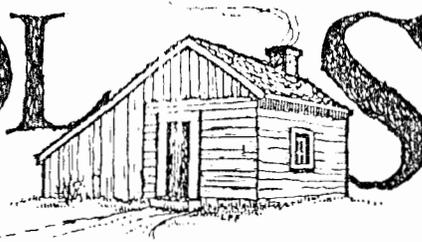


The TOOL SHED

Vol. 1, No. 2



Apr. 1978

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

"CRAFTS"—A NAME AT LAST!

A name at last! Some 55 members of the hitherto unnamed tool collectors group attended the February 19th meeting at the Field Homestead and formally voted on a name for the organization. The name chosen was "Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society of New Jersey." This gives us the apt acronym of CRAFTS.

Although ballots had been carefully prepared listing several proposed names for the organization, "Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society" was a last minute, write-in choice suggested by James Aber of Glen Rock. And it won by a landslide.

Now that we have a name, President Ed Bragg has completed the by-laws, Treasurer Carroll Palmer has opened a bank account, and Editor Larry Fuhro has finally finished the masthead of "The Tool Shed."

Thanks, Jim Aber. It's nice to have a name. CRAFTS it is!

NEXT MEETING ON APRIL 16th

The third meeting of CRAFTS will be held at the Jeremiah Field Homestead, 280 River Road (Rte. 18), Piscataway, from 2:00-5:00 p. m., Sunday, April 16.

The program will include Harry O'Neill on "Hand or Foot Powered Machines" and C. Carroll Palmer on "Cataloging and Numbering Tools." Fred Shippey will preside, and discussion will follow.

Bob DuPont will handle the "Whatsit?" session. Please bring no more than one tool for identification.

The meeting will conclude with the "Swap & Sell." A notice concerning the "Swap & Sell" session is contained on this page.

"SWAP & SELL" SESSIONS

CRAFTS President Ed Bragg, after discussion with the Steering Committee, requests that any tools to be offered in the "Swap & Sell" sessions be kept in the owner's car until after the balance of the program.

Members wishing to participate in "Swap & Sell" should bring a small table to set up. No advance notice is

required.

When Spring really arrives and we get some warm weather, "Swap & Sell" sessions will be held outside (tailgates or tables) or, in the case of inclement weather, in the adjacent barn.

Some nice tools changed hands at the February meeting.

LETTERS

● Enclosed is a \$15 check to help you on your way. You are doing a very business-like job. I am hipped on the idea of having the publication carrying pages of 1" or 2" ads, all the same size. You will get money, people who cannot make certain meetings will be in effect participating, and you will be establishing channels of communication.

-James P. Whitlock
Hillside, N. J.

● We are pleased that a tool group has been formed in New Jersey. ... We hope you will keep us informed about your activities. We will publicize them in the Shavings when possible.

Speaking on behalf of the Association I welcome you to the ranks of tool collecting organizations and if you need any assistance, please feel free to call on us.

-Daniel B. Reibel, Ed.
The Chronicle
EAIA

● It's fantastic that there will be a club for tool collectors in this area. I'm sure the club will have no problems attracting members. There are a few people in my immediate area that will probably be interested. I've been collecting about 5 years and collect all kinds of tools, not concentrating on any one trade. The collection is wide and varied, a few hundred pieces in all, set up in a small shop in my garage.

-Elliot Matlin
Marlboro, N. J.

MEMBER PLANNING BOOK ON JERSEY-MADE TOOLS

CRAFTS member Alexander Farnham is putting together a book on New Jersey-made tools.

If you have any tool marked as having been made in New Jersey, Alex would greatly appreciate a polaroid shot or rubbing of the markings, along with any information you may have about the tool and/or the maker.

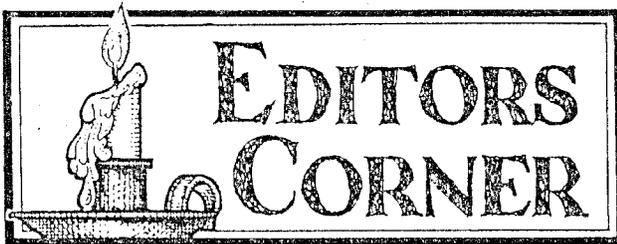
Contact Mr. Farnham by mail at Box 365, RD #2, Stockton, N.J. 08559.



