

# G.W.D.WORKERS

## CLUB OF HOUSTON

Vol. 2, No. 9

SEPTEMBER, 1986

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#### AUGUST MEETING

I think everyone that attended got an unexpected treat. Wes Moreland, our guest host was not only very interesting in discussing his hobby of model railroading, but the exquisitely detailed pieces he brought to show really blew everyone's mind. I couldn't believe that a small 8" railroad car could have so much detail; including a hand wheel brake that could actually set the brakes on the wheels.

Wes's piece had won second place national, so you can imagine how good it was. He also brought pictures of some of his other models, including an old cattle car sitting beside a wooden-stay water tower. If I hadn't know it was a model, I would have sworn it was a picture of the real thing. Even the wood look old and worn. I was very impressed. Some of his pieces have taken over three hundred hours to build.

#### SHOW AND TELL

Our own Bruce DeHart now has healed from his mishap and brought in two very well done ash TV trays. He used the Woodsmith design. He had one little problem he couldn't figure out and that was after applying 3 coats of Watco and poly urethane one of the pieces dried and the other remained tacky. Anybody got an idea what happened. How about you people up at Woodsmith?

Chuck Maxwell showed us a sample of his State of Texas pen sets that he is doing for the charity show.

Hebert Wilbourn brought a real neat nativity scene cut into a puzzle form. You have the barn, animals, wise men and everything. Real sharp. He also brought his little music box piano. By the way Hubert, my wife said a guy up at her office paid \$95.00 for a boot legged table made of golf shoes and checkered pants.

George Greider brought a specialty piece that could either be used as a door knocker or a door unlocker for your car. Plus a screw made into a paper towel holder and a walnut nut cracker. George must have a secret supply of walnut.

Dan Shaklovitz brought a pair of children's rocking chairs and a doll cradle similar to the ones he donated to the charity show last year. They were good

#### SELLERS.

James Bradley showed us a railroading jacket that had been hand crocheted by his wife. It had all kinds of railroading scenes and was really appropriate for the meeting.

Don Fortner brought a whole box full paper towel holders he had made for the charity show.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Things are moving forward on the charity sale. Many items are coming in and according Jimmy Harp, his committee is getting good response from their calls. Those that are unable to make items to sell because of business or family commitments are volunteering to help in sales or other capacities. That's what it's all about - team work.

As I understand it, we have almost 200 items already. That sounds like a lot, but it isn't. We sold out before the sale was over last year and we had over 300 plus items. I hope we can have at least 400 plus items this time. I've done six so far and have three more items in the mill.

If someone is short of ideas or shop space give Rick Goodhart or yours truly and we will give you a hand. Team Work, that's the key.

DO YOUR BEST, THATS ALL THE KIDS WE ARE TRYING TO HELP WOULD ASK.

Don't forget the T-shirts and caps. They really are impressive in a group, plus it impresses our suppliers by showing we are a large group that should be recognized.

I had a call from our own Chuck Lauder who has retired to the smokey mountains of Arkansas. Chuck's address is Route 3, Box 195-2, Cabot, Ark. 72023, or if you are going to be driving that way, give him a call at a/c501 843-8048.

#### WORKSHOPS AND CLINICS

Murray Gordon still has tapes to loan out, but other than that, the clinics have showed down for the summer. I predict they will pick up again after school starts and vacations are over with. (Whats a vacation?)

When the the new seasons starts we are going to need people to teach workshops and clinics. I had fun teaching and attending them last year, so don't be timid.

SPEAK OUT by Walt Turpening  
A WOOD CRAFT PHILOSOPHY

This article is a first for me: an expression in words that previously was left to the pieces that I created.

The pieces each of us create are reflections of the methods of our individual craft. The materials used, the jointery, the shapes and augmentations, and the finish all are a statement of how each of us thinks and feels about our craft.

For me, a piece is successful on a number of levels. First and foremost is the feel of the piece. It must be pleasing to touch. Not only should the surface be smooth, but the shape of the surface must invite the hand to move over it and explore the piece. If a piece doesn't feel right it isn't right. This applies to furniture I make as well as the sculpture.

Secondly, I personally need to feel right during the making of the piece. If I am uncomfortable making a cut, the chip or shaving doesn't feel right as it comes from the wood I stop, rethink the procedure, and only begin again when the comfort is back. An example is when I am using dovetails on drawers or a chest, I only do the cutting and fitting on Saturday or Sunday mornings when I am relaxed, rested, and unrushed.

Thirdly, a piece is successful when someone else appreciates the piece. As a result, they may receive one as a gift or I make a piece on commission.

As far as I am concerned only the first two points are needed for me to be pleased with a finished piece. Whether or not anyone else likes my pieces, I must be happy with them before they are extended to others.

My methods for working wood involve hand tools 80% of the time. I feel power tools remove the touch I need to do my craft well. My shop does have some power tools: band saw, planer, drill press, jointer, radial arm saw, circular saw, belt sander, router, and others. The list is in order of use with 90-95% of the case in over a year and I only have straight bits. I don't have a Dado blade. I use the band saw for ripping, resawing, and rough shaping. The planer is the only concession to speed since I find rough cut lumber less expensive and hand planing rough lumber a bit tedious. Also, I have found a fellow that cuts trees and makes lumber as a hobby.

