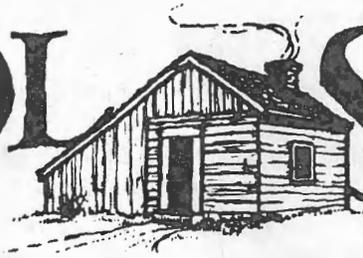


The TOOL SHED

NUMBER 41



APRIL 1986

A Journal of Tool Collecting published by CRAFTS of New Jersey

THE ICE AGE

by Barret V. Dalrymple

The bitter cold weather that we experienced this past winter would have been welcomed by the farmers, creamery owners, and ice companies in Sussex and other northern counties of New Jersey 50 to 80 years ago. This would have been the ideal time to harvest the winter crop of ice to store in the ice-houses for use in warmer weather to cool the milk.

The commercial ice industry in Sussex County did not get underway until the coming of the railroads, which provided transportation to the cities. However, farmers, hotels, and creameries were cutting ice from mill ponds long before the advent of commercial ice cutting enterprises.

An ice-cutting day would go from dawn until dusk, or about 12 hours a day. It was a cold and dangerous occupation, and many a man and horse ended up in the ice-cold water. Some would not make it out alive.

For harvesting, the ice had to be at least 10 inches thick. To measure the ice, a hole was either bored through with an ice auger or chopped through with an ice axe.



Ice Auger.

When the ice was ready, it was marked off with a horse-drawn ice marker. When the marker reached the end of the pond, it was turned around and a guide attached to the marker was inserted into the three-inch groove made on the first pass. It was then driven back across the pond making a parallel mark, usually 22 inches apart. This operation was continued until the whole

area was covered. When the field had been lined off in one direction, a fresh set of lines was run in at right angles, dividing the entire field into 22-inch squares.



Boston Ice Ax.

This operation was followed by the ice plow, which was similar to the
[Continued on page 8]

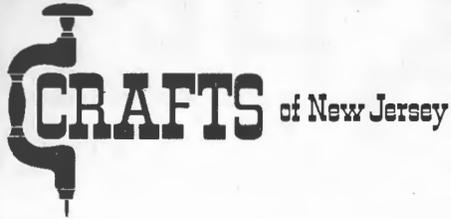
FRANK W. KINGSBURY TO SPEAK AT APRIL 13 MEETING

The spring meeting of CRAFTS of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, April 13, at the Clinton Historical Museum Village in Clinton.

Tailgate sales begin officially at 1:00 p.m., though the early birds are stirring before that time. The business meeting and formal program will begin at 2:00.

The featured speaker for the afternoon will be Frank W. Kingsbury, whose talk is entitled "Collecting Wrenches." Kingsbury will also display representative examples from his outstanding collection of wrenches. For more about New Jersey's Wrench King, see page 2.

Following refreshments, the meeting will conclude with the "Whatsit?" session, conducted by Harry O'Neill. Members are asked to bring no more than one "whatsit" for identification.



**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.

**DICTIONARY OF
LEATHER-WORKING TOOLS**

CRAFTSman Raymond R. Townsend of Williamsburg, Va., has informed us that R. A. Salaman's long-awaited Dictionary of Leather-Working Tools has been published in England and will be published in the United States within a month or two if present plans go smoothly.

Salaman's new work is organized along the same lines as his Dictionary of Tools Used in the Woodworking and Allied Trades, which was published in 1975. Four-hundred pages long, the book contains 1,100 illustrations and describes more than 1,000 different leather-working tools, which are grouped under the trade in which they are chiefly employed.

Among the trades included are: bookbinder, boot and shoe maker, clog maker, decoration of leather, driving belt maker, furrier, glove maker, loriner, harness maker and saddler, hat maker, tanner and currier, purse maker, and a miscellaneous section dealing with the tools of the ball maker, coach trimmer, gut string maker, parchment maker, taxidermist, and whip maker.

* * * * *

**SPEAKER PROFILE:
FRANK W. KINGSBURY**

Sterling, Mass., has produced two people whose celebrity has spread far beyond the Bay State. One is Mary Sawyer, of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" fame; the other is Dr. Frank W. Kingsbury, of tool-collecting fame. One-half of this famous duo will speak on his favorite subject, "Collecting Wrenches," at CRAFTS' April 13th meeting.

