The TOOL SHED

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The Sargent Story

by Paul Weidenschilling

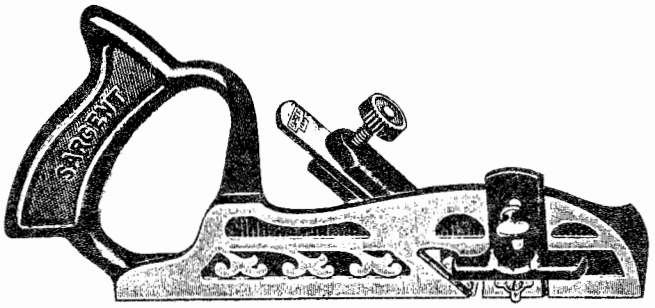
My interest in Sargent & Co. began in the early days of tool collecting, when collectors were few, and tool books were fewer. In those days, antique planes were those made mostly of wood. Iron planes were "modern," and anyone who collected them was considered rather unsophisticated.

Some friends of mine returned from a farm auction with an iron plane that I had never seen before. It was decorated with vine-like tendrils, and had the inscription - "Sargent & Co." embossed in Old English on the handle. I was fascinated with it, and was delighted when I found it under their Christmas tree with my name on it.

Over the next few years I came across other Sargent planes, and if I could, I bought them. Meanwhile, Alvin Sellens had published his book, The Stanley Plane (1975), and collecting metal planes was becoming acceptable. Through a reprint of a Sargent catalog, I was happy to learn that there were many other models of Sargent planes "out there." That reprint has remained as the only Sargent book available.

Unfortunately, some people think of Sargent & Co. as a small company that for a few years made cheap imitations of Stanley metal planes, and went out of business during World War II. Nothing could be further from the truth. Sargent & Co. was incorporated in 1864, and produced metallic planes for 80 years under at least twenty-one Sargent patents. By the turn of the century, Sargent was one of the top four companies in the hardware and the hand tool industries. Sargent was still making planes in the 1960's, and continues today to be a major American manufacturer of locks and hardware, with international distribution.

The Sargents were a large, prominent and prosperous family for many generations before they entered the hardware business. The founder of the American branch, William Sargent, was a Puritan who came to Massachusetts in 1638. The Sargents were a family of merchants, farmers, and soldiers, which in the seventh generation also entered manufacturing.



Sargent V-B-M Adjustable Iron Rabbet Plane No. 196

Col. Henry Sargent, a merchant of Leicester, Mass., was the first Sargent to try his hand at manufacturing when he formed a partnership in 1810 to make cotton hand cards (used to align cotton fibers prior to spinning). Henry's brother, Joseph D. Sargent, a surveyor, also began manufacturing hand cards part-time in 1813. J.D. Sargent & Co. prospered and expanded to a full-time business. This was just about the time that Joseph's second son, Joseph Bradford Sargent, was born (December 14, 1822). Joseph Bradford was to become J.B. Sargent, Captain of Industry, Mayor of New Haven, founder and president of Sargent & Co.

continued on page 4

June 6 CRAFTS Meeting
High Bridge, NJ Masonic Lodge

Dan Comerford will present a program on Hammers (*see page 2*).

CRAFTS of New Jersey

Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society
of New Jersey

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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 through June 30. Membership fees may be sent to the Treasurer: Helen Whelan, 38 Colony Court, Murray Hill, NJ 07974.

CRAFTS of NJ meets at the HOST Masonic Lodge, High Bridge. Take I-78 to Route 31 exit at Clinton. Go north on Rte. 31 two miles to second traffic light at the High Bridge exit. Turn right and go about half a mile to Dennis Ave. Turn left, then straight to the Masonic Lodge (on the left). Tailgate sales in the parking lot begin at 1 P.M.; meeting is at 2:00.

THE TOOL SHED

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☞ CRAFTS DUES ☜

Don't forget to pay your dues to renew membership in CRAFTS and to continue receiving *The TOOLSHED*. Bring your $10 check (payable to CRAFTS of New Jersey) to the June 6 CRAFTS meeting or mail it to Helen Whelan, 38 Colony Ct, Murray Hill, NJ 07974 by July 1.

Dan with one of his *persuaders*.

Speaker's Profile
Dan Comerford

Dan Comerford started collecting in 1964 when in college. While antique hunting for crocks with his fiance (now wife) Kathie, they stumbled upon a box of unusual hammers. This was the trigger that motivated almost 30 years of tool collecting, producing a hammer collection of well over 3000 pieces.

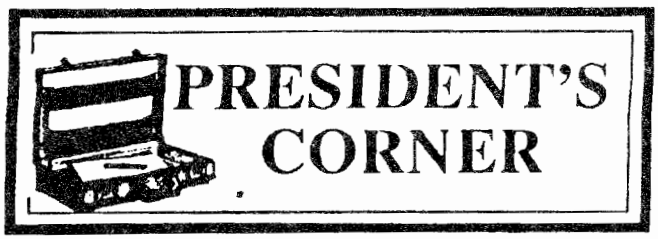
Although his interest has been mainly in pounding tools, i.e. hammers, mallets, mauls, etc., he has dealt in general tools for many years. Today he confines himself to only his specialty, and has co-authored the highly authoritative book, The Hammer - The King of Tools.

He is a collector that is not content just to belong to many tool clubs. He presently is finishing four years as president of the E.A.I.A. In addition, he has given his time (over 20 appearances per year) for talks and presentations to Historical Societies, schools, etc.

Dan reaches for the top in everything he does. As a teacher in social studies, he has obtained his Doctorate in Psychology, and is utilized by the N.Y. State University at Stony Brook to recruit teachers in Education, Law, and Labor Arbitration. With all this, he still had time to run the Community Blood Drive for the past 20 years.

This is not his first presentation for CRAFTS, and knowing Dan, I'm sure it won't be his last.

Herb Kean



This is that time of year! There was a major tool auction every weekend in April, beginning with ours on April 3. Barry Hurchalla has kept the spark burning with his monthly auctions over the winter, for those not deterred by snowstorms. The hibernators came out like the crocuses and daffodils. There were 208 bidding numbers issued at CRAFTS (the same number as last year), and their holders spent almost $56,000 (of which over $2200 was New Jersey tax). You have the prices realized elsewhere in this issue, so I'll only mention the star: a folding 8-foot rule by DeLamerton, London, which brought $1650. A lot of members worked very hard to make the auction the success it was, and CRAFTS owes them much. Special thanks to Joe Hauck, Steve Zluky, Greg Welsh, and all the runners and clerks, and those who helped set up.

Barry had saved some of the cream of A.M.Beitler's collection for his April 10 Auction at Reading. Highest ticket ($3200) went to a beautiful plumb and level indicator, Pat. App'd for by R. Porter. The rare Tanner's patent veneer scraper by Tanner & Davenport, Albany (PTAMPIA II p.80) brought $1600, and an L.C.Stephens try square with circle divisions fetched the same. The unusual Stanleys went well, a #64 Butcher block plane in good condition bringing $1750 and a #9 (with hot dog) in good condition except for some rust going for $1200. Two #1's brought $800 each, and a good #101½ $700. A pretty #55 with four boxes of special irons in addition to the regular four fetched $1250. The #51-#52 shoot board and plane (G+) went for $700, a good #10¼ for $600. A Stanley SW hardware store sign brought $950, catalogs (1909 and 1929) $200 each.

Nice Pennsylvania goosewing axes sold for $350-425. Philadelphia plane collectors feasted on a Goldsmith curved stair rail molder by Goldsmith ($650), a W. Martin crown molder a bit below good condition ($700), a shootboard and plane by John Veit ($500) and a screw-arm howel by the same maker ($450). A screw-arm sash plane by I. White went for $450, molders by Hazlet, R.Wright, E.W.Carpenter in the mid $300's, and a thumb plane by White for $425. A gunsmith's rifling rod and dies brought $1150, a 1770 Conestoga wagon jack signed by John Gorner $625.

At Dick Crane's Nashua, N.H. auction of April 17, the two highest prices were won not by tools, but by books. He commented that his auction manager (Lee Murray) was on his way to the library. A beautiful 6-volume set of Diderot plates, reprinted twenty years ago, brought $1700; and a rare volume on math and instruments (George Adams, London 1803) $1500. Tools were not ignored, however: a brass framed brace by Barton Bros, Sheffield went for $1100, a patent three-arm plow in boxwood stamped by Solon Rust for $1000. A pretty 1877 rosewood panelled toolbox brought $1200. A crown molder with a 4½ in. P.H. Manchester iron was hammered at $850. A W. Martin 12½ in. complex molder with rosewood inserts brought $800, two complex molders by Scovill $650, an I. Lindenberger plow $500. Not one, but two of the very rare tools for shaping the ends of oars were shown, and brought $325 each. In metal, a Bailey (Stanley) #1 went for $700, a Stanley #195 hardboard beveler for $550, a Holly's patent 9" smoother for $500. Among the other tool types were a gunner's quadrant ($450), a Gurley pocket vernier compass ($850), and an extra good John Smith race knife with pivot and swing blade ($400).

