

Woodworkers Club of Houston

December, 2005

Volume 21, #12

www.wwch.org



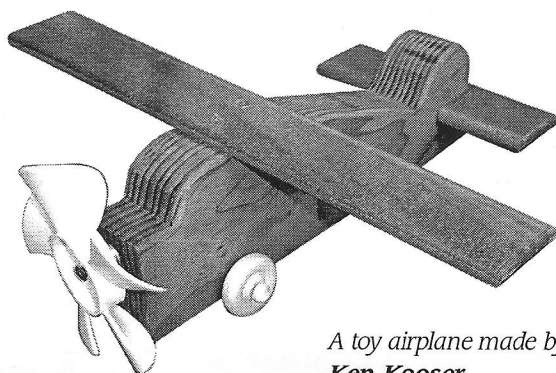
This year's WWCH toy drive a huge success.

by Eddie Arnold

Although we are still collecting toys to distribute at Christmas here is the current toy situation: 160 Cars, 130 trucks, 25 elephants, 4 guitars and even some worms, just to name a few. With over four hundred and twenty five toys collected (along with a couple of toy boxes), I think that it would be safe to say that the toy drive has been an overwhelming success. And it is not over yet, you can still bring toys to the December meeting.

I would like to thank all of the members who helped make this year's toy drive such a success. I would especially like to thank the members who attended the committee meetings and shared their ideas, experiences and opinions. Key members of the meeting were **Andy Anderson** who gathered up and distributed the patterns and wheels, **Hugh Parker** for guidance as well as donating wheels, **Dottie Forbes** for making the necessary phone calls and narrowing down the list of organizations we will be giving the toys to and **Guy Pike** of **Houston Hardwoods** for generously donating the hardwood cut outs, many of them used to make our toys.

It should also be noted that over half of the toys



A toy airplane made by **Ken Kooser**

were made by **Bill Cole** and **Lon Kelly**.

The organizations that we have decided to support will be attending the December meeting to collect the toys.

It was decided at the last WWCH Board of Directors meeting that the toys will be divided between two organizations: The Mission of

Yahweh and Houston Children's Charities, both are great organizations and were very excited about receiving the toys. A representative of each group will

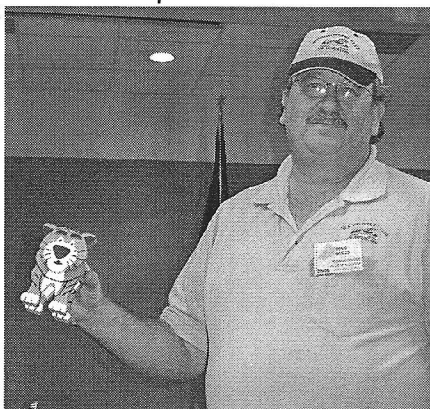
briefly speak at the December meeting.

The Mission of Yahweh empowers homeless and abused women and their children. A truly unique refuge that not only gives food, clothing and shelter, but is also committed to rehabilitating women to become self-sufficient, productive members of society. The Mission of Yahweh, shelters, clothes and feeds over 700 women and children per year while

supporting over 4000 neighborhood residents with donations of food, clothing and other necessities.

Houston Children's Charities is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of

(continued on page 2)



WWCH member **Dennis Muras** shows off a toy tiger he made.

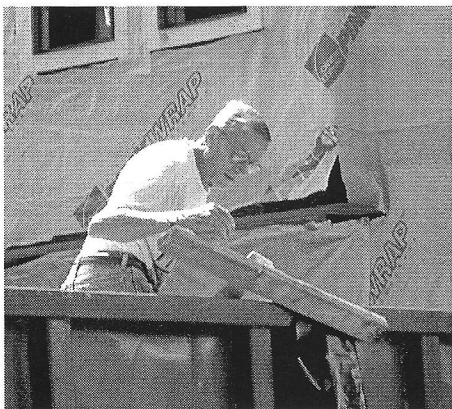
The Club will promote woodworking by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, to help members improve their woodworking skills and techniques and to promote safer woodworking habits and conditions. 



