The TOOL SHED

NUMBER 134 NOVEMBER 2004

A Journal of Tool Collecting published by CRAFTS of New Jersey

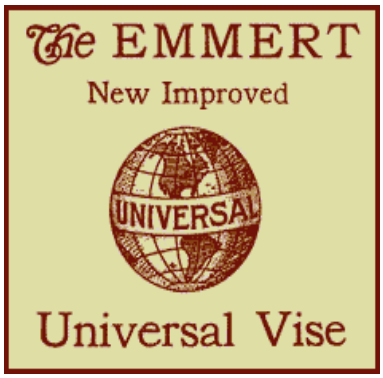
Who was Victor Koontz and what was his connection to Joseph Emmert?

Part II of the Emmert Manufacturing Company History

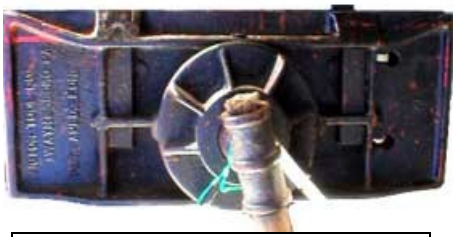
By Carl Matthews, AIA

VICTOR KOONTZ' K1 VISE

While researching the Emmert Mfg. Company I came across a patent by Victor R. Koontz of Waynesboro, PA. The drawings looked similar to the Emmert "New Improved" patternmaker's vise. I wondered "Victor Koontz, who was he? What was his relationship to the Emmert Mfg. Co.?" As it turns out, Victor R. Koontz was the man whose vise design has been admired and copied by many. He invented and patented a woodworker's vise similar to Joseph Emmert's that we affectionately call the Emmert K1 patternmakers vise. It is called the K1 vise because of the casting number on the front jaw. The vise actually has many "K" numbers on it. These are casting numbers used in the foundry and during the manufacturing and assembly process.



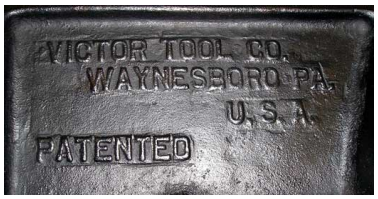
Victor Koontz' patent was filed on Feb. 6, 1918 and granted on July 15, 1919. The first vises were manufactured by the Victor Tool Co. of Waynesboro PA. The vise is similar in size and function to the Emmert No. 1 turtleback vise. Two versions of this early type have been seen. The first one says "PAT. APLD. FOR" on the left side of the front jaw and the second says "PATENTED". (See Type U0.5)



Victor Tool Co. Vise

COMPARISON OF THE VICTOR AND EMMERT VISE

Both the Victor Tool Co. and the Emmert Mfg. Co. were located in the small Pennsylvania Dutch town of Waynesboro in Southeastern Pennsylvania. There are many similarities between the K1 vise and the Emmert turtleback vise. Both the Victor K1 and the Emmert turtleback have large flat jaw faces measuring 18" x 5" and smaller 3" wide steel-faced metal working jaws. Both vises have the unique ability to take hold of the work piece and rotate on the screw axis or tilt the work piece to the upright position using a hinged mounting angle so that the craftsman's work is held parallel to the top surface of the bench. Both have key-hole slots for user-installed jaws, 4 retractable vise dogs, an available angle plate or tilting jaw insert. Both patternmakers' vises have taper adjustments and can hold tapered work pieces such as table legs. You would think that they were both invented in Waynesboro or something. Also matching is the configuration of the rectangular beam supporting and protecting the screw with the nut riding in the beam's slot. The nut is attached to the back of the hub which allows the whole assembly to rotate.



