

The TOOL SHED

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CRAFTS OPENS YEAR WITH MEETING AT SPACE FARMS: 1985-1986 PROGRAM CALENDAR SET

CRAFTS of New Jersey opened its 1985-1986 membership year on September ninth with a meeting hosted by CRAFTSman Ralph Space at the enchanting Space Farms in Sussex, New Jersey.

Talk about something for everyone! The Space collections almost defy description. There were cars and dolls and Indian artifacts and (of course!) tools. And thrown in for good measure was the wonderful Space Farms zoo. The 141 members and their spouses who attended the meeting obviously enjoyed the exhibits immensely, just as they enjoyed the delicious meal catered by Space Farms.

CRAFTS extends its warmest thanks to Ralph Space for being such a gracious and generous host.

The September meeting, however, was only the beginning. Fred Shippey and his program Committee have lined up an outstanding series of speakers for the coming year. Here is the calendar.

November 24: The November meeting will feature a return engagement by Charles and Walter Jacob, the authorities on Stanley tools. They will speak on (and demonstrate) "Using the Stanley 55 Plane." Come early if you want to sit up front.

February 2: In February John S. Kababian, one of the leading tool collectors and scholars in America, will speak on "The Pomeroy and Other Anvils." John Kababian will need no introduction to members of the Early American Industries Association..

April 13: In April CRAFTS' own Dr. Frank W. Kingsbury will emerge from Frosty Hollow and initiate the members into the joys of "Collecting

Wrenches." Since Frank appeared on television with his wrenches, there has been no stopping him.

June 1: The final program of the year, in June, will present Howard Greenberger, Past President of the Early American Industries Association, who will give a lecture/demonstration on "Broom Winding." What's the difference between broom making and broom winding? You can find out next June.

More about the speakers and programs will be in future issues. It looks like a great year. Attend and enjoy.

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S.W.E.A.T. AT FORT NEW SALEM

by Les Beyer

The Society of Workers in Early Arts and Trades held its yearly meeting at Fort New Salem, Salem, West Va., on September 14-15. New Jersey was well represented. Attending were CRAFTSmen Harry O'Neill, Les Beyer, and former Jerseyan Bill Gustafson.

Fort New Salem is located about 15 miles west of Clarksburg and is part of Salem College where young people are trained for work in museums and restorations in a restoration-like setting.

John Randolph, our host, made everyone feel right at home. Food was almost constantly available and being served in the rustic tavern at the fort. Many times the meal had been cooked over the fire in the tavern's hearth. In the evening the building was left open for us to sit at the

[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.

CRAFTS ELECTS OFFICERS
AND DIRECTORS FOR 1985-1986

The annual election of officers and directors for CRAFTS of New Jersey was held at the spring meeting on June 9, at Clinton Historical Museum Village. Stephen Zlucky of Whitehouse was reelected President of the Society.

Other officers elected at the June meeting were: Harry O'Neill of Annandale, Vice President; Barbara Farnham of Stockton, Secretary; and John M. Whelan of Murray Hill, Treasurer.

Three members of the CRAFTS Board of Directors were also reelected to three-year terms of office. The three were: Alexander Farnham of Stockton, Lewis Cooper of Chester, and Donald Lipsey of Belvidere.

Other members of the Board of Directors whose terms of office carry through the 1985-1986 membership year are: Charles Granick of Somerville; Joseph Hauk of Lebanon; Herb Kean of Morristown; Dominic Micalizzi of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Emil S. Pollak of Mendham; and Frederick A. Shippey of Madison. All elected Directors serve three year terms.

The Editor of The Tool Shed, Robert Fridlington of Cranford, serves

as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors.

CRAFTS of New Jersey is a non-profit organization, incorporated in the State of New Jersey. Membership dues are seven dollars (\$7.00) a year for the membership year of July 1 through June 30. The annual business meeting is held at the regularly scheduled meeting of the membership in June of each year

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[S.W.E.A.T., continued from page 1]
fire, spin yarns, and tell tall tales. Sitting in an unheated, unlit tavern, save for fireplace and candles, seemed to put your fellow CRAFTSMen in their element, as we told some of the tallest.