Meagan Kelley shows some of the WWCH toys that are destined for Santa's delivery this Christmas.

underprivileged, handicapped and abused children in the Houston community. The organization's goal is to provide assistance to agencies or individuals who lack sufficient funds to meet their own needs. Houston Children's Charities supports more than 40 agencies in Houston and the surrounding communities.

WWCH members can take comfort that the



WWCH member **Bill Cole** searches for only the finest cut-offs in his quest to build toys for Christmas.

organization is doing what it can to support their community this Christmas. The true spirit of Christmas is alive and well in the works of our members.

A few weeks before the Christmas of 1897 a young girl wrote to the editor of the New York Sun.

'Dear Editor,

I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in the Sun, it's so."

Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Yours truly,

Virginia O'Hanlon



Virginia looked in vain for many days to see if her letter has been answered. Then, just when she was beginning to give up hope, the following editorial appeared.

'Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been effected by the

skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there was no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in friends! You might get your papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God, he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay ten times ten thousands years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.'



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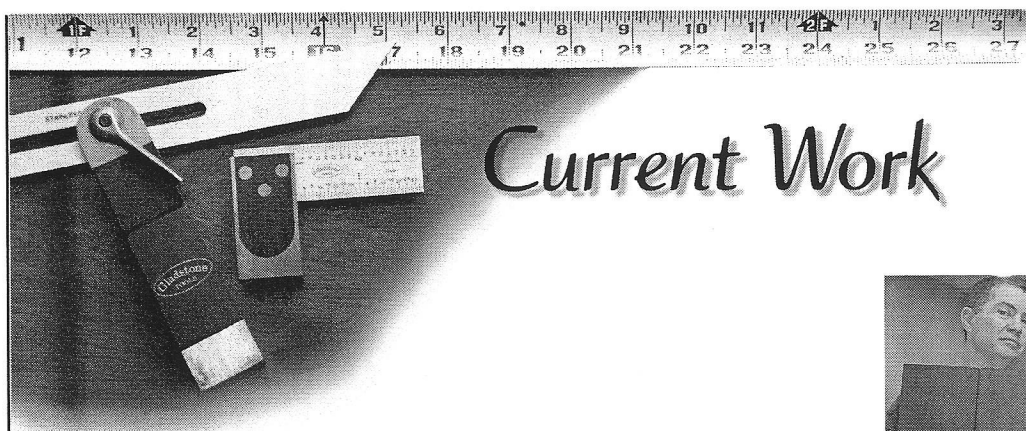
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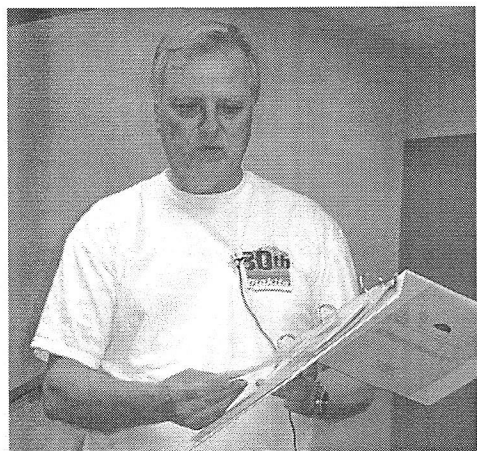
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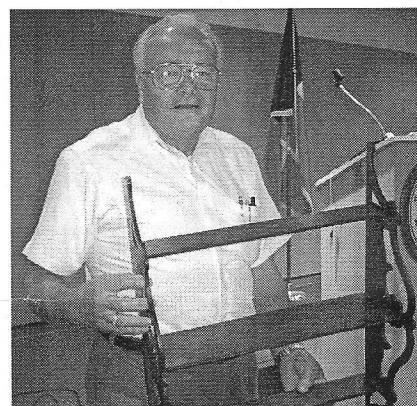
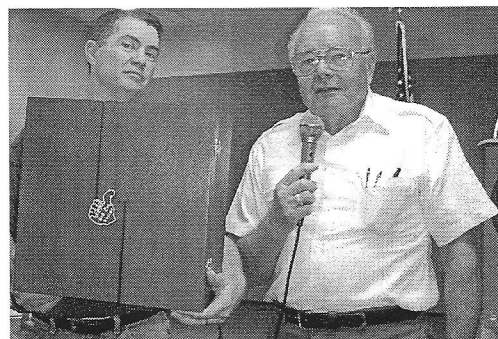
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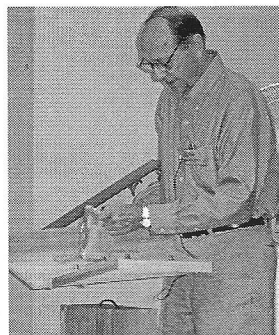
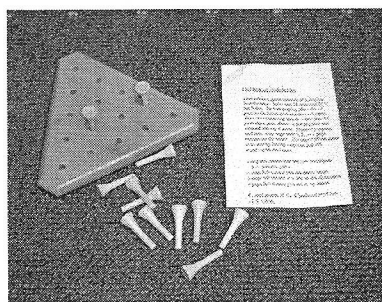
Current Work



