

# WOODWORKERS

## CLUB OF HOUSTON

VOL. 4, NO. 4

APRIL, 1988

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### MARCH MEETING

The well attended meeting was in for a treat, Visser-Rowland organ builders, hosted by Patrick Quigley. This was a much requested return from a very successful June 1986 meeting.

Patrick Quigley has been building mechanical action organs for 18 years. These organs are built in the same basic manner as the oldest surviving organs of the 14th century. The keyboard is mechanically linked to the pipes, through a series of rods and levers. Mechanical organs are considered Baroque.

During the 19th century, innovations such as electric blowers and pneumatic key linkages were introduced. In the 20th century, the Romantic organs were built to duplicate other instruments, and used electrical switches to control the pipes.

From the 1950's until now, Baroque organs have become increasingly popular. The mechanical action gives these organs a feel which can be varied by the speed at which the keys are hit. Electrical switches are either on or off.

Visser-Rowland is a very successful builder of Baroque organs, with orders stretching out to 1993. The smallest organ is about \$70,000.00, while the largest is up to \$1 Million. These organs are built to last over 100 years, although the felt and leather parts may have to be replaced after 50 years.

Honduras mahogany provides the wood for most of the pipes because of its even density, ready workability and knot free surface. Pipes are glued up with biscuit joints. The metal pipes viewed by the public are imported from Holland and Germany. An organ can have several thousand pipes, ranging in size from smaller than a pencil to 64 feet tall (although most organs do not have pipes greater than 16 or 32 feet).

The organ is built of several sections, including keyboard, airchambers, and pipe ranks. The one under construction had pipe

ranks 24 feet high, built of mahogany frames that can be disassembled for shipment.

Pipes are tuned by literally changing their size with special tools. The entire project may take 3 months or more to complete, and installation may take a couple of weeks. They are marvelous, giant jigsaw puzzles. Local examples of Visser-Rowland organs can be found at St. Annes Catholic Church, and the smaller organ at the Second Baptist Church.

Thanks to our Hosts for a Marvelous tour.

### OLD BUSINESS

Video Tape Loan---These tapes are lent only to club members.

Library---The Club Library will be catalogued, and sign out cards inserted in all materials, including Woodsmiths. Remember, only one Woodsmith issue at a time. A fine for late return will be imposed.

### NEW BUSINESS

Gayle Robinson has volunteered to help out as ASSISTANT NEWSLETTER EDITOR.

A field trip to Big Thicket Rocking Chairs is planned for possibly May or June.

### SAFETY

By Zatis Murphy

SPEED---- According to Webster--noun, 1. the act or start of moving swiftly 2. the rate of motion.

There's a right speed for everything. Many would agree that 50 or 60 miles an hour is the right speed to drive a car on a freeway; few would agree it's the right speed in their garage! CHOOSE YOUR SPEED CAREFULLY. Woodworkers need to be concerned about the running speed of their power tools. For example, modern drill presses often have speed ranges of 300-4500 rpm. The right speed to use depends on the type of operation planned. As a general rule, the larger the bit used for drilling, the slower

the speed. Hole saw speeds should not exceed 400 rpm and drum sanders, 2300 rpm. Special bits, such as expansion bits and fly wheel cutters where only one blade or tooth is doing the cutting, should be run at the slowest speed possible. Consider also the type of material being worked....wood, plastic, metal, etc. Not all materials should be cut at the same speed, even when the same size bit is used. It's best to consult the owner's manual or a reference book to make certain the drilling or cutting is done safely. Be sure that the work piece is held securely during the operation; this may require the use of clamps or holding jigs. Also be sure the bit is properly aligned and held tightly in the chuck.

Another common variable-speed tool is the lathe. As with drilling speeds, the turning speeds must be adjusted to the cutting operation. bowl or plate turning, where only one end of the work piece is held by the lathe, can be particularly hazardous. It's tempting to use high speeds to achieve smooth surfaces, but higher speeds may cause the piece to fly off the face plate. Check to insure the piece is firmly attached and use only sharp cutting tools. Don't try to cut too much too fast by applying excessive pressure with the tool. The added force may lead to disaster. Cutting tools running at high speeds have the potential for grabbing a work piece and turning it into a projectile. Consult the manual, a reference book or someone with experience for guidance if you have any doubts about the operation.