The Society would like to start a regional chapter, to include New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, and it hopes that some of our CRAFTS members may be interested. To become a member you should know (or be learning) an early trade or craft. This, of course, need not serve as the mainstay of your life, but you must be willing and able to demonstrate it publicly. You do not need to be very good at it, but you should, with time, show improvement.

The purposes of S.W.E.A.T. are as follows:

1. To exchange knowledge of practice in these crafts.
2. To further finding, making, and exchange of tools and stuffs for use in work.
3. To aid in finding work and seeking workers.

Regionally, we hope to have meetings at somewhat regular intervals, and we intend to contact the people in charge of area museums, restorations, and craft fairs so we may find work, demonstrate, show off, and perhaps sell our wares.

The annual meeting next September will be in Richmondtown, Staten Island, which will give those in the New Jersey area a good chance to demonstrate their trades for people who care and understand.

For membership information, contact: Les Beyer (201) 738-8161.

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SCYTHE SNATHS

by Albert S. Housman

The method of manufacture of a scythe snath and items of bent split ash does not require a treatise here. Neither does ash. Although there are some fifty varieties of it, only a few are generally commented on: the white, so commonly used for tool handles; the black, which so well lends itself to splitting for basket weaving; the blue, whose main claim to recognition is that its sap turns to that hue upon its exposure to air; and the red, used when lower grading is allowed.

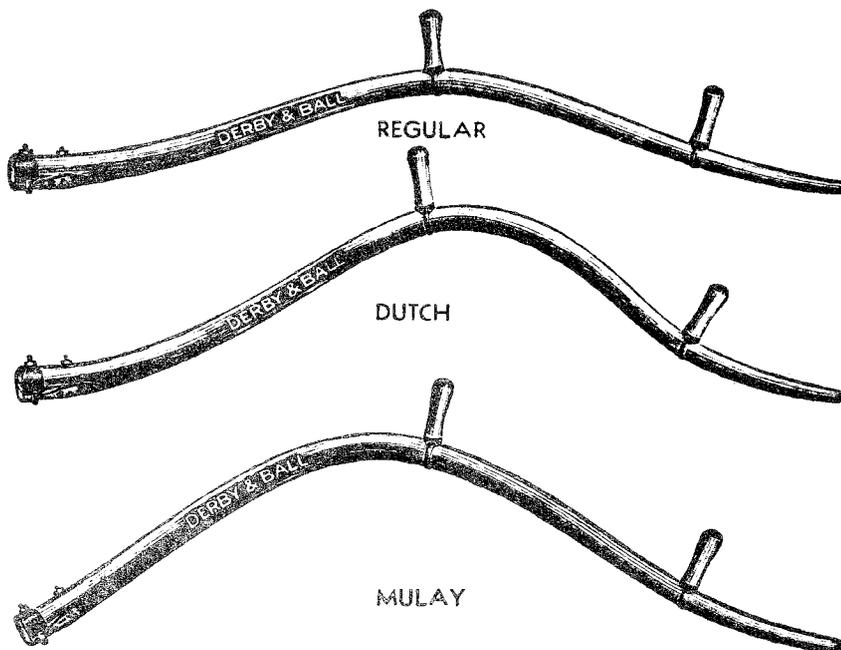
The illustration below is from an 1890 catalog offering the products of Derby & Ball, Inc. This company was established in 1851 and became the

most important manufacturer of scythe snaths, selling in the United States and also developing a respectable export business, as many nations did not have suitable available lumber for domestic manufacture.

The prices of D & B snaths (regular bend) ranged from \$6.50 to \$11.00 per dozen, depending on the type of hardware and trim one wanted. Brass-trimmed snaths, for example, cost 50¢ per dozen more than those with iron trim. Snaths were also offered made of "wrought iron tube" and of cherry wood.

Snaths with Dutch or Mulay bends
[Continued on page 4]

STYLES OF BENDS



Regular Bend is the result of our experience since 1851.

On Mulay and Dutch Bend Snaths add \$2.00 a dozen to the price of regular bend Snaths. Straight Bend Snaths will be supplied if ordered.

Nibs or hand holds can be raised or lowered to accommodate the user.

Bend the shank of the scythe to adjust the angle of the cutting edge of the blade.

Adjust the position of the point of the scythe by using the different holes in the scythe plate.

D. & B. Snaths (scythe handles) are given a superior filler and varnish finish, and are shipped tied in half-dozen bundles.

The fastenings are of malleable iron.