Glenn Edwards made this CD cabinet for his granddaughter. Glenn used 1/2 inch finish plywood from Finland. The knic-knak shelf he's holding below was built by Glenn for his mom when he was only 9 years old.

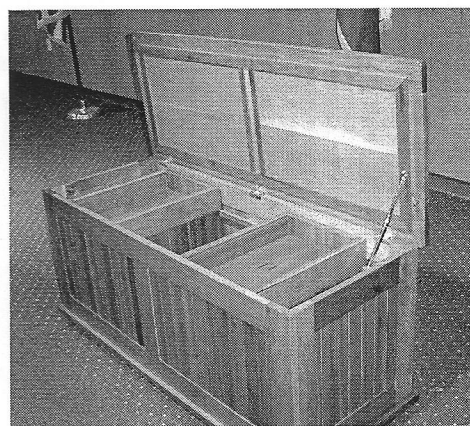
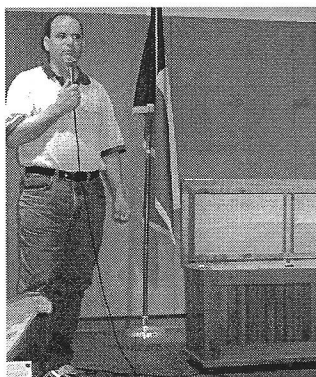


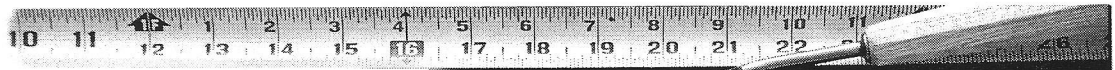
Jack Hutchison talked about his entries and the awards he won at the Kerrville Furniture Show. Way to go, Jack!



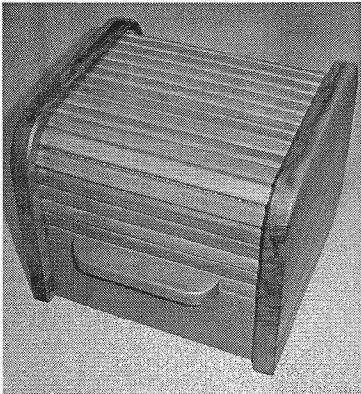
Markus Brun shows club members how he rigged the jig to make sets of Cherokee Checkers. They are inspired by the games you find at Cracker Barrel Restaurant. These are donations to a youth center and required no sharp edges or points which explains the stubbed golf tees and truncated triangle points.

