

The TOOL SHED

NUMBER 62

JUNE 1990

A Journal of Tool Collecting published by CRAFTS of New Jersey

EARLY SHEEP AND WOOL INDUSTRY

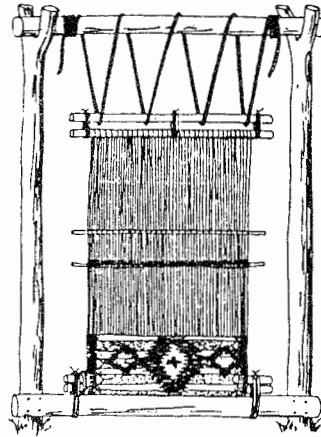
by Barbara Kes Farnham

The raising of sheep is one of the earliest and most important industries providing meat, wool, tallow, skins and milk. Egyptian sculptures show the existence of sheep about 4000 B. C. Fabrics of wool have been found dating back between 10,000 and 20,000 years ago in ruins of Swiss Lake villages. Early household crafts of weaving and felting were among the first arts developed. Roman togas were made of finely woven wool. Wool was so important to the early Romans that blankets were placed over the sheep in inclement weather to protect the wool.

By the year 1000 A. D. both England and Spain were important in the sheep industry, and by 1500 they were the two greatest sheep producing countries. The Spanish Merino had finer wool, but both countries were competitors in the early wool markets. At this time the wool was more important than the meat. The English developed a coarser wool because of the difficult climate and poor natural pastures. With the development of better agricultural implements they were able to produce better sheep for improved wool and meat.

Columbus brought sheep to the West Indies on his second voyage in 1493. Cortez brought Merinos to Mexico in 1519, and later multi-colored sheep were introduced from Spain to the Navajos in New Mexico. Although there

had been wild sheep prior to this time in the southwest, these domesticated Spanish sheep aided the Indians to develop their skills in the wool crafts for which they are so well known. They developed a variety of weaving looms and



Navajo Loom

used almost exclusively the drop spindle for spinning. The drop spindle could be used while traveling, even while sitting astride a horse.

The first British breeds were brought into Virginia by the London Company in 1609. Twenty years later there were about 400 sheep in Boston. These were rather poor specimens with poor wool. The English were rather reticent about sending their better stock to the colonies. The town common was open to grazing, and town shepherds were provided to protect and care for the sheep. Owners identified their stock with marks or brands much like in the cattle industry. These brands were registered. These colonists used sheep primarily for

(continued on page 4)



Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society
of New Jersey

President _____ STEVE ZLUKY, Whitehouse
Vice President _____ JOSEPH G. HAUCK, Lebanon
Secretary _____ BARBARA FARNHAM, Stockton
Treasurer _____ JOHN M. WHELAN, Murray Hill

The purpose of CRAFTS of New Jersey is to encourage interest in early trades and industries and in the identification, study, preservation and exhibition of tools and implements used and made in New Jersey as an integral part of our heritage.

Membership in CRAFTS is open to anyone who shares the above interests. Annual dues per person or couple are ten 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, N. J. 07974.

The Tool Shed

Published five times a year for members of CRAFTS of New Jersey. Coeditors: Frank W. and Mary Alice Kingsbury, R. D. 1, Box 316, Glen Gardner, N. J. 08826. Articles, especially about New Jersey tools and trades, are encouraged and may be sent to the editors.

CARL BOPP TO SPEAK ON PLANES AT JUNE 10TH MEETING

CRAFTS of New Jersey will hold their June meeting on Sunday afternoon, June 10th at the Hobart Masonic Lodge in High Bridge. The activities will begin with the Tailgate Swap in the parking lot and the tool displays of two CRAFTS members inside the hall.

At 2:00 the meeting will convene with our president, Stephen Zlucky conducting the business portion, at which time there will be an election of officers and the By-Laws will be presented for approval. A copy is being sent each member with this issue of the TOOL SHED.

"How Planes Were Made in Philadelphia" is the title Carl Bopp has selected for his presentation at this meeting. It should prove to be an interesting topic. The final event will be "What's It" identification, so bring your unnamed tools.