Many power tools run at fixed speeds. Among these are routers, joiner, planers, shapers and the like. These power tools often run at 20,000--35,000 rpm. Make sure the cutting blades are sharp and properly aligned. As with all rotating equipment, do not wear loose clothing that may get pulled into the tool, keep your body away from cutting edges, don't let the work piece get away from you, plan your work in advance and work safely. **REMEMBER TO WEAR EYE PROTECTION. FORESIGHT IS BETTER THAN NO SIGHT !**

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

By Sharon Buckley

I know it seems like we just finished with the 1987 Charity Show but the Officers and Board Members are already talking about ways to make it a bigger success than each of the previous years, it gets a little tougher---but we hope through experience to learn and grow.

It might be a little early some might say to start planning. I don't want to run it in the ground but I would like to make some suggestions and also to get ideas and feed back from the members.

Last year we had stressed projects \$25.00 and under, we still want items in this price bracket but we would also like more items in the \$25.00 and up price range.

In 1987 we had to make 2--3 times more sales than in 1986 to finish with a \$3500.00

total, because there were so many items under \$15.00. How about a few larger or more expensive pieces. I know some of the members make a test project in less expensive woods (like pine) why not finish it and sell it at the charity show.

What I plan on doing is to start now! No I don't intend to start making items just for the Charity Show, but when I make an item that I think might sell, I plan on making one or more of these items. We all know that its just as easy to make multiples of an item as it is to make just one. Why don't we all try this and we won't be panicked in September as what to make.

**WHAT TO MAKE ?** Every year we ask this same question---Who Knows !!

One year an item sells, next year you couldn't give it a away--and what didn't sell one year goes like hot cakes the next year. If you have items left over from last year please donate them again this year. It might be the year these items will be a Hot Ticket.

I know the group that Chuck and I worked in and Jimmy Harps group, have items left over from last year.

Working in groups can be fun and full of information. Why not get together with some woodworkers in your area and work together.

If you have any experience or any ideas about Charity events--please let me know.

Bill Sallans will be heading up the advertising. Do you have ideas for FREE publicity: Radio Station, D.J., Television Station or Program. that might give us a free plug on their show. Let Bill or me know.

That's the last mention of the Charity Show till we start forming committees.

## **PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS**

Bartley's paste varnish is well recommended. A-1 Lanes carries it.

Thin Japanese saw blades can grab and throw work. Nice cuts but be careful.

Scratches in plexiglass can be buffed out with automotive rubbing compound or toothpaste.

Radial cracks in oak can be filled with silvers of oak or oak veneer glued in place.

## **BUY AND SELL**

For sale: Rick Goodheart is selling a 6" Craftsman Jointer with a 3/4 HP. motor. 434-8825.....\$250.00.

Wants to Buy: Used Belt Sander Bench Type not portable and Band Saw two wheel older type. If you have want to sell contact John Ganey 370-6178.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Group Purchases--- our group purchase Chairman Doug Blodgett has other pressing commitments and cannot continue as Group Purchase Chairman---if you would like to be chairman of this interesting committee just let me know and its yours.

We have a group of members who would like to purchase the aluminum clamps if you would like to be included---please sign up.

Reynolds Laminates is holding a clinic.

## SHOW AND TELL

Steve Procter exhibited a small 4 drawer sewing cabinet made for a client. The joinery is spline miter, the wood is Sapelle over medium density fiberboard substrate. The drawer panel had solid mahogany edging inserted prior to veneering. This eliminated some taping of edges. The baltic birch drawers were constructed with a locking joint that is simple and easy. A clinic to demonstrate this method of drawer construction will be held in May.

Ted King showed a fine bench made from 50 cent a foot lumber. Very nice jointery.

Leonard Ekholm had several craft show items, including stamp dispensers, a bulletin board and letter opener finished with a light coat of superglue. This changes the density of the wood.

Gerry Oberton demonstrated a "dead man" anchor for pitching tents in sandy soil.

Robert Sandlin had an innovative thermos holder hot-melt glued to a playmate cooler.

Henry Reed showed a trio of nesting Myrtle wood boxes. Henry claimed they had no practical value, but they sure were good looking.

## SHOP TALK ON SANDING

By Don Sloan

What I have learned is that sanding is, after all other work has been done, the first step leading to a good finish. Rarely do you need to use sand paper beyond 150 grit. Most of the work can be done with 120 grit.

The wood sanding is what the name implies--abrasive-glue-paper. the papers are good and bad. the sand has been replaced with particles of garnet, aluminum oxide or silicon carbide. The particles in most cases are fused to the paper electronically.

