The TOOL SHED

Number 14 November, 1980

A Journal of Tool Collecting published by CRAFTS of New Jersey

THE CROZE SAW—COOPER'S TOOL

by Raymond R. Townsend

Figure 1: Croze Saws (from Woodworking in Estonia).

The Croze Saw is very similar in appearance and construction to the Stair Builder's and German Dovetail Saws (1). Its distinctive feature is the curved (convex) blade, in order to fit the concave inner curve of the stave. The blade is inserted into the entire length of the stock, and its cutting depth generally does not exceed 1-2 cm.

Although probably not as much used as the familiar cooper's croze, sometimes referred to as the long-handle type croze saw, it was known all over Europe. It is used mainly to cut the croze in boards (staves) of wooden household containers, such as wash tubs, piggins, tankards, buckets, churns, etc. It was possible with the Croze Saw to cut evenly completely across the board.

In conjunction with this saw, a knife and a grooving chisel had to be used for cleaning out the sawn groove (2).

Collectors of Cooper's tools are familiar with the method of first assembling and setting the staves, cutting the croze, and then making the head to fit the circumference of the croze. It is interesting to note that in some districts of Estonia the coopers made the head first and built the container around it.

It is a common German tool as illustrated by Duden and in German catalogs. (see Figure 2). The only French

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NOVEMBER 23rd MEETING AT FIELD HOMESTEAD

The next meeting of CRAFTS of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, November 23, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the Field Homestead, 260 River Road (Rte. 18) in Piscataway.

The program for the meeting will feature a talk by Jim Aber on "Tool Collections and Exhibitions—Ways of Displaying Tools." The talk will be illustrated with colored slides from Jim's collection.

Harry O'Neill will again preside over the "Whatsit?" session, and the meeting will conclude with the "Swap & Sell."

Looking ahead, the remaining meetings for the current year will be held on February 8, April 5, and June 15, so mark your calendar.

CRAFTS of New Jersey

Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society of New Jersey

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Membership in CRAFTS is open to anyone interested in early trades and industries, and the identification, study, and preservation of tools and implements used and made in New Jersey. Annual dues are five dollars for the membership year of July 1 to June 30. Membership fees may be sent to the Treasurer: C. Carroll Palmer, 725 Pemberton Ave., Plainfield, N.J. 07060.

The Tool Shed

Published five times per year for members of CRAFTS of New Jersey. Editors: Larry Fuhro, 417 Bartlett St., Roselle, N.J. 07203; Robert Fridlington, 8 Keith Jeffries Ave., Cranford, N.J. 07016. Contributions, especially about New Jersey tools and trades, are welcomed.

CRAFTS GOES ON A PICNIC

On Sunday, September 21, more than one-hundred-fifty tool collectors, wives, husbands, and children turned out at Alex and Barbara Farnham's farm, near Stockton, for CRAFTS of New Jersey's first all-day, picnic meeting. The setting, in the wooded hills high above the banks of the Delaware, was perfect, and the weatherman cooperated by providing a beautiful, sunny day.

There was good food, good drink, good fellowship—and lots and lots of good tools. Erna Stenzler, Charles and Walter Jacob, Carl Bopp, and Bill Gustafson, all exhibited favorite tools or a special part of their collections; and Alex Farnham had a display of (what else?) signed New Jersey tools. There also was a record number of tools for sale—and probably a record number sold. Many of them were exceptionally fine items, and at least some of them went for bargain prices.

The highpoint of the day came after lunch when Alex opened the doors of his studio and his blacksmith shop, and everyone had the opportunity to see his superb collection of tools and early weather vanes. All of those who took the studio tour had an added bonus—the pleasure of viewing many of Alex's beautiful paintings. Equally interesting to the kids (and to many of the urbanized adults) was Barbara's flock of sheep.

Of course, there was plenty of tool talk throughout the day and discussion of the CRAFTS programs for the coming year. It was nice to see old friends again and to meet new ones. There was so much catching-up to do: stories of the great acquisitions made over the summer and a few sad tales about the "ones that got away."

