The Indianapolis 78: A Real Winner

By Bill Holden

Another super meeting! The Stouffer Inn at Indianapolis, IN was a great setting for a tool collector's clambake. Meeting chairmen Ray Wilson and Fred Malott should be, and from what I hear about the mail they have received since the meeting already have been, congratulated.

Not to be overlooked is their committee of volunteers (?) who made it all happen. It's a good thing Lynn and Kenny Runkle are husband and wife. With all of the hours they spent together at the registration table, if they weren't married, the rumors would be flying. Ken Wasson and Don Reagan mean-super!

The guy running around the parking lot supervising the parking and swap session was Dick Opsahl (I understand he got first pick out of every trunk for his efforts!) If you rode the bus to Conner's Prairie, you owe thanks to Conner's Prairie, you owe thanks to Ella and Mo Arnold who coordinated this function.

I'm sure I have missed someone, so whoever it is, I apologize. I just remembered to thank our treasurer, Keith Mansfield. His data on the members attending was really on the ball and of considerable help.

The planned activities began Friday afternoon. Most of the members boarded buses and headed for Conner's Prairie. This a restoration of an old community near Indianapolis.

Here they actually turn back the clocks a hundred years or so and we catch up on the lives of our forefathers. We live in an age dominated by electronics. However, these people actually lived with the times and actually lived with the times. You would not know there were things such as automobiles, telephones or airplanes when you talk with them. It was a rewarding experience for all of those who took advantage of the trip.

Friday night we had a real treat. Catherine and Ray Wilson were hosts to the whole gang at a wine and cheese reception in the Americana Gallery of the fantastic, new Children's Museum. The feature in this section of the museum is the authentic cabinet-maker's workshop donated by Ray.

We were entertained by a vocal group and many of us got a chance to operate one of the many foot-operated tools in Ray's shop. We owe a special thanks to the Wilsons, but I think maybe the proud, happy look in Ray's eyes was thanks enough.

The reaction was unanimous-super! Special thanks go to those two for the job they have done coordinating the children's program. By popular request they repeated the Christmas theme, songs and decorations for the holiday season. They topped this off with a cake and coffee reception poolside.

On Saturday morning, some of our faithful (you notice I left off the customary word, "old": I'm not that crazy!) gals rounded up the kids and took them on a tour of the whole museum, with a side visit to the haunted house. In case you have forgotten, this meeting was held at Halloween, Oct. 27, 28, 29 to be exact.

Lois Opsahl, Dorothy Alexander, Mary Anne Mossing and Doris Manthey were the brave souls. God, but it was quiet around the hotel, especially with Kristine gone (that's my noisy daughter).

The display room was loaded with our typical variety of super tools and collectibles. The members moved back and forth from the display room to the swap session in the parking lot most of the day Saturday. Al White is cutting crazy!)

The Indianapolis 78 was held at the Indiana State Museum, with a side visit to the haunted house. In case you have forgotten, this meeting was held at Halloween, Oct. 27, 28, 29 to be exact.

Longtime Editor

It was with great reluctance that we accepted Bill Holden's resignation as editor of the Grisstmill. We understand, but it is difficult to lose a charter member, first president and the Grisstmill editor from our Executive Committee.

However, we did extract a pact written in blood that Bill would continue to introduce our first time attendees at our semiannual meetings as well as those that travel the longest distance. We also included in that same agreement that we could request him to write the Grisstmill article about our semiannual meeting in the new editor's absence and to help the new editor get her feet on the ground.

That is what you would expect of Bill Holden, a real motivating force behind our organization. Thanks, Bill, for your past help and for the assistance you'll be giving in the future.

Bill Rigler, President

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The Gristmill
No. 14 December, 1978
Mid-West Tool Collectors Association

Editor ............ Mary Lou Stover
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The Gristmill is the official publication of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association and is published quarterly, 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 the farm, home, industry and shop of the pioneers; also, to study the crafts in which these objects were used and the craftsmen who used them; also, to share knowledge and understanding with others, especially where it may benefit restorations, museums and like institutions; also, to accomplish this in a spirit of fun and fellowship.