ATTENTION MEMBERS!

The Jeremiah Field Homestead, where CRAFTS meetings are held, is an historic landmark building in Piscataway. Much of the furniture in the house is very old and valuable. Some of the furnishings are fragile.

CRAFTS members are requested to treat the house with care. They are also asked to refrain from using the front (decorated) room.



On another page of this issue of The Tool Shed is a notice concerning Alexander Farnham's proposed book on New Jersey tools. This is an ambitious and commendable project.

Despite the widespread interest in tool collecting in the Garden State, little attention has been given to New Jersey makers and manufacturers. A hurried check of Henry J. Kauffman's list of several hundred American axe makers (American Axes, pp. 116-142) revealed only one from New Jersey. For this one name Kauffman goes all the way back to 1734, when Isaac Harrow advertised that his recently established planing and blade mill in Trenton was manufacturing a variety of tools, including axes.

Yet, anyone who has regularly attended country auctions knows that there were many local makers. The nineteenth-century industrial censuses list axe and edged-tool makers in almost every town of any size in the state.

Even the "well known" tool makers have been neglected. Every plane buff knows that the Stanley Company acquired the rights to Gage planes and produced them for a number of years. But how many know anything about the Gage Tool Company of Vineland that originally manufactured them?

The preamble to CRAFTS' by-laws states that one of the purposes of the organization is to "encourage the involvement of its members in the pursuit of knowledge of industries and trades practiced" and in the imple-

ments used and made in New Jersey."

Alex Farnham will undoubtedly appreciate our encouragement. But what he really needs is our help. So let's lend a hand. If you have any information on New Jersey tools or tool makers, share it with him. Let's find out who, when and where they were!

Good luck, Alex!



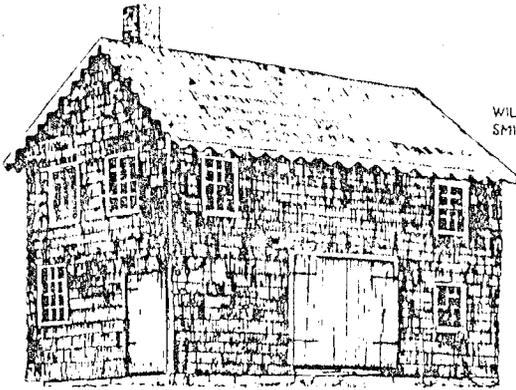
COLLECTORS OF RARE AND
FAMILIAR TOOLS SOCIETY
OF NEW JERSEY

Pres. - Edward Bragg, Martinsville
V. Pres. - Stephen Zlucky, Whitehouse
Secy. - Robert Fridlington, Cranford
Trea. - C. Carroll Palmer, Plainfield

The Tool Shed is published six times
per year for members of CRAFTS.
Editor - Larry Fuhro, Roselle

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and ideas to:

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417 Bartlett Street
Roselle, N.J. 07203



WILLIAMSON BLACKSMITH SHOP c.1760

BLACKSMITH FOUND FOR OLDE TOWNE

Marjorie Kler, Curator of East Jersey Olde Towne in Piscataway, has announced that a blacksmith has been found to staff the blacksmith shop in the village.

The blacksmith, Carl Sondberg, has started putting together the interior of the shop, which will be open by July 4th. There will be more about Mr. Sondberg's work in our next issue.

The Williamson blacksmith-wheelwright shop dates back to 1760. It was moved to East Jersey Olde Towne in the spring of 1977. Donated by Mrs. Jane Halase, the two-story structure once stood on Route 27 between Three-Mile and Six-Mile Run. It was a working blacksmith shop until twenty years ago.

Further research on the building's history is being conducted by the Olde Towne staff.

SORRY, BUT THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THE TOOL SHED THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE IF YOU ARE NOT A "CRAFTS" MEMBER. IF YOU WISH TO JOIN, DETACH AND MAIL THE MEMBERSHIP BLANK BELOW.

To: Mr. C. Carroll Palmer, Treasurer
CRAFTS of New Jersey
725 Pemberton Avenue
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

Enclosed is five dollars (\$5.00) for _____ individual (or) _____ husband and wife membership (check one) in CRAFTS of New Jersey.

Name _____

Address _____

City and State _____

(Zip Code)