Frank Kingsbury grew up on a Massachusetts dairy farm, went to college (U. of Mass.), taught school for a while, and then received a D.V.M. degree from Michigan State University. His wife Mary Alice also attended Michigan State, where she "majored in art, minored in gym, and married Frank." They are the parents of three grown sons.

Frank came to New Jersey about 30 years ago when he accepted a position with Merck & Co. A few years later he joined the Rutgers University Extension Service, where he remained until his retirement five years ago (He is also a retired Lt. Col. in the U.S. Army).

In the course of his distinguished career, Kingsbury served as President of the New Jersey Academy of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, of the American Association of Veterinary Nutritionists, and of the American Association of Extension Veterinarians. In 1979 he received a national award as Extension Veterinarian of the Year.

Frank began collecting wrenches seriously only after he retired—anything before that time doesn't count. Although seldom at a loss for words, he was stumped when asked how many wrenches he had in his collection. "I stopped counting after I reached a thousand," he said.

In addition to being a dedicated member of CRAFTS, Frank belongs to that select group of enthusiasts known as the Missouri Valley Wrench Club, and he makes the long treks out to Iowa, or Nebraska, or South Dakota, or somewhere to attend the MVWC meetings.

The Kingsbury Wrench Collection has been featured in the newspapers and on television, and Frank is willing to deliver an impromptu lecture on the joys of wrench collecting to anyone who is willing to listen.

* * * * *

STEPHEN VAIL'S AXE RETURNS TO MORRISTOWN

by Alexander Farnham

Sometime during the first eight years of the nineteenth century, a small hewing axe was forged by Stephen Vail at his blacksmith shop in Morristown, N.J. On February 23 this axe was presented to Historic Speedwell in Morristown by John H. Culbertson, one of Speedwell's trustees.

Marked S. VAIL / CAST STEEL / WARRANTED, it is one of New Jersey's most important historic axes. Besides the full-page photograph of the axe that appears in my book on early New Jersey tools, there will also be one illustrating an article I wrote for the book "The Challenge of Folk Materials for New Jersey Museums," to be published this year by the Museums Council of New Jersey.



The Stephen Vail Axe

Since Stephen Vail worked as an independent blacksmith only from 1800 to 1808, any tool marked by him would be from this period. As one of the earliest documented New Jersey axes, the Vail axe could be considered of great historical significance. The fact that Stephen Vail forged it makes it even more so.

Born in 1780, Vail became one of the most important figures in New Jersey's commerce and industry, and his activities helped generate the Industrial Revolution in the United States. He was a close friend of Samuel F. B. Morse and one of Morse's chief backers in the invention of the telegraph. He was also a major influence in developing

iron machinery, railroads, the steamship, dry docks, and modern paper-making techniques.

Sarah E. Haskins, Director of Historic Speedwell, plans to display the Stephen Vail axe in a place of prominence and hopes that it will be joined by other tools forged by this most important New Jerseyan.

ROBINSON'S CRANK WRENCHES & BIT BRACE

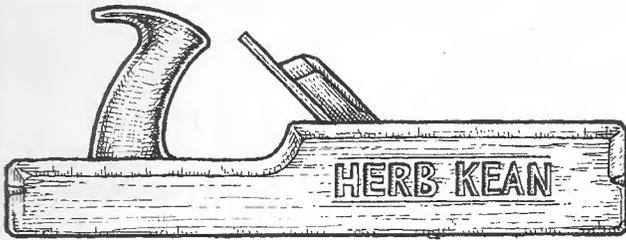


Although he lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., Dominic Micalizzi possesses an unusual talent for finding interesting New Jersey tools.

His most recent discovery is a combination wrench-brace signed ROBINSON'S CRANK WRENCHES & BIT BRACE / NEWARK, N.J. (as shown above). Beneath the signature are two patent dates: Jan. 26, '75 and Dec. 25, '77. Dominic has not one, but two, of these tools.

The Robinson wrench-braces are identical to those made by Peter Lowentraut in Newark. Presumably, S. J. Johnston of Leesburg, Va., who held the patents on these tools, sold manufacturing rights to Robinson as well as to Lowentraut.

As of now, nothing more is known about Robinson or his company.