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402-488-9208

Treasurer
Tom Ward
P.O. Box 11
Avondale Estates, GA 30002

Area K to Meet in March

Area K has tentatively established a Spring meeting for March 31, 1978, in Nashville at Bill and Norma Rigler’s, 700 Devens Dr., Brentwood, TN, 615-794-7851.

Directors and anyone living outside Areas K & M who are interested in attending should let Bill know. An invitation will be sent to you.

New Members Welcomed

(Continued from Page 1)

sounds like a commercial for insurance, it is, the insurance of continued good programs.

We had another fine turnout of members attending their first meeting. Those members who now have lost their neophyte status are: Allen Brown, Tipton, IN; Howard Bruckner, Chantham, NJ; Hazel and Bob Hamby, Stone Mt. GA; Leta and Bob Mackey, Lincoln, NE; Jean and Paul Keber, Anchor, IL; Henry Koval, South Holland, IL; Rosalyn and Dwight Ladd, Whitestown, IN; Agnes and Ernie Lemieux, Cherry Valley, MA.

Shirley and W. J. Linstromberg, Evansville, IN; Ernie Martin, Albuquerque, NM (if there is a tougher word to spell in the English language, I don’t know what it is!); Dorothy and Charles Mitchell, Hopkinton, NH; Ann and Bob Ports, Columbus, OH; Carol and Jim Rogers, Pleasanton, CA; Helen and Monford Scheiderer, Dublin, OH.

Hugh Spivey, Stone Mtn., GA; Elvira and Thurman Tefft, Mowewa, IL; Sue and Orland Zajicek, Richmond, TX; Don Zytowski, Milwaukee, WI; Boyd Nyberg, Thunder Bay, Canada; Bob Hines, Indy, IN; Bill and Norm DeGraff, Galena, KA; and Dave Woodring, Cceha, KY. This isn’t a record number, but still one to be proud of.

As to the members traveling the greatest distance to attend the meeting, there were so many deserving credit, I decided to do it on a regional basis.

From the West: Roger Phillips and Jim Rogers from California, Bill McDougall and Ernie Martin from New Mexico and Orland Richardson from Texas. From the East: Dorothy and Charles Mitchell from New Hampshire and Agnes and Ernie Lemieux from Massachusetts. From the South: Margaret and Fred Bair, Nick Holloway and Burke Pravratil, all from Florida and from the North, Boyd Nyberg from Thunder Bay, Canada.

Of all of these, I guess the trophy has to go to Boyd. I have heard of people with a dedicated interest in this group and many others, but his trip takes the cake.

He traveled, as I understand it, over 900 miles to attend the meeting which in itself is an accomplishment, but he did it by BUS! I didn’t get a chance to ask how many transfers were included, but I’m sure he had the Royal Canadian Mounties for an escort part of the way.

Our hospitality room was bulging at the seams on both Friday and Saturday nights. It seems that someone was really doing a “hucksters” job of getting the members in the spirit of things.

Seen, among others partaking of the fun and “refreshments”, were, Ethel and George Kyle, Ginger and Bob Bergdahl, Dorothy and Ole Olson, Ruth and Bob Siegel, Dorothy and Charles Mitchell, Norma and Bill Rigler, “Mother” Sternberg with her popcorn popper and Harlow, Rudy Konkel, Lynn and Kenny Runkle, Neville and Eric Peterson, Bill Graves, Mac McKenzie, Dud Parish, Bill Holden, Sandy and Norm Nilsson, Jim Austin, Doris and Roy Farmer.

Bev and Al Egers, Myrtle and Lynn Hazelwood, Russ Herner, Laurent Torno, Jim Agne, Ann and Marion Henley, Maggie and Ivan Risley, Edith and Emerson Hurich, Don and Marilyn Johnston, Bob and Lloyd Lucas, Loren Lura, Bill McDougall, Ernie Martin; Doris and Norm Manthey, Pat and Jim Mau, Mary and Henry Nickel, Vi and Roy Nissen, Mary and Pat Parish, Lorraine and Doug Reed, Donna and Ernie Urban.

Marilyn and Howard Steele, Donna and Gale Zerkle, Jean and Paul Kerber, Leta and Bob Mackey, Fran and Len Borkowski and Virginia and Austin Smith.