Victor Tool Co. jaw casting

There are a few differences as well. There are the obvious changes in the jaw design and taper adjustment. On the Victor K1 vise, the adjustment for holding tapered work was by use of two thumb screws located behind a rotating collar. The collar would be loosened, then adjust the thumb screws to the desired taper and retighten the collar. On these vises, the rotating collar received extra abuse and is often found damaged or modified. A similar design was used on Oliver's rendition. Also on these early Victor vises, the vise dogs did not protrude below the lower jaw. This made raising the dogs rather difficult. The under bench bracket is also different. A flat steel bar was used

(Continued on page 3)

September Issue Contents

Victor Koontz……..…....1, 3 - 6
President's Corner ……..……...2
Book Review - Source Book for Rule Collectors…...……4, 10
CRAFTS Picnic……..……... ……...…. 7 -9, 10
Kean Kuttin's - Companion……..……..11
A "Mystery of Life" Question……....12

November 7 - CRAFTS Meeting
HOST Masonic Lodge, Highbridge
Carl Bopp - John Porcius Gage -Vineland, NJ

Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society
of New Jersey

President……...….GREG WELSH, Califon
Vice President……BOB GARAY, Hopatcong
Secretary……DON KAHN, Hackensack
Treasurer……JACK 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 fifteen dollars for the membership year of July 1 through June 30.
Membership fees may be sent to the Treasurer:
John Whelan, 38 Colony Court, Murray Hill, NJ 07974 (write check payable to CRAFTS of New Jersey).

CRAFTS of NJ meetings are held at the HOST Masonic Lodge in High Bridge, NJ.
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 10 A.M., meeting starts at 1 P.M.

The TOOL SHED
Published five times a year for members of CRAFTS of New Jersey. Editor: Dave Nowicki, 240 Woodlyn Ave. Glenside PA 19038. EMAIL - dnowicki@verizon.net.
Articles, especially about early tools and trades, are encouraged and may be sent to the Editor.

Joseph Jones shootboard and plane
Patented July 21, 1874 Newark, NJ

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is almost unbelievable!! Ken Vliet does it again. Another picture perfect day for the annual CRAFTS picnic. I hope I don't jinx us when remarking about the fact that as long as I have been a member of CRAFTS there has not been a rainout! Good food, good turnout, good displays, good company, and good tool buying and selling.

Ebay seems to be a pretty popular place for many people to thin out collections, sell yard sale items and to pick up an occasional piece for our collections. The selling on ebay bug has finally bitten yours truly and I launched my sales career this evening by putting five items up for sale. Just an experiment and trial to see what happens. It was much easier than expected as they lead you by the hand from start to finish. If you make a mistake it is easily corrected via editing process. Only three of the items were tools and none of them were collectible. It might be a good way to clean some of the accumulation from my cellar.

Now let put on my other hat for a moment. Fall is here and it is time to think about what you will be consigning to our spring auction. Consignor forms are available and if you wish to consign please send me a SASE and I will send a form to you. We already have a number of nice items consigned. The sooner we get your list and items the easier it will be to photograph them and put them on our website. This year we hope to have almost everything on the site.

This is the last column for the year so I want to take this opportunity to wish all a HAPPY HOLIDAY, AND A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Greg

(Continued from page 1)
instead of a round bar and the clamping mechanism was redesigned.

As Victor Koontz looked for ways to promote his vise, he turned to the Oliver Machinery Co. of Grand Rapids, MI. It is not certain how long this relationship lasted but he did receive some mileage out of it. Several of the "PAT. APLD. FOR" vises were found in the highlands of Scotland bearing an Oliver nameplate on them. These were probably used in the pattern shops at the ship building port of Glasgow.

No. 2 Improved Vise

VICTOR VISE BECOMES PART OF EMMERT MFG. CO.

Eventually the Emmert Mfg. Co. gained the rights to manufacture Victor's vise. It was marketed as the "New Improved" universal vise. The first ones manufactured appear to have the Emmert nameplate placed on top of the Victor name in the front jaw casting.