Perhaps everyone was spent out before Bill Gustafson's April 24 auction of Jess Ruble's collection (Kensington, CT) for attendance was light. The prize was a nice Sandusky #141 center-wheel plow with 6 ivory tips, one split: it brought $4700. An unusually crisp Robert Wooding complex brought $685, a fine S. Noyes reed and follow molding plane $450. A wedge arm plow by the rare Philadelphia maker John Passcul sold for $400, a mint washboard plane signed by Bibighaus for $290, a toted plank match groove by S.Caruthers for $410. Two unusually good planes by Jo Fuller were sold, a birch complex molder with a variant mark for $310 and a halving plane for $260. A good Pennsylvania German workbench brought $575. Aside from these, bidding was less than spirited and most lots went for less than they should have, below Bill's low estimate. There were bargains to be had, especially in New Jersey tools.

To round out another tool weekend, I went the next day to the joint ATTIC-NETCA-MWTCA field day at Ernie Staebner's Blue Slope Country Museum in Franklin, CT. It was a great day of tailgating, seeing an interesting museum and added exhibits by club members, watching well-trained teams of oxen working, and meeting some very knowledgeable tool people.

May 1 there is no auction for a change, but back to business on May 8 (Hurchalla) and May 15 (during the Albany EAIA meeting). Ain't Spring grand? Perhaps I will have found places for my new acquisitions and revitalized my bank balance before Bud Brown's Oct. 29-30 show and auction.

I should add that I have not seen any price realized lists (other than ours) as I write, and apologize in advance if I erred in recording any of the prices given.

Welcome to new members Bill Aadland (Amityville, NY); Anthony Dragoni, Jr. (Warren); Ed Haney (Upper Black Eddy, PA); Derek & Kathy Huber (Rome,PA); Joseph Kinirons (Lyndhurst); Maurice Maltby (Yardley, PA); David Mudge (Burlington); Gary Potter (Pleasantville); Leslie Segal (NYC); Jared Silbersher (Pound Ridge, NY) and Shaun & Christine Williams (Fanwood).

The Sargent Story continued
by Paul Weidenschilling

J.B. Sargent was educated at Leicester Academy, and was graduated at the age of 16. His education also included hard labor on his father's farm, and factory labor at J.D. Sargent & Co. At 17, he took a job as a clerk and office boy at Boston's second largest dry goods store at a salary of $1 per week. In two years' time he was made Chief Assistant to the owner, but when the owner died, the business was liquidated, and J.B. was unemployed. His older brother, Harry, invited J.B. to be his partner in a general store in Griffin, Georgia, and the two brothers were very successful.

In 1848, J.B. married a Georgia belle name Elizabeth Collier Lewis. He left the South for Manhattan just after his father died in 1849, and took over the family card manufacturing business. With his brother-in-law, William Boggs, he moved the business (now Sargent & Boggs) to Brooklyn. In less than a year J.B. bought out his brother-in-law, moved the operation back to Leicester, and put his 18-year old brother Edward in charge, renaming the business Sargent & Brother.

While sustaining himself selling the products of his card factory, J.B. was in the thick of the hardware trade, and began making arrangements to serve as sales agent for various other manufacturers. He became the New York agent for the Peck & Walter Co. of New Britain, Conn., a hardware manufacturer. He also became the agent for A. Stanley & Co., the rulemaking predecessor of the Stanley Rule and Level Co.

In 1852, George Sargent, J.B.'s younger brother, dropped out of Harvard Law School to become the "& Co." of J.B. Sargent & Co. They were so successful that Peck & Walter did not have enough cash to pay the commissions that they earned. When Peck & Walter incorporated in 1853, J.B.'s account was credited with a 10% stock interest, in lieu of commissions, and he was made a director. The principals of this new corporation were the "Who's Who" of New Britain, - the Pecks, Henry Walter, Henry Stanley (of A. Stanley & Co.), Frederick Stanley (of the Stanley Works), Philo Pratt, Henry Russell and Cornelius Erwin; and J.B. himself. According to the 1850 U.S. Census, Peck & Walter was the second largest employer in New Britain, and in value of production tied for second at $50,000 with Henry Stanley & Co.

Less than a year after the incorporation, Philo Pratt resigned and relinquished his shares to the company treasury. Three hundred of these shares were transferred to J.B. Sargent, probably to cover commissions that were again due to J.B.

When J.B. became the sole agent for Peck & Walter in late 1854, he issued the first Peck & Walter catalog (which was also the first Sargent catalog), a small book of 102 pages dated January 1855. The hardware items of Peck & Walter occupied the first 43 pages, while the other 59 covered the wares of J.B.'s other clients, which included A. Stanley & Co.; Peck, Smith Mfg. Co. (ultimately Pexto); and Sargent & Brother (the card factory).

At this time there were three different companies, each run by a different Sargent brother, in three different states (J.B. Sargent & Co., Sargent & Brother, and Peck & Walter Mfg.). J.B., having bought out the remaining principals of Peck & Walter, basically owned all three companies; but had transferred various shares to his brothers for their efforts. Then on December 1, 1858, he created a three-way copartnership of equal shares, under the new name of Sargent & Co. of New York.

Over the next several years the new company flourished. Steam power replaced water power and increased production at the card factory, the output of Peck & Walter was greatly expanded under J.B.'s management, and George Sargent's selling efforts in New York were grossing close to a half a millior dollars a year, which at that time represented a huge volume of business. With growth and success came a need for larger facilities, and J.B. began looking for a new plant site. Early in 1863 he purchased a city square with harbor frontage in New Haven, Conn.

At the new site, J.B. built a state-of-the-art manufacturing complex which included the innovations of running water, flush toilets, and a freight elevator. The iron foundry alone was a full city block in length and was by far the largest in New Haven. Production began in mid-1864, and in October of that year Sargent & Co. of New Haven was incorporated. It was wholly owned by the three Sargent brothers, with J.B. as president, a post he retained until his death in 1907 at the age of 84.

After the New Haven plant was completed in 1865, an active program of product development was begun. By 1872 the company had obtained 116 internally developed patents, of which about a quarter were J.B.'s own. J.B. received his last patent, his 44th, at the age of 77. (This is the same number, and at the same age, as Leonard Bailey!)

The line of commission goods was substantially increased in 1865 when Sargent & Co. became the

exclusive selling agent for Mallory, Wheeler & Co., a large and well established manufacturer of padlocks and door hardware. This relationship was mutually profitable for over fifteen years.

Four Sargents: (L-R) Edward, George, J.B., & Harry

In 1866 J.B. persuaded his older brother, Harry, to leave Georgia and join Sargent & Co. in New Haven. The photograph above shows the directors of Sargent & Co. in 1866. What resembles a reunion of four Civil War generals is in fact a reunion of four Sargents. Unfortunately for J.B.'s hopes for family unity, Harry was unhappy with the North. He sold his stock to J.B. and went back to Georgia.

Henry Bradford Sargent, J.B.'s firstborn son, was graduated from Yale's Sheffield Scientific School in 1871, and then joined his father's company. When J.B. went to Europe in 1873, he handed the reins of the company to Henry, then 22, though his son was neither an officer nor a director.

The Panic of '73 struck while J.B. was in Paris. Banks collapsed, businesses were unable to obtain cash and many closed their doors. George Sargent, head of the New York office and the second largest stockholder, urged Henry to shut down the plant. Henry was undaunted, and flatly refused to do so. After much discussion, he agreed to put the workers on a reduced workweek. But when City Bank of New Haven refused to guarantee him the cash needed to meet the payroll, he went to all the local merchants and persuaded them to deposit their cash receipts with Sargent & Co. instead of depositing them at the bank. This effectively solved Sargent's problem, but so crimped the bank's cash flow that the president of the bank found it necessary to come to Henry, hat in hand, and agree to guarantee the Sargent payroll if Henry would give him back his depositors! All was well on J.B.'s return, and it was apparent to all parties concerned that Henry was his father's son.

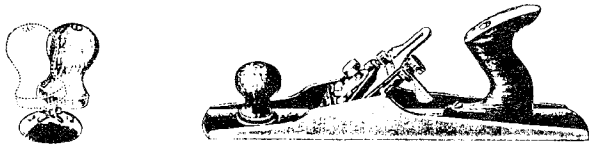
Like J.B., Henry also obtained a slew of patents, mainly of a more technical nature. He seems to have been the intellectual driving force behind Sargent & Co. for the 56 years that he worked there.

Burton Mallory, of Mallory, Wheeler & Co., died in 1878, after which the relationship between Sargent and Mallory, Wheeler slowly deteriorated and was finally severed in 1882. Since the sale of locks had become a significant part of Sargent's business, J.B. decided to build his own lock factory. The result was to so dominate the Sargent line that by the turn of the century, Sargent & Co. had become one of the largest lock manufacturers in the world.