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MORE ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

If you have been reading the TOOL SHED you must realize that Carl Bopp is a very active member of CRAFTS and a frequent contributor to this publication. His membership dates back to the first year of our organization. During that first year he also participated by speaking at the November 1978 meeting, on "Gage Tool Company Products". He is on the Board of Directors and the instigator of the tool displays that have been recently added to our meeting's activities.

Carl has also been an active member of the Early American Industries Association and he is presently their new display coordinator for annual meetings.

After graduating from Camden County Vocational School where his training was in cabinet making, Carl went into business for himself. He sells fireplace equipment and related products. For relaxation he enjoys salt water bay fishing in Little Egg Harbor. His family, consisting of his wife Elizabeth and two daughters, live in the Audubon, New Jersey area.

* * *

REMINDER

With the conclusion of our 1989 - 90 year in CRAFTS, our dues for the coming year are due. In the September 1984 issue of the TOOL SHED, a letter to the editor proposed that dues be raised from \$7.00 to \$10.00 per year. Recently, in 1990, however, our Board of Directors did vote to carry out that suggestion. Due now: \$10.00 per member or family. Please see Jack Whelan or mail your dues to him addressed to: John M, Whelan, 38 Colony Court, Murray Hill, N. J. 07974.

* * *

STANLEY RECORD MADE AT TOOL AUCTION

The second annual Tool Chest auction was held at the Dutch Valley Restaurant in Sugar-creek, Ohio on April 28, 1990. The Tool Chest auction is managed by CRAFTS member John Kesterson and his partner, Mike Jenkins. The quiet Amish community and the fabulous restaurant facility helped produce a fine, quality, antique tool auction. The Swiss-Amish food in itself is worth the trip.

Five hundred lots were offered and sold to the highest bidder in a recorded 3 hours and 55 minutes. Two ivory tipped boxwood plow planes sold for \$600 and \$850 respectively. There were 25 other plow planes ranging in price from \$50 to \$300. A John Veit three armed croz brought \$260.

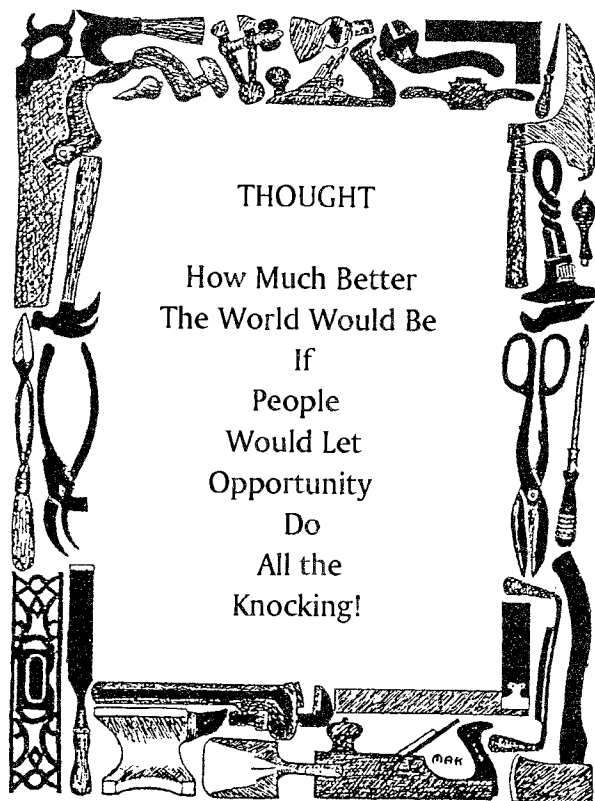
Primitives included a Connecticut hand adz for \$70, a turpentine axe for \$95, a wooden dividers for \$160, an an 18" twybil for \$310.

Stanley items of interest included a pair of #99 trammels for \$230, and the following planes: a #1 for \$750, a Victor #12 for \$675, a #196 for \$600, and a #289 for \$150. The main attraction of the auction was an absolutely mint #56 Stanley core box plane, in original box, that commanded a handsome \$4100. This is believed to be a record for a Stanley plane.

