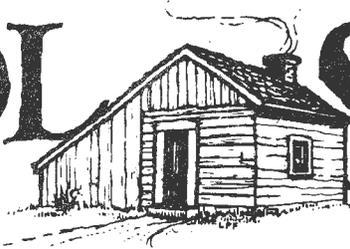


The TOOL SHED

Number 35



February 1985

• A Journal of Tool Collecting published by CRAFTS of New Jersey •

HICKORY HANDLES

by Albert S. Housman

The hickory tree is native to this continent. Commercially, it is not cut for tool handles until it is about 40 years old. Considering the length of time required for return of an investment, foreign entrepreneurs have not ventured into growing their own stands.

Handle manufacturers in the U.S.A. have for the most part been located in mid-America, stretching from North Carolina to Arkansas. They use the term "mountain grown" for their product. Mississippi and Louisiana hickory has been used to a minor extent and has been referred to, in a somewhat derogatory way, as "swamp hickory."

Hickory has withstood the test of time as the best wood for striking-tool handles. It has the unique quality of resiliency, acting as a shock absorber upon tool-head impact. A good hickory handle will cushion a blow, saving the user from shock or sting, delaying muscle fatigue and/or avoiding muscle cramps.

The matter of using heartwood over sapwood (or redwood over whitewood) was likely well discussed in the good old days. Usually only a small portion of a mature hickory tree is sapwood or whitewood, the inner portion of heartwood being red. The Forest Products Laboratory conducted actual tests of more than 7,000 specimens and concluded that hickory has the same qualities of strength, toughness, and shock resistance whether red or white.

Virgin growth vs. second growth was likely another subject argued about before the days of scientific testing. The popular conception of virgin growth is of standing timber in a mature forest in which no cutting has been done. The tree grows in competition with its companions for sunlight and moisture. Ac-

tually, in such a stand of timber some portion could be slightly unvirginous (brings to mind the expression "slightly pregnant"), as fire, storm, or disease in prior years could have caused part of stand to have the characteristics of second growth.

Second growth, when applied to a forest, denotes timber that grew after removal of all or a large part of the stand. Due to more favorable conditions, there would be a faster rate of growth, [Continued on page 8]

FEBRUARY 3 MEETING TO BE HELD AT CLINTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM VILLAGE —ROGER K. SMITH TO SPEAK—

The next meeting of CRAFTS of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, February 3, at the Clinton Historical Museum Village in Clinton (directions to the Museum are given on page 2).

Although the meeting place has changed, the old program format will continue. The "Swap & Sell" will begin at 1:00 p.m. Anyone who is going to be selling should park their cars inside the gate along the riverside.

The formal program will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Education Center of the Museum. The featured speaker will be Roger K. Smith, author of the instant classic "Patented Transitional and Metallic Planes in America, 1827-1927." The title of Roger's talk is: "PT&MPIA: New Findings." So come prepared to take notes!

The Clinton Historical Museum Village is located just off I-78, only a few miles South of High Bridge, where the CRAFTS Spring Auctions are held. Take

[Continued on page 2]



**Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society
of New Jersey**

President _____ STEPHEN ZLUKY, Whitehouse
 Vice President _____ HARRY J. O'NEILL, Annandale
 Secretary _____ BARBARA FARNHAM, Stockton
 Treasurer _____ JOHN M. WHELAN, Murray Hill

Membership in CRAFTS is open to anyone interested in early trades and industries, and the identification, study and preservation of tools and implements used and made in New Jersey. Annual dues are seven dollars for the membership year of July 1 to June 30. Membership fees may be sent to the Treasurer: John M. Whelan, 38 Colony Court, Murray Hill, NJ 07974.

The Tool Shed

Published five times per year for members of CRAFTS of New Jersey. Editor: Robert Fridlington, 8 Keith Jeffries Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016. Contributions, especially about New Jersey tools and trades, are welcomed.

**SPEAKER PROFILE:
ROGER K. SMITH**

Roger K. Smith, who will speak on "Patented Transitional and Metallic Planes in America: New Findings" at the February 3 meeting, is one of this country's foremost authorities on antique tools, with an international reputation as a collector, dealer, author, and publisher.

A native of Massachusetts and a U.S. Navy veteran, Smith began collecting tools in 1964, the same year he graduated from college. There was, of course, the matter of earning a living, so he became a teacher. But tools absorbed more and more of his time and interest. Fourteen years and one Master's degree later, the tools won out. Roger now devotes full time to his various tools interests, especially to research of early industries, writing, and publishing.

He has published reprints of sixteen trade catalogs and one "how to" booklet that are sold worldwide. His greatest fame, however, rests with his magnificent Patented Transitional & Metallic Planes in America, 1827-1927, published in 1981. A work of superb scholarship, this is one of the handful of "must" books every tool collector should have on his shelf.

Smith is a director of the Early American Industries Association and Midwest Tool Collectors Association, and he is Chairman of M-WTCA's Publication Committee.

He is presently working on a directory of New England edge-tool makers, and rumor has it that there might be a second edition of PTAMPIA within the next two or three years.