The success of the foray into the manufacturing of locks must have been a factor in the development of Sargent's next major new product line. The company had been carrying, since 1871, a variety of wooden carpenters' planes made by the Union Factory of the Chapin family in Pine Meadow, Conn. In 1875 they added to their sales line the metal and wood-bottom planes of the Stanley Rule and Level Co. of New Britain. However, when Leonard Bailey severed his connections with the Stanleys and created his competing Victor line, he turned to Sargent & Co. to sell it for him, with exclusive rights. During this period Bailey and Stanley were engaged in litigation over various alleged patent infringements by both parties. Bailey finally came to terms with Stanley, and in 1884 sold them the whole of his Victor plane business.

Sargent's first entry into metal plane manufacturing was offered in a supplement to their 1884 catalog. This initial offering consisted of seven sizes of bench planes (very similar to the line which Leonard Bailey had sold to Stanley in 1870) plus 19 block plane models.

The development of their plane line was undoubtedly a classic make-or-buy decision. However, in view of the constant battles between Bailey and the Stanleys, it does not seem far-fetched to speculate that Leonard Bailey, after selling the last of his contested plane patents to Stanley, might have encouraged his former agents to compete with Stanley rather than continue to sell their planes. In any case, Sargent's 1888 catalog features Sargent metal planes, along with nearly all the Stanley line, describing the latter as "Bailey's Adjustable Planes," even though Stanley's non-Bailey planes, which they had developed to circumvent his patents, were included.

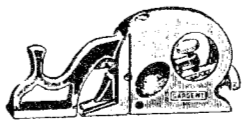


Sargent Auto-Set Iron Bench Plane No. 714
and Adjustable Knob for No. 718 or 722

By the 1894 catalog (1080 pages), the Sargent line had been fortified with a patented lateral adjustment mechanism, and was expanded to include a full line of wood-bottom adjustable planes that also employed the new feature. Stanley planes were omitted from this and all subsequent catalogs.

As initially happened in basic hardware, then in locks, the Sargent venture into plane manufacturing also grew and prospered. When J.B. Sargent died in 1907, his brother George took over as president. George Sargent was what today would be called a super-salesman. He decided to emphasize the marketing of Sargent hand tools. He took a slogan that had originally applied only to a line of Sargent scissors, "The Very Best Made," and created the V-B-M era. While the claim of "best" is rather transparent advertising hype, collectors should note that during this era Sargent was one of the manufacturers of the Winchester, Keen Kutter, and Zenith brands of metal planes, which are widely regarded as being "the best made."

George Sargent died in 1917 at the age of 89, and J.B.'s son Henry succeeded him as president. The World War and the loss of George Sargent put an end to the V-B-M era. War production absorbed about half of the factory's output, but total business for 1918 reached a record high, only to be exceeded the next year with the return to civilian business.



Sargent "Ladybug" Bull-Nose Rabbet Plane No. 1507 or 1508

The Sargent plane business received a major boost in 1923 when the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners reported to its membership that Stanley was building a new facility with non-union labor. This resulted in a boycott of Stanley tools from March of 1923 until December of 1925. Sargent realized net profits averaging 1.1 million dollars for each of those three years, roughly doubling their previous recent averages. However, a heavy advertising effort by Stanley to recapture their lost market share, combined with a decline in Henry Sargent's health and his death in 1927, resulted in lower profits for subsequent years.

Sargent & Co. weathered the Depression years quite satisfactorily. Although business did slow down considerably from 1932 to 1935, the company was profitable from 1936 to 1942, earning well over a million in net profits. The unfortunate loss of their big Manhattan office and warehouse to the City of New York in 1937, which was taken by condemnation proceedings for a new courthouse, forced the company to move its New York operations.

During World War II, Sargent devoted most of its production to the war effort, producing mainly bomb shackles and small arms ammunition. Hand tool production was continued on a limited basis, primarily for military use.

In the post-war boom, the Sargent plane business and building hardware lines resumed full tilt. Despite the expanding competition of power tools in the building trades, Sargent planes from the late 40's are fairly easy to find today. In the 1950's and 60's Sargent manufactured planes mostly for Sears, Roebuck as Craftsman and Dunlap planes. Planes bearing the Sargent name from these years are actually quite scarce. By 1970 Sargent was out of the plane business, but continues today to manufacture top quality architectural hardware.

The corporate name is now Sargent Manufacturing Company, a private corporation with sales of approximately $100 million annually. The company is still in New Haven, Conn. half a mile from J.B.'s original city square.

American products of the finest quality have carried the Sargent name for almost two centuries, and still maintain the proud heritage of an early American family.

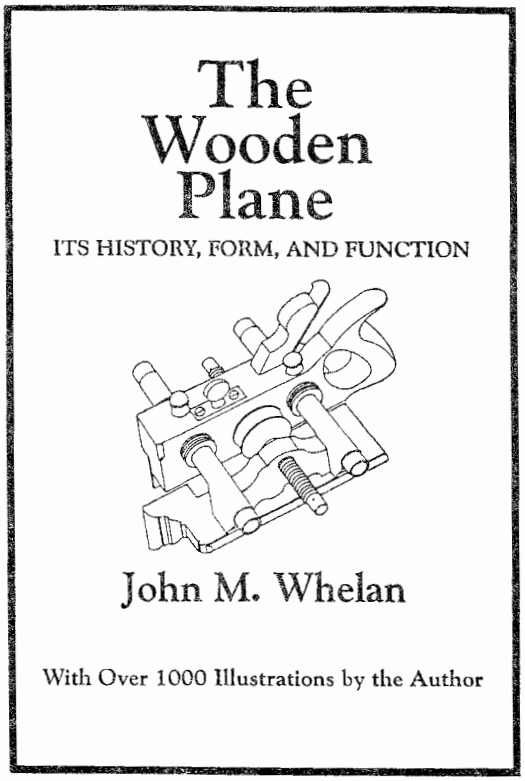
Wilma Sagurton speaking on early lighting at April 4 CRAFTS meeting

Whelan on Wooden Planes: A Review
by Robert Fridlington

John M. Whelan. THE WOODEN PLANE: ITS HISTORY, FORM, AND FUNCTION.

Illustrated by the Author. Mendham, N.J.: Astragal Press, 1993. Pp. vi, 503. Hardbound. Appendixes, glossaries, bibliography, and index. 7" x 10". Price: $37.50.

Once in a while a tool book comes along that is so influential it virtually defines its subject, and it immediately establishes itself as an essential work of reading and reference. One thinks, for example of Roger Smith's Patented Transitional and Metallic Planes in America or of Emil and Martyl Pollak's A Guide to American Wooden Planes. Now there is one more such work for our bookshelf: John M. Whelan's THE WOODEN PLANE: ITS HISTORY, FORM, AND FUNCTION.



Although this is a work of solid scholarship and is certainly the most detailed treatise on wooden planes that has appeared, its fresh, imaginative approach and crisp style make for enjoyable reading. Whelan steers his way through the vast sea of plane lore with a sure hand. His research is meticulous, his descriptions clear and concise. Even the most complex matters come across with enviable clarity. The author further demonstrates his virtuosity by providing all of the illustrations for the book (more than a thousand according to the dust jacket).

Whelan covers the history, physical characteristics, and uses of all types of wooden woodworking planes, from the commonplace to the rare and unusual. Because each of the thirteen chapters was designed to stand on its own without reliance on material to be found elsewhere, each is in and of itself a gem. Chapters on *Grooving Planes*, *Planes Forming Angled Surfaces*, *Planes Forming Curved Surfaces*, and *Planes of Specific Trades* vie for the reader's attention.

Especially interesting are the chapter on molding planes, which contain illustrations of hundreds of profiles, and one of which sets forth a system of classifying and naming molding planes based on the profiles they produce. For good measure there is also a chapter on "Other Planing Tools," such as shaves, scrapers, routers, scratch stocks, and molding boxes. No transitional or metallic planes intrude, however, and there is only minimal data on individual planemakers.

Even after completing the thirteen chapters the reader is not finished. It takes three appendixes, five glossaries, a bibliography, and an index (totaling about 120 pages) to conclude the volume. A major contribution of these latter pages is the description of a numerical index and classification system developed by the author with which one can quickly and accurately determine the name and function of any wooden plane solely by its physical appearance - i.e., by the shape of its cutting edge and the shape of its body. A warning to those skeptics who cannot resist dusting off their own planes to test Whelan's system: It works!

Something must be said about the glossaries. In addition to a conventional glossary of terms in English, there are four others for terms in French, German, Dutch, and Japanese, each with an index. So if you want to know the English equivalent of *guimbarde de carrossier* or *Abfalz-Putzhobel* or even *sumi-kezuri--kanna*, just look in the back of the book.