Kean Kuttin's

NO TOOLING TODAY

Some summers ago, Doris and I decided to take a Sunday ride to the Catskills—just for the scenery. When we are out for a ride, and not antiquing, the "rule" is that only once or twice during the day am I allowed an antique stop. I was feeling guilty about the fiasco of a ride we had the week before, so I benevolently announced that there would be "no tooling today." The look of disbelief I got was based upon instant replays of years of similar announcements.

I was a prince of a person all morning, but at lunch we stopped at a restaurant that had tools hanging on the walls. I had long since refrained from sneering at these touristy tools, because I once found an Aaron Smith complex moulder in just such a place. The owner and I talked a bit while waiting for the meal, and I found out that he bought most of his collection from an antique dealer "up in the woods." He graciously gave me directions (once I was sure Doris was out of earshot).

Now I'm not the world's best on directions, particularly when the other guy is all screwed-up also. So when I got lost trying to pull off the let's-try-this-back-road-for-the-terrific-scenery trick, I had to admit that my no-tooling promise would have to be scrapped on the pile of good intentions. She was delighted to get in one of her famous "I knew you couldn't do it!"—It seemed like a fair exchange.

However, after two wrong farmhouses and a kid on a bike, we finally found him. It wasn't in the woods, but in the sticks—the type of area Doris calls "ticky-tacky," and is filled with junk cars, falling-down barns, and old appliances on the front porches. But, he did have a quonset hut with a sign reading ANTIQUES. I mentioned that it didn't

appear as if he had much of interest, and I'd only be a few minutes. Besides, as late as it now was, we could start right back and have a nice leisurely dinner at one of our favorite country inns.

It was miserably hot that day, and she decided to come into the hut rather than wait in the car. The hut held an unusual array of saleable items that surprised both of us, but unfortunately the meager number of tools were all of the farm type. We picked out some nice things, and as we were paying the fellow, I asked the stereotyped question (more out of habit than reason), "Do you have any other tools somewhere else?"

He took us to a rusty 20-foot truck trailer attached to the back of the hut. When he opened the trailer door, all I can remember is the Red Sea opening up to a full display of Fourth of July fireworks! The whole trailer was loaded, and I mean loaded, with tools.

He explained that he got these tools sometime back but had no room in the hut, so he bought the trailer just for them. "Trouble is I haven't put up a sign yet, and I keep forgetting to mention them," he apologized. It seemed to me that he really wanted to hold onto them for a while, but even though nothing was priced, he did say everything was for sale. The parallel about the kid in the candy shop couldn't come close to matching this situation.

Most of the tools were routine, but I could see snatches of greatness here and there, and I knew it was going to take some digging. Doris completely gave up at this point, went back to the car, turned on the airconditioning, and curled up with her Sunday Times—which she always brings along for such emergencies.

There was some semblance of order to the piles and shelves. All augers were in one spot, and axes and saws were in others. Planes were scattered, but the metal planes were all on two racks of shelves. It was the first time I ever saw Stanley planes complete—all depth stops, cutters, etc. Boxes of blades were with each piece, not always the right box, but everything matched up in the end.

It didn't take long before the blast-furnace temperature in that trailer had me wringing wet. It's

amazing how physical discomforts can disappear when the adrenaline is flowing. I was an absolute mess of sweat and dirt, but grinning like a banshee.

I found an entire set of Japanese tools, which I had never seen before, and I became intrigued with figuring them out. She-who-must-be-obeyed started complaining about the late hour, and as the station wagon was going to be filled anyway, I left the Japanese stuff behind. Also left behind were hundreds of common planes that I didn't take out into the light to check for signatures. Eighteenth-century planes were not that popular then.

But my keepers were loaded as fast as I could get them through his "check-out." This consisted of pricing by armfuls, but with some lapses of logic. For example, a #45 was the same price as a #41. Beech plows and boxwood plows were equal—but braces with brass on them were more expensive than the all-wood ones. I also had to buy some pieces that was "pushing," such as four crummy hand saws. We made a date for my return trip, and the Catskills became one of favorite rides.

Most of the tools taken from this trailer were cleaned up and sold to the original members of CRAFTS, way back in the days of the Saturday Sales in Chatham. The rest are in my collection and still stir fond memories of that exciting day.

P.S.—With me looking like a coal miner and the car loaded to the roof rack, Doris and I never made it to the fancy inn for dinner. One more broken promise created by the lure of antique tools.

* * * * *

IN MEMORIAM

VINCENT MENCHEK

Vince Menchek, proprietor of the Little Engine Shop in Ringoes, died in January.