CRAFTS

1985 SPRING AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 13th

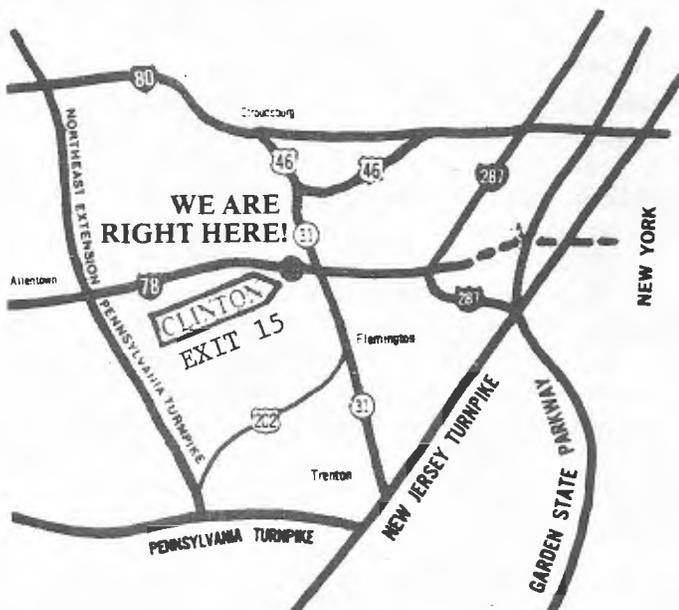
TAYLOR HOSE COMPANY

HIGHBRIDGE, N.J.

See story on page 10!

[Meeting, continued from page 1]
 78 and turn off at exit marked CLINTON-PITTSTOWN. Do not turn off at Clinton-Washington exit. Turn right on route 173 East (West Main Street). Proceed approximately 1/4 mile and turn at first left (Clinton House on corner). Go about 50 yards and you are there.

The "We Are Right Here" map below shows the location of the Museum Village in a general way.



SHIPPEY RECEIVES
1984 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Dr. Frederick A. Shippey has been named recipient of CRAFTS President's Award for 1984. The Award, given annually in recognition of outstanding service to the Society, was presented at the November meeting.

Shippey, one of the founding members of CRAFTS in 1977, has served as a Director and as Chairman of the Program Committee since the organization began.



Dr. Frederick A. Shippey

In announcing the award CRAFTS President Steve Zluky said: "All members of the Society know of Fred Shippey's great warmth, kindness, and unfailing good humor, as well as his sharp eye for fine tools; but those who have been privileged to work closely with him also know of his selfless dedication and wise counsel." To him, Zluky added, "goes full credit for the extraordinary programs and speakers that we have enjoyed over the past seven years."

Those who have read Fred's several articles in The Tool Shed can have gleaned something of his background. He was born in Brunswick, in upstate New York, and grew up on a farm, without the

benefits of electricity, gas, telephone, or running water. At the age of sixteen he was apprenticed in a large carpenter shop that made custom doors, sash, trim, and other mill work, and he attended an apprentice's night school to increase his skill with a carpenter's square. Later, as a journeyman carpenter, he built several homes and a small hospital.

There are, however, other aspects of Fred's life and career that most of our members are not aware of. As a young man, tool box in hand, he set off for the city, and he worked his way through Syracuse University as a carpenter. Then came a Divinity degree at Yale, a Ph. D. at Northwestern, and post-doctoral studies at Université de Paris and Yale.

An ordained minister, he held several pastorates and for ten years was the superintendent of the Department of Research and Surveys of the Division of National Missions of the Methodist Church. In 1953 he joined the faculty of Drew University, where he was the James W. Pearsall Professor of Sociology of Religion until his retirement a few years ago.

Shippey is the author of a number of books and a host of articles. He is undoubtedly the only member of CRAFTS to have contributed to such journals as Archives de Sociologie des Religions or Foi et Vie. His research and writing have brought him many honors, including being named to American Men of Science in 1968 and Who's Who in America in 1969.

This summary would not be complete without some mention of Fred's wife Melba, also a member of CRAFTS, who so patiently and loyally supports his many activities. She even tolerates his strange urge to fill their home with old tools.

The Shippeys, who live in Madison, N.J., are the parents of one son and one daughter. Son Stuart is the third member of the family to belong to CRAFTS.

Just as he has in his other activities, Fred Shippey has devoted enormous time and talent in behalf of CRAFTS of New Jersey, and the Society is proud to salute his many contributions. We hope that we can continue to benefit from his efforts for many years to come.