By late afternoon the crowd began to thin out. And as darkness approached, even the die-hards headed down the steep hill and toward home, tired and happy—and loaded down with tools.

Among the CRAFTSmen who had a hand in making the day such an outstanding success were Steve Zluky, Harry O'Neill, Bill Gustafson, Herb Kean and Chuck Granick. And thanks are due all of the ladies who prepared that delicious food and the entire crew of amateur chefs who ran the hamburger and hotdog assembly line.

But above all, a very special thanks must go to Alex and Barbara Farnham and their daughter Vivian for their kind invitation and for being such gracious hosts. We had a wonderful time.

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NAME STAMPS

Lew Cooper advises that he has, after a long search, found a source for name stamps like those used by the old-timers to mark their wooden tools. The cost is about $18 each, plus carriage, which is very reasonable compared with prices quoted in the U.S. The address is:

Eyre & Baxter (Stampcraft) Ltd.
229 Derbyshire Land
Sheffield S8 8SD
England

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(Continued from page 6)
Figure 608, page 413.

Sources

A. Viires. Woodworking in Estonia. Smithsonian Institution, 1969.

Onni E. Koponen. Pielisen Museon Kertomaa. Pielisjärven oloista lähinnä 1800-luvulta.

Duden. Bildwörterbuch der deutschen Sprache. 3 Bänden. Mannheim, Zurich, 1958.

(The editors once again express their thanks to CRAFTSman Raymond R. Townsend for permission to reprint the above article from The Petite Gazette, Vol. II, August, 1980. The Gazette, which is published by Mr. Townsend, disseminates "tid-bits of useful knowledge for tool collectors.")

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A WHEELWRIGHT'S HOOKED (RINGED?) REAMER

by James Laurent

A lot of beautiful tools were sold at the September picnic-meeting of CRAFTS. I did my part to help keep money in circulation, and in the process I acquired several interesting pieces, including an unusual wheelwright's reamer.

I have always had a special fondness (weakness?) for wheelwright's reamers, especially hooked reamers. Just the sight of one and my palms begin to sweat. So when I saw what appeared to be hooked reamer, I pounced on it.

Hand-forged, this particular reamer is the type which was used with a detachable handle. The overall length is twenty-four inches, and it is of fairly heavy construction, weighing about five pounds. It has the typical half-funnel blade, measuring fifteen-and-one-half inches along the cutting edge, and tapering from a width of three-and-one-quarter inches at the top to one inch at the nose.

The most interesting feature of the tool, however, is the hook—which is really not a hook at all, but a forged loop curling upward and inward from the tip, thus forming an asymmetrical ring on the inside of the blade just above the nose. As the interior diameter of the ring is small (only about three-eighths of an inch), it would seem that this reamer was drawn by a rope rather than having a weight attached directly to it—if, indeed, weights were ever attached directly to the hooks.

I have no idea as to how common this type of "hook" is, but I have never seen one before. The standard references do not provide much information either. Salaman (p. 38) shows a "hook auger" with a ring extending downward, below the nose. Iron Horse Antiques Catalog No. 12 (1976) lists a pipe-log reamer with a ring at the tip, which it describes as a "variation of a hooked reamer," though from the accompanying photograph it is impossible to determine the way the ring is positioned.

It seems that a ring, at least one of the type described above, would be more difficult to forge than a hook and that it would be less functional. Did this "variation" serve some specific purpose?