MORE SILENCE

Sir:

Have you noticed how difficult it is to find a hardware store? There are plenty of places that say HARDWARE on the front, but in fact they sell little more than grass seed and lawn mowers.

Times have changed, and no longer can one find a place that has a great revolving chest filled with just the size bolt or screw you need.

Today you're lucky to find the size you need and most fortunate to find a package that contains the exact number you want. Why do those packages always contain an odd number? How often do you need three bolts? If you need four, you are forced to buy two packs and have two bolts left over to throw into that coffee can with all the other odd-size bolts and screws that you know you'll never sort out.

I expect that in fifteen or twenty years I will meet someone who had to give up their job or hobby because their shop became filled with left-over bolts and screws.

I would also like to find, in my area, a proprietor who knows something about the hardware business. I shall state my case in point.

I'm sure most everyone has seen, at least in a catalog, a device called a "web" or "band" clamp. Having need of one on short notice, I asked my local dealer if he had them. Receiving a blank stare, I went on to describe it: "It has a nylon belt about an inch-and-a-half wide and twelve- or fifteen-feet long that forms a big loop and is attached to a ratchet-type device. This tightens the loop like you would tighten the belt on your pants."

His reply was (I swear this is true): "Are you talking about the thing that has two wooden blocks with metal screws running through them?"

Now, was my description really that bad?

Had he actually heard what I had said?

Was it even a hardware store? I certainly thought so. It had plenty of grass seed and lawn mowers.

I Remain, Kind Reader,
Your Humble Servant—
Silence Willmott

* * * * *

AN APPRAISAL AND SOME RESEARCH

by Alexander Farnham

On February 17 I went down to Cook College where I met Tom Harrington, the Director-Curator of the Agricultural Museum of the State of New Jersey and a new member of CRAFTS. We drove down to the Frank I. Newman & Son hardware store in Sea Girt, N.J. The store was established in the 1890's and had in its attic, barn, and shed many early tools and farm implements. Several of these date back to around the turn of the century and were still packed in their original shipping crates.

Sixty-two lots from this collection were being donated to the Agricultural Museum. They consisted of a variety of items, including a large wagon scale in excellent condition, covered-wagon bows, a canal wheelbarrow, a cider press, a clover cutter and fork, seeders, scythe blades, plow parts, and a potato digger. There were also many lots of unused parts so essential to restoring farm equipment. These donations will be part of the permanent exhibit in the yet to be built museum on the Cook campus.

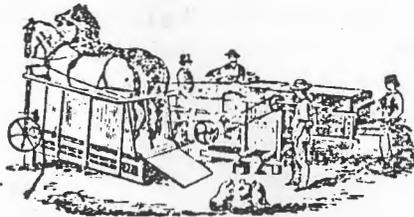
Those tool enthusiasts who find themselves in the vicinity of Sea Girt might find it interesting to visit the Frank I. Newman & Son hardware store, where a number of early tools and adver-

tising signs are hung on the walls.

My purpose in making the trip to Sea Girt was to appraise for tax purposes those items being donated to the Museum. When that job was done, Tom and I drove back to Cook College. After dropping Tom off at his office, I decided to visit Rutgers' Alexander Library to do further research on H.L. Rice, whose firkin I own.

At the library I discovered some Trenton directories that had eluded me during my previous visit. In the 1857 directory, (the earliest I could find) Hiram L. Rice was listed as a partner in Rice & Brother, grocers, at State, corner of Stockton. From 1859 to 1869 he was sole owner of a grocery at 120 East State, the same address as his home. It was when I consulted the 1870 directory that I learned something which really surprised me. In that directory H.L. Rice appeared as Secretary/Treasurer of Trenton Agricultural Works. After discovering this bit of information, I realized that I had reproduced an advertisement of this firm in which Rice's name appears in my book Early Tools of New Jersey and the Men Who Made Them. H.L. Rice's name is missing from the 1887 directory, but in the 1903 edition

Trenton Agricultural Works.



Manufacturers of Single and Double Geared

HORSE POWERS,

Threshers and Cleaners,

Reaping and Mowing Machines,

AND OTHER FARMING IMPLEMENTS.

BENNINGTON GILL, President. | AMOS LANNING, Superintendent.
H. L. RICE, Secretary and Treasurer, | H. R. WITHINGTON, Gen'l Agt.