* * * * *



A NEW JERSEY ADVERTISING FOLDING RULE

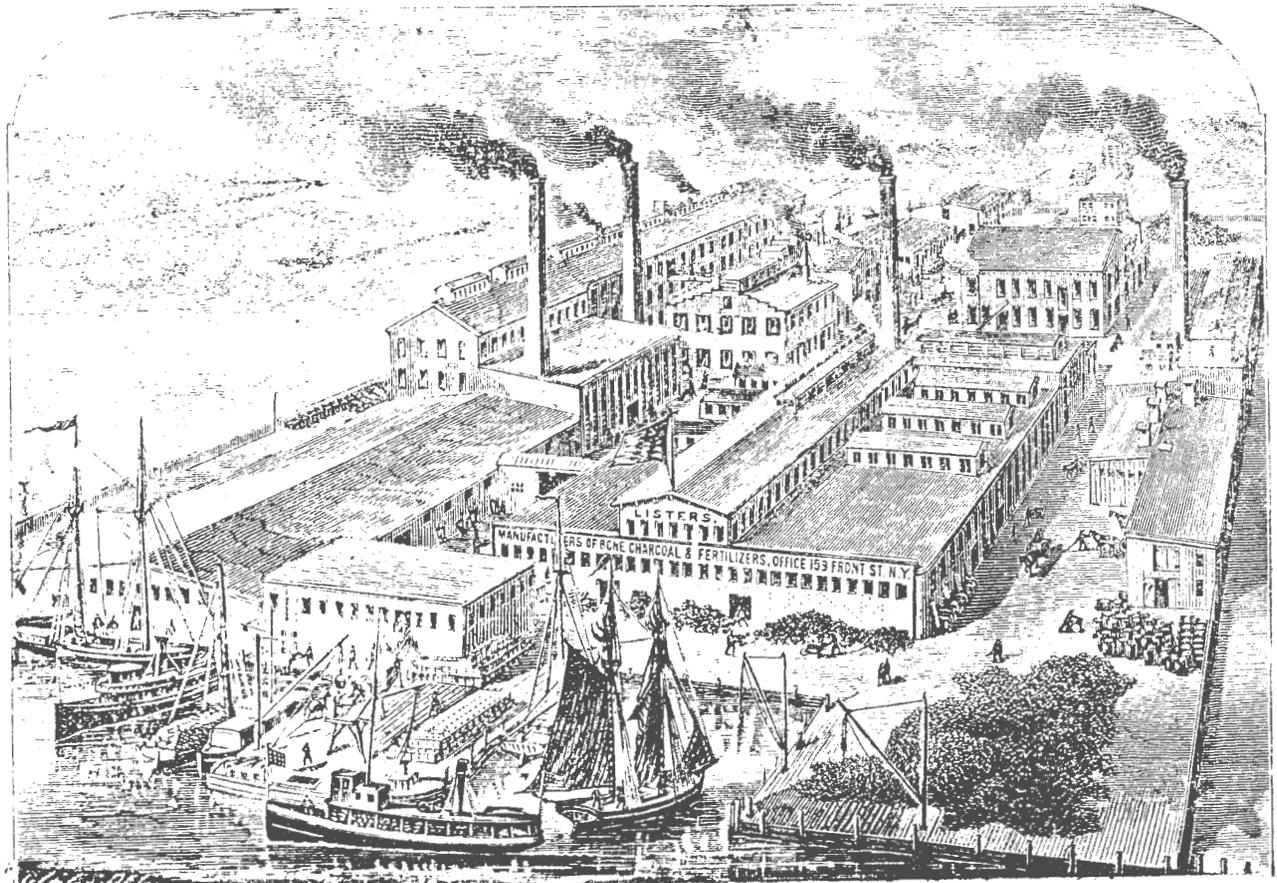
by Alexander Farnham

Around mid-November I received in the mail an advertising rule marked LISTERS STANDARD FERTILIZERS, NEWARK, N.J., that was sent to me by the authority on measuring devices, Jim Hill. The rule is of the standard type, with brass hinges and ends, and is in near mint condition despite an estimated age of close to one-hundred years. The numbers appear to be hand-stamped, as some are slightly crooked and vary as to their distance from the edge.

This unexpected gift sparked my interest in the Listers; and finding a 1913 Listers Year Book at the Lambertville flea market further increased my determination to learn more about this company. An afternoon at the Alexander Library of Rutgers University in New Brunswick en-

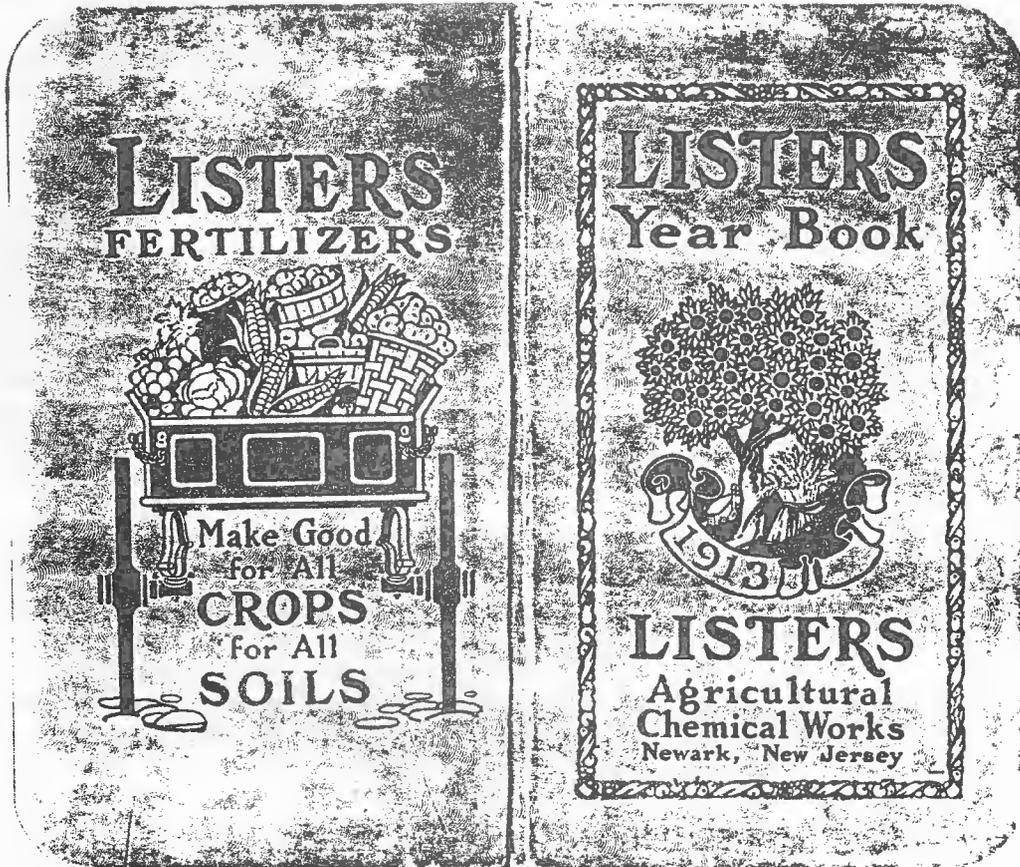
lightened me as to the history of this pioneering firm.

In 1850 Alfred and Edward Lister came from England and built a major plant on the Passaic River at Newark to grind cattle bones into fertilizer. Eventually they had to buy buffalo bones in the West in order to feed their grinding machines. By 1873 Lister Brothers bone-grinding plant consisted of more than fifteen buildings and turned out huge quantities of fertilizer as well as charcoal for clarifying sugar, oils, wine, and other liquids. Besides these products, they manufactured and sold super phosphate of lime, bone dust, glue and tallow, ivory black, sulphate of ammonia, sulphuric acid, and bone buttons.



