

Woodworkers Club

OF HOUSTON

VOL. 9, NO. 5

MAY, 1993

Officers

Bud Froelich - President 859-6620
Ted Kurland - Vice President 729-4693
Joe Wainright - Sec./Treasurer 666-8475

Board of Directors

Art Chester - 469-1990
Jack Conry - 463-7352
Denis Muras - 943-7745
Bill Smith - 356-6509

Sharon Buckley - Newsletter Editor 944-6739

APRIL PROGRAM

While researching for Mesquite dealers in and around Texas, Bud came across an article in Fine Woodworking November/December 1992 on a furniture maker in Cleveland, Texas. He called up Leslie Mizell and invited him to speak at our April meeting.

Leslie agreed to demonstrate a carved ball and foot and share some of his expertise with Mesquite.

Leslie and one helper works in a 1500 square foot shop in Cleveland, Texas and turns out one to two pieces of furniture a week. His work is mostly straight line Shaker and Contemporary style furniture.

Leslie brought with him a large veneer table top of Mesquite to show us what not to do with Mesquite veneer and yellow glue. Leslie uses a vacuum bag which he made himself from junk yead refrigerator compressor, the bag he made from a clear plastic table cloth which he seamed the edges with hot melt glue. The vacuum bag worked but he used yellow glue which cured to fast and left bubbles in the veneer after two days of trying to repair the flaws he decided to start all over using white glue. With the white glue you can wet the veneer surface and iron out the mistakes. Because of the humidity he does not use hide glue.

Because of the way that Mesquite grows it is very hard to get good wood or veneer, most will have holes, etc. which most Mesquite workers use epoxy with various pigments or fillers to hide or accent.

Leslie says that Mesquite wood sands easier than any wood he has ever used, he says that a rasp can do wonders when sculpting wood and a piece of sand paper will last a very long time because of the dryness of the wood. Leslie uses 80 grit sandpaper on a dowel or block to do fine rasping and finishes with 220 grit.

Leslie finishes with Linseed oil or Danish oil, diluted with mineral spirits, which he lets dry

overnight. Next he applies a diluted sanding sealer and a top-coat with a few coats of diluted lacquer, he uses it heavily diluted so to have a finish that looks like oil but which still gives protection to the piece. Next he uses #0000 steel wool and then last a coat of wax. The piece is finished but the wood colors can range from honey-brown to pink, and may appear to be mismatched, even though these colors may all appear in the same board. Leslie then sets the finished piece in direct sunlight, which allows the ultraviolet rays to blend the colors of the wood. The wood darkens and becomes a deep rich, beautiful red. A full day of direct sunlight can make a tremendous difference.

For strength on the back legs of chairs he resaws the wood and glues it back together.

If a woodworker can see three dimensionally he can carve a Ball and Foot. First you cut the shape of the leg on a bandsaw, then you do the lay out work, you mark the center, using a compass draw the outside circle, next using the compass draw a line 1/4 inch in from the outside circle. Now you can start carving that Ball and Claw foot.

To keep those chisels sharp he uses a cardboard paper disc rolled in white glue then he rolls this in carborundum and another cardboard disc rubbed in rouge to finish sharpening.

Leslie says that a good furniture makers knows how to cover his mistakes and a real good furniture makes know how to cover his helpers mistakes.

We would like to thank Leslie Mizell for an interesting and very informative program on Mesquite and How to Carve a Ball and Foot.

DON'T TOSS OUT THAT WOODEN CUTTING BOARD.

That statement is contrary to all that has been stated by various health experts. Bill Hochmuth found the following article in the

The Houston Post March 3, 1993. Now that many careful cooks have replaced their wooden cutting boards with plastic ones in effort to avoid spreading bacteria, two researchers say wood is better after all.

Bacteria, such as salmonella found in raw chicken, was thought to soak into a wood board and contaminate other foods. It was presumed the bacteria would find a non-porous surface like plastic less hospitable.

Two scientists at the Food Research Institute of the University of Wisconsin in Madison found, however, was that wood was safe.

Microbiologists Dean O Cliver and Nese O. Ak contaminated wooden and plastic boards with several bacteria-salmonella, listeria and E. coli that cause food poisoning.