The Emmert Mfg. Co. also produced a smaller version of the K1 vise which it called the No. 2. Its woodworking jaws measure 14" x 4" has only one set of vise dogs but maintains all of the functionality of the larger No. 1. Of course the casting numbers on this vise are different and the front jaw has a K-16 casting on it.

Taper adjustment handle

8 rib high-low collar

HISTORY OF TYPES AND CHANGES IN CASTINGS

Not long after Emmert Mfg. Co. began manufacturing Victor's vise, small features in the vise were experimented with and then redesigned. First, the vise dogs were extended to protrude thru the lower portion of the jaw casting. Additionally the thumb screw adjustments were replaced with a rotating cam plate and handle to facilitate easier taper adjustment. (See Type U2) It is most common to find this handle on the right side of the collar. It can be flipped over for the left-handed users.

Low rib collar

The locking collar with the high/low fins broke frequently with constant loosening and tightening of the collar. For a while a smaller four-ribbed collar was used. (See Type U3 and U4) These were only triangle shaped low ribs. I've seen some with no ribs on the collar as well. I don't think that these were strong enough and the collar was redesigned again. This time the entire collar used 8 ribs, all low versions. (See Type U5 and U6)

(Continued on page 6)

Obituary

Robert E. Nelson
1930-2004

On August 20, CRAFTS lost a member and long-time friend Bob Nelson. Most toolies will recognize Bob's name as the editor of the *Directory of American Toolmakers.* He also wrote articles for the *Tool Shed*, including a few summaries of our auctions. He was a founding member of PATINA, and belonged to EAIA and TATHS (England).

Basically, Bob got his tools for the fun of it, not to make money. Here's what he said in the March 2003 PATINAGRAM:

"I could have made more money with a passbook savings account, or maybe by orienting my tool buying toward appreciation potential. ---- But I can't imagine any other hobby, or any other way of pursuing this one, that would have brought me 30 years of greater pleasure."

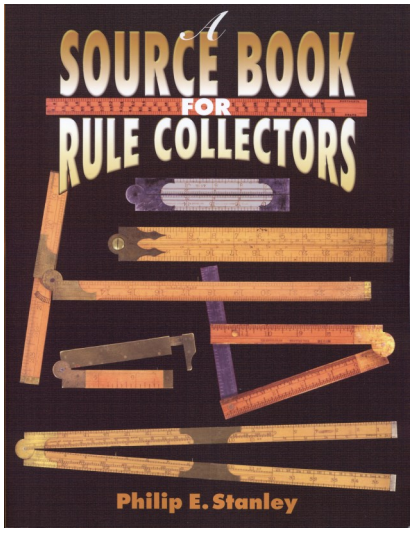
Bob had a special interest in unusual measuring tools, such as rope calipers, and horse height sticks. He used his wide-ranging knowledge in his work on the *Directory of American Toolmakers.* This was a 19 year effort that he completed with co-editor Gene Kijowski. The EAIA presented them their Long Term Service Award in 1999 for the 1160 page Directory.

Bob will be missed, not only as one who made a substantial contribution to the tool world, but also as a friend who generously shared his knowledge.

By John Cox for EAIA
(edited for CRAFTS by Herb Kean)

BOOK REVIEW

By Hank Allen



A Source Book for Rule Collectors Softcover 8 1/2" x 11", 286 pages, 2003

A Rule Concordance and Value Guide Softcover 6" x 9", 66 pages, 2004

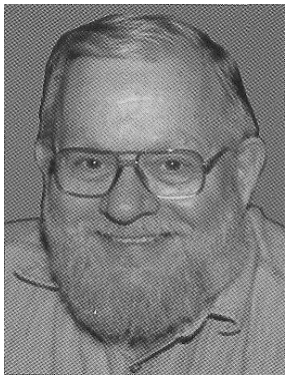
By Philip E. Stanley

Sold together only for $45 plus shipping

Astragal Press (astragalpress.com)

Phil Stanley grew up near White Plains, New York, and graduated from RPI in Troy, New York. Subsequently, he worked in California and Ohio as a computer engineer before settling in Massachusetts. He was an active rule collector and researcher during his professional career. In the 1970s his collecting interests were broader than rules, but, over time, rules of all types and makers became his overriding interest. As to research, when Ken Robert's *Introduction to Rule Collecting* ("*Introduction*") was published in 1982 Phil was already working on *Boxwood and Ivory,* a book on Stanley rules, which was published in 1984 and is now out of print. Since retiring, Phil continues his research, but is now also a dealer in antique tools and scientific instruments.