Lister Brothers Works in 1879

STANDARD
HERTZELERS



The firm was first listed in Newark business directories as A. Lister & Bro. and then in the 1870's as Lister Brothers. In the late 1880's the name of the company was finally changed to Lister's Agricultural Chemical Works, which it remained for the rest of the life of the company.

Though their principal office and factory was located on Lister Avenue in Newark, they had branch offices in New York City, Rochester, N.Y., and Baltimore, Md. They also maintained a stockyard at the foot of 38th Street, on the North (Hudson) River, in New York City.

One of the benefits of acquiring an interesting tool is the pleasure one has in researching it. I enjoyed learning about the name found on a folding rule.

WHERE ARE WE FROM?

Did you ever wonder where the members of CRAFTS are from? As you would expect, most are from New Jersey, but 92 copies of this issue of The Tool Shed are being mailed out of state.

New York receives 34 and Pennsylvania 30. Massachusetts gets four, and California, Connecticut, Delaware, and Virginia get three each.

Two copies go to Maryland, and single copies go to Arizona, the District of Columbia, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio, Ontario, Rhode Island, and South Carolina.

CRAFTS members come from 17 states, the District of Columbia, and one Canadian province.

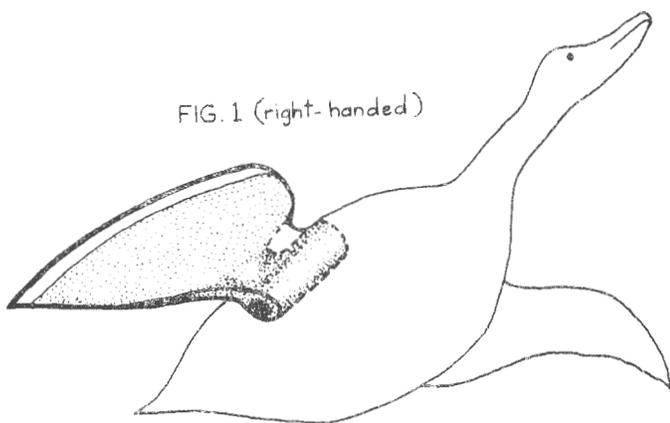
GOOSEWING AXES

by Herb Kean

[Editor's Note: The following is a slightly revised version of an article that first appeared in The Tool Shed in September, 1979. Nothing in these pages, before or since, stirred so much interest. Even today, more than five years later, we receive requests for copies—two arrived just before Christmas. Because the article continues to draw attention, we thought that it would be appropriate to reprint it.]

The goosewing is one of the most celebrated of all the edge cutting tools. According to Eric Sloane, it once competed in an art contest! Although indicators exist that it might have been used as a medieval fighting ax, it is a functional broad ax, used basically for hewing.

Various shapes have their origins in different countries and are known as turkey wings, angel wings, etc. The earliest shape shown in Mercer's Ancient Carpenters' Tools is the Central European style of the 16th century (see Figure 1). The bulk of the American axes (Figure 2) were made in Pennsylvania from the 18th to the mid-19th centuries. However, foreign axes have been made well into the 20th century. German troop trucks carried goosewings as utility side axes during World War II. Some axes are still made in Scandinavia and Spain, and reproductions are coming out of Austria even today.



The skill required in forging a goosewing far exceeds that needed for the common broad ax. Instead of a single roll-around and lap with a laid-in piece of steel, the goosewing requires four

separate pieces. Kauffman, in American Axes, gives an excellent description of this technique; and although there may have been other ways, his analysis is certainly a logical alternative. Axes made by lesser blacksmiths clearly show the voids and seams of this construction.

The use of the goosewing is not as speculative as its history. Hewing was its main purpose. Weighing up to nine pounds, and with its 13" (avg.) handle, it is obvious that the ax was not swung as a felling ax. It is powered diagonally downward with a short stroke with the outside hand, and guided for proper angle with the inside hand. The center of balance almost allows a one-handed swing. The experienced hewer lets the heavier axes cut under their own weight.

The axe being asymmetrical, the smith had to forge both right-handed and left-handed styles. A right-handed goosewing is designed to be used on the right side of the log with your right hand forward. It is not always for a right-handed person! Many right-handed people get better accuracy by guiding with their right hand. As hewing demands considerable accuracy, some right-handed hewers use left-handed axes and work from the left side.

The predominant reason for right and left-handed axes, however, was for working the grain "up" or "down" similar to double beadings and double routers. Not every hewer had a pair of goosewings, as there were 44 right-handed and only 26 left-handed axes tallied in this study. For those people using only one ax, it is obvious that right-handed axes were preferred.

The more common argument today is the origin of the ax. Those Pennsylvania makers who signed their axes left no doubt as to origin, and help us today to compare the unsigned axes. No rule is without exception, and unsigned axes should be judged by the total number of indicating characteristics.

