## Woodworkers Club

### OF HOUSTON

VOL. 6, NO. 12

DECEMBER, 1990

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#### **NOVEMBER MEETING**

The November program on Antique Tools was presented by Bill Ray.

Bill's grandfather, father and father-in-law all were interested in some form of woodworking

which started his interest in tools.

In the late 60's he was transfered to New York City and one weekend while attending a Flea Market in New Jersey he ran across some wooden moulding planes. At the time he didn't buy any but couldn't get his mind off of those wooden planes. The following weekend he returned to the Flea Market and was hooked from then on.

After returning to Houston he continued to buy Antique tools, tools that were in very poor condition because he really enjoyed the restoration part of his tool collecting.

The more Bill collected the more selective he

became in his choice of tools.

Bill then had the opportunity to transfer to England, an Antique Tool collectors dream, he

jumped at the chance to go.
Bill spent 3 years in England, and it really was a gold mine not only on information but the people are very keen craftsmen and historians on there use.

While overseas he also had the opportunity to travel and collect tools from many different

After returning to Houston in 1983 he found it very difficult to find the kind of tools he was intersted in. Bill has not been as active as in the past but still subscribes to the Antique Tools publications.

There are many areas of interest, one being History, you can spend many hours of interest just in the crafts trades themselves. What the process was to build things, collecting complete Chairmakers sets or Shipwrights sets of tools.

Another area of interest is the use of the old tools, Bill says that he has tried to use some but it can be frustrating but there are woodworkers who speciallize in using these tools in there woodworking.

The biggest are of interest is in the collecting of tools. Bill wanted to collect and learn about all of the trades, but what quite of people do is to specialize in a particular trade, or kind of tool or a specific tool maker.

Some suggestions: Even Timber scribes, had Bill collected only this one tool he could have a hundred different tools. The timber scribe even though a simple tool was highly prized and was passed down from father to son.

Each time the tool was pased down the new owner would place his name on the tool. Some of the tools would have 3 or 4 generations marked on the tool and you can trace the history.

If you do collect tools it is best to keep a journal on the information you have on each

There are three ways to look at a tool, What trade used it, the type of tool (Boring, measuring, etc.) and the maker of the tool.

Bill had a complete Chairmakers set of tools

used in the 1800's to make Windsor Chairs.

Bill demonstrated one of the first drills a bow drill, was really a tool that the craftsman used a lot as was witness by the tool itself. With the drill Bill had a set of hand made drill bits. How would you like to make your own bits.
Bill also had drills used in the clockmaking and

metal trades.

Every makers of tools used his own style when making tools, to the types of woods,

different ways to chuck up a tool.

If you have a rare tool you do not want to polish that tool, you should leave it alone unless necessary, anything you do to it can lessen its value. An interesting note the older the tool the less it Rusts.

When restoring a tool use the least abrasive, the best is 0000 steel wool on the wood and 000 steel wool on the steel. Many of these tools are badly rusted, Bill says he will use a steel wire wheel, but that it can be dangerous to the tool. If there is surface rust he uses emory cloth and then buffs with compound.

in the Europe tool collectors use Linseed oil and 0000 steel wool to clean and polish all in this one step. The main purpose is to add oil to the wood. A lot of tools found in the US are too clean and many tool collectors will stay away from this type of tool no matter how rare it is.

Bill does use a product that combines oil and called Finish Feeder which recommends. It leaves a little gloss to finish,

but does not detract from the tools.

Bill had a set of chisels-gouges with boxwood handles, that an artist did some Scrimshaw work on the handles of women in turn of the century clothing.

Bill explained how the planes have evolved over centuries. His oldest plane is English from

the 1690's.

This is just a sampling of the tools that he brought with him and many many more that he has stored in his garage, that he was unable to

If you missed this one you missed a lot of

information.

Thank you Bill for a very interesting and informative program.

#### CHARITY SHOW

The tally right now is in the \$5700.00 range,

we don't have a final count yet.

It looks like we will donate a check somewhere in this amount at the January meeting.

RAFFLE, RAFFLE, RAFFLE

Dan Shaklovitz has offered to raffle his Maple Rocking Chair for \$5.00 a ticket, the ticket will be drawn at the December Dinner. Even if you are not coming you can take out a chance or two on the Rocking chair by contacting Dan Shaklovitz at 649-2336. He sells these chairs for over \$400.00, here is any opportunity to win one. All the proceeds will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1991**

The following members were voted on by the membership and will be your new officers for the 1991 year:

President: Vice President: Sec./Treas. Director

Zatis Murphy Denis Muras Leo Orinderff Lewis Vallette

The following 1990 officers will stay on as Board of Directors to assist in any way that they can:

> Don Richardson Ted King Claude Emory

The club needs all its members to make it a success, the officers set the agenda but it takes all the members to succeed.

