

# C W O O D W O R K E R S

## CLUB OF HOUSTON

Vol. 1, No. 9

SEPTEMBER, 1985

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### AUGUST MEETING

Can you imagine building your cabinets or fitting your drawers using a 0.007 tolerance (that's 7/1000 of an inch). Now that's what I call precision woodworking. From the questions asked during and after the meeting at Houston Patternworks, I'm sure everybody enjoyed and was intrigued with the meeting. We owe Richard Grimes, the Manager of the shop a hearty thanks for spending a Saturday morning with us showing us around and describing the work that they do. Thanks, Richard for your time and patience.

Did you get a look at the stack of Mahogany at the shop? There was one board 3" thick by 24" wide and 15 feet long. Also, can you imagine turning on the 8 foot diameter faceplate lathe? WOW! By the time you made one pass with a chisel you would have generated a truckload of sawdust.

Later that day many of us attended the magnificent house under construction at 10501 Memorial. Pat Brossa arranged to let us see the place even though we slipped up and didn't get a chance to have Pat meet us there. Anyway, the cabinetry was excellent (some or all of it is Pat's handiwork). I was amazed that it took seven different pieces of moulding to do each side of a door jamb. That's like putting a crossword puzzle on every door. Even the Cornish work on the roof edge looked like it was done by a cabinetmaker.

### SHOW AND TELL

We got our first consignment of items for the Charity Sale. It was good to see people weren't going to wait until the last minute to get their sale items ready.

About three of us took Charles Kegley's talk (July meeting) to heart and made bowls, both staved and carved. I brought three I

had done; Frank Savage brought 2 Rosewood bowls made using stacked construction. The grain configurations were beautiful. He also brought a knock down child's chair, plus 2 chairs and a table--all for the Charity Sale. Rich Kurey showed us both up with his first attempt at carving. He turned a beautiful walnut candy bowl, then carved a flower on the lid. Rich donated both the bowl and a step stool for the Sale. Chuck Maxwell brought his prototype of a rocking chair. The designer must have been very skinny in the posterior--back to the drawing board, Chuck. John Wilson brought a red oak table that doubles as a wine rack and wineglass holder. Very nice! Leonard Newman, a new member, brought a cute outhouse clock, complete with two holes and a Sears Catalog for the Charity Sale. Dan Shaklovitz brought 2 doll rocking chairs in the Shaker design, plus another rocker, magazine rack and towel holder--all donated to the Sale!

It's a great idea to bring your things to the meeting, show them, then donate them to the Sale. Remember, time's running out. Bring the to the September meeting!!

### OLD BUSINESS

Sharon passed out the new rosters in the August NEWSLETTER. It sure is getting long. Check your own listing and make sure it's correct. If not let Sharon know. We try to revise the roster every four months.

We hope Bonnie Savage is enjoying a speedy recovery from surgery. (the substitute typist this month is Rich Kurey and he says HURRY BONNIE, HURRY!) Bonnie is Frank Savage's wife and has been typing the NEWSLETTER for the past several months. She's a Saint, we can't afford to lose her for very long. But we sure could use some additional volunteers to step in for Bonnie in a pinch. COME ON GANG-- PLEASE!

We are in the process of ordering several videotapes on woodworking to add to the library. When we get them we need to make a spare of each (in VHS and Beta) and keep the original safe. Again We need volunteers.

Club caps can be purchased at T-Shirts Plus 957-2035.

We don't have a Bulletin Board anymore. I brought it to Houston Patternworks. I then put it in the back of my pickup and headed merrily down Rt. 45. The last time I saw it, an 18 wheeler was using it as a bug screen. I decided to let him keep it-- it was a big truck!

The Make a Wish Foundation Charity Sale is getting closer each day-- only two meetings away. I'm getting excited. Last year's show was a lot of work but we met so many nice people, got to know each other a lot better, plus made over \$2000 for charity.

You newer members will also enjoy it, so be sure to tell everyone you know to come. We'll have woodworking demonstrations every hour to add to the fun.

It'd be great if everyone would buy a Club cap &/or Teeshirt and wear them to the sale. Good club advertisement and a super way to get would be woodworkers to start up a conversation. We picked up about 20 new members that way last year.

#### WORKSHOPS AND CLINICS

The workshop and clinics seemed to slow up during the summer months what with vacations and lawns and HEAT. It gets so darn hot in the garage-- the sweat keeps dropping on my work.