Depending upon the piece being done dictates the tool I use, but the progression usually is from tight gouges to near chisels and then to rasps and files to planes and finishing with garnet sand paper and emery paper. The emery paper is only for the fine textured woods like maple and walnut or exotics like rosewood. At all times the shape and surface is being touched to be sure I am finding the form. The correct form is found when the hand tells me the transitions feel right. The hand is better than the eye for the details and the eye is best at overall proportions.

All in all, my philosophy of woodcraft is the feeling. The piece must feel right. To get this right feel the methods used must feel right. If I am not mentally and physically in harmony with the motion needed to make the cut then the results will be wrong. This applies no matter how well I have drawn and measured and layed out.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve found a deal on maple for the club. It is no. 1 quality, but only in one size and short lengths from 2 to 5 feet and 1+ x 2 3/4. The price is only .55\$ per BF including freight. Everyone at the meeting signed up for some of it, but don't feel left out; the club bought several hundred feet. Steve has orders for over 4000 BF.

The club voted to have Steve write MLCS to discuss whether they would like to become an associate member and place an add in our newsletter. For this they get a current copies of our membership roster, plus the monthly newsletter.

Texas Women's University wrote us to inquire if we had a member who would consider teaching a woodworking class for them this fall. As I understand several members got the address. To bad Ken McBride is unavailable; as he is one of the best nonprofessional teachers I know.

The club voted on a change in By-Laws regarding what constituted a quorum. It was recommended and approved by the membership that a quorum would be 25% of the paid membership.

If anyone goes to Gibbs Plywood, be sure you tell them the WWC ACCOUNT # 1683. You can't charge on it, but it entitles you to the club discount.

We have a new advertiser and associate member. FINE WOODS of HOUSTON. Please note their new ad on the back page. They are located at 1818 Upland which is north off the Katy Frwy 110. He presently has several used woodworking tools to sell, so give them a call and tell them we appreciate their interest in the club.

For are discussion section of the meeting, I had a problem with the design of a 37" X 48" picture frame to hold the church's organizational layout. Beside the chart it also had to have a glass front. That's a lot of weight for a picture frame without a heavy back, which I didn't want to do. I had a rough idea how I was going to build it, but the membership modified my idea to give me a little more strength without adding more weight.

This section of the meeting is very helpful, plus being interesting, since you may hear something new.

Jimmie Harp also had a question on how to make the molding cut for a raised paneled frame. He got help also.

Murray Gordon made up some very professional looking flyers about our upcoming charity show. Each member should get a few at the next meeting and put them on the bulletin boards of their church and local grocery. Every little bit helps.

Iron City Woodworking Company in Galveston is looking for a couple of experienced millworkers to help on a big job he got. John Wber told Steve that offer included experienced amateurs also. If you are interested call John at a/c 409 765-5727.

Harold Evans, your trusty treasurer says there is about \$1200.00 in the kitty. Here kitty-kitty. Just kidding fellows. You can put the rope down.

Steve has lined up The Walker Watkins custom built furniture shop for November. They had a big write up in the Chronicle last month. It ought to be a little interesting meeting. A chance to see how professionals make desk, tables and etc.

We need something for October. Our planned meeting got changed to 1987 because of prior committments. Put on your thinking

caps and come up with some ideas for Steve. One thought is, if we are unable to come up with a speaker, to prearrange to divide into small groups at different members shops and build some of our "For Sale" items for our charity sale.

The end of the year is coming up fast and it will be time to elect officers for 1987. Start thinking about how you would run the club or what changes you would make if you were an officer. We need fresh thinking every year to keep us growing and interesting. The nice thing about being a new officer is that last years officers stay on as director, so you have that experience to rely on. It makes the positions a lot easier than you think, so start considering which position you would like to fill next year.

The Gulf Coast Woodturners Association has been formed. Their next meeting will be Sept. 20th at 10:00 A.M. at Michael Chandlers shop on Milwee. There will be a demonstration of the scraping method.

#### SALE OR TRADE

1- 11" Rockwell gapbed lathe, stand, 1/2 HP motor. Less than 1 year old. In excellent condition. \$300 Don Hart 487-5484

1- Craftsman 1" belt and 6" disc sander. one year old. \$115 Don Hart

1- Makita power plane 3 1/8" wide. \$115. Don Hart

1- Paslode stapler (air) with 3 boxes of staples. 5/8, 7/8, 1 1/2. \$150. Don Hart

1- Crafstman 10" table saw with belt drive. \$200. Fred 933-5173.

#### TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

Nobody came up with a sugestion, so just keep your fingers out of the saw blade. Its awfully hard to \*\*\*\* your nose with a stub. (The \*\*\*\* is what the TV call a no-no).

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING

The meeting will be Saturday, September 13th, at 9:00 A.M. at the store of Reynolds Laminate and Products at 4128 Creekmont.

They will be our host and will show the variety of hardware available to the cabinet maker and how to use it. This is one meeting I've been looking forward to. I see all this good looking hardware in the catalogs but I haven't the foggest idea on to use some of it. It should have something for everybody. Don't miss it.

SEE YOU THERE!



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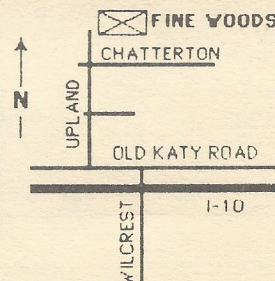
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