Mark Bolinger talks to club members about his cherry blanket chest. Note that the frames are planed and NOT sanded.

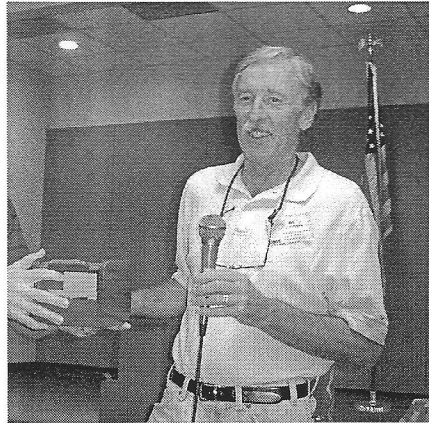




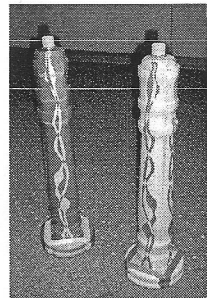
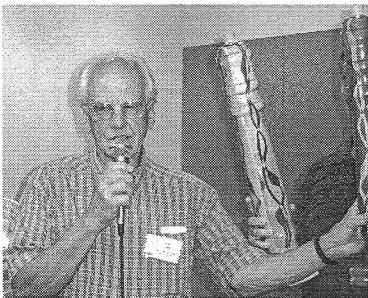
Current Work



Bill Cochrane described how he carefully put the tambour top together on his recipe box by watching his radius and rounding his edges.



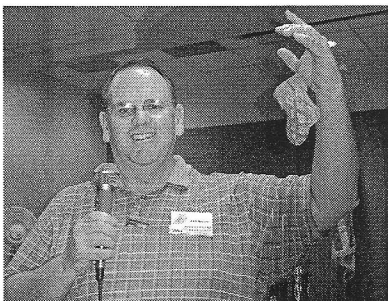
John Gay elected not to demonstrate how to use his child's rocker of cabinet grade lumber core plywood. With this design you can get four horses from one sheet. John's neighbor did the painted artwork.



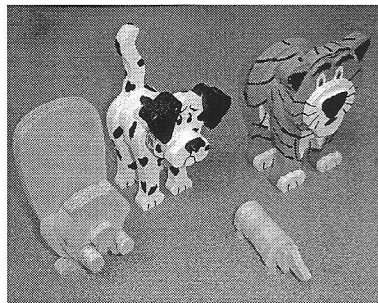
These turned lamps of maple and mahogany attest to the skill of **Lon Kelley**.



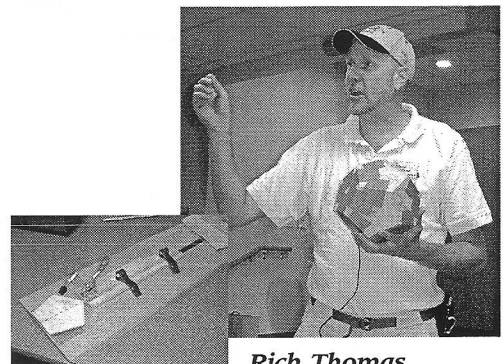
Ken Kooser holds an airplane he crafted. See the front cover for a close-up.



John McGeough explains how he epoxied turquoise inlays into oak to craft these fine Christmas tree ornaments.



Denis Muras (see photo front page) showed club members some toys he crafted.



Rich Thomas explained the details involved in cutting the angles required to create his dodecahedron, a "geodome" of pentagons using his home made jig to cut the bevels.

My Eleven-Dollar Coffee Table

A Cautionary Tale by Rudy Lippert

Fresh out of grad school and gainfully employed with an honest-to-God salary, I was "fixin" to furnish my first apartment. Décor was very much of the brick-and-board school. It occurred to me that I could make a very simple (but striking) coffee table out of two untreated railroad ties. If memory serves, the dimension of a tie was 6-in x 9-in x 9 feet. All it would take would be 6 cuts: four to lop of a set of 6-inch pieces for the feet, 2 for the crossbars and the remainder would be the body of the table. Simple. No fasteners. Gravity would hold it together.