TRENTON, N. J.

Claira E. Rice is listed as his widow.

A number of years are missing from the library's collection of Trenton directories, so I was unable to discover the date when H. L. Rice went into the grocery business or the year he died. I did find, however, an indirect connection between my book on New Jersey tools and the firkin I bought at auction last May.

LES BEYER TO DEMONSTRATE WOODWRIGHTING

On April 27 CRAFTSman Les Beyer will demonstrate woodwrighting in the "Sundays in the Farmhouse" colonial crafts series held at the Joseph Murray Farmhouse and Barn at Poricy Park, Oak Hill Road, Middletown, N.J. The afternoon program will run from 12:30 to 3:30.

The "Sundays in the Farmhouse" program is sponsored in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

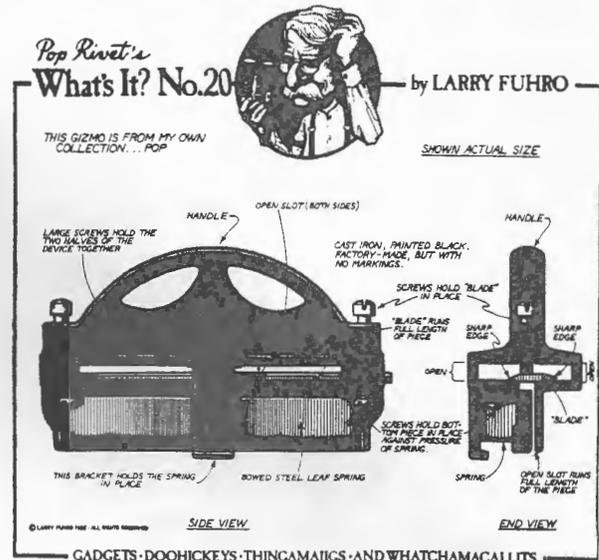


THAT'S IT!

TWO "WHAT'S ITS" IDENTIFIED

Two of Pop Rivet's "What's Its?" have been identified.

First, Sam Merin of Bethpage, N.Y., identified "What's It?" No. 20 as a saw jointer, used for leveling (or "flatting") the teeth of a saw before they are sharpened.



Indeed, Sam might be getting ready to sharpen some saws. At the February CRAFTS meeting, he sought out Pop Rivet, and after some whispered negotiations, Sam went home with "What's It?" No. 20 in his pocket.

Then, Bill Neyer of Mount Joy, Pa., wrote and identified "What's It?" No. 22

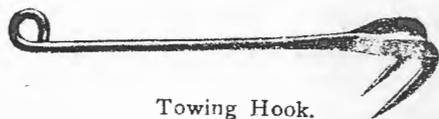


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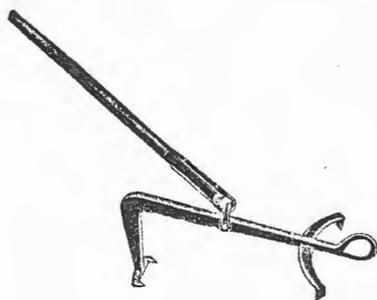
[Ice Age, continued from page 1]
 marker but had no guide. The plow had much longer teeth, and after several passes through the grooves they would be cut to about two-thirds the thickness of the ice. The cakes could then be broken off with a breaking bar or chisel.

On smaller operations, such as a farm pond, the cakes were cut out after the marking operation with hand saws from 4' to 5' in length. The cakes were then floated to shore, with various grapples, bars and hooks coming into use. The ice was loaded on wagons or sleds and later trucks. If the ice house was close to the pond, the cakes were put directly into the house by means of slings, ropes and pulleys, or makeshift elevators.

The Ice Age has left an array of tools for the collector if you have a place to store and display them. Included with this article are some pictures from a Gifford-Wood Ice Tool Catalog showing some of the tools in my collection.



Towing Hook.



Pole Grapple.



Jack Grapple.

It appears that different sections of the country had their own style of ice axes, as did the woodsmen with their felling axes, because the catalog lists a Boston Ice Axe, Chicago Ice Axe, New York Medium Ice Axe, New York Heavy Ice Axe, Philadelphia Square Head Ice Axe, and a Philadelphia Hook Ice Axe.