Twenty-four (24) of the 70 axes were studied closely and 28 separate characteristics were recorded for each axe. Only seven characteristics showed any correlating significance between American and foreign origin, and they are listed

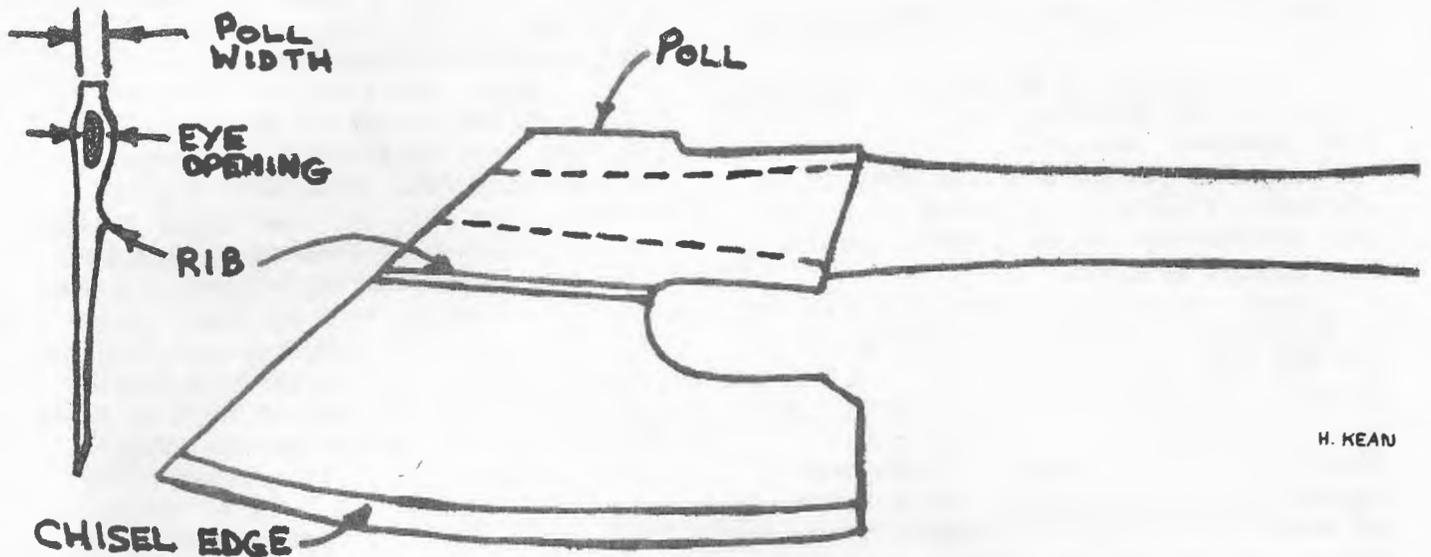


FIG.2 (left-handed)

below:

1. Axes with narrow eye openings on the forward end (under 3/8") are almost always American.
2. Highly decorated pieces are more Germanic.
3. Europeans swayed their handles; Americans forged more cant in the eye and used a straighter handle.
4. Grainy, pocked or rough "charcoal" iron is more American than the smoother, higher quality iron of Europe.
5. European axes have higher ribs; many American axes have no ribs at all.
6. The sitting-eagle strike is almost always American.
7. Polls wider than 3/4" are predominantly European.

Some of the known Pennsylvania makers were: Addams, Stohler, Stahler, Sener, Rohrbach, and Beatty (rare). The only New Jersey maker found was Luke Miller (ca. 1780) of Madison. New York boasts of L. & I.J. White.

It must be remembered that many of the American ax makers got their skills in their mother countries, predominantly Germany, and copied some or all of the European Characteristics when first arriving in this country. These early axes are hard to categorize. The quality of the iron is their most pertinent characteristic.

The goosewing is generally the focal point of a display or collection, and rightly so. With its graceful and dramatic form, it represents both stren-

strength and finesse, a rare combination.

(Thanks to my friends in Pennsylvania for their help and advice: Frank Kerr, Dallas John, Merk Beitler, and Ben Alexander.)

* * * * *

AN ICE ADZE

During the "Whatsit?" session at the November 18 meeting, an unusual adze with large teeth cut into its blade was shown.

CRAFTS one and only wrench collector, Frank Kingsbury, identified it as an ICE ADZE.

The Tool Shed's Assistant Editor, Carl Bopp, came up with a page from a catalog showing an ice adze—just in case any CRAFTSman doubts Frank's tool knowledge outside the realm of wrenches.



No. 68. ICE ADZE.

The illustration of the ice adze is reproduced above. It is taken from the W. T. Wood & Co. ice-tool catalog (ca. 1894), reprinted by the Early Trades & Crafts Society, Long Island, N.Y., in 1974.

* * * * *

[Handles, continued from page 1]
which would be evidenced by wider annual rings.

Neither type of growth should be a factor in the selection of hickory for tool handles. The studies of the Forest Products Laboratory conclude that it is advisable to disregard growth rate and rely on density as one guide to quality for hickory handles.

While density is definitely related to strength, it requires weighing and is not the most practical way of judging, except at the manufacturer's level. A fairly reliable guide to strength is found in the proportion of summerwood appearing at the end of a piece. Summerwood is the solid looking or less porous portion of each yearly growth ring.

It is quite easy to distinguish from the springwood portion because it contains more wood substance per unit volume. Wide bands of summerwood and relatively narrow bands of springwood therefore indicate a stronger piece of hickory than bands of nearly the same width.



Trade Name of End-Grain Direction

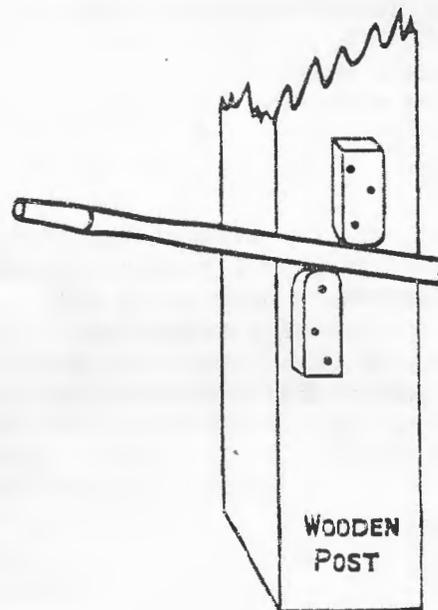
Rings of growth per inch also afford some means of grading hickory. Few growth rings per inch as shown on the end of a handle indicate a stronger and tougher piece than many rings, considering always in judging that the handle is straight-grained and free from defects. Acceptable handles show no more than twenty rings per inch. As in many products of nature, however, capriciousness occurs, and some hickory handles with as many as 40 rings have tested as good.