I have found the open-coat silicon-carbide paper the best. It is more expensive, but is harder and cuts faster.

The term used as to open-coat and closed-coat tells the density of the particles on the paper. The open-coat has about 50% coverage on the paper. the closed-coat has 100% coverage. Although closed-coat cuts faster on hardwood, it will clog up more quickly on softwood. You can clean or clear your sandpaper, with a brush-compressed air--rubber stick and simple sandpaper-cleaning fluids. I don't like the fluids.

If your shop is not air conditioned or at a constant temperature and humidity level--it

helps to keep your paper and belts on a shelf in the house.

## SUPER GLUE

By Leonard Ekholm

Super glue is Cyanoarylate Ester. Almost every brand I have used is basically the same; the only real difference is a thin and gel type. You can glue metal to wood, glass to metal, porcelain to glass and wood to wood. Almost everything holds and it's waterproof.

In order for super glue to work properly you need an accelerator or sometimes called an activator. Its purpose is to quicken the setting time and some say, make a stronger joint. I have only been able to buy this at hobby shops. When using super glue it's important to keep it off you, as it really works well in gluing fingers together. Fortunately, there is a glue remover available now and easily obtainable. Before using the glue rub a few drops of oil on you fingers. It helps remove small amounts without remover.

I use the thin type almost all the time, as it's almost impossible to find a glue line; and its sets faster than the gel. The gel type sets slower and fills gaps. One use is chair joints. It really tightens them up and it lasts.

Both types of glue are very expensive and not for general use around a woodworking shop. SOME OF ITS USES ARE:

Replacing splinters.

Filling small nail holes. (Fill the hole with sanding dust and then apply a drop.)

It's great for gluing in screw plugs.

Re-gluing a broken glued joint without having to take everything apart. This works most of the time.

A drop on a nut and bolt will stop them from coming apart except with a screwdriver and wrench. The nut and bolt must be clean.

I occasionally make threads in wood. To do this, after I drill the hole I use a few drops of glue in the hole before threading it. I then thread the wood (and again use super glue on it), and then re-cut the threads. Depending on the wood, it's now almost as strong as a brass nut. Waterproofing the edges of plywood.

As you use this glue you will find many more uses for it. One more hint. Buy in small sizes, as it has a short shelf life once it's opened--especially in hot weather.

## APRIL MEETING

WHEN: APRIL 9TH 9:00 A.M.

WHERE: WAY ENGINEERING CLASSROOM  
5304 ASHBROOK

PROGRAM: The program will be on Hand Planeing Techniques by Ken McBride. Ken is a professional woodworker and an expert on Hand Tools, new and old.

He will explain and demonstrate about new and antique planes.

To get there --take the 610 Loop West to Fournace/Bissonet, which is the first exit South of the Southwest Freeway(Hwy.59). Turn south to Royaltan and then west to Ashbrook.



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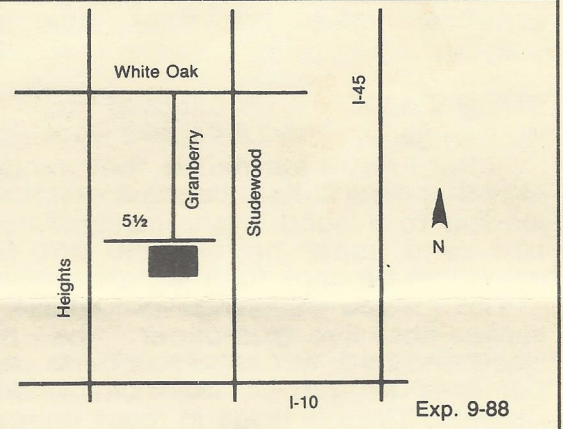


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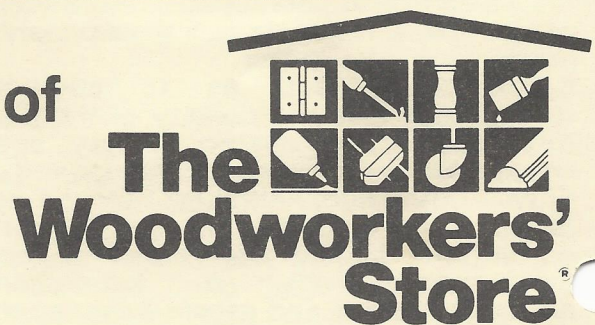
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