The same is true of ice tongs, with a listing of New York, Manhattan, Philadelphia, New London, Providence, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Kansas City, and Buffalo patterns.



House Ice Ax.



Chicago Ice Ax



Buffalo Tongs.



Eastern Edging-up Tongs.



Cincinnati Chain Tongs



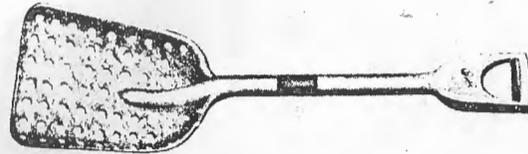
Kansas City Chain Tongs.

I have two interesting pairs of ice tongs in my collection. One is a pair of chain tongs with the tong parts made from old files. The other is a pair of tongs bearing the initials D.L.B.S. These initials belonged to Daniel Luther Bertram Smith, who operated a general store in the village of Branchville, N.J., in the early part of this century. Mr. Smith gave up the store business in the late twenties to found the nationally known Selected Risks Insurance Company, which still has its home office in Branchville.

Ice tools, like other tools, are found altered or added to by the farmer or blacksmith to suit his particular needs. Your author was a young lad at the end of the Ice Age and did not take part in the harvest; but I do remember going to a neighboring farm with my father in the summer months to get ice to cool our milk.



Measuring Rod.



Perforated Ice Scoops.



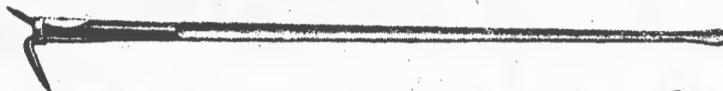
Line Marker.



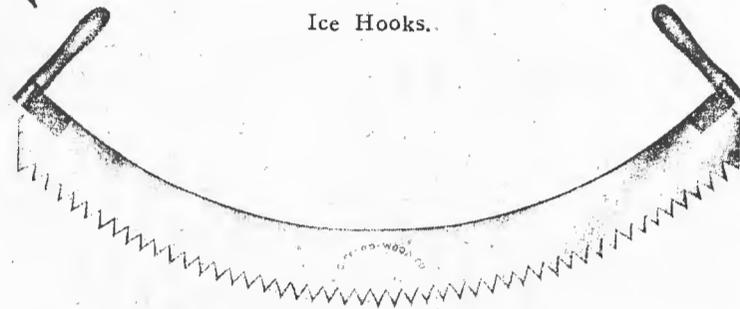
Tapping Bar, Ring Handle.



Elevator Fork.



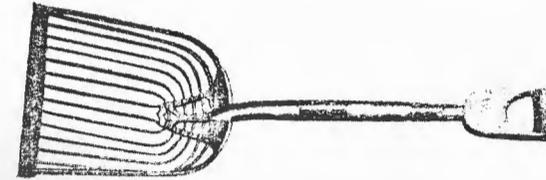
Ice Hooks.



Crescent Ice Saw.



Ice Tool Grapple.



Sieve Shovel.



Double-Cake Bar.



Canal Needle Bar, Ring Handle.



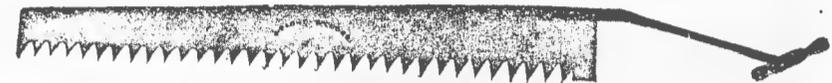
Needle Bar, Ring Handle, 2-Tined.



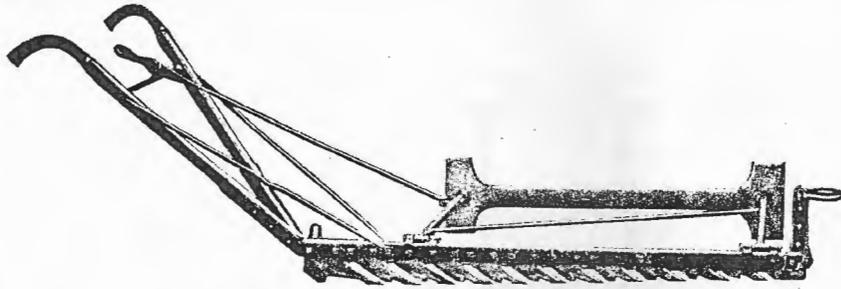
Needle Bar, Ring Handle, 3-Tined.