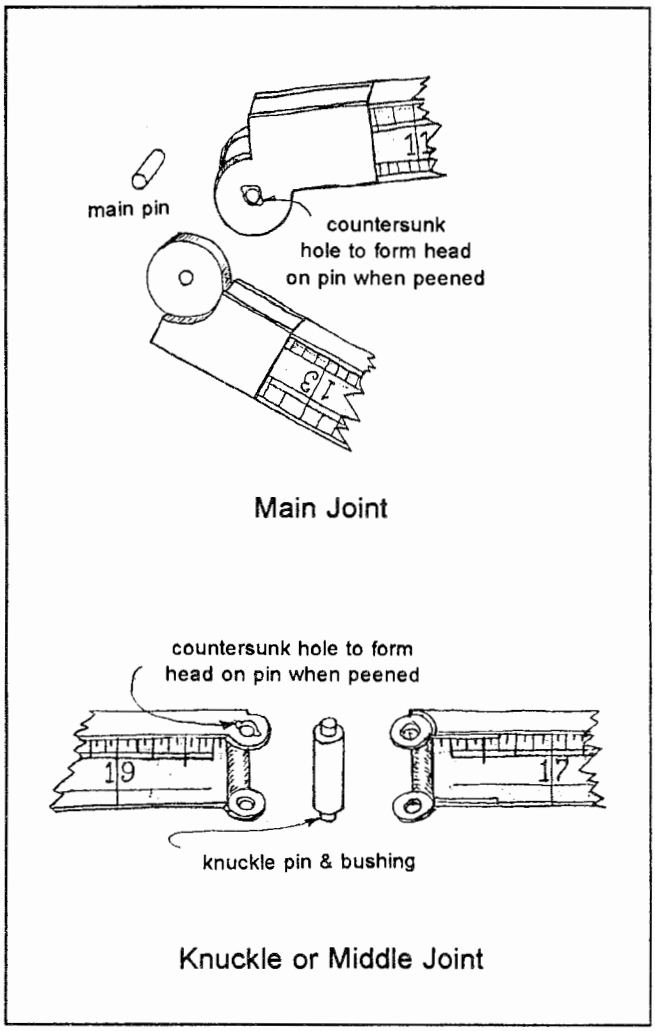
In limited space one cannot do justice to Whelan's research or his ideas. But it can be said that there is something here for almost everyone, from beginning collector to museum curator. "Definitive" is a word much overused in book reviews, but it is appropriate here. This volume is as close to definitive as it is possible to come. Additional information on wooden woodworking planes will undoubtedly come to light (and the author's classification system leaves room for just such discoveries), but the fundamental work is done. This book will be the standard source for a long, long time.

Just bringing together so much information on wooden planes is an impressive accomplishment; to have done so with such clarity and imagination is a triumph. Both author and publisher should be congratulated for making this fine work available.

Who Made That Rule?

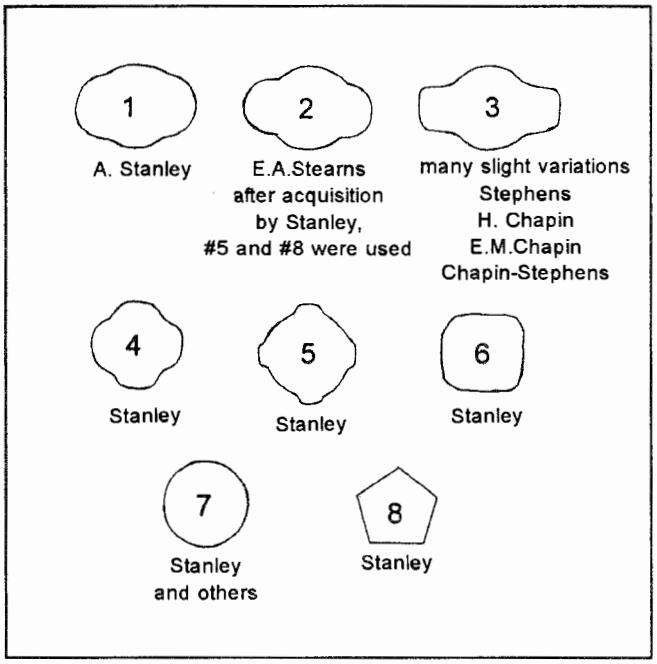
by Greg Welsh

As with planes, many rules are unmarked as to maker. This is an increasing frustration as we become more sophisticated in our collecting methods. There are a few clues that can help here: the manner of manufacturing, the style of the numbering, etc. I would like to look at just one of these clues - the shape of the head of the pivot pin. So that we are all talking the same terminology, the sketch below shows typical examples of the hinge joints with their pivot pins.



When the rule is assembled, the pins are peened into the countersunk portion of the holes. This enlarges the ends of the pin (forming heads) which prevents the pin from falling out. However, most manufacturers improved upon this simple design by forming a shape to the countersink that would prevent the rotation of the pin after peening. It is that shape that gives us a clue as to who made the rule.

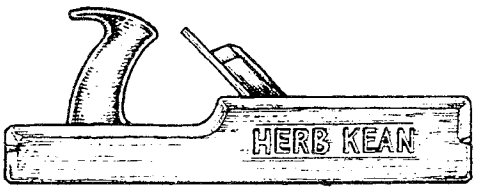
Shown below are some representative shapes, cleaned up to omit "smearing" (deformation in the peening).



Unfortunately, you cannot completely rely upon these indicators, as some manufacturers (such as Stanley) used more than one shape, and others (such as Stearns) used one shape in their early models and went over to some of the Stanley shapes after being acquired. In some cases the shape is smeared when peened, making it difficult to distinguish. I have found the knuckle joints a bit "cleaner" in this regard than the main joints. There are rules that have different knuckle joint shapes than their mains, particularly the later Stearns. And of course manufacturers may have "borrowed" shapes from each other.

The pentagonal or five-sided shape is almost always Stanley. I have found a signed Lufkin with a pentagonal pin, which was a great disappointment, because up to that time the pentagonal pin was said to be only Stanley's. (Hopefully there are no unsigned Lufkins with this pin.) The Stanley catalogs from 1871, 1874, 1892, etc., show the #68 and #69 with the five-sided pin. Some of the later vintage #68s have round headed pins that are not counter-sunk flush. I suppose this was part of their cost cutting program.

It takes a little while to get used to it all, but there is a definite advantage to using pin head shapes as clues. I hope this will take some of the mystery out of unsigned rules.



Kean Kuttin's

The Cape Cod Caper

(A grampa tool story)

Each year we go to a different place for vacation. Don't ask me why. Many of those places have been great, and warranted a return visit, but she-who-must-be-obeyed likes to try something new each year. This is not to say that we don't visit the same area again, but never the same cottage or inn. Cape Cod has been her favorite spot for the past few years, and we always invite my daughter's family up, as they live nearby.

My function for these vacations has been mainly: chauffeur, payer of bills, and reservation maker. I get to go fishing by myself occasionally, and hit the antique shops with the whole family. But I don't do much in the way of *adventurous* tool-hunting; and we all know that the hunt is the backbone of collecting.

As I sat on the porch, during our last vacation, overlooking a beautiful ocean vista, I felt a pang of restlessness. I should have been relaxed in that environment, but what was nagging at me was the unfulfillment of a good tool hunt on the Cape. It seemed as if everyone always wanted to go somewhere else. I made up my mind that this was to be my year.

When my 8 year old grandson came bounding onto the porch tugging at me to take him fishing, an idea was born. I knew it was tough keeping any 8 year old occupied at the same thing for any length of time, and fishing is a tough activity when they aren't biting. But, what if I had a secondary activity planned that would take over after the fishing interlude petered out? And, what if my grandson could be convinced to look for toys etc. in the various antique shops that we visit? Travel time over 10 or 15 minutes could be interspersed with icecream and junk food. Although I considered the idea a work of art, I felt that my daughter might not agree, so I didn't bother to tell her all the boring details; only that we were going fishing and that we wouldn't be back for lunch. Both mother and daughter loved the plan; they now had time for uninterrupted shopping.

It was the only time I ever cursed the fish for biting so soon and so voraciously. But how many perch and bluegills can an 8 year old catch before opting for icecream? Finally, we were on our way ..... tool-hunting at last. No one waiting in the car for me, no lunch to herd everyone together for, just plain adventure!

Now, tooling on the Cape is not what you could call lucrative. There are only three full fledged tool dealers and a couple of flea markets. Most of the shops with only a few tools are picked over pretty heavily. So what does that leave? The random treasure, that we all seek.

A capgun, a steamshovel and two icecreams later I sensed that I had pushed the caper to the limit, and had almost nothing to show for it. But it was still fun. The anticipation was the thing I told myself. So, we started back to the cottage. As fate would have it, one more shop got in our way.

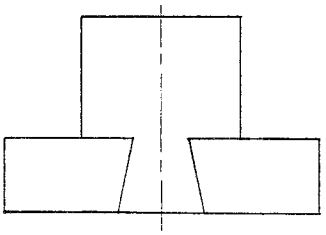
The stuff in this shop looked ripe for a treasure, as everything was piled helter-skelter (uncharacteristic of the shops on Cape Cod). My grandson was pulling a repro tomahawk out of a pile when a bunch of things fell to the floor. As he was picking the items up to put them back (my daughter taught him good manners), he announced that there were "some tools here."

I knew it! I rushed in half expecting to be blinded by the glare of the mother lode. But my dream popped when I saw only rusty pliers and beat-up screwdrivers. But wait ---- an odd shaped screwdriver was laying amidst the clutter. Its handle had the look of a can of snuff. Even though the patina of this weird handle was very dark, you could still see the elaborate engraving and the telltale green oxide indicating brass.