There were many other interesting, rare, and unique tools for all in attendance. There were good 18th-century molding planes by Fuller, Fields, and Lindenberger, as well as 19th-century planes by Folger, Vinall, Hicks, Auxer and Remley, Vajen, Bracelin, and H & WT Carey. An octagonal board cane by Chapin as well as many other measuring instruments brought strong prices.

It wasn't a New Jersey sale, but we noticed that Harry O'Neill, Sam Merin and Bill Gustafson were present to represent CRAFTS. So, you see, Herb, the midwest does have some tools to offer in between our more common hog sales!

* * *



TOOL AUCTION ANTIQUÉ & USERS

SATURDAY, JUNE 2 at 9:30
INSPECTION AT 8:00 A.M.

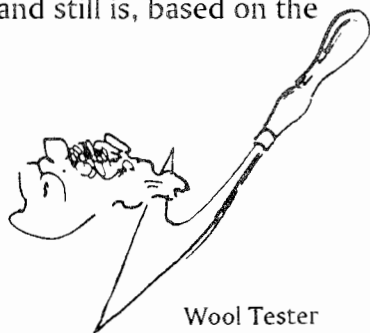
COLLECTION
OF
HARRY O'NEILL

OUTDOORS UNDER TENT
AT HARRY O'NEILL'S FARM
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SHEEP AND WOOL (continued from page 1)
 clothing. By 1662 we find the first woolen mills in Watertown, Massachusetts. Importing from other countries and smuggling in better sheep improved the sheep and wool quality. When the northern colonists started exporting wool, the English forbade this trading. This restriction, along with the Stamp Acts, was one of the causes of the Revolutionary War.

To remove the wool, the sheep were sheared, usually once a year, with hand shears. In preparing wool, it was important to weigh the fleeces and measure the length of the fibers. The early English sheep of the East Coast produced a coarse, short fiber, weighing little, about 2 pounds, and suitable only for coarse fabrics. Even the early Spanish Merino of the West, which produce a finer wool, was short and weighed much less than today. There was considerable importation and rigid selection. By the late 19th century the average fleece weight was 5 1/2 pounds and today about 8 1/2 pounds. Some weigh as much as 10 to 15 pounds, but these are generally special breeds. Crossing of the breeds became inevitable and tools to examine the fineness of the wool. Wool gauge was, and still is, based on the finest, Merino wool, crosses from which many of the new breeds were developed. Along with the improvement of the wool came the improvement of animals for meat, larger with longer fleeces.



By 1810 New England and New York were the sheep producing centers of this country with about seven million head in the U. S. By 1840 there were 19 million. This increased during the Civil War, and by World War II there were 56 million. But by 1968 there were only about 23

million. The Rocky Mountain region is now the chief sheep raising area but there is a continuing decline. Wool prices today are very low. Australia's and Russia's flocks far exceed ours. Inadequate markets, man-made fibers and lower lamb consumption, plus importation of lamb and wool are the probable reasons.

Other than meat and wool there are many uses for sheep, especially the by-products from slaughter houses.

SHEEP PELTS - coats, robes, rugs, car seat covers and slippers.

HIDES - leather for shoes, harness, saddles, footballs, baseball mitts, "sheepskins" for diplomas.

FATS - soaps, animal feeds, lubricants, candles, fertilizers, shaving creams, salves, and chemicals.

OLEOMARGARINE - often a combination of vegetable oils and lamb fat.

BLOOD - used in refining sugar, buttons, shoe polish, medicines such as gamma globulin.

BONES - fertilizer, glue, bone oil.

INTESTINES - sausage casings, surgical sutures, strings for violins, cellos, harps and tennis rackets.

GLANDS - various medicines including insulin and adrenalin.

COLLAGEN - glue, gelatin.

OTHER REMAINS - fertilizer.

MANURE - The value of sheep manure is higher than most other animals other than poultry. Six sheep produce about 1000 lbs. of manure per year equal to 100 lbs. of 10-5-10.

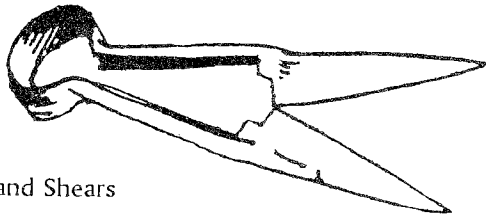
MILK AND CHEESES.