Three minutes after contamination, 99.9 percent of the bacteria on wood had died, while none of the bacteria on plastic had died. And bacteria increased on plastic boards kept overnight at room temperature, while no bacteria could be found the next morning on wood left at room temperature, the researchers said.

Since this article came out there have been many more articles--a more detailed article appeared in the May issue of Workshop News. The researchers are continuing their work to find out just why wood does this to bacteria. They do suggest that if you do use a wood cutting board to keep one for raw meat and another cutting for all other cuttings.

SAFETY

By Zatis Murphy

Bandsaw safety--first all most all of the safety rules for other tools apply to the bandsaw.

The blade on the bandsaw must be properly tensioned and remember teeth down not up. This sounds silly but sometimes when you receive a new blade, the blade has been sort of turned inside out and you must reverse it or it will never have the teeth facing down.

Set the tension correctly on your saw, most saws have a scale for each blade width but don't completely go by these scales. Each bandsaw blade can be a little short or a little long, they can also stretch so periodically recheck the tension. After you have installed a new blade use a sharpening stone or a tool specifically designed for rounding the back edges of the blade. While the saw is running first gently place the tool at the back of blade, then gently round the sharp corner edges--you will get sparks off of this procedure so be sure to first clean any saw dust off of the bandsaw--inside and out. Do not touch the teeth or you will ruin the set and probably ruin the blade. This procedure will allow the blade to turn sharper turns and basically improve the performance of the saw.

The next thing you need to do is get rid of those steel guide blocks and buy cool blocks. You can set cool blocks closer to the blade

and if the blade touches the cool blocks you will not damage the teeth. They also cause the blade to run cooler and the blade should last longer.

Avoid backing out of a cut while running the saw, if you have to back out turn off the saw first.

Use jigs when ever you can, such as a small sliding table for small dowels and repetitive cuts.

Don't reach for those small drop off pieces while the saw is running.

Use the proper size blades, use push sticks and be sure the top post or guide is close to the wood.

For long pieces use an outfeed roller or an assistant, if using an assistant he should not pull the work through.

After finishing cutting for the day relieve the tension on the blade, if the blade is under tension for a long time it can flatten the tire. Make yourself a sign to remind you to retension the blade.

Some saws like the Sears saw have a grooved top, if this is a problem you can make a top to sit on top of this table with various types of plexiglass.

With a smooth top, keep it waxed, the work will glide smoothly over the top and keep that rust away.

If you have a miter gauge slot that is a nuisance just cut a strip of wood to fit snugly and flush into that slot. I read where one woodworker filled that slot with auto body filler and sanded it smooth--I just hope he never needs that slot for jig or miter gauge.

DO NOT USE A DULL BLADE you are only courting danger.

Think about what you are doing before you make the cut.

DAVID MARSH FURNITURE FIELD TRIP AND BAR-B-QUE.

On Saturday morning April 17th a large group from the Woodworker club and their better halves were entertained with great artistic talent and good eats by David Marsh. David was a great host showing off his work and sharing with us his expertise. David answered hundreds of questions and demonstrated some of the techniques that he and his fellow workers use to create these interesting pieces of furniture.

We have been to many different business but have never had anyone be as generous with his knowledge as David has been.

If you missed it you really missed a great outing and some really good Bar-b-que.

We can't thank David enough for his generosity.

MAY FIELD TRIP

On May 15th at 9:00 A. M. we will have a field trip to Visser Rowland Assoc. Inc. at 2033 Johanna, 688-7346. See map next page.

THE "WITH" OF WOODWORKING

By Walt Turpening

Bud Froelich's President's Corner has stirred thoughts that I have been harboring for some time now. Bud talked about all of his high-tech sanders and the dust they create; fine dust that gets into everything. As such he needs a high-tech dust mask. I have one that my wife gave me for a Christmas present. I use it along with my sound deadening ear muffs when I fire up my 4 x 24 belt sander or power plane or planer or finish sander. I must look in-human trying to keep the hazards of dust from making me sick. Is that why I work with wood? NO! All of that dust from all of the sanding. Now it is a hazard. Wearing all of the stuff keeps me away from the wood.