DECEMBER DINNER AND THE BEST OF SHOW AND TELL

As everyone knows by now the Dinner will be December 7th at the Rice Faculty Club. For directions refer to the map in this newsletter.

The bar opens at 7:00 P.M. Dinner will served at 8:00 P.M. followed by an introduction of officers while the judges make there choices for the ribbons and we should be all finished no later than 10:00 P.M.

#### SAFETY

Our regular safety man was out of town and Don asked if there were any suggestions. One member related a story about a friend who was not feeling well but couldn't stay out of his shop. The important safety message is Don't Work in your shop if your not feeling well.

Don suggests that we think through what we

are attempting before we make the actual cut,

etc.

Remember to save those fingers, etc. instead of trying to save the wood. The wood might be expensive but not that expensive.

DUES, DUES, DUES.

Dues will be due no later than January 31, 1991. If you want your February newsletter, this is the deadline. Enclosed in this newsletter is an renewal form. Dues are still \$18.00 a year.

#### SHOW AND TELL

Displayed was a Computer station, plans from Woodsmith #56. Made from Red Oak finished in

Watco Danish oil and Deftane #2 Satin Finish.

Don Sloan made Bandsaw boxes out of Aromatic Cedar finished with 2 coats of Watco

oil and 2 coats of varnish.

Chuck Maxwell made a jig from Woodsmith #71. With this jig you can put a tenon on a dowel using your router table. Chuck of course adapted the jig for better chip removal.

There was a dog puzzle made from plans out of the American Woodworker magazine latest issue. The dimensions must be accurate or the

puzzie will not work.

Bill Hochmuth showed a box with the sides made from West Texas Scrub Oak and the top and bottom made from East Texas Willow. He described it as having lots of character (split to hell).

#### **DECEMBER MEETING**

WHEN: DECEMBER 8, 1990 9:00 A. M. WHERE: BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER ON BISSONNETT AT HILLCROFT

PROGRAM: The program will be presented by Ken Rogers on Mesquite.

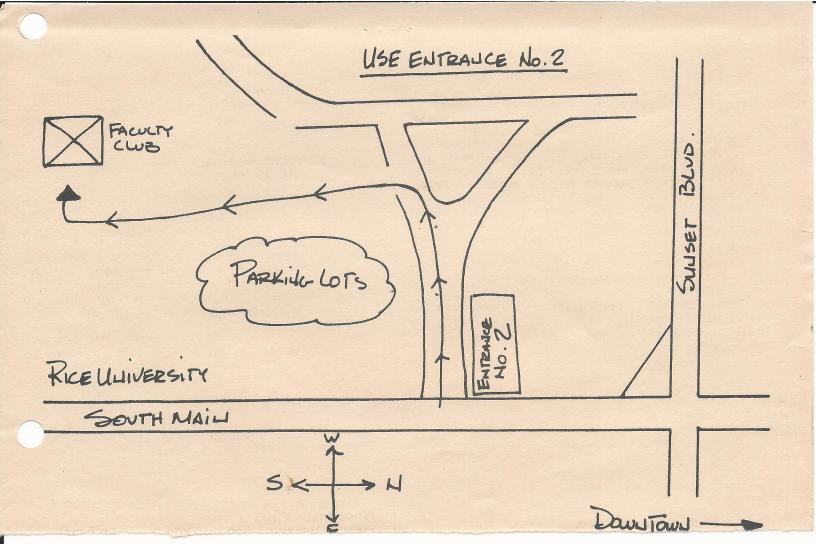
#### **EDITORS NOTE**

I would like to Thank Bill Sallans for recording the November meeting for me because I was out of town on vacation.

If I got any thing wrong or failed to list yo

name, Sorry.

See you at the Dinner and the December Meeting.



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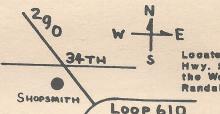
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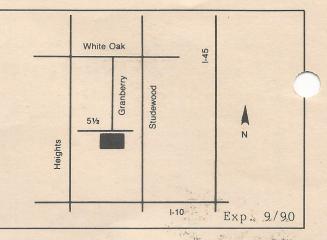
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