I found a supplier of ties in the yellow pages. They quoted me a price of \$5.50 per tie (this was 1970). Perfect! I could afford \$11.00 for a coffee table.

I rented a pick-up (\$20 per day) and during my lunch hour headed for the railroad tie boutique to collect (what was now) a \$31 coffee table. At the tie place, I discovered a couple of things: 1) I couldn't load my own ties. It had to be done by a union worker; 2) the union didn't work during the lunch hour, and 3) all the really good ties were contracted to the Union Pacific. The ones they were selling me were slightly warped. I headed back, turned in the pickup at the rental place and learned that there was also a 25 cent per mile charge. Now my table had become a \$36 dollar item.

Several days later, I slipped out of the office early, phoned ahead to be sure the Union was ready for me, rented a truck and picked up my \$60 dollar coffee table.

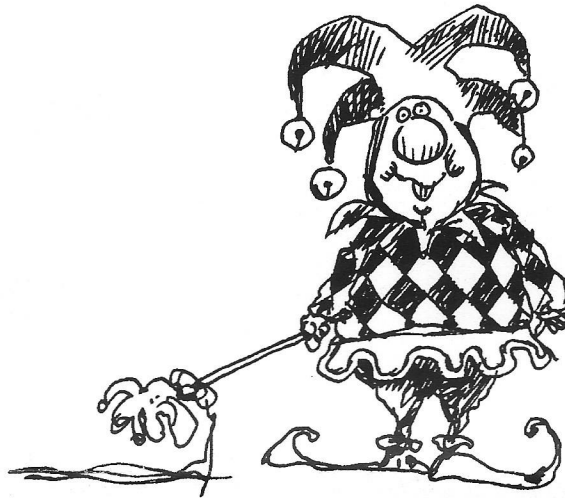
Over the weekend, I lugged the ties to the home of a friend who owned a table saw. It took a few hours, but eventually it sunk in that the average table saw, owned by the average compliant friend is NOT engineered to make precision cuts (or any other sort of

cuts for that matter) on a 100 lb tie horsed onto the table and hand fed into the blade. The new blade cost \$12. it took most of Sunday, but eventually all six cuts were performed with a hand bucksaw purchased (\$8) at the local hardware store. The cuts wandered all over the place and the ends weren't square, but what was I supposed to expect for an \$80 coffee table.

Since the ties were slightly warped, all components now had small, but noticeable skew. No problem. I rented a belt sander (\$9 per day). The guy at the rental place asked me how many belts I wanted. I didn't have any idea. He recommended that I take a box and return the un-used ones. It's a heckuva lot faster to sand with a new belt, so I changed belts frequently. Ten belts. Four bucks a belt. At \$129 it still looked like a pile of unpainted railroad ties. Another friend clued me in to Watco Danish Rubbing Oil. I bought a can. It cost slightly more (per unit volume) than the brand of bourbon that I was drinking (in my formative years). Ten dollars for a can of the stuff. I spread out a drop

cloth, laid out one of the longer pieces and drizzled a little of the oil onto the surface of the tie. SLURP (Ross Perot's enormous sucking sound). The stuff disappeared into the wood like piss into a snow bank. It took two more cans to make any noticeable difference in the appearance. So, at \$159, the end was in sight. Now all it needed was a glass top (1/4 inch, smoked glass, rounded edges) \$27.

My male friends all agreed that my \$186 coffee table was an item of superb design and construction. My female acquaintances seemed to feel otherwise. "Butt-ugly" is the term that they seemed to favor. Women, as a group, don't appreciate fine craftsmanship.



Time to pay your dues.