Believe me, I had to stay sober so I could count noses. If I missed any noses, so I didn’t sit and read the Gideon Bible all night.

It’s too bad none of the tool collectors in this group likes to party!

A few little sidelights about the goings on. Rudy Konkel really knocked our eyes out at dinner Saturday night. He looked his sartorial best in suit, vest and tie.

I wouldn’t be surprised if Peter Hathaway isn’t still unloading his haul. As he went out the door with a dolly loaded up to the chin with boxes of tools, the floor almost gave in. OK! Before any of you wise-aces can say it, “if it was up to Holden’s chin, it must have been waist high to the rest of us.” Hope you’re satisfied!

Hats off to Tom Ward. His enthusiasm is infectious. He got two of his Georgia clan to come to Indiana with him for this meeting. By next year, they will probably outnumber us “Yankees.”

As is the case at each meeting, we were graced by the reappearance of some of our flock who had strayed. Back in the fold, to stay this time, I hope, were Dottie and Don Goodwell, Gary Gergeni, Jim Brown (the Bethel mailman) and M. C. Sauer and Jim Austin from Oklahoma.

It was also great to see Gladys Klusman back at her place next to Virginia. It was about time Harry Frey brought Barbara along again. We also got some help for the Bergdauls from Pennsylvania - - Eleanor and Bob Booth and Sandy and Norm Nilsson

(Continued on Page 3)
Chaff from the President

It is impossible to thank individually all the people who made the last year such a success. But some key contributors include:

- Cliff Brown and Ron Mossing for Perrysburg.
- Fred Malott and Ray Wilson for Indianapolis. Particular thanks to Ray and Catherine Wilson for allowing the club to be their guests at the Children's Museum, Ray's plant and their home. If you missed this one, you missed a lot.
- Fred Malott and Marion Henley's team effort in Special Publications.
- Ivan Risley, the Master Auctioneer and Whatstis' chairman.
- Marj Stakes and Agnes Sternberg for their leadership of the women's activities.
- Marion Henley, Keith Mansfield, Wally Andersen, Al Pear­sall, Fred Malott and George Tuttle, outgoing officers and directors. Your new officers and directors have a tough act to follow.

The one thing that needs some help, in my opinion, is our displays. The quality continues to be high and displays really support our educational effort, but we have had more room than we have had exhibits. Displays are the way most of us learn, so bring that unusual tool or tools for others to see.

See you at the next Area Meet!

-Chaff from the President

Dues Notices Cut to Two

The Board of Directors, after considering the pros and cons, has established the following dues notice policy. The first notice will be mailed approximately Dec. 1 of each year for next year's dues.

Please pay upon receipt to reduce paper work problems. A second and final notice will be sent Feb. 1 if required, and if dues payment is not received by Feb. 28 members will be dropped from the club for nonpayment of dues.

Dues Up in 1980

Membership dues for 1980 will go up, but 1979 dues will remain $8.

The board of directors decided that a $4 increase will be required in 1980 to support the work of the Special Publications Committee. Dues will be $12 annually.

Plane Catalogs Reprinted

Our English friend, Roy Arnold, writes that Arnold & Walker's new edition of British Planemakers has gone over well with members.

They have reprinted their first three catalogs, which means that all six are now in print at a new price of $4 each or $21 for the six.

Orders may be sent to Roy at: Arnold & Walker, 77 High St., Needham Market, Suffolk 1P6 8AN, United Kingdom, Needham Market 720110.

He hopes to make it to at least one meeting next year.

-Laurel and Hope

Laubers, Patternmakers

A Whatstis tool at the Indianapolis meeting prompted Len Borkowski to spend his lunch hours at the Milwaukee County Historical Society when he returned home. The tool had a Milwaukee-made Lauber handle.

His research found William Lauber, a patternmaker, listed in the 1900, 1910, 1915, 1920 and 1921 Milwaukee city directories. A son, Phillip Lauber, also was listed after 1910. Len said that both Laubers were patternmakers and may have run their own shop or worked for someone else.

In 1922, the Lauber Handle Manufacturing Co. showed up in the directory. It was located at 1212 Milwaukee Ave. from 1922 to 1930 at least. Len will look farther if anyone is interested in more on the Laubers.