The *Introduction* was the first publication on American rules. Before that there had been a few articles in the *Chronicle,* but not much else. The *Introduction* had 14 pages and included material on types of rules, a history of rulemaking in quite some detail on American rule makers, and also selected catalog page reprints. A chart was included to show the dates the major American rule makers were active and also the dates of the many consolidations and acquisitions. The chart shows Thomas Belcher of New York, who came to this country from England, as the earliest American rule maker starting in 1822. Did you know that Belcher Brothers actually made their rules in Camptown, New Jersey? Camptown became Irvington in 1852.



Phil Stanley

Boxwood and Ivory covered Stanley traditional rules from 1855-1975. The first chapter is an interesting, 14-page overview of Stanley and the rule industry. Did you know that 95% of the rules made in America in 1875 were made within 15 miles of Unionville, Connecticut? By 1915 the number of rules offered by Stanley had grown to 115. For reasons given in the text this number declined to 78 after the first war, to 75 as the depression arrived, to 47 as the second war began, and eventually to only 4 in 1975 (34VR, 34 1/2 VR, 136R, and 136 1/2). Ivory rules were discontinued between 1918 and 1920. Chapters 2 and 3 cover materials, construction, manufacturing, graduations and markings in great detail. After a chapter on custom rules and accessories, Chapter 5 describes, in 123 pages, each of more than 270 rules ever made by Stanley from 1855-1975. Much of the material in *Boxwood and Ivory* had been rewritten for Phil's new book, but there is much detail on Stanley rules in *Boxwood and Ivory* that will likely never be repeated elsewhere. So if you collect Stanley rules, hang on to this book. And, if you don't have it, you might consider buying a copy at auction.

In 1997 Ken Roberts released *Fundamentals of Rule Collecting* ("*Fundamentals*"), an expanded version of his *Introduction*, subtitled *Excerpts from Studies by Kenneth D. Roberts and Philip E. Stanley.* It repeats the 14-pages from the *Introduction,* reproduces several articles on rules, and ends with Phil Stanley's *Concordance of Major American Rule Makers (1840 - 1940).* Concordance was an unfamiliar term to me. Its third definition is an alphabetical index of subjects in some text, such as the Bible or Shakespeare. Phil's *Concordance* is a set of 19 tables with rule numbers as entries. A table might be for all 2-foot, 4-fold wood rules; all 1-foot, 4-fold ivory rules; all board, log, and wood measures; all wantage and gauging rods, etc. Tables have 11 columns for 9 rule makers, with Stearns and Chapin having two columns for early and late periods of manufacture. Table rows are for subtypes of rules. For example, the table for 2-foot, 4-fold rules has 57 subtypes for different combinations of joints, tips, plates, binding, width, etc. , many more than any other table. Information for the *Concordance* was taken

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)
from published catalogs and lists and from observed examples, so there are rules included that may never have been produced. For example, Belcher Brothers traditional rules are relatively uncommon yet in the *Concordance* Belcher is shown as having offered more than 150 different rules that no other manufacturer ever made, especially ivory rules.

In 2000 Ken Roberts decided to discontinue his publishing on rules and asked Phil if he were interested in taking over. It was then that Phil proposed the idea for a format expanded to include significant additional material of interest to rule collectors. Roberts agreed. The result is *A Source Book for Rule Collectors* ("*Source Book*") and the stand-alone *A Rule Concordance and Value Guide* ("*Concordance*"). The two come as a package.