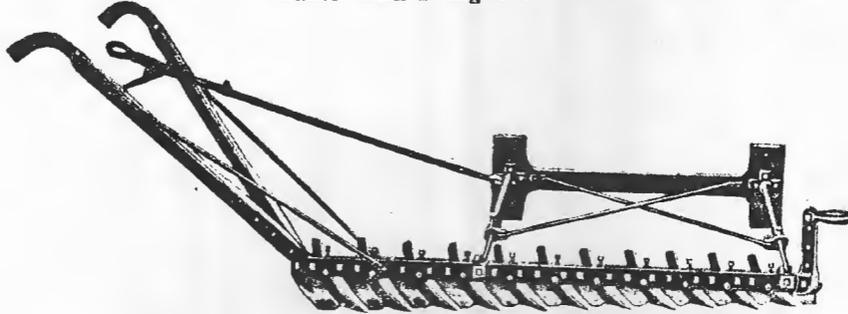
Scoop Net.



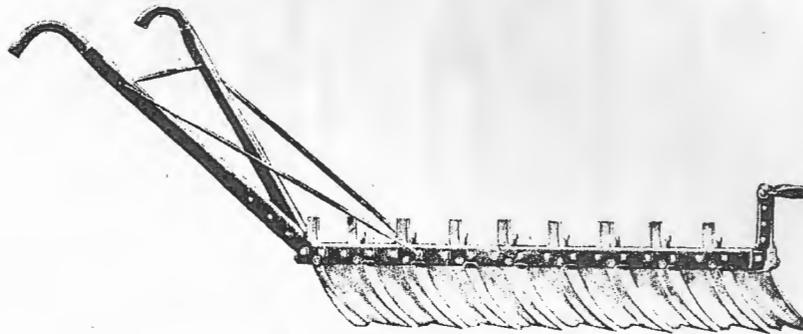
5-ft. Saw.



Marker with Swing Guide.



Patent Perfection Marker, 11 cutting teeth, with 22 x 32 in. Patent Extension Guide.



8-in. Patent Perfection Plow, 8 Teeth, with Patent Hind Heel.

NOT FOR MEN ONLY

Women are becoming increasingly prominent in the world of antique tools. CRAFTSwoman Linda Mariconda, who has operated Whitney House Antiques at the Lafayette Mill Antique Center for more than two years, expanded her interests last fall by opening the "Tool Shop" at the Center.

Linda specializes in early wood-working tools, trade tools, and agricultural implements. She carries a stock of more than 500 tools. And she says, she enjoying herself tremendously.

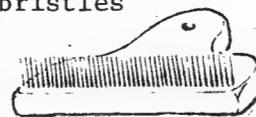
For those who are strangers to Sussex County, the Lafayette Mill Antiques Center is on Route 15 in Lafayette. The Center is open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (and Holiday Mondays) from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt!

Doctors bury their mistakes.
Murderers are hung for theirs.
Tool collectors bid on theirs.

ENGINE can mean anything used to effect a purpose—e.g., a BRUSH ENGINE for sorting bristles





MELTED ICE. The February issue of The Tool Shed carried two photographs of an icehouse at Kirkwood, N.J. The photograph above shows the ruins of the same icehouse after a disastrous fire about 1911.

(Photo courtesy of Ye Olde Workshop, Audubon, New Jersey)