Cleaned up, it proved to be a patented ratchet screwdriver, both beautiful and rare. It was the prize trophy of our "fishing trip." It only goes to show that even in these more sophisticated times of tool collecting, and even in a comparatively barren area for treasures, adventure still awaits us. How many other collectibles can this be said about?

The Results of the Tough Joint Challenge

(April 1993 TOOLSHED)



Only one person demonstrated his ability to get around this joint. I told you it was tough. Congratulations Walter Jacob!

Sewing Birds - Early Tools
by Lou Richardson

During the 17th and 18th centuries, when most clothing was made at home, women were confronted with yards and yards of material which had to be hemmed by hand. To ease their burden, various kinds of clamps, somewhat resembling modern C-clamps, made of turned wood, ivory or cut steel - and surmounted by pin cushions, cylinders, or small boxes, were used to anchor one end of the piece of material between the bottom of the clamp and the table. This freed one hand of the seamstress so she could hold the material taut and thus sew along more neatly and evenly with the other hand. However, this necessitated resetting the clamp repeatedly as the work progressed.

In the 1800's the first plain iron sewing bird appeared in England. This sleek bird without ornament or pin cushion contained a spring under the body of the bird so that the beak of the bird could be opened by pressing down or squeezing the tail of the bird. The fabric was inserted in the beak of the bird, and it took little time to change the position of the cloth.

LADIES' SEWING BIRDS.

The latest invented and most useful article for the use of ladies that can be found. The above engraving tells the whole story of its use and usefulness, and health preserving property. Look at the contrast of the human form where it is used and where it is not, and then call on or send your orders for one or more at the Stationery and Fancy Goods Saloon of

ELIHU GEER, 10 State street.

☞ For sale by the dozen at the manufacturer's price.

Jun 5 d 3w6w5l

The Sewing-bird in Action

Copy of an advertisement appearing in the *Hartford Times* of June 5, 1852

PRESENTED BY THE LATE WILLIAM G. SNOW, INTERNATIONAL SILVER COMPANY, MERIDEN, CONN.

Figure 1. Newspaper advertisement for sewing birds, 1852.

Around this time, brass sewing birds were manufactured in England and the Continent, but were not used as much there as they were in America, where they became very Popular. An advertisement in the Hartford Times of 1852, shown in Figure 1, promoted the advantages of using these sewing birds. (They were also called "hemmingbirds" or "grippers.")

Many of the first sewing birds in America were fashioned by local blacksmiths or cutlers. In 1853, Charles Waterman of Middletown, Conn. received the first patent for factory made cast iron, brass, silver, or white metal birds. Since their manufacture used both dies and patterns to form the designs on the birds, these parts could be interchanged to make many different variations. It has been said that there were as many as 52 different forms of design.

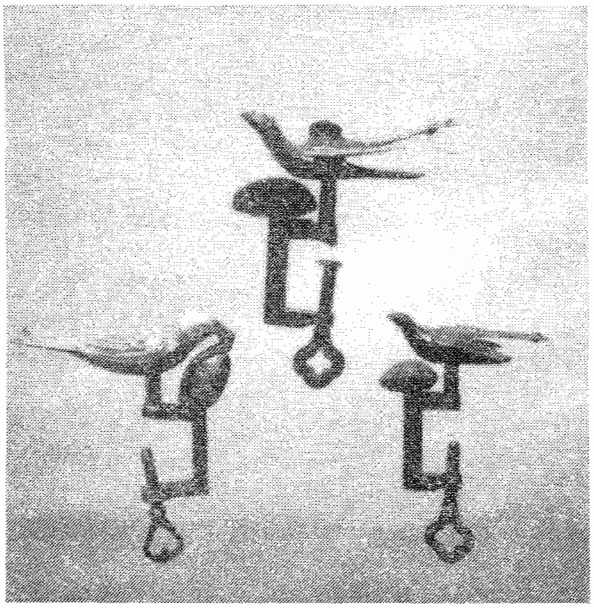


Figure 2. Three types of sewing birds.

On the back of these birds was a small cup designed to hold a ball filled with emery for sharpening needles. In some birds, a cushion larger than the emery ball was glued in an ornamental cup soldered to a small post on the upper corner of the clamp (Figure 2, center).

This cushion is often broken away, leaving the small knob exposed. If you find one of these, you will know that the bird is not complete. Some birds never had the cushion, as evidenced by the smooth even corner of the clamp. Some birds had spread wings (Figure 2, center) while on others the wings were part of the body (Figure 2, left).

A. P. Bailey of Middletown, Conn., in 1854, patented a plain iron sewing bird similar to the earlier English ones. They can still be found occasionally in the United States.

A third type of bird was patented in 1853 by Allen Gerould and John Ward of Middletown, Conn. This is a full-bodied bird with a pin cushion on the front of the bird (Figure 2, left). The material is held beneath the bill of the bird and a tiny cup underneath. By pressing the tail, the entire bird tips and the bird is raised from the cup beneath it. A spring, concealed within the bird, causes the material to he held firmly between the bill and the cup when the pressure on the tail is released.

A miniaturized version of the center bird is shown at its right with folded wings and lacking the top emery (Figure 2).

Figure 3. Dolphin clamp (left) and cherub clamp (right).

Sewing birds were also made in fanciful shapes such as dolphins, dogs, butterflies, fish, frogs, and even reindeer. Pictured is a dolphin clamp (Figure 3, left) and a cherub clamp (Figure 3, right).

One often finds birds from the 1920s that were generally made in Japan. They are much lighter in weight and look brightly gilded.

After the sewing machine came into general use, sewing birds were still used occasionally for hand sewing. Today they are avidly collected as a tool of the needle women. Some think sewing birds are for tying fishing flies; don't believe them.

Meet Your Dealers

The purpose of this column is NOT to evaluate dealers, but simply to present useful and interesting information about sources of tools.

For the first dealer in this new column, it is fitting to pick one of the first nationally known catalog tool dealers, -- and the only one of these originals who is still publishing today: Vern Ward.

His shop, Iron Horse Antiques, started in 1970 in Hubbardton, Vt., a tiny town about 8 miles, as the crow flies, from U.S. Route 7. The trouble was that only a crow could have made those 8 miles; the rest of us had to travel a semi-circular route up the shores of Lake Bomoseen to reach his rustic but quaint shop. Maybe that's why he started his mail order catalog.

To me those first catalogs were the only way to find out what the better tools were selling for; and to many, it was the only way to get those tools. Vern is a pacesetter, and I believe his interest in "old iron" and primitives brought those previously little cared for tools into the limelight. In 1977 he held his first all-tool auction in a hideaway spot in Bomoseen. We all came, and tool auctions were the way to go from then on.

Vern moved his shop to East Poultney in 1975, but closed it down in 1989 when his publishing business took almost his entire attention. In 1982, the original Iron Horse Catalog was upgraded into the Fine Tool Journal, and tool sales were continued both in the retail section and by mail auctions. The mail auctions have grown from only a handful of pieces to his current sale of over 400 lots.

I'll never forget a story about one of his mail auctions. Vern had advertised that if anyone wanted to bid directly on the spot, they could come to his home on the day of the auction. Vermont was hit with a heck of a snowstorm on that day, but to Vern's surprise, a bidder did show up, and from Philadelphia no less. Well, he kept his promise and held the auction in his sunparlor, with only one bidder -- but with all the necessary formalities of an on-site auction.

Today, Vern offers tools in dealer shows, the FTJ, and his mail auctions. The Fine Tool Journal is published every three months and covers articles, letters, ads, coming events, book reviews, and tool sales. He can be contacted at P.0. Box 4001, Pittsford, VT 05763, (802) 483-2111.

Herb Kean

CRAFTS' 1993 Auction by Bob Nelson

Those familiar with my auction writings know that I frequently use statistical techniques to bring some objectivity to them. However, I'm the first to admit that more subjective assessments are frequently necessary. I believe that the 1993 CRAFTS' auction demonstrates that point, so please bear with a small dose of my statistical blathering that lays some groundwork.

The 1993 auction total was $53,731, the average lot price was $77.76, and a median figure (representing a level at which half the lots sold for more and half for less) was $51.59. By comparison, the respective 1992 auction figures were $54,507, $88.96, and $56.47. Those imply that prices were higher at 1992's auction, but I doubt that anyone who attended 1993's would agree that such was the case. The difference was that the relative values of the tools offered at both auctions were not directly comparable. The 1992 auction included a substantially higher number of "expensive" (over $1000) and "high priced" ($300-999) tools and its "mid-priced" ($30-299) offerings ran more toward the higher end of that range. For the basically run-of-the-mill lots that dominated the 1993 auction to bring the prices they did (when the prices of such tools have been flat, even down, since 1989) was very surprising. A more equitable correlation can be made with 1991's figures of $45,044, $66.05, and $45.45.