The new *Concordance* has exactly the same format as the 1997 original version in *Fundamentals*, but also shows a value range for each rule. And because values are so different for A. Stanley and Stanley Rule and Level, the single column for Stanley rules was split to show them separately, as was done originally for Stearns and Chapin. Value ranges have a low value for a rule in "Good" condition and the high value for a rule in "Fine" condition, much as with other value guides (e.g. Walter& Kean). "Good" and "Fine" are as defined by a rule condition chart similar to the *Fine Tool Journal* condition classification for antique tools (revised and copyright in 1991). One collector complained to me that some popular rules are missing from the *Concordance,* such as the Stanley No. 0 and No. 00, but you have to have rules. And, Phil's rule was that a rule had to have been in a catalog.

For the most part, values ranges are based on actual auctions and sales, including the internet, over more than 5 years. A very thorough explanation of the factors affecting value is included; this is good stuff! I checked the Stanley rules auctioned at the last three Brown auctions and last three Live Free Nashua auctions. About half of the rules fell in Phil's value ranges and a third were close but lower. The others were all over the map as might be expected. We all know that auction prices are high when we're there and low when we're not!

The *Concordance* is separate from the *Source Book* so it can be reprinted for any updates or if it were to ever include a guide to scarcity. In Vol. 1 No. 1 of *Mensuration,* a short-lived publication for rule collectors, Jim Hill and Phil proposed a system for classifying rules as to scarcity, similar to those by Todd Frieberg for sawsets and by Ron Pearson for patented braces. Maybe, someday, with an enormous effort, scarcity ratings might be added to the *Concordance.*

The *Source Book* includes the original *Introduction* and reprints of 24 valuable writings on rules including several from the Journal of the Oughtred Society, which most rule collectors have probably not seen before. Three of the four issues of *Mensuration* are also reprinted. Beyond this, the book's extensive bibliography includes probably anything ever written about rules.

Boxwood and Ivory, as mentioned above, included chapters that Phil wrote on "Materials, Construction, and the Rulemaking Process" and "Graduations and Markings," which described these topics as relating to Stanley rules. These chapters were modified, expanded, and generalized to all the major rule makers for the *Source Book* and are even more valuable to collectors than the 1984 originals. (Why rulemaking is one word and rule maker two is one for the Wizzard!) The first chapter is all about woods, metals, joints, bindings, tips, and bits. The second discusses, among other things, left-to right vs. right-to-left graduations; linear vs. non-linear graduations; and the graduations scales, and tables that appear on many different types of rules. Did you know that ivory shrinks while drying and must be seasoned like wood? Did you know that the first machine to graduate rules was invented by Lemuel Hedge of Windsor, Vermont, in 1827? Of course you all know what embellishment lines are.

The chapter "Special Rule Types and Uses" describes 55 different types of rules that have been developed for particular applications. There are more, of course, but these are the ones Phil believes are of greatest interest to rule collectors. Descriptions of at least one-half of these special rules were included in *Boxwood and Ivory,* where they appeared along with the rules of that type that Stanley made. The rest are new to this book. Some descriptions are brief, such as blacksmith and saddler's rules. Others are more extensively, such as Dearborn's anglet and combination rules. The chapter has 72 pages and includes a large part of the new material in the book. A final chapter describes a variety of rule accessories.

There is a chapter on foreign units of length, which I admit to not reading. It's hard for me to get excited about the fuss being the unit of measure in Silesia or the pia in Bologna. But the material is from a talk Phil gave in England and is certainly worthy of inclusion.

My only suggestion to Phil would have been to include a reprint of his overview of the rule industry from *Boxwood and Ivory,* for that was good information. But, in summary, we can probably convert the old CRAFTS slogan to "If you like rules, you should buy this book." Collectors should appreciate having a value guide for all the major rule makers, not just Stanley. And the *Source Book* has come a long way since the *Introduction.* Together, these books are a great value. Thanks Phil for a sterling job.