Considering the range of sizes or diameters within which we produce Snaths, it is not practical for us to show a schedule of weights.

The length of a Scythe Snath is 59 inches.

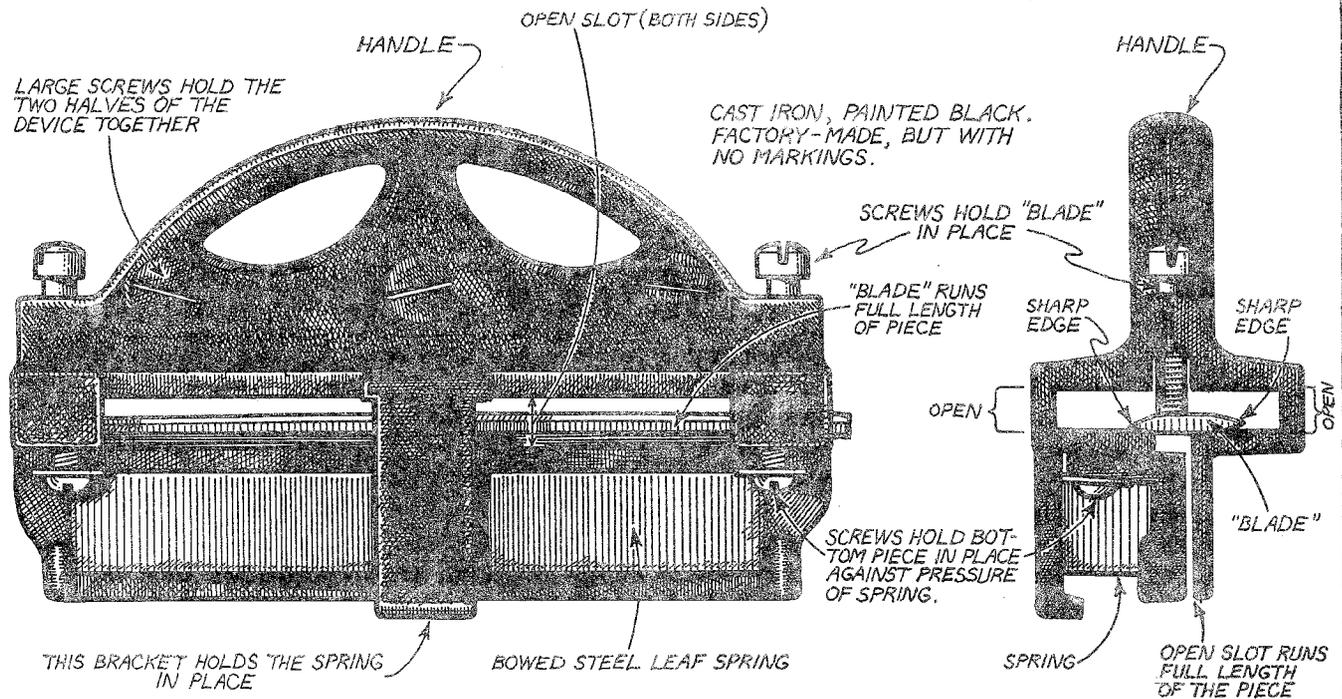
Pop Rivet's
What's It? No.20



by **LARRY FUHRO**

THIS GIZMO IS FROM MY OWN
 COLLECTION... POP

SHOWN ACTUAL SIZE



SIDE VIEW

END VIEW

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GADGETS · DOOHICKEYS · THINGAMAJICS · AND WHATCHAMACALLITS

[Snaths, continued from page 3] cost \$1.00 more per dozen than regular bend.

D & B used "Patent Loop" and "Patent Swing Socket" fastenings on their snaths, which allowed the scythe to be set in any position or at any angle without bending the shank or twisting the cutting edge.

Interestingly, Derby & Ball also manufactured and advertised a snath with a "Jersey bend," although it was not illustrated.

[Editor's note: Al Housman will have

will have more to say about scythes and snaths and such stuff in a future issue. In the meantime if any of our readers can locate a illustration of a snath with a "Jersey bend," please send us a photocopy.]

SEND 1985-1986 DUES (\$7.00) TO:
 MR. JOHN M. WHELAN, TREASURER
 38 COLONY COURT
 MURRAY HILL, NJ 07974