SHEEP CARE

Tools needed for the care of sheep are relatively few. Probably the most important is the shearing mechanism. Today an electric clipper is generally used, but in the past the hand clipper. Today this clipper is still made but

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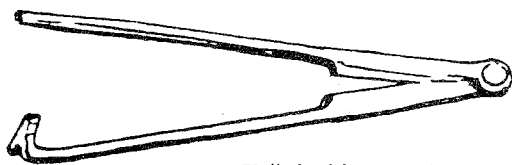
SHEEP AND WOOL (continued)
most often used to clip grass. However, it is still used on the sheep to trim prior to lambing



Hand Shears

to remove tags and clear around the udder. Long-wooled sheep are frequently crutched (wool around crotch removed) prior to breeding and excess wool around the eyes trimmed. A good shearer using electric shears averages 200 sheep a day and the exceptional one as many as 300. With hand shears 125 sheep is an excellent average.

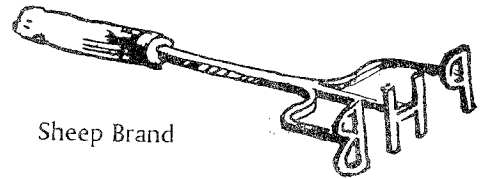
Hoofs must be kept trimmed to prevent lameness and disease. Similar to pruning shears is the type of hoof trimmer generally used, but the hoof knife generally used on horses is also used. A crook is a handy instrument for catching a sheep, generally made of wood but sometimes metal. A docking or castrating instrument is also important. I do not castrate my lambs. A young ram does not taste any different than a wether, which is a castrated male. Feed lots prefer wethers because they do not go about breeding all the ewe lambs. Docking the tail is, however, important for cleanliness, breeding, and more sanitary lambing. A knife or chisel can be used or a tool made specifically



Tail-docking Mechanism

for this purpose. These can cause excess bleeding and infections unless cauterized. Today there is an electric tool for this purpose, but I prefer to use an elastrator. This tool applies a

small, doughnut-like elastic which is bloodless. Since the blood supply is cut off, the tail eventually drops off. For registration purposes as well as identification we tag the sheep using a punch to make a hole in the ear in which to insert a tag. Some use a tattoo for identification. We also stamp numbers on the backs of lambs or sheep using old iron numbers made for this purpose and a special wool paint which can later be scoured out of the wool.



Sheep Brand

EDITOR---This article is the first of a two part review submitted by our CRAFTS secretary and speaker at the April 8th meeting, Barbara Farnham. Our next issue of the TOOL SHED will carry the second section on the Wool Industry.



Barbara Farnham at CRAFTS April Meeting

APRIL TOOL DISPLAYS

Two more CRAFTSMen qualified to receive those nice wall plaques presented as awards for displaying a collection at our meeting. Bill Phillips showed a collection of saws, all carefully labeled. Many of them were held in slotted racks at a convenient angle for observing special features and for reading the descriptions.

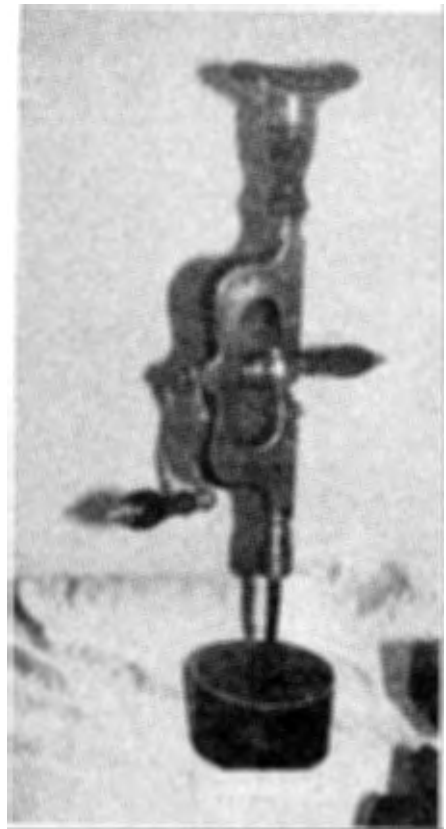
Dominic Micalizzi brought a mounted collection of various spark plugs and a number of

Brooklyn made tools, especially planes. Co-starring as attractions in his display were the two Ultimatum-style tools that he made.