Hank Allen

(Continued from page 3)

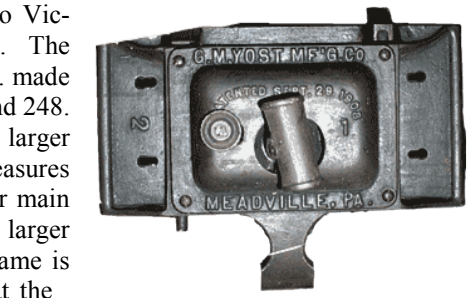
K-rib stiffener

A vertical stiffening rib was added directly behind taper cam to stiffen the front jaw. (See Type U3) Next the hub which holds the rear jaw and vise beam was shortened slightly, probably to reduce weight and cost. (See Type U4, U5 and U6) After that more jaw stiffeners were added. (See Type U6) This time stiffeners were added in the shape of a K or V at the outer edge. The Emmert text was revised to accommodate this change. Also the taper adjustment knob was changed to a plastic like material. It was larger in size, but not as sturdy as the cast iron one.

OLIVER No. 1 Vise

SIMILAR VISES BY OLIVER, KINDT-COLLINS, AMT, YEON CHUAN, VERITAS AND YOST

Several companies produced vises similar to Victor Koontz' design. The Oliver Machinery Co. made a couple, the No. 1 and 248. The Oliver No. 1 is larger and heavier. It measures 18" x 7", has a larger main vise screw and opens larger to 16". The Oliver name is prominently placed at the top of the front jaw in large raised letters. Victor's original thumb screw design for taper adjustment was modified. The Oliver taper adjustment eliminated the locking collar completely and used a pivoting casting with a thumb screw at each end. The taper adjustment is set by loosening one thumb screw and tightening the other. I've yet to see this part damaged on an Oliver vise. Oliver also produced a seldom seen model 248. With this vise Oliver revised the taper adjustment to use a cam/handle behind a collar similar to the Emmert. In the 1970s, Kindt-Collins bought the rights to produce the Oliver 248. They used the existing Oliver design and place their name on the front jaw. Kindt-Collins stopped producing this vise in the 1990s as patternmaking switched to CAD (Computer Aided Design) and CNC (Computer Numeric Control).



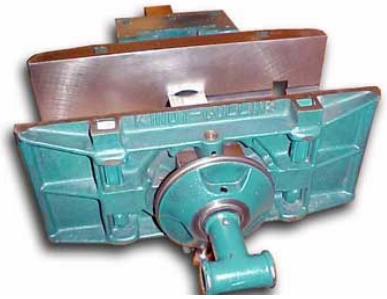
G.M. Yost Manufacturing Co. Vise

Yeon Chuan Machinery Vise

Two other manufacturers following the Koontz' design produced patternmakers vises were the now closed AMT (American Machine & Tool Co.) and one produced by Yeon Chuan Machinery. These were fashioned after the smaller No. 2 model and had jaws that were 13-3/4" x 5". The function and abilities remained in this smaller version only with fewer vise dogs. The Yeon Chuan vise, sometimes called the Taiwan copy is still available thru many retailers in the $200 price range.

Tucker Vise by Veritas

Lee Valley's innovative design team, known as Veritas, developed their own patented vise loosely based on Victor Koontz' beginning. Known as the Tucker vise, it was patented by Edwin Tucker, Leonard Lee and others in 1992. It incorporated a host of features and design improvements, including a quick release which can be operated using a foot pedal. The Tucker vise is made primarily of ZA-12 material which is as strong as cast iron, less brittle and much lighter. The vise jaws are 8"x13" and are lined with leather. Visit the Lee Valley website for more information at http://www.leevalley.com.