Some collectors own tools with handles inscribed "The Lauber" or "Wm. Lauber & Son" or "Lauber, Milwaukee."
M-WTCA Thanks Are Overwhelming

The Wilsons and Malotts want to avail themselves of this method of showing their appreciation for the many very nice expressions of thanks for the Indianapolis meeting.

When you are partly responsible for the success of a meeting, it may weigh a bit heavily at times. One hears about the problems and mistakes and gripes so frequently that it dulls one's enthusiasm for ever accepting the responsibility again. Not so this time!

Yes—there were some problems, but the support and congratulations were so fine that we feel very, very good. The ladies thanked us so profusely for the reception that we feel we should recommend it for future meetings. After all, our wives do so much to make M-WTCA what it is that we feel this is a well deserved expression of gratitude.

We have received so many notes and letters of thanks that we feel we should share at least some samples of these with you. Accordingly, we are sending copies of these to our new Grismill editor with the thought that portions of them might be included in the Grismill. Since we do not have the consent of the authors of these letters, we suggested they be used anonymously.

We also want to thank all those hard working committee members for their invaluable help. They deserve much credit for their tireless efforts.

May we suggest that you continue to be as gracious in the future as you have been with us. Your future meeting chairmen and committees will love you for it and will be inclined to work harder than ever.

With kind regards to all,
Ray and Catherine
Fred and Lillian

This is a sampling of what people had to say about the Indianapolis M-WTCA meeting and its planners:

"All the way home we discussed our interesting weekend. The great people we met, the good accommodations and what a fine job all of you did to make the meeting such a huge success.

Thanks for your immense efforts in making our 'visit' so memorable."

"As newcomers to M-WTCA, we continue to be impressed with the activities which are offered and the people whom we meet.

Once again we returned from a meet tired, broke and thinking it was well worth it.

"Even my wife is getting into the swing of it and, I'm happy to report, has now learned the difference between a cooperator's hatchet and a frame saw (which is one of the reasons I'm broke again) and I've noticed a little diminution of her bickering about the price of my tools."

"The Indianapolis meeting was simply super—not one flaw—and we certainly are grateful to all who had a hand in making it so."

"We all appreciated the extras you arranged.

So many of the women enjoyed and praised the lovely afternoon tea on Saturday. Agnes and Marjorie are delightful chairpersons and deserve our thanks. But the refreshments (all without calories) was a wonderful and friendly conclusion. Thank you for such special attention."

I'm sure everyone appreciates a smooth well planned schedule and the open houses, the generous gifts of pencils, Stanley 1976 Commemorative rulers and so on are extra bonuses from a friendly member. But I doubt that many are aware of the hours of time and thought needed for the arrangements and the complications and complaints that interrupt 'the best laid plans of mice and men'.

I shall always remember the delightful evening in your beautiful Children's Museum. How lucky the Indianapolis youth are to have such a spacious setting for your cabin and demonstrations.

"What a great opportunity you provide youth with that museum. We were impressed. Guess you know we especially enjoyed the music, and the wine and cheese were a nice touch.

'Conner Prairie was a great tour. The school lunch was our favorite.'"

"Catherine, your doll collection is fabulous!"

"The highlight of the meeting was visiting the Children's Museum and your great display of tools at your office and construction firm. At both of these places the setting is ideal to fully enjoy the tools and to visualize how they were used."

"I know you have worked very hard to prepare for this and your efforts have shown by the success of the meeting."

"We were both very impressed with your collection and with your cabinet maker's shop in the Children's Museum. You have given a great deal of time, finances and knowledge so that others can better understand their country's inheritance."

"It was certainly a big success. Everyone was busy and happy. I didn't see anyone sitting around twiddling their thumbs.

The chance to see the famed Wilson collection under such pleasant conditions will remain a most memorable occasion for years.

I greatly admire your conscientiousness, Ray, in so carefully preserving your tools. I applaud your plans to return the primitive corner workshop to Arkansas. Such sensitivity will certainly provide many people much pleasure for years to come."

"This was my first visit to your collection, and it is certainly everything I was told it would be."

"I just wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed your wine and cheese reception. The Children's Museum was fantastic and they've built the perfect place to display your collection."

"Just a note of thanks for your excellent co-hosting of the recent Indianapolis M-WTCA meeting. It was outstanding in every respect."