Pop Rivet's What's It? No.23

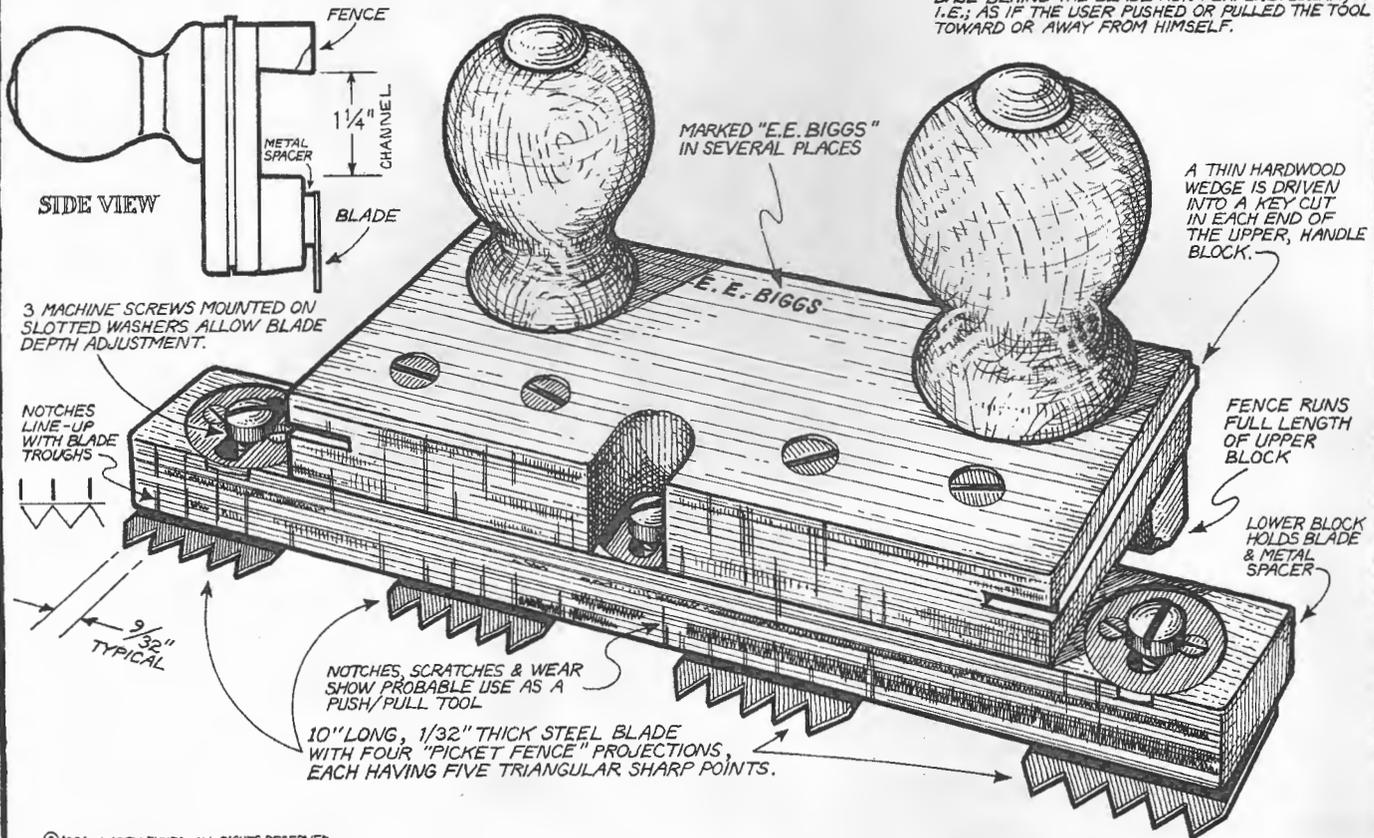


by LARRY FUHRO

Thanks to
Herb Kean,
Morristown, NJ

A CHANNEL FORMED BY THE ATTACHMENT OF THE BLADE MOUNTING AND A PARALLEL FENCE TO THE MAIN (HANDLE) BLOCK SEEMS TO BE A GUIDE FOR LATERAL MOVEMENT OF THE TOOL, ALTHOUGH IT SHOWS VIRTUALLY NO WEAR.

HOWEVER, THIS FEATURE IS BELIED BY THE FACT THAT SCRATCHES & WEAR MARKS ON THE WOODEN BASE BEHIND THE BLADE RUN PERPENDICULAR, I.E.; AS IF THE USER PUSHED OR PULLED THE TOOL TOWARD OR AWAY FROM HIMSELF.



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GADGETS • DOOHICKEYS • THINGAMAJIGS • AND WHATCHAMACALLITS

[That's It!, continued from page 7] as a comb maker's clamp, used to hold the horn after it had been flattened and worked down. Bill had one just like it about two years ago, and it was so identified by the person he purchased it from.

Bill continues: "I believe the fine notches on the clamp were for the spacing of the teeth. The fact that the clamp only opens slightly is O.K., since it would only need slight release to loosen the thin horn material to move it up in the process of cutting the teeth."

* * * * *

JUNE PROGRAM

Howard Greenberger's demonstration of broom winding, originally scheduled for June, has been postponed until next year. Instead of traveling to New Jersey in June, Dr. Greenberger will be traveling to China.

The June program, therefore, will feature Herb Kean, who will instruct and entertain with a lecture-demonstration on "The History and Preservation of Carousel Animals."