It is time to pay your 2006 membership dues. The dues are only \$24 per year. This rate has not changed in many years and is a great bargain. Support your own educational process, and the WWCH by bringing your checkbook and renewing in December.

Walter Mason, President

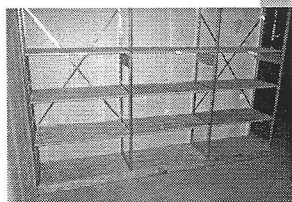
January Program includes freebies.

Mr. Lou Schamble will tell us about and demonstrate some of the new Bostich and Stanley woodworking tools at our January meeting. He will also distribute *free samples* of the new Titebond III glue.

John Jackson

Utility shelf units for sale.

Rugged and versatile metal and plywood shelves can be adapted to your own space requirements. Suitable for garage, laundry room or attic storage these units are fast to assemble and easy to install.



Each upright is 12 ft. X 18 in. and is priced at \$10.

Each shelf is 36 in. X 18 in. X 3/4 in.

plywood and is priced at \$5. Unit upright can be cut to desired height.

Contact Andy Anderson at 713 723-1030 or at anndersn@hal-pc.org for more information.

WWCH Contacts:

Walter Mason, President: 281.288.7706

Dennis Serig, Vice-President: 281.655.1162

Al Morrow, Treasurer: 713.863.7826

Gary Rowen, Web Master: 281.486.2013

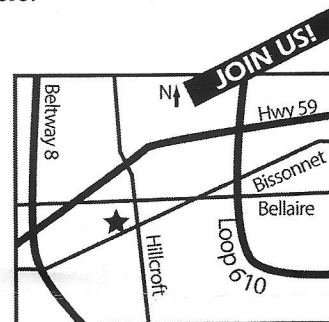
Bill White, Newsletter Editor, 713.524.8768

WWCH Monthly Meetings:

The WWCH meets every month on the second Saturday. We open the doors at 8:30am, the meeting starts at 9:00 and we're finished by 11:30. Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend at no charge.

Our meetings offer a time to discuss problems and seek solutions; see work that members bring in and discuss techniques, design and finishes; catch up on woodworking news and events and hear a presentation by woodworkers, manufacturers or retail firms that is of interest to woodworkers.

Bayland Community Center
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Woodworkers Club of Houston Membership Application

A WWCH membership is a chance to learn about woodworking, visit with other woodworkers, and see some woodworking projects. Your membership includes a monthly newsletter, access to our video and book library, invitation to field trips and occasionally we collectively buy tools at discounted prices. Our dues are \$24.00 a year and, we think, a real bargain. So, we invite you to fill out this application, cut it out and send it to the address below with a check for your dues.

Name _____

Address _____

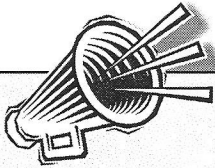
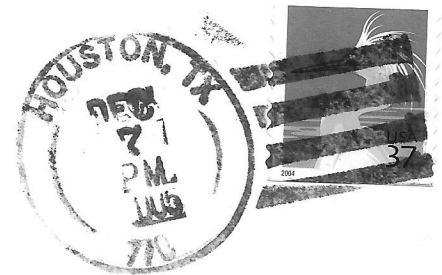
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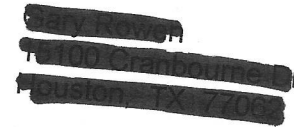


Coming Events

Monthly Meeting:
December 10

Program: Photographing
Your Work by Bill White

Next Meeting:
January 14, '06



It's Membership Renewal Time

"A glue joint is not a joint."
Jim Tolpin's, Woodworking Wit & Wisdom

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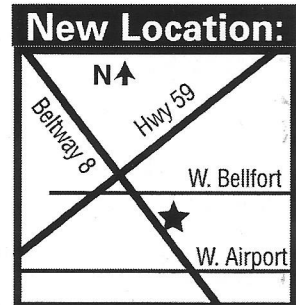
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