As I think about my most satisfying periods of woodwork they were when I had a rhythm and flow to the cutting and shaping. Lately I have been taking out my wooden planes to do a finish and returning to the way I started learning to work with wood. That is the key. I must feel the "with" in my work and power tools tend to diminish my feel for the wood. I know when I am in the with mode of work; there is a feeling in my hands as the plane or Spokeshave peels curls of transparent wood.

I think back to how Frank Flynn taught me the use of a plane to finish a surface and then use the wonderful shavings to polish the surface. The pile of wood dust is no fun but a pile of shavings around my workbench was fun. It is like, a pile of leaves in the fall. The rhythm and wonderful sound of my fine tuned plane cleanly cutting shavings from cherry or maple or walnut is immensely satisfying. That is why I work with wood. Making pleasing pieces, in a pleasing environment, to please myself and someone else, and to have pleasing memories of the work and the wood.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Should bandsaw tires be glued to the wheel? Most bandsaw tires should not be glued to the wheel, but a tire will stretch and crack from age and wear. Even a new tire can be bad. So just replace that bad tire. Pasadena Industrial stocks tires for the Delta Bandsaw for around \$16.00 each.

We then got into a discussion on to the quality of various bandsaws and their worth at cheap price. When buying a band saw it is best to check with various members as they can relate their experiences best. From talk around the woodpile the Sears tilting head bandsaw would not be a good buy unless you would rather tinker and rebuild instead of doing woodwork.

Bandsaws have a lot of opportunity for bad performance. The sturdiness of the construction, the wheels, are they balanced, coplanar, is the table top flat, how good are the bushings, the tires, is there a local source that you can replace them when they go bad and they will go bad, what about other parts, the little insert that sits flush in the table, I had one go concave on my newest saw, but they were available locally and what about that motor.

Leonard Elkholt against his better judgement purchased a Penn 6 x 48 sander, his rating is it is a piece of junk, the first thing he had to do was buy a new motor.

But not all overseas tools are bad some are very good, just check them out first, don't just buy by price and make sure that company is going to be there when you have a problem.

Just remember you get what you pay for.

FEATURE PROJECT--White Elephant- or that first awful project that you made.

Bud Froelich's wife wouldn't let him bring his first jewelry stand as it looks like an erotic spaceship with arms.

Robert Sandlin showed us a seven year old lidded box with a still sticky finish.

Joe Cook brought a redwood burlap bag holder for filling grain that he made as a kid and even won a purple ribbon.

SHOW AND TELL

Leonard Elkholt made a 1931 Cadillac, which took 30 hours and an child's addirondic chair.

Chuck Maxwell copied a portable workbench from Leightung.

Lewis Vallette made a roll about holder for his lathe chisels and showed us that fly cutter that he custom made.

Jimmie Harp made a panel saw from a kit and plans out of Woodsmith. The kit includes all the hardware, you supply the wood and the steel ways. Instead of plywood Jimmie used MDF Medium Density Fiberboard for weight and stability. He added a switch on the top face for convience. The back part folds and with the wheels on front you can roll it around the shop. An for storage it folds flat against the wall. It cost less than \$200.00 and he made in one weekend.

Monte Laramore made an Hardwood intarsia Jesus, the plans were from Judy Gale Roberts and took about a year to complete.

MAY'S FEATURE PROJECT

Tools or Devices you have made for a special project.