Anyway, don't let that stop you from signing up or volunteering to put on a Clinic for a group. I've been begging for one on Marquetry-- someone please step forward! I can't believe that out of about 180 members none of us know anything about it... Well anyway, the current Clinics are as follows:

Spindle turning-----	Michael Chandler
Raised Panel Doors---	Chuck Maxwell
Shop Layout -----	Doug Blodgett
Miniature Furniture--	Andy Blodgett

Band saw Boxes -----	Bill Beggs
Router Basics -----	Dr. Bill Forkner

Workshops are available on these subjects:

Making a Hand Plane--	Michael Chandler\$50
Bowl Turning -----	Michael Chandler\$135

If anyone is interested in teaching a class or Clinic, contact Steve Proctor.

#### NEW BUSINESS

It appears that our December meeting will be a catered dinner meeting with spouses, friends and family invited. I'm really looking forward to it. It's the SUPER SHOW & TELL-- plus food.

Ray Fortenbach, our V.Pres. is checking on Copyright laws regarding our NEWSLETTER. Some of the craftsmen who write articles for us want to make sure their work is not reproduced without permission. You will note later the article by Lawrence Cude of Finishers Supply(the article is courtesy of a new Advertiser-- Parks) and Mike Chandler's past articles-- super stuff! I sure hope we can see more articles by Mr. Cude. His knowledge of finishing is vast. We're all appreciative that he's willing to share it with us. "Editor's Note"-- We hope to see Mike Chandler's continuing article in next month's issue also.

Perry Moreau is working as a volunteer with the Houston Community for Private Sector Initiative. "that's a lot to say in one breath" Perry, through his company, is acting as liaison for volunteers to donate one day's effort-- on September 28th to help repair homes for the elderly and disadvantaged who can't afford a contractor but do need help. It'd be great if many of us could help out on the 28th with woodworking chores. If you want to help, call Perry at 455-1134 for details.

Programs are already scheduled for the rest of the year and into 1986. Thanks to Rich and Arleigh Meyer for their efforts on the Program Committee. I think the Programs have been super and I learn something new each month.

#### TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

Here is a good idea for connecting blanks to a faceplate. It was furnished by a woodworker in New Mexico to Fine Woodworking Magazine:

"Heat an Aluminum faceplate with a propane torch and put it on the turning blank to warm the wood. Cut thin discs of hot melt glue (no gun needed) and place them on the heated blank in proportion to the bulk of the blank. Use enough to secure your doubts as well as your wood. Place the faceplate on the wood and clamp until cool. After turning is complete, aim a torch at the faceplate and gently apply heat until the turning falls off with a gentle tap. Clean the faceplate with a rag while the glue is still hot. When the blank is cool, scrape the hardened glue from it & you're done."

PRESIDENT'S CORNER  
by Rich Kurey

One of the things an individual or group should avoid at all cost is being too repetitive. It tends to bore people. Well this time we'll risk it and keep reminding you about the October Charity Sale. Time is running out and we want to be absolutely sure that EVERYBODY participates.

If your woodworking activity is like mine, then your already woefully short on available time to spend on it, let alone prepare a few pieces for donation. Therefore a few weeks is really not a whole lot of time to complete those pieces and then go thru the struggle you must go thru after admiring how well you did and how you hate to give that prize work up.

Let's get on with the work at hand --- START CUTTING AND FITTING!! the Club needs you and the Make a Wish Foundation can certainly use the proceeds. If you can't make the meeting, then contact Bruce Dehart or Ted King and make arrangements to get your work to them for storage. Please don't hold back. We'll have a lot of sad faces in the Club and at the Mall the week before the Sale if we don't have a warehouse full.

One last item, we'll need a lot of help during the Sale to man the booth, put on demo's and carry merchandise.. You're not in

the Army, SO VOLUNTEER!!! Don't wait to be asked.

Remember, we have a tough act to follow. Last year we brought in over \$2000 with only about half our current membership size. I'm confident we'll do even better this year with everyone's help.

SPEAKOUT

by Ray Fortenbach

For many years I searched in vain for any type of woodworkers organization in Houston. I was amazed I could find clubs for virtually every activity imaginable but none for woodworkers. It seemed unlikely that I was the only person in Harris County with an interest in woodworking. If a very small percentage of the population had a similar interest it would produce several thousand prospects.

Fortunately, we now have a Woodworkers Club and, in my opinion, a very good club. The seed has been planted. The task at hand is to nurture that seed so that it will, over the years, grow into a healthy tree.

The purpose of our Club is, as I understand it, primarily educational and this objective is pursued through seminars, clinics, exchange of information and various other techniques among the members, by having guest speakers at our meetings and by such other methods as may seem to be in furtherance of education in woodworking and in enhancement of skills in the execution of projects which we undertake from time to time, both large and small.