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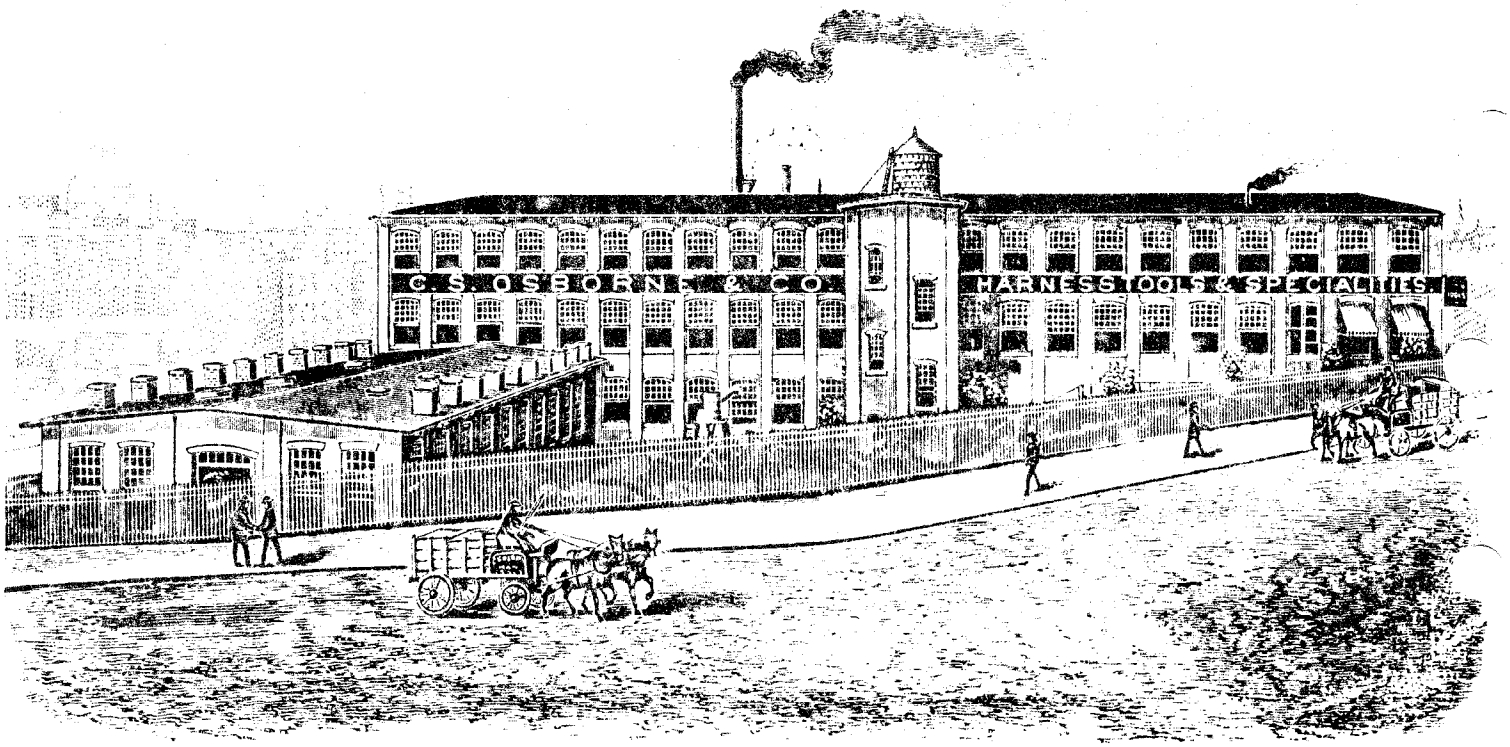

C. S. Osborne and Company

Standard Tool Manufacturers

From the C. S. Osborne and Company 1911 Catalog.

bed-piece to which the plane is connected, with the providings for holding the plane securely thereto; also is shown an end view of the bed-piece and an end view of the shooting-board, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 shows the various parts used in the construction of the stop against which the piece to be planed is held."

While space does not permit a description of all of the "improvements" Jones claimed, a couple of items are of interest.

Jones writes: "In the provisions above described for the adjustment of the parts of a shooting-board necessary for angular planing and for the steadiness and security of the plane, I do not confine myself to either metal or wood in any of the parts, using the one or the other as the workman chooses."

Jones also pointed out that "the placing of a handle upon the side of the plane that is uppermost when performing the operation of shooting joints on the board gives the workman important advantage over the ordinary manner of grasping the body of the plane in the hand."

Whatever advantages Jones' patent offered, his shooting boards are extremely rare today. A Jones shooting board and plane was sold at the Kenneth D. Roberts tool auction in April, 1979. It was tagged "No. 1" and was possibly the original patent model.

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