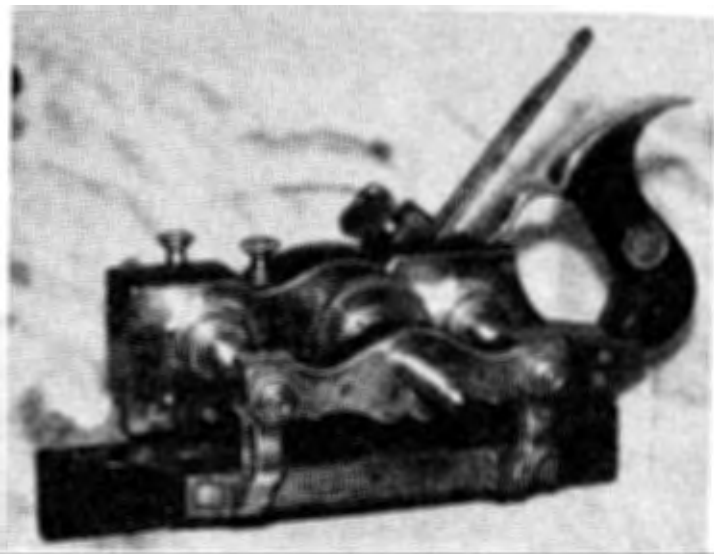
We have been privileged to enjoy this new feature at our meetings this year. Let's encourage others to sign up with Carl Bopp and participate at a future meeting. He has a plaque for you too!



Saw Display by Bill Phillips



Ultimatum Breastdrill
by Dominic Micalizzi



Ultimatum-styled Center Wheel Plow
by Dominic Micalizzi

NEW WRENCH BOOK PUBLISHED
MY FIRST 1000 WRENCHES by Donald H. Snyder
8" X 11", 80 pages, features clear photographs, each with measurements and description, arranged by his EASY FIND filing system. Available postpaid, \$12.95 (Ohio residents add 5.5% Sales Tax). Write Donald H. Snyder, 12925 Woodworth Rd., New Springfield, Ohio 44443.

CRAFTS 1990 AUCTION

by Joseph G. Hauck

After months of preparation, the April 7th auction got off to an auspicious start. Herb Kean hammered down the first lot, and as tally keeper, I began to record the sale. I realized the bidder number was mine, but I hadn't bid. Inadvertently some numbered pie plates had gotten switched. Once that was fixed, things went pretty smoothly. The sales grossed over \$50,000, our most ever. This was our third year at the Clinton Holiday Inn and once again we had almost 200 bidders.

Prices were a little more erratic with surprises in both directions. I dropped out of the bidding on the Bell filister at \$550 (so much for my \$400 limit), but I did win two other lots for less than I expected. There were some excellent buys and those who stayed away due to last year's strong prices, or whatever reason, are probably wishing they had attended. You just never know what will happen at an auction.

Now, to hand out the thank yous. First off to Harry O'Neill and Steve Zluky whose work starts off months in advance. Harry took care of all the hotel arrangements and also gave Steve an assist on another big job, cataloging. The turnout for set-up on Friday evening was fine with the following pitching in: Lew Cooper, Fred Shippey, Dick Hepner, Paul Murphy, Jack Whelan, Frank W. Kingsbury, Harold Fountain, Harry O'Neill, John Dempsey, Herb Kean, Elvin Georges, Steve Zluky, Chuck Morgan, Ed Sonntag and Eric Paeton. Herb Kean and Ron Berubi did a fine job of auctioneering, assisted by Steve Zluky and Greg Welch who pushed the lots and the runners all day. The runners did the "best ever" and those are Herb's words (I agree), and no wonder, almost all were veterans. Thanks to Ray Wisnieski, Ron Grabowski, Bill Hermanek, Ken Hopfel, Jack Kesterson, Andy O'Sullivan, Dave Andreassen, Bob Fridlington,

Larry Edelstein, and Dom Micalizzi. Finally, the crew that takes in the money and catches all my mistakes: Jack Whelan, Markay Zluky, Fran Smith, and Joan Fridlington. Thank you all, and also the consignors, bidders, and those who distributed flyers and posters. I am sure we can count on all of you for next year.