"What a bang-up good meeting it was! . . . If you are bowing out as you said, you are certainly going in a blaze of glory."

"Meetings like this don't just happen, as you are keenly aware; and I just wanted you to know how much we appreciated all the hard work which you and your associates have put into this."

"The way home is always short when we have so many pleasant things to talk about. Being with good friends at a great meeting is what we have learned to expect—and what we get."

"The problems behind the scenes were handled quietly by you. We saw the gentle touch of Lady Lillian appear now and then."

"Conner Prairie was great. We have visited several restored villages and would classify this as one of the best."

"The reception for the ladies was a surprise and a real treat."

"The banquet was lovely as always.

(Continued on Page 5)
Head Women's Events

Lenora Brown and Dorothy Olson have been named co-chairmen of the 1979 women's programs.

Directors in charge of the next year's Semianual Meetings have been asked to work with Dorothy and Lenora in establishing special programs for women.

Chairmen are changed annually to involve as many people as possible in planning.

It was just one year ago that Marjorie Stakes and Agnes Sternberg were asked to co-chair the women's programs. And what a job they and their helpers did. Again thanks, Marjorie and Agnes, for contributing to the overall meetings.

More Thanks

(Continued from Page 4)

and we are looking forward to the next meeting in Aurora."

"Our wall-to-wall thanks in return for the red-carpet treatment."

"Thank you again for the great time in Indianapolis. You two and the Wilsons really are the greatest!"

"It was such an interesting meeting and thank you so much for all you do to make everyone feel so special."

"The Illinois group will really have to hustle to even remotely come up to the Indianapolis meeting's entertainment."

"We wish to thank you for a very successful tool meeting. We had a great time!"

"Thanks, too, for the beautiful reception by the poolside. It was a wonderful time for the ladies to become better acquainted and everyone enjoyed it."

"You certainly set high standards for the rest of us to aim for. All we can do is watch and try to learn."

M-WTCA Members

By States

As of 10/16/78

Alabama ......... 2
Arizona ........... 6
Arkansas ......... 9
California ....... 3
Canada ............ 2
Colorado ......... 28
Connecticut ...... 1
England ........... 4
Florida ......... 15
France .......... 1
Georgia ......... 16
Idaho ............ 1
Illinois ...... 119
Indiana ....... 97
Iowa .......... 29
Kansas ........ 19
Kentucky ....... 6
Louisiana ...... 1
Maine ........... 1
Maryland ....... 2
Massachusetts .... 4
Michigan ....... 63
Minnesota ...... 12
Mississippi ...... 3
Missouri ...... 46
Nebraska ...... 15
New Hampshire .... 4
New Jersey ...... 5
New Mexico ...... 5
New York ....... 16
North Carolina .... 1
North Dakota .... 1
Ohio .......... 83
Oklahoma ...... 8
Oregon .......... 1
Pennsylvania .... 24
Rhode Island .... 1
South Carolina .... 2
South Dakota .... 2
Tennessee ....... 13
Texas .......... 4
Vermont ....... 3
Virginia ....... 5
Washington ...... 2
West Virginia .... 1
Wisconsin ...... 38
TOTAL ........ 725

Collector Patch Offered

Rudy Konkel has come up with a colorful tool collector's patch featuring the M-WTCA logo.
You can order one for $7 plus postage from Rudy.

EAIA MEETINGS
SPRING, May 17, 18, 19, 1979 - Dearborn, MI
FALL, Sept. 27, 28, 29, 1979 - Hagley, Winterthur, DE
SPRING, May 29, 30, 31, 1980 - Williamsburg, VA
FALL, Sept. 25, 26, 27, 1980 - Salem, MA

M-WTCA Meetings
SPRING, June 1, 2, 3, 1979 - Aurora, IL
Nick Larocco & James Grant
FALL, Oct. 5, 6, 7, 1979 - Detroit, MI - Don Peterson
SPRING, 1980 - Huntingdon, WV - Bob Bergdahl
FALL, 1980 - Nashville, TN - Bill Rigler
NEW MEMBERS
Since August 1978 Membership Directory