I recognize that it is an ambitious objective, and is perhaps far in the future, but I would hope someday the Club would have its own facilities where it can pursue its objectives. Where seminars and clinics, and classes of instruction can be held. Where guest speakers and experts, both local and from afar, could make their presentations. Where the club could have facilities which would include, in addition to at least one of the various "home workshop" machines, ie. tablesaw, radialsaw, jointer, planer etc. to be used primarily for educational and instructive purposes, it would be possible to have a few of the larger professional

machines that are clearly beyond the scope of a home shop but which are very nice to have access to from time to time. Such a facility would materially contribute to the cohesiveness of our organization. I also feel that consideration should be given to encouraging the interest of the wives and husbands of members in the activities of the Club. The wives that I have had the pleasure of meeting in the short time I've been affiliated with the Club were all keenly interested in the Club and were proud of the work their husbands had produced. Finally, it would, I believe, be well to have a number of social functions throughout the year which would involve both members and spouses. This would permit the members to become better acquainted with one another and to learn more about their respective interests in the various aspects of woodworking. All of these would help to nurture our tree..

## FINISHING TIPS

by Lawrence Cude- Finishers Supply

I appreciate the extension of this opportunity by the Woodworkers Club and the Parks Corporation. Unselfish exchanges of craft expertise through the ages is directly responsible for much of the great beauty you find preserved in museums. Much craft expertise is being lost in the selfish economic thrust which may well destroy the craft. It pleases me to share in the hope that sharing will become contagious.

However great the woodcrafter, the beauty of his imagination is preserved with the finishing. In the fall of 1936, I made wall shelves for my Grandmother. I saw those shelves 30 years later and was pleased with what I saw. The years had mellowed the finish so an appreciation of the tree that nature created was enhanced by proper application of Nature's finishing materials. Let me make some suggestions in the use of Nature's creations, SHELLAC, and give warning of the Pitfalls in its use.

Shellac can be used as a blocking coat to prevent bleeding stains from filtering into subsequent finish coats. When other subsequent coats are lacquer or some other materials, use ONE COAT ONLY of shellac. Do not apply a heavy coat. You will learn what

a heavy coat is the first time you do it wrong. (I did)!! I would suggest a 1.5 lb. cut. This can be obtained by reducing 3 lb. cut shellac with an equal amount of denatured alcohol (shellac thinner) A WARNING-- Remember that shellac is imported. It has a rather short useful life. Until needed, shellac flakes should be refrigerated. Manufacturers date the cans of shellac. Good companies use a date which allows you 2 or 3 months after the expiration. You can increase useful life by storing your shellac in a cool place.

Shellac has two monstrous problems as a final finish coat--1) water will ring it; this can often be padded out most of the time using a cloth dampened slightly in fresh shellac. and 2) It is soluble in alcohol and quite delicate.

Shellac may be applied with a lint free rag. I would suggest adding a smidgen of Castor Oil to relieve stickiness but linseed oil, hog lard and cooking oil have been used occasionally. I prefer Castor Oil because it will keep anything on the run even mildew. Dr. Honig and I discussed his preference--linseed oil; the agreement was that in our humid climate Castor Oil is best.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

The meeting is on September 14th at 9:00AM at the University of Houston Industrial Arts Building. Follow the map located on the back of this issue.

Our speaker will be Ron Aimonetti of Friendswood who is perhaps one of the finest carvers of true to life birds in the area. Ron has produced Award winning creations of these wildlife creatures that defy anyone to recognize them as wooden. If you've thought about trying your hand at carving, don't miss this one. SEE YOU THERE!!!

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If you wish to join W.W.C. of Houston bring or send your \$12.00 Annual Dues to Mark Mc Coy, 9647 Meadowbriar, Houston, Texas 77063.

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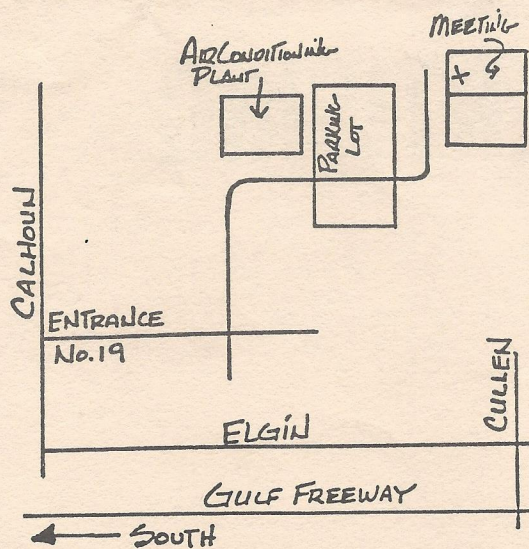
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