Other guides are that the best hickory will have an oily or glossy side grain when smoothly finished. This hardly is of use now that so many handles are sold already stained, heavily lacquered, or fire finished. Also, when dropped end-on on a hard surface

there should be a clear, ringing tone as compared to the dull sound of an inferior-quality handle.

Grading was a natural outcome of the fact that finished handles differed in many ways in quality and appearance. Necessarily considered were grains, rings, blemishes (as from borer damage), and proportion of whitewood to redwood. The Federal Standards in 1945 gave four basic values to the wood based on properties that affected strength (called AA, A, B, and C). These were further divided into whitewood or redwood selections totaling twelve grades overall.

Economic necessity dictated that simplification occur. To be combatted was the almost universal concept that whitewood was superior to red. Manufacturers would cull some heartwood or, if used, the handles commanded at best a break-even price. As it cost as much to turn one type as another, the whitewood handles sold at a higher compensating price.



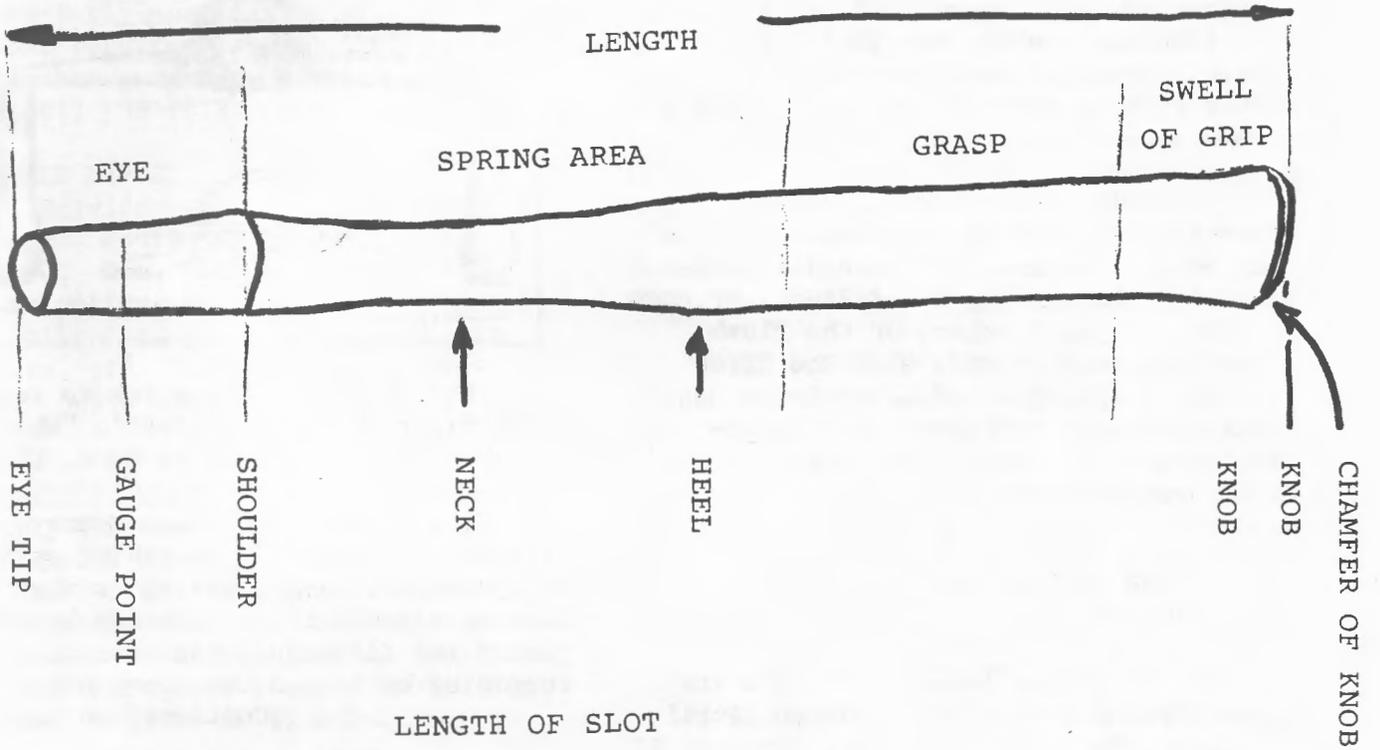
Straightening Device

Incidentally, redwood suffers less from exposure to the elements. Further, the furniture manufacturers started to use hickory in increasing quantities, resulting in considerable competition for it at the cutting sites. By 1960 the Standards no longer considered color a factor, and there emerged three quality grades—AA, A, and B.

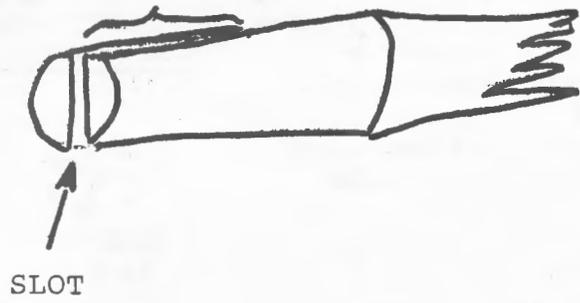
Warping is not frequent due to

[Continued on page 10]

NOMENCLATURE OF HANDLES



LENGTH OF SLOT



SHAPE OF EYES



[Handles, continued from page 8] modern controlled methods of curing. Hickory cannot be dried excessively as it would cause cell collapse. Enough moisture must be present to provide for "lubrication" of the fibers. Obviously, a handle can warp if subjected to extreme conditions of moisture and/or temperature, or if made from too young a tree (sapling) having an unbalanced cell growth. Warpage can be corrected by gentle flexing opposite the crook, a few inches at a time, moving the handle gradually to flex a larger area.