Kindt-Collins No. 1

The latest vise to follow Victor Koontz' design is the Hopewell vise. This limited production jewel is just beginning its prototyping and manufacturing. After purchasing the remaining stock, patterns and drawings from Kindt-Collins, CS Machinery of Oxford, Pennsylvania has engineered thicker patterns with even more jaw gussets. It will be cast here in the USA using gray iron will weigh a whopping 135 pounds. The front jaw taper adjustment uses the Kindt-Collins style cam/handle and has added detents to register it parallel to the back jaw. The Hopewell vise will soon be battleship of the patternmaker's vises.

AMT Vise

Victor Koontz, like Joseph Emmert and Gilmore Yost, had a profound affect patternmaker's vises. While the exacting work of patternmaking has faded, today's woodworkers and tool collectors still marvel over these versatile vises.

Emmert K-1 Improved Universal Vise - Type Study by Carl Matthews

.

Type U-.05

Collar has 8 reinforcing ribs, half low or triangular shaped and half high fin, almost rectangular shaped.
Front Jaw has Victor Tool Co. Waynesboro PA and "PAT APLD FOR" or PATENTED" on left side and K1 on the right. Extra bosses are cast to receive the bolts used to adjust the taper adjustment.
Rear Jaw has no casting number.
Vise Dogs are short on front and rear jaws and do not protrude thru the lower jaw casting.
Taper Adjustment is accomplished by loosening the collar, adjusting 2 thumb screws and re-tightening the collar.
Hub is long hub with equal sided casting at split).
Beam has slot on right side. Beam can be installed with slot on left side.
Tilt Adj. Mechanism is a flat slotted bar. **This is a rare type.**

Type U-1

Collar has high-low ribbed collar. 8 reinforcing ribs or gussets, half triangular shaped (low) and half almost rectangular shaped (high).
Front Jaw has Emmert Mfg. Co. Waynesboro PA U.S.A. and Patented on left side and K1 on the right. The drawing shows an extra horizontal rib extending to the outer edge of the front jaw but actual vise does not. Extra bosses are cast to receive the bolts used to adjust the taper adjustment. Vertical rib near collar is missing.
Rear Jaw has no casting number.
Vise Dogs are short on front and rear jaws and do not protrude thru the lower jaw casting.
Taper Adjustment is not by use of a rotating cam. You adjust finger screws on either side, just behind the collar.
Hub is long hub with equal sided casting at split.
Beam has slot on right side. Beam can be installed with slot on left side.
Tilt Adj. Mechanism is a flat slotted bar. **This is a rare type.**

Type U-2

Collar has high-low ribbed collar. 8 reinforcing ribs or gussets, half triangular shaped (low) and half almost rectangular shaped (high).
Front Jaw has Emmert Mfg. Co. Waynesboro PA U.S.A. and Patented on left side and K1 on the right. Vertical rib near collar is missing.
Rear Jaw has no casting number.
Vise Dogs 4 dogs, 2 flat top on rear jaw and 2 angled top on front jaw. They are made of cast iron and break easily
Taper Adjustment now uses a cam with a handle and knob just behind the collar. The knob is easily broken off.
Hub is long hub with equal sided casting at split.
Beam has slot on right side. Beam can be installed with slot on left side.
Tilt Adj. Mechanism is a flat slotted bar. **This is an uncommon type.**

Type U-3

Collar has 4 reinforcing ribs, all triangular shaped.
Front Jaw has Emmert Mfg. Co. Waynesboro PA U.S.A. and Patented on left side and K1 on the right. Vertical rib near collar added.
Taper Adjustment uses a cam with a handle and knob just behind the collar.
Hub is long hub with equal sided casting at split.
Beam has slot on right side. Beam can be installed with slot on left side.
Tilt Adj. Mechanism is a flat slotted bar. **This is an uncommon type.**

Emmert K-1 Improved Universal Vise - Type Study - by Carl Matthews

Type U-4

Collar has 4 reinforcing ribs, all triangular shaped.
Front Jaw has Emmert Mfg. Co. Waynesboro PA U.S.A. and Patented on left side and K1 on the right. Vertical rib near collar added.
Taper Adjustment now uses a cam with a handle and knob just behind the collar. The knob is easily broken off.
Hub changed to short hub with unequal sided casting at split.
Beam has slot on right side. Beam can be installed with slot on left side.
Tilt Adj. Mechanism is a flat slotted bar.