There were no tools that could legitimately have been put in the "expensive" category before the auction. Although an extremely unique 8', 8-fold rule sold for $1650, its uniqueness made any pre-auction estimation pure guesswork. Sixteen lots sold in the "high priced" range. A horn-filled Ultimatum brace that would have qualified as "expensive," if not for two large pieces missing from its head sold for $750. A rosewood Ultimatum sold for the same $750; that is average for good examples of rosewood models, and apparently was not affected by the looseness of its wrist grip. A Stanley #9 sold for $675; it was in G+ condition except for a replaced knob, which dropped its value more than a full grade. A cracked and welded Stanley #1 sold for $425, as did a Stanley #55 in a wooden box. A rare screw-arm Ship Hawk plane with a double depth stop by 2-star maker J. Bradford went for $500. That seemed about right for it, but there must have been something about a tinsmith's creasing stake that went for $400 that I missed.

Two 3-star J.A. King planes that went for $375 and $400 as sequential lots demonstrated a point of auction psychology. The $375 first one seemed more desirable than the $400 second one. When similar pieces are presented in a series, sometimes the bidders will wait until the last lot hoping that the competition will be gone by then. But, if at that point there are still two bidders interested, bidding becomes aggressive; neither wants to miss out entirely. It could be argued that if this is the case, the better unit should be last, where all the action is. Not so, because most everyone would then wait for the best piece, and the earlier pieces would go at bargain prices. The increased bidding on the last piece usually does not make up for the losses on the others. So, if the combined prices of all the similar pieces are to be maximized for the benefit of the consignor, the best one should be put up first.

Even more surprising than the higher prices brought by other "mid-priced" tools were the prices brought by primitive tools which have been severely depressed for years. For example, a very mundane wooden pitch fork went to $140. Two wooden shovels brought $130 & $270. A swedge block brought $240.

Some other examples of seemingly high prices are: Windsor beaders have rarely sold for more than $125 lately; one here brought $160. An ice saw missing its wooden handle which might have been expected to bring about $20 sold for $45; the Disston name on it was apparently of more significance than an otherwise better example that went for a more predictable $30. (Marked tools other than planes have only recently started to reflect the pricing structure that has become an accepted part of plane pricing.) A very ordinary, but signed, tanner's/currier's scraping knife brought $110. A nice 6' coopers joiner with legs, but missing the iron, seemed a bit high at $200. Two cherry fret saws sold for $70 and $160; I didn't note any details on those, and as such the $160 was surprising. It might have brought that money because it was listed as "Shaker" style, or because it came <u>after</u> the $70 one.

Wood molding planes take more effort than I've applied in order to make definitive price judgements, but my general impression was that they tracked closely with expected auction ratios of 50% selling for about what they're worth, 25% selling low, and 25% selling high. Those ratios are usually valid, and any deviation from them indicates that either the predicted prices were not apace with current trends or that some unusual circumstance was involved.

Neither the March PATINA auction nor recent Barry Hurchalla auctions gave any reason to anticipate higher prices for CRAFTS' "mid-priced" lots. So, it may be a bit early to cite them as an indicator of the end of the flat tool prices associated with the general economic recession of the last few years. However, there were no unusual circumstances that I know of that can account for the unexpectedly high prices. One can only hope that we have turned the corner.

April 3 CraftsTool Auction Prices Realized

If you did not attend the auction and want a copy of the Catalog, send $1 and a #10 SASE to Helen Whelan, 38 Colony Court, Murray Hill, NJ 07974.

1. 47.50	67. 50.00	126. 65.00	192. 50.00	259. 200.00	325. 225.00	384. 50.00
2. 55.00	68. 25.00	127. 90.00	193. 150.00	260. 190.00	325A 45.00	385. 40.00
3. 40.00	69. 45.00	128. 100.00	194. 100.00	261. 170.00	325B 50.00	386. 60.00
4. 32.50	70. 30.00	129. 70.00	195. 500.00	262. 75.00	325C 50.00	387. 100.00
5. 42.50	71. 110.00	130. 35.00	196. 70.00	263. 45.00	325D 45.00	388. 100.00
6. 35.00	72. 60.00	131. 50.00	197. 70.00	264. 210.00	325E 25.00	389. 60.00
7. 6.00	73. 50.00	132. 50.00	198. 240.00	265. 110.00	325F 220.00	390. 20.00
8. 65.00	74. 200.00	133. 150.00	199. 55.00	266. 35.00	325G 150.00	391. 40.00
9. 25.00	75. 70.00	134. 140.00	200. 60.00	267. 40.00	326. 45.00	392. 20.00
10. 90.00	76. 75.00	135. 160.00	201. 1650.00	268. 130.00	327. 60.00	393. 35.00
11. 20.00	77. 50.00	136. 175.00	202. 750.00	269. 130.00	328. 140.00	394. 60.00
12. 20.00	78. 32.50	137. 25.00	203. 750.00	270. 150.00	329. 55.00	395. 40.00
13. 20.00	79. 60.00	138. 37.50	204. 100.00	271. 50.00	330. 300.00	396. 65.00
14. 55.00	80. 100.00	139. 85.00	205. 350.00	272. 80.00	331. 45.00	397. 40.00
15. 25.00	81. 140.00	140. 30.00	206. 230.00	273. 70.00	332. 70.00	398. 130.00
16. 35.00	82. 130.00	141. 140.00	207. 275.00	274. 80.00	333. 120.00	399. 100.00
17. 40.00	83. 60.00	142. 70.00	208. 190.00	275. 100.00	334. 35.00	400. 70.00
18. 65.00	84. 140.00	143. 95.00	209. 280.00	276. 50.00	335. 60.00	401. 50.00
19. 80.00	85. 35.00	144. 120.00	210. 230.00	277. 70.00	336. 35.00	402. 85.00
20. 55.00	86. 30.00	145. 50.00	211. 260.00	278. 60.00	337. 60.00	403. 65.00
21. 15.00	87. 120.00	146. 70.00	212. 170.00	279. 210.00	338. 45.00	404. 130.00
22. 20.00	88. 140.00	147. 50.00	213. 110.00	280. 30.00	339. 65.00	405. 40.00
23. 27.50	89. 60.00	148. 40.00	214. 110.00	281. 30.00	340. 60.00	406. 65.00
24. 100.00	90. 120.00	149. 130.00	215. 75.00	282. 30.00	341. 15.00	407. 100.00
25. 75.00	91. 45.00	150. 85.00	216. 140.00	283. 60.00	342. 60.00	408. 45.00
26. 110.00	92. 25.00	151. 40.00	217. 350.00	284. 60.00	343. 5.00	409. 40.00
27. 50.00	93. 55.00	152. 65.00	218. 200.00	285. 65.00	344. 25.00	410. 55.00
28. 40.00	94. 90.00	153. 30.00	219. 500.00	286. 60.00	345. 50.00	411. 55.00
29. 40.00	95. 35.00	154. 45.00	220. 140.00	287. 45.00	346. 60.00	412. 80.00
30. 37.50	96. 37.50	155. 85.00	221. 350.00	288. 300.00	347. 70.00	413. 45.00
31. 15.00	97. 60.00	156. 80.00	222. 325.00	289. 45.00	348. 50.00	414. 130.00
32. 40.00	98. 30.00	157. 170.00	223. 160.00	290. 110.00	349. 10.00	415. 70.00
33. 20.00	99. 65.00	158. 40.00	224. 375.00	291. 120.00	350. 200.00	416. 7.50
34. 35.00	100. 250.00	159. 60.00	225. 400.00	292. 140.00	351. 160.00	417. 15.00
35. 55.00	100A 50.00	160. 70.00	226. 50.00	293. 160.00	352. 60.00	418. 30.00
36. 60.00	100B 140.00	161. 40.00	227. 90.00	294. 45.00	353. 40.00	419. 65.00
37. 50.00	100C 65.00	162. 100.00	228. 250.00	295. 80.00	354. 40.00	420. 25.00
38. 95.00	100D 35.00	163. 55.00	229. 100.00	296. 50.00	355. 230.00	421. 30.00
39. 90.00	100E 60.00	164. 35.00	230. 275.00	297. 25.00	356. 60.00	422. 35.00
40. 35.00	100F 60.00	165. 40.00	231. 25.00	298. 65.00	357. 110.00	423. 55.00
41. 50.00	100G 5.00	166. 30.00	232. 27.50	299. 225.00	358. 130.00	424. 100.00
42. 60.00	101. 70.00	167. 40.00	234. 120.00	300. 40.00	359. 100.00	425. 40.00
43. 65.00	102. 35.00	168. 50.00	235. 180.00	301. 80.00	360. 160.00	425A 50.00
44. 45.00	103. 90.00	169. 25.00	236. 200.00	302. 25.00	361. 80.00	425B 30.00
45. 17.50	104. 75.00	170. 50.00	237. 130.00	303. 27.50	362. 85.00	425C 7.50
46. 90.00	105. 40.00	171. 70.00	238. 140.00	304. 40.00	363. 60.00	425D 10.00
47. 55.00	106. 30.00	172. 35.00	239. 100.00	305. 85.00	364. 70.00	425E 60.00
48. 50.00	107. 50.00	173. 22.50	240. 50.00	306. 70.00	365. 85.00	425F 15.00
49. 45.00	108. 90.00	174. 160.00	241. 40.00	307. 120.00	366. 90.00	425G 15.00
50. 180.00	109. 50.00	175. 100.00	242. 425.00	308. 90.00	367. 180.00	426. 75.00
51. 40.00	110. 200.00	176. 130.00	243. 150.00	309. 80.00	368. 40.00	427. 80.00
52. 35.00	111. 50.00	177. 50.00	244. 150.00	310. 50.00	369. 15.00	428. 100.00
53. 45.00	112. 40.00	178. 100.00	245. 200.00	311. 70.00	370. 25.00	429. 30.00
54. 50.00	113. 40.00	179. 25.00	246. 170.00	312. 50.00	371. 85.00	430. 45.00
55. 30.00	114. 65.00	180. 55.00	247. 160.00	313. 60.00	372. 45.00	431. 55.00
56. 85.00	115. 45.00	181. 75.00	248. 160.00	314. 110.00	373. 30.00	432. 40.00
57. 55.00	116. 80.00	182. 35.00	249. 675.00	315. 200.00	374. 40.00	433. 30.00
58. 12.50	117. 65.00	183. 110.00	250. 275.00	316. 140.00	375. 55.00	434. 70.00
59. 32.50	118. 80.00	184. 180.00	251. 160.00	317. 50.00	376. 80.00	435. 90.00
60. 75.00	119. 100.00	185. 100.00	252. 65.00	318. 70.00	377. 170.00	436. 30.00
61. 45.00	120. 60.00	186. 55.00	253. 85.00	319. 70.00	378. 80.00	437. 95.00
62. 17.50	121. 45.00	187. 400.00	254. 250.00	320. 70.00	379. 45.00	438. 55.00
63. 60.00	122. 50.00	188. 80.00	255. 130.00	321. 55.00	380. 140.00	439. 20.00
64. 45.00	123. 30.00	189. 70.00	256. 230.00	322. 30.00	381. 80.00	440. 100.00
65. 45.00	124. 50.00	190. 210.00	257. 425.00	323. 30.00	382. 95.00	441. 40.00
66. 25.00	125. 65.00	191. 85.00	258. 190.00	324. 25.00	383. 60.00	442. 70.00