Competition to hickory is present generally with the shorter-handled tools such as nail hammers. We are all familiar with the Estwing Solid Steel, or the True Temper Tubular, or the Plumb Fibreglass handles and, with the first two, the gripping added to minimize shock. It is gratifying to see wood-handled hammers in stores, showing continued acceptance.

CRAFTS SPRING AUCTION
TO BE HELD APRIL 13th

CRAFTS of New Jersey will hold its annual Spring Auction on Saturday, April 13, at the Taylor Hose Company, in Highbridge, N.J.

Joe Hauk will act as auction manager this year and Herb Kean will once again be auctioneer.

The auction committee has already started accepting consignments of tools. It plans to accept no more than 400 lots, and it asks members to submit only pieces of good quality. The committee reserves the right to refuse any item and to limit the number from any individual.

As this year's auction will be held the day before our regular April meeting, members will not be able to deliver their tools on a meeting day—unless they scurry around and get them ready by February 3.

An announcement concerning the delivery of tools will be made at the February meeting. If you have any questions, please get in touch with one of the following: Joe Hauk (201) 236-2072; Harry O'Neill (201) 638-6981; or Steve Zlucky (201) 534-2710.

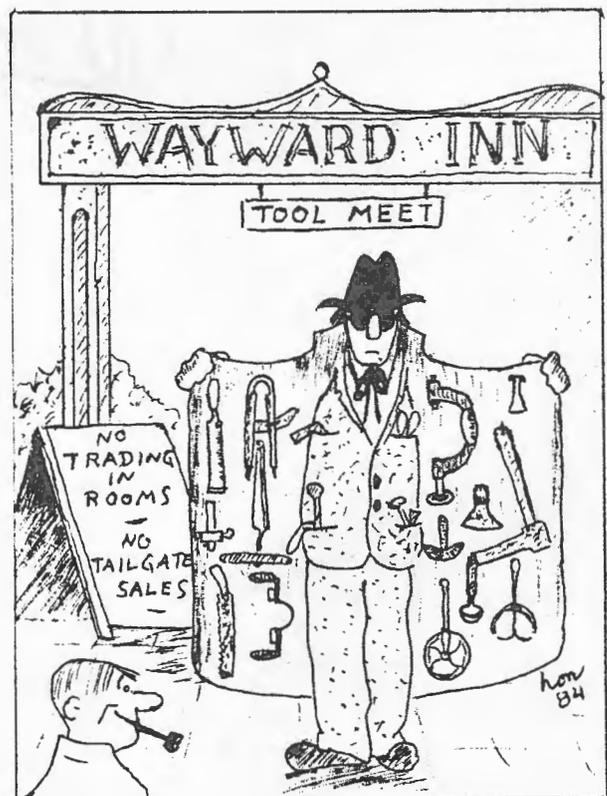
LETTERS TO POP RIVET



Three members were quick to send in identifications of Pop Rivet's "What's It? No. 16." And what is more, they all agreed.

From Warner, N.H., Lee Murray writes: "It is used for making splints or spelks for basket making or whatever. Same as a spelk plane. It can be adjusted for different thickness with the four ring bolts and the clamp bolts."

[Continued on page 12]



TOOL DEALERS BELONGING TO CRAFTS

NEW JERSEY

EDITH CREGAR. Melody House Antiques, Box 194, Oldwick, NJ 08858. At the Crossroads, Rtes. 517 & 523. Hours: Tues-Sun, 10:30-4:30. Closed Mon. Good selection Early American painted and refinished furniture, glass, china, tin, iron, kitchen gadgets, and tools. Home phone: (201) 439-2519.

DONALD LIPSEY. Edward & Edwards, Rte. 46, Belvidere, NJ (12 mis. from Del. Water Gap). Hours: daily exc. Tues, 10:00-5:00. Gen. line antiques. Wide selection antique & user tools: woodwknng, planes, blksmith, anvils, tinsmith, Em-mert vises, etc. 15% disc. to Crafts members. Buy & trade. Phone: (201) 475-5430.

DENNIS & SHELLY NEWMAN. An Old Saw, Booth 230, Antique Emporium, Bay & Trenton Ave, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ. Daily, 11:00-5:00. Antiques & tools, esp. woodwknng (other than planes) & unusual wrenches. Always looking for old workbenches & certain treadle tools (dec. cast iron). Phone: (201) 892-2222.

LOU & MAX RICHARDSON. Garrison House Antiques, 16 Colt Rd., Summit, NJ. By appt. only. Specialties: sewing items & wide range of fine antique tools, rules & meas. devices. Phone: (201) 273-7709.

STEVE & MARKAY ZLUKY. Shaving Horse Antiques, Box 243, Whitehouse, NJ 08888. By appt. only. Primitives, woodwknng & other antique tools. Planes: moulding, Stanley, etc. Buy & trade. Phone: (201) 534-2710.

PENNSYLVANIA

M.J. & LEE DONNELLY. Pedlar's Wagon, Old Zionsville, PA 18068. Open by chance or appointment. Wide selection antique tools & misc. primitives. Phone: (215) 966-3986.

DALLAS JOHN. Oaklawn Metalcraft, Box 13, Rte. 202, Lahaska, PA 18931 (next to the Fire Dept.). Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30-5:00; Sat, 1:00-5:00; closed Sun. Lighting fixtures, indoor & outdoor. An-

tiques & primitives. Tools: woodwknng, blacksmith, tinsmith, etc. Wooden planes, Stanley, axes (goosewings). Phone: (215) 794-7387.