MAY MEETING

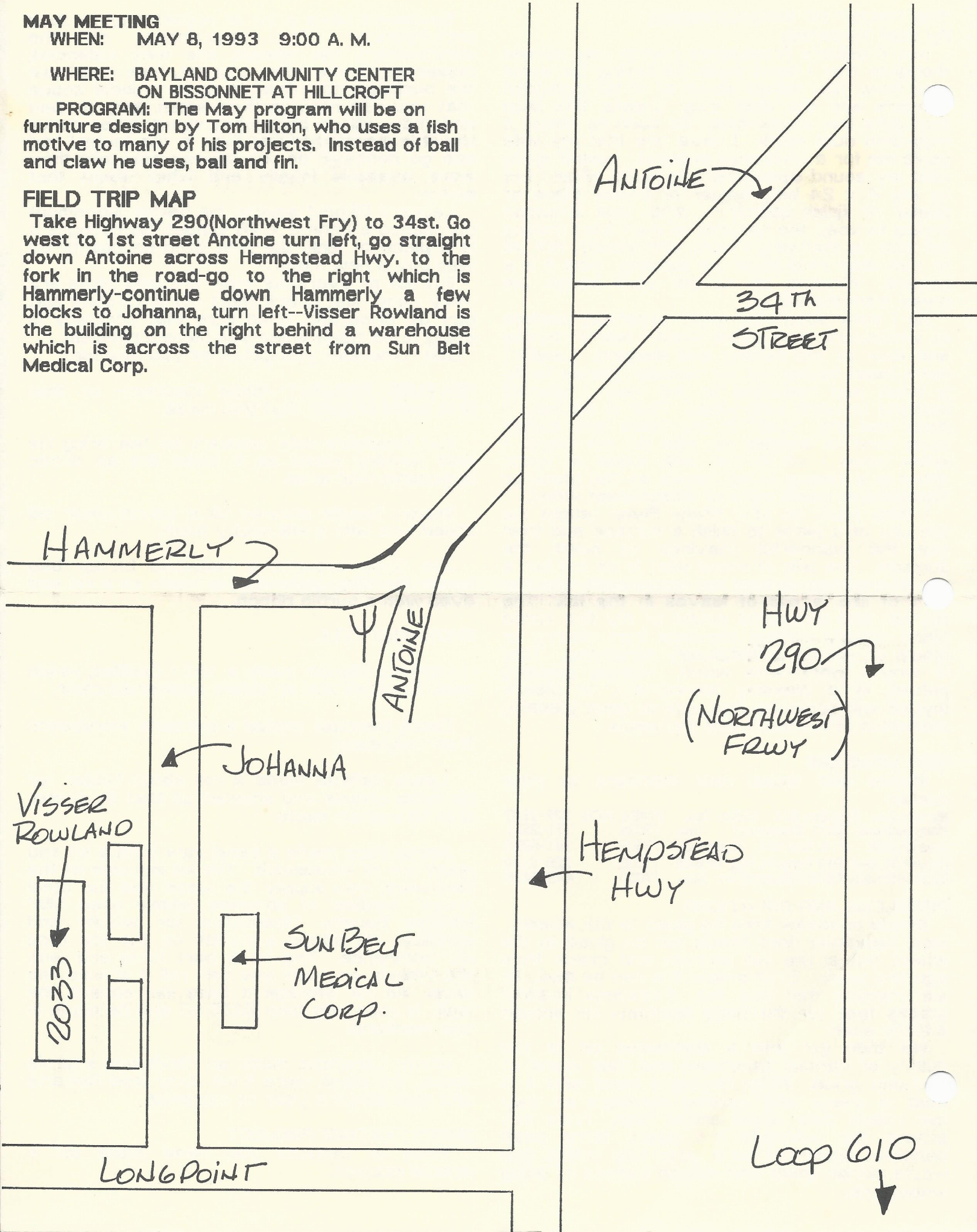
WHEN: MAY 8, 1993 9:00 A. M.

WHERE: BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER
ON BISSONNET AT HILLCROFT

PROGRAM: The May program will be on furniture design by Tom Hilton, who uses a fish motive to many of his projects. Instead of ball and claw he uses, ball and fin.

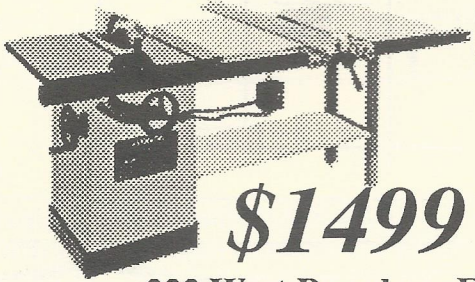
FIELD TRIP MAP

Take Highway 290(Northwest Fry) to 34st. Go west to 1st street Antoine turn left, go straight down Antoine across Hempstead Hwy. to the fork in the road-go to the right which is Hammerly-continue down Hammerly a few blocks to Johanna, turn left--Visser Rowland is the building on the right behind a warehouse which is across the street from Sun Belt Medical Corp.