443.	70.00	508.	45.00	573.	65.00
444.	22.50	509.	65.00	574.	50.00
445.	50.00	510.	20.00	575.	40.00
446.	40.00	511.	10.00	576.	180.00
447.	15.00	512.	30.00	577.	27.50
448.	25.00	513.	40.00	578.	40.00
449.	20.00	514.	70.00	579.	30.00
450.	40.00	515.	55.00	580.	30.00
451.	20.00	516.	55.00	581.	140.00
452.	35.00	517.	30.00	582.	45.00
453.	50.00	518.	250.00	583.	15.00
454.	35.00	519.	45.00	584.	55.00
455.	30.00	520.	75.00	585.	25.00
456.	270.00	521.	35.00	586.	85.00
457.	50.00	522.	40.00	587.	27.50
458.	60.00	523.	150.00	588.	70.00
459.	80.00	524.	27.50	589.	45.00
460.	50.00	525.	45.00	590.	10.00
461.	45.00	526.	35.00	591.	22.50
462.	55.00	527.	45.00	592.	50.00
463.	37.50	528.	35.00	593.	35.00
464.	30.00	529.	25.00	594.	55.00
465.	25.00	530.	80.00	595.	10.00
466.	15.00	531.	90.00	596.	22.50
467.	40.00	532.	15.00	597.	20.00
468.	20.00	533.	47.50	598.	10.00
469.	25.00	534.	70.00	599.	30.00
470.	190.00	535.	22.50	600.	15.00
471.	120.00	536.	22.50	601.	15.00
472.	25.00	537.	15.00	602.	10.00
473.	85.00	538.	55.00	603.	22.50
474.	60.00	539.	65.00	604.	30.00
475.	50.00	540.	150.00	605.	10.00
475A	10.00	541.	25.00	606.	25.00
475B	60.00	542.	30.00	607.	65.00
475C	60.00	543.	55.00	608.	15.00
475D	30.00	544.	15.00	609.	12.50
475E	20.00	545.	25.00	610.	40.00
476.	100.00	546.	40.00	611.	20.00
477.	40.00	547.	7.50	612.	100.00
478.	35.00	548.	45.00	613.	20.00
479.	60.00	549.	25.00	614.	165.00
480.	20.00	550.	120.00	615.	10.00
481.	40.00	550A	25.00	616.	25.00
482.	25.00	550B	40.00	617.	60.00
483.	150.00	550C	20.00	618.	22.50
484.	35.00	550D	12.50	619.	23.00
485.	20.00	550E	20.00	620.	15.00
486.	35.00	551.	55.00	621.	40.00
487.	100.00	552.	10.00	622.	120.00
488.	40.00	553.	110.00	623.	70.00
489.	20.00	554.	130.00	624.	15.00
490.	90.00	555.	25.00	625.	65.00
491.	25.00	556.	180.00	626.	35.00
492.	40.00	557.	95.00	627.	25.00
493.	30.00	558.	110.00	628.	25.00
494.	40.00	559.	15.00	629.	27.50
495.	40.00	560.	12.50	630.	40.00
496.	35.00	561.	22.50	631.	5.00
497.	25.00	562.	15.00	632.	7.00
498.	15.00	563.	12.50	633.	15.00
499.	20.00	564.	55.00	634.	20.00
500.	45.00	565.	25.00	635.	20.00
501.	145.00	566.	35.00	636.	10.00
502.	17.50	567.	25.00	637.	35.00
503.	25.00	568.	25.00	638.	55.00
504.	45.00	569.	17.50	639.	25.00
505.	35.00	570.	25.00	640.	5.00
506.	80.00	571.	20.00	641.	20.00
507.	55.00	572.	80.00	642.	27.50

Buy, Swap, & Sell

CRAFTS members only may have a free 5 line (40 word) ad that is primarily related to the exchange of tools or information. Send to: Stuart Shippey, 251 Hillside Ave., Chatham, NJ 07928-1732 or FAX to 201 301-9781. All ads accepted on a space permitting basis. Specify **Wanted**, **Swap,** or **For Sale**, and please type or print clearly! The deadline for the next TOOLSHED is July 24.

WANTED

Antique door, barn and chest locks, etc., wrought iron/handmade locks preferred. Other locks considered but no padlocks please. Call/write Louis G. Schmidt, 1362 West Front St., Lincroft, NJ 07738-1119 (908) 219-9720.

DISSTON or DISSTON and MORSE catalogs, price lists, advertising and memorabilia. Also, any unusual levels, saws, or other tools by same. Want unusual or scarcer planes or other tools by Philadelphia makers. Call collect Bob Zarich (215) 321-3576.

New Jersey-made knives marked BOOTH BROTHERS / Newark N.J.; LINDEN Knife Co.; PASSAIC Knife Co; BAYONNE Knife Co.; FLERON / Trenton N.J.; J.T. MOUNT; NEFT Safety Knife / Newark; UNGER BROS. Alex Farnham, 78 Tumble Falls Rd., Stockton, NJ 08559.

Pre-1910 THERMOMETER CATALOGUES or adv. and INSTRUMENTS with maker's name - not advertising. Preferably brass or copper. William Sanford, Box 106, RD 3, Newton, NJ 07860.

Old ALASKA, YUKON, KLONDIKE stuff: books, stereoviews, postcards, paintings, etc. I collect brass-bound levels, small ones with wood damage ok. Have W.H.H. WHITE side rabbet; core box page 214 PT&MPIA to trade. R. Wood, Box 22165, Juneau, AK 99802.

ROPE or WIRE CABLE RULES, especially those marked ROEBLING. Also want moulding planes by JO. FULLER and any other planes in the JO. FULLER style. Hampton Williams, 11389 Bantry Terrace, Fairfax, VA 22030. (703) 278-8242

MINIATURE TOOLS, child's tool chests, small machines, related toys. Ken Vliet, Box 104, Oldwick, NJ 08858.

continued

643.	25.00	649.	75.00	655.	25.00	661.	30.00
644.	20.00	650.	17.50	656.	95.00	662.	25.00
645.	25.00	651.	10.00	657.	25.00		
646.	20.00	652.	25.00	658.	30.00	Total	
647.	45.00	653.	22.50	659.	5.00		$ 53,731
648.	7.50	654.	40.00	660.	25.00		

Need information pertaining to a K & E PANTOGRAPH No. 1132. Larry Cohen, 10 Cohill Rd., Valley Stream, NY 11580. (516) 825-9330.

Wide and/or intricate complex molders from the Hudson Valley (incl. N.Y.C. and Albany), Delaware Valley (incl. Philadelphia) and New Jersey. Joe Hauck, 85 Brunswick Ave., Lebanon, NJ 08833. Evenings (908) 236-2072.

J. POPPING N.Y. GUNMETAL PLANES Bullnose 4½", Shoulders 5½" & 6½". Dominic Micalizzi, 81 Buckelew Ave., Jamesburg, NJ 08831. (908) 521-0666.