HARRY O. LUDWIG. Ludwig's Scattered Treasures, 2nd floor Barrs Antique World, on Pa. Rte. 272, just Tnpke exit #21 (close to Zimm's Diner & Renningers). Hours: Sat, 10:00-5:00; Sun, 8:00-5:00. Antique and rare tools of various crafts. Stanley, etc., with some primitives. Mrs. L. has largest variety of vintage clothes and fancy linens. We are professional finders. Phone: (215) 267-9900.

BILL & ESTHER NEYER. Birchland Antiques, Box 94, Landisville, PA 17538. Publishes illus. catalogs twice a year & supplemental lists (subscription price, \$7.00 yr.). Complete range fine antique tools: woodwknng, coopers, etc. Lighting, kitchenware, treenware, primitives.

NEW YORK

JIM CALISON. Tools of Distinction, 38 Waite St., Walden, NY-12586 (15 min. north of Newburgh). Open only to collectors and craftsmen assoc. with tool-collecting orgs. Quality line of antique & craftsmen's tools. Everything from 18th c. to Stanley items. Inventory kept at 400-500 tools. Browsers welcome. A call ahead will assure we are at home. Phone: (914) 778-5058.

DAN & KATHIE COMERFORD. The King of Tools, Box 271, Stony Brook, NY 11790. Publishes free catalog twice yearly. Specializes in wooden moulding planes (many 18th c.), Stanley, and patented transitional planes. Can be visited between catalogs. Call for mutually convenient time and directions. Phone: (516) 751-2805.

MASSACHUSETTS

JOHN TREGGIARI. 67 Lexington Rd., Dracut, MA 01826. Large line of old tools. Actively solicits "wants" & is eager to fill them. Send him your list.

Pop Rivet's What's It? No.17



by LARRY FUHRO

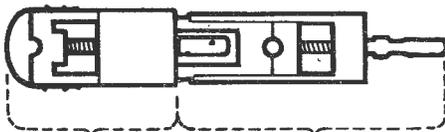
From Bob Nelson
Cheverly, Md.

THIS CLAMP-LIKE DEVICE COMES IN TWO PARTS. WHEN ASSEMBLED, PART 2 SLIDES OVER THE END OF PART 1

HALF-ROUND CUTOUTS IN BLOCKS FORM A TAPERED CYLINDRICAL HOLE 1 1/4" DIA. ON ONE SIDE AND 1" DIA. ON THE OTHER

MAIN BLOCK IS 1 5/8" WIDE AND 10" LONG

THREADED 3/4" DIA. WOOD ROD WITH 6 THREADS/INCH



THIS BLOCK MOVES
IMMOVABLE BLOCK
Part 1

TURNING THE HANDLE TIGHTENS AND RELEASES THREADED ROD PRESSING INTO BACK OF CUT-OUT BLOCK

PART 2
PART 1
INNER BLOCK 9 7/8" LONG

THIS ROD WILL PUSH OUTWARD

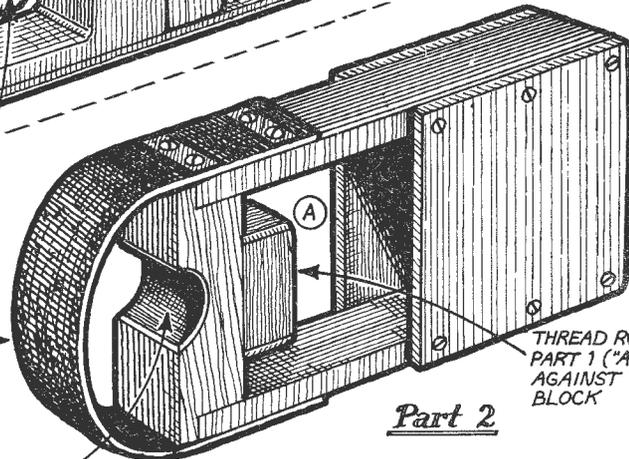
THREADED 3/4" DIA. WOOD ROD WITH 7 THREADS PER INCH

HOLES IN HANDLE FOR INSERTION OF SPIKE TO TURN ROD

LEATHER LOOP

A WELL MADE, ALL WOOD, CRAFTSMAN PRODUCED PIECE... PROBABLY UNIQUE. IT DOES NOT FUNCTION AS A CLAMP IN THE NORMAL SENSE IN THAT PRESSURE IS APPLIED OUTWARD - NOT PULLING THINGS TOGETHER.

TAPERED, HALF-ROUND CUTOUT



THREAD ROD FROM PART 1 ("A") BEARS AGAINST THIS BLOCK

Part 2

© LARRY FUHRO 1985 - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

GADGETS • DOOHICKEYS • THINGAMAJIGS • AND WHATCHAMACALLITS

[Letters to Pop, cont'd from page 10]

From further south, in Cheverly, Md., Bob Nelson writes: "[It is] for shaving splints for basket weaving or such—working, supposedly, along the lines of a poor man's spelk plane."

Bob's further description deserves repeating: "If you were working fairly green wood (as would probably be the case for basket weaving) and maneuvered the tool along with a combination cutting and splitting action (jockeying the handle for a froe-like effect), you might be able to take off a fairly thick splint without rupturing yourself too severely." That seems to say it all.

Carl Bopp of Audubon, N.J., who like most South Jerseymen is a man of few words, writes simply: "Green oak basket splint shave."

Three identifications makes it official and final. Thank you, gentlemen.

PATINA's Fourth Annual Tool Auction.
George Mason School, 2601 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria, Virginia. SATURDAY, MARCH 16. Inspection at 9:00 a.m. Auction begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. For information, call Gene Kijowski (301) 231-8999.