Pasadena Industrial Supply

Delta Unisaw Special Edition



\$1499

LIMITED QUANTITY!! This special edition 3 hp unisaw is the same model we have been selling for year with a small difference, this version **does not** have the LVC control. 52" uniface is std equipment as is the motor cover and all the other quality items that make a Unisaw the most desired table saw in the U.S.

Delta #36-820 3hp unisaw 230v with 52" uniface
Table boards not included

222 West Pasadena Freeway, Pasadena Texas 77506 472-5588



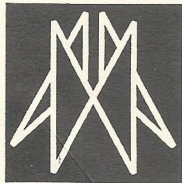
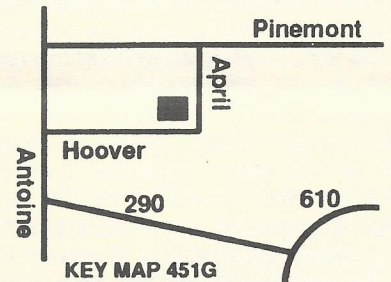
5117 April Lane, Houston, Texas 77092
 Hours: M-F 7:30-5:00 SAT 8:30-12:30
 (713) 686-6176 Phone
 (713) 686-3217 Fax

DOMESTIC & IMPORTED HARDWOODS

Ash, Basswood, Birch, Cedar, Cherry, Cypress, Mahogany, Maple, Red Oak, White Oak, Padouk, Poplar, Purpleheart, Redwood, Sycamore, Teak, Virola, White Pine, Walnut, and More.

High Quality Domestic & Imported Plywoods, Softwoods, Hardwood Veneer Edgbanding & Hardwood Veneers
Excellent Service & Competitive Prices!

ON SITE CUSTOM MILLING TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS, S2S, S2S1E, S4S
 (No order too large or too small) 10/93



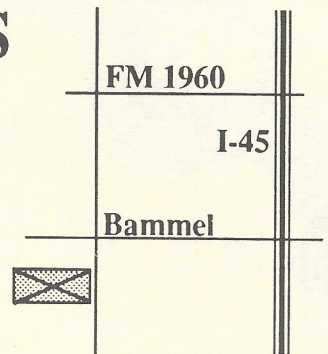
AUSTIN HARDWOODS

13001 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR.
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77014

440-0764

We stock over 80 species of lumber including rare exotics and turning stock. Plywood, Veneer, Moulding, Flooring, Tools, Millwork, Paneling Etc. also available

Exp. 2/93

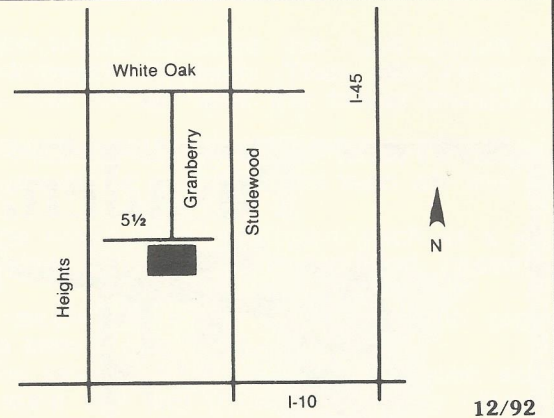


HARDWOOD LUMBER CO.

700 E. 51/2 St. (In The Heights)
Houston, Texas 77007
(713) 862-6628
Hours: M-F 7:30-5:00, Sat. 8:30-1:30

We stock over 65 species of lumber including
hard to find exotics!

Also: Plywood, Veneer, Moulding, Formica,
Custom Milling, Woodworking Tools, Books, etc.



Send Today for the Most Complete Catalog Selection of Woodworking Supplies

Please Enclose \$1.00 (3rd class) or \$2.00 (1st class)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Orders Shipped Within 48 Hours

7/93



21801 Industrial Blvd., Rogers, MN 55374

PRINTED BY SPEEDY PRINTING SERVICE OF TEXAS 3433 WEST ALABAMA, SUITE C • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027 • 713-877-8466

Woodworkers Club of Houston
P.O. Box 34481
Houston, Tx 77234