ALABAMA
James D. Rittmann Jr.
P.O. Box 73
Rockford, AL 35136
Spouse: Martha
205-377-4823

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Tubac, AZ 85646
602-398-2192

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Spouse: Dona
209-227-8475
James N. Rogers
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Pleasanton, CA 94566
Spouse: Carol
415-846-2703

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Spouse: Marjorie
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Spouse: Mary
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Spouse: Jean
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DECEASED
Emmett Bowman
Paducah, KY

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Spouse: Fran
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Wad Miller
207 9th Avenue South
Princeton, MN 55371
Spouse: Caroline
612-389-3698

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Kendall Bassett - WA
Change to:
1805 58th Street N.E.
Tacoma, WA 98422

Lowell Christen - NY
Change to:
88 Lexington Avenue, Apt. 1A
New York, NY 10016

David R. Kurtz - IN
Change to:
1715 Eisenhower Ct.
Lafayette, IN 47905

Keith Mansfield, MO
Change to:
1804 Iris Drive
Columbia, MO 65201

Robert McWilliams - OH
Change to:
112 Jacqueline Dr.
Oxford, OH 45056

John S. Moore - IL
Change to:
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Ray A. Nissen - WV
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PAGE 6
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414-453-2511

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Hastings, MI 49058
616-945-9715

Donald Peterson 1976-79
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Westland, MI 48185
Phone not listed

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Nicholas Larocco 1977-80
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Ronald Mossing 1977-80
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Area H
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Pennsylvania
West Virginia
Virginia
plus all states north and east of these states
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Clarence Hargis 1977-80
1012 No. Jefferson
Seminole, OK 74868
405-382-1847

Area J
Missouri
Joseph Stakes 1976-79
1044 Glenmoor Ln.
Glendale, MO 63122
314-822-8932

Area K
Arkansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
Tennessee
Hunter Pilkinton 1977-80
R. R. 1, Box 180
Waverly, TN 37185
615-296-2318

Area L
New Zealand
All states west of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas
Donald Buttel 1976-79
4128 Hooker St.
Denver, CO 80211
303-458-6579

Area M
Alabama
Florida
Georgia
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tom Ward
P.O. Box 11
Avondale Estates, GA 30002

Director Added
Area K grew so much it has been divided.
Tom Ward heads the new Area M, made up of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.
Hunter Pilkinton is the M-WTCA director for Area K.

Standing Committee Chairmen
Program Committee - Kenneth Runkle, 1918 Charles St., Lafayette, IN 47904
Gristmill Committee - Mary Lou Stover, 151-80th St. RR 1, Caledonia, WI 53108
Special Publications - Fred Malott, 105 W. Marion St., Converse, IN 46919
Whatst Committee - Ivan Risley, 4406 E. 107 Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64137
Auction Committee - Ivan Risley, 4406 E. 107 Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64137
Executive Committee - The above Standing Committee chairmen and the four officers.
WANTED: tin plate, bright, IX. Len Borkowski.

WANTED: Would the member who purchased the "Langabeer" owner stamp at the Ray Smith flea market consider selling it? Ray says it was the owner stamp that went with the tool box of 63 leather tools I bought at his auction. Mary Lou Stover.

WANTED: Musical instrument tools and moulds and crown moulding iron 5-1/2" to 6-1/2". Send description or picture and price. Bill Rigler

Rates: Up to 25 words $1.00; 3c each additional word.

Payment: Mail ads and check (made out to Tom Ward, M-WTCA Treasurer) to: Mary Lou Stover, 151-60th St. RR 1, Caledonia, WI 53108.

Deadline: Feb. 23 for March '79 issue.

Publication information: The Gristmill will be published in March, June, Sept., & Dec. Ads may be ordered for as many consecutive issues as desired if advance payment is included. Ads must be for tool or related material.

The Tool Shed is waiting to be filled with your wants and don't-wants. Just send your classified ads to Mary Lou Stover with a check for the proper amount.

With the revitalization of the classifieds—with your help—a new name was in order. The name credit goes to Bill Rigler.

The artwork was done in a jiffy by Len Borkowski, a master of more trades than tool collecting. Thanks, Len, for an attention getter we'll be looking for in each issue.

Mid-West Tool Collector's Association

Regional Affiliate of the Early American Industries Association