* * *

HAND TOOL EXHIBITION BEING PLANNED

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation has been awarded a grant to plan the first major museum exhibition focusing on hand tools used in 17th- and 18th-century America. The project team will be seeking the help of many collectors as they research early tools, their history and use, and locate pieces to borrow for the exhibit. Slated to open in 1992, the exhibition will culminate three years of research and production. It will include approximately 2,000 documented hand tools. When complete, tool collectors and historians of technology will be able to study, in one place and at one time, many of the most important surviving 17th-, 18th- and very early 19th-century American and English craft tools.

A general catalog and a special-focus catalog on woodworking tools will be published in conjunction with the exhibit. Tours, demonstrations, a lecture series, and a public symposium on tools and craftsmanship, are proposed.

Those who would like more information about the project or who are interested in participating in the project by sharing information or lending tools are asked to contact Jay Gaynor, the Curator of Mechanical Arts and project manager for the exhibition, at Colonial Williamsburg, P. O. Drawer C, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187. (804-220-7525).

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COMING EVENTS

JUNE 2 (SATURDAY)

TOOL AUCTION, antique & users, at Harry O'Neill's. 9:30 A. M.. Inspection at 8:00 A. M. For information 201-638-6981.

JUNE 10 (SUNDAY)

CRAFTS meeting at High Bridge. "How Planes Were Made in Philadelphia" by Carl Bopp.

JUNE 17 (SUNDAY)

FATHER'S DAY



JUNE 20 to 23 (WEDNESDAY to SATURDAY)

Mid-West Tool Collectors Association at The Reading Inn, Reading, Pennsylvania.

JULY 6 (FRIDAY)

Deadline for September TOOL SHED. The editors will be away, so articles must be submitted by this date.

JULY 21 (SATURDAY)

J. L. Murray and R. Crane's Auction & Flea Market at Danforth's Four Corners, Hillsboro, New Hampshire.

AUGUST 24 & 25 (FRIDAY & SATURDAY)

Missouri Valley Wrench Club & Prairie Village Steam Jamboree and Flea Market, Madison, South Dakota.

SEPTEMBER 16 (SUNDAY)

CRAFTS ANNUAL PICNIC at the Brady Life Camp, McCann Mill Rd., Pottersville.

* * *

A retired husband is often a wife's full-time job!

Ella Harris

JERSEY LEVEL SIGHTED

by Joseph G. Hauck

One thing that makes tool collecting enjoyable is that you are always learning something new. This is due in large part to the fact that there is much to be uncovered, researched and written about. A recent trip to an overlooked flea market yielded a New Jersey tool by an unfamiliar maker from an unlikely region. I had thought the only Asbury Park exports were pic-



Metal Level Made in Asbury Park Photo by Don Kahn
ture post cards and Bruce Springstein; however, I now own a level manufactured there. It is an all metal level 24" long, 2" high and 5/8" thick. It is simply constructed of two flat plates which are bound on all four sides giving the appearance of a steel bar. There are three glasses which fit into the hollow interior, each one having a pivot point and two set screws, thereby enabling adjustment. The level is stamped THE ATLANTIC STEEL LEVEL CO. ASBURY PARK, N.J. with a patent date of July 3, 1883. I was surprised to see such a well manufactured product from that city, since I was unaware of any industrial activity there, that early. I haven't gotten around to obtaining the patent papers yet, but it should be interesting to discover the identity of the Asbury Park entrepreneur.

* * *

WANTED

MOULDING PLANES, unusual profiles or rare makers from New York, Pennsylvania or New Jersey. Joe Hauck, 85 Brunswick Ave., Lebanon, N.J. 08833. Telephone (201) 236-2072.