or pgorham9@hotmail.com

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Listed Auction:	Sheraton Four Points Hotel
Friday, March 28	Indianapolis, Indiana
Auctioneer:	Bill Baxter
Catalogue Auction:	Sheraton Four Points Hotel
Saturday, March 29	Indianapolis, Indiana
Auctioneer:	Bill Baxter
Listed Auction:	Holiday Inn Everett Turnpike
Friday, April 25	Nashua, New Hampshire
Auctioneer:	Paul Wilmott
Catalogue Auction:	Holiday Inn Everett Turnpike
Saturday, April 26	Nashua, New Hampshire
Auctioneer:	Paul Wilmott
Antique Tool Fair	Withington Auction Estate
& Catalogue Auction:	Hillsboro Center, NH
Friday & Saturday	First 500 Lots Sold Friday
July 11 & 12	Tool Fair at Dawn Saturday
Auctioneer:	Richard Withington

Auction Schedule (Continued)

Listed Auction:	Holiday Inn Everett Turnpike
Friday, September 5	Nashua, New Hampshire
Auctioneer:	Paul Wilmott
Catalogue Auction:	Holiday Inn Everett Turnpike
Saturday, September 6	Nashua, New Hampshire
Auctioneer:	Paul Wilmott
Listed Auction:	Sheraton Four Points Hotel
Friday, October 3	Indianapolis, Indiana
Auctioneer:	Bill Baxter
Catalogue Auction:	Sheraton Four Points Hotel
Saturday, October 4	Indianapolis, Indiana
Auctioneer:	Bill Baxter

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