STANLEY TOOLS and HARDWARE CATALOGS and paper before 1900; and handmade wood, bone, and wrought CORN HUSKING PINS. Call Walter or Sue Jacob (215) 822-1029.

PLANES: American makers good+ or better single door; double door with adjustable fence; V-bottom plows curved and regular; coming and going table and handled T&G; screw arm panel raiser. Ray Wisnieski (516) 499-7115.

Private collector will pay top $ for exceptional, unique carved wooden tools, old timber scribes (Rouannes), leg calipers, 17th, 18th Century tools, etc. Send Polaroid and references to Laurent Adamowicz, 13 rue de La Reine Blanche, 75013 Paris, France. FAX 011-33-1-4336-2796.

STANLEY PLANES Nos. 4½H, 5½H, 10½C, 10¼C, 11½, 12¾, 15, 16, 018, 019, 63, 80 S/C, 90A, 101½, 239½, 92, 602C, 604½. Bill Hermanek, 31 Wildwood La., Smithtown, NY 11787. (516) 360-1216.

Any sets of CHISELS or nice loose chisels by CHARLES BUCK or D.R. BARTON. A 2" SOCKET FIRMER by P.S&W especially needed! Lee Richmond (703) 391-0074.

Harness/leather working DRAW GAUGES, round knives, etc. by BURSCH, SEYMOUR, BALDWIN, CHARLTON, GOODSELL ... NJ/PA Cutlers. Ken Hopfel, 25 Lilac Dr., Flemington, NJ 08822. (908) 788-2053.

SURVEYING BOOKS, CATALOGUES, INSTRUMENTS, TOOLS, compasses, chains, rods, tripods, computing devices, and memorabilia always wanted by serious collector. Mike Shackelford, P. O. Box 9628, Trenton, NJ 08650-1628, (609) 989-5794.

HAHN PLANES & OLD TOY TRUCKS. Looking for a #20 and #7 Hahn plane from Wilkes Barre, Pa. Also want good old toy trucks. Call Steve Zluky (908) 534-2710.

SARGENT AUTOSET PLANES with nickel-plated lever caps, VG or better. Any fine or better Sargent tools except wooden planes. Sargent catalogs & paper. Also tools marked B-M-CO. (Braunsdorf-Mueller) Paul Weidenschilling, P.O. Box 298, Boonton, NJ 07005-0298.

FOR SALE

Instrmkrs bass viol calipers, 24" - $65; P. BROOKS dovetail box double bead plane - $55; F. B. MARBLE. combo T&G - $45; Kent style broad axes, desirable makers, good cond - $40-$60. Herb Kean (201) 993-8374.

PAPER MEMORABILIA i.e. Postcards, Advertising Trade Cards of Farm Tools, Equipment, Home supplies. (Some 100 turn of the century era pieces.) Send 29¢ #10 SASE for listing. Al Housman, 89 Westport, Whiting, NJ 08759.

CLOCK & WATCHMAKER'S TOOLS. Complete "DERBYSHIRE" includes lathe, motor, foot pedal, etc. with all accessories - too numerous to list. $4000.00 Arthur F. Gatti (201) 374-6421.

Extremely rare HORN ULTIMATUM, early Wm. Marples c 1855, (Spring Lane) head needs repair -- $1200; Stanley #88 IVORY RULE, slight yellowing outside, inside clean -- $300. Greg Welsh. (908) 439-3266.

George BITTNER announces a display of tools for sale at 55 Main St. Antiques, Flemington, N.J. Typical stock includes wood and metal planes, rulers, hammers, wrenches, chisels and gouges. Expect the unusual. Store hours 10 - 5 Tues - Sun. (201) 989-0090.

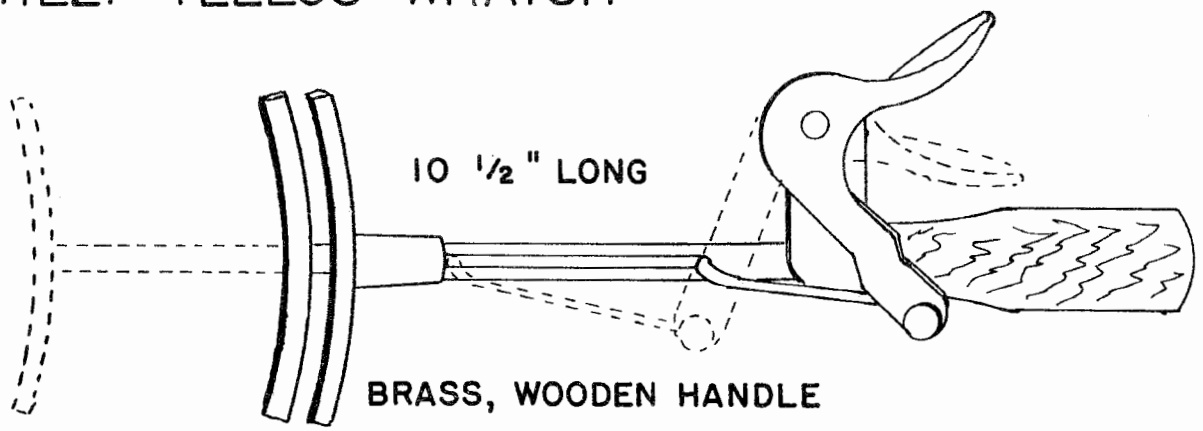
ANTIQUE TOOL SALE every Sunday at SOHO FLEA MARKET corner of Broadway & Grand, New York City NY off Canal St. For information call Gene (201) 696-4908.

A Price Guide Review
by Stephen A. Orbine

I recently acquired a price guide titled Early 20th Century Stanley Tools - A Price Guide by Jack P. Wood. The format of this book is interesting, as the writer has reprinted a 1909 Stanley Catalog (two catalog pages on each reprint page) and a 1926 Stanley Catalog. This feature may be worth the price of admission to the potential buyer.

However, the estimated current prices for both reprints are contained in a four page insert. While I don't consider myself qualified to pick on every individual estimated price, I do have a problem with the approach. Most of the pricing is done with a single price range for an entire page of tools (some items are handled individually). For example, pages 10 and 11 in the 1909 reprint contain eight Boxwood Caliper Rules (No. 36, No. 14, etc.) and fifteen Ivory Rules (No. 86½, No. 87, etc.). In the price guide insert the price for all these rules is listed as "All $40-$60." In my experience, the No. 36 sells at about $15, while the No. 87 goes for $250-$300+. Numerous similar examples could be cited, but it suffices to say that you cannot have a useful price guide unless each item is diligently researched and individually priced.

WILLY TELLUS WHATSIT



No. 13

This Whatsit stumped everybody thirty-five years ago (Chronicle of the E.A.I.A., June 1958, p.22). Has a new generation any ideas? Reported by Fred B. DeWitt, it was found in a barn near the Griswold, Iowa Farm museum, where it was preserved.

At rest, the two curved plates are separated by a gap of about 1/4 inch. The outer plate is supported by a rod running through a brass tube fixed to the handle. When the thumb lever is depressed, the push rod moves the outer plate to the position shown by the dotted lines.

Have you a Whatsit you would like to see in Willy's drawings? Let us know about it.

The Craftsman
submitted by Al Hodge

A woodworker owned a parrot, which seemed to have gone a little off his feed. The craftsman mentioned this to a vetinarian friend who thought that the parrot's beak might be slightly overgrown, and suggested that the woodworker file the beak down slightly - but just a little bit.

Some time later the vetinarian inquired as to how the parrot was doing. The woodworker replied, "Oh, he died." The vet said, "I told you just to file a little bit!" The woodworker responded, "That wasn't it. He was dead when I took him out of the vise."

CRAFTS Calendar of Events

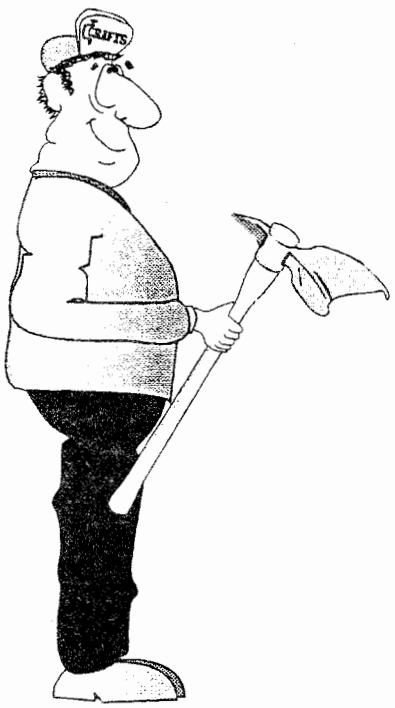
June 6 CRAFTS meeting at High Bridge

July 1 membership dues deadline

July 24 *TOOLSHED* and free ad deadline

September 12 - CRAFTS picnic

Joe Toolie



"This adz has been in my family for 100 years, the handle was replaced four times and the head twice."

Joe Grasso