Type U-5

Collar has 8 reinforcing ribs, all triangular shaped.
Front Jaw has Emmert Mfg. Co. Waynesboro PA U.S.A. and Patented on left side and K1 on the right. Extra reinforcement at base of dogs added.
Taper Adjustment uses a cam with a handle and knob just behind the collar and casting number K-14.
Hub is short hub with unequal sided casting at split.
Beam has slot on right side. Beam can be installed with slot on left side.
Tilt Adj. Mechanism is a flat slotted bar or flat solid bar .
This is the most common "New Improved" Universal Type

Type U-6

Collar has 8 reinforcing ribs, all triangular shaped.
Front Jaw has Emmert Mfg Co on left side and K-1 Waynesboro PA USA on the right. Extra reinforcement at base of dogs. Extra V shaped ribs on jaws for more reinforcement added.
Rear Jaw has casting number K-2 and V shaped reinforcing ribs.
Taper Adjustment uses a cam with a handle and a new plastic knob just behind the collar and casting number K-14.
Hub is short hub with unequal sided casting at split.
Beam has slot on right side. Beam can be installed with slot on left side.

How to Install an Emmert Vise

It's not easy to hang an 87 lb. hunk of iron under a workbench. It takes careful planning, head scratching, decision making and muscle. However, help is available. Grab your favorite beverage and take a look at the following websites for help. There are several good sites providing help with mounting an Emmert vise to your workbench.

- John Gunterman's FAMOUS Emmert page at www.shavings.net/emmert.htm.
- Roger VanMaren recommends Jamestown Distributors www.jamestowndistributors.com for bronze or stainless flat head wood screws up to #18. I used the 2-1/2" long bronze versions on my Emmert.
- Union Hill Antique Tools at www.tooltimer.com/emmert.htm.

Additional Emmert mounting information can be found, on page141,in *The Workbench Book* by Scott Landis, a Fine Woodworking Book, published by The Taunton Press.

Carl Matthews' website, THE IRON HAND is ***the*** authority on all aspects of Joseph Emmert's ingenuity and inventiveness. If you have any interest in vises, patternmaking, etc. you should visit at www.mprime.com/emmert/index.htm - *ED*

CRAFTS Picnic - 2004

When I arrived at Brady Camp, the sun was just rising and I could see a light mist rising from the grassy fields behind the parking area where a few hardy souls had begun to set up their tables. Not

at all like last year when it was cloudy and damp with a forecast of showers and rain for most of the day. In fact, we were very lucky that the heavy rain held off until lunch was being served.

What a difference a year makes. The rain gods weren't going to have any opportunities this year, with a forecast of fair skies and temperatures in the mid to upper 70's. It was going to be just about perfect.

People were arriving slowly but steadily, cars entering the parking area looking very much like a mechanical Conga line until the trade area was filled. Tables were soon loaded with tools of all types and the selling, which began soon after sunrise, continued at a brisk clip throughout the day with lots of great tools changing hands.

This year Ken Vliet arranged for an expert demonstrate the way

CRAFTS president Greg Welsh getting a lesson

steer and cow horn can be made into the useful and decorative implements that were common in earlier times. It was a very interesting learning experience.

Something else that seems to occur at CRAFTS events with uncanny regularity is the unveiling of extra special tools that can be viewed and discussed without constraint. This day was no exception. One of our members brought a Hetchel, a rather common tool, that looks to me like a bed of nails and was used to separate

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

flax plants, in the preparation of linen. There were a number of things that were unusual about this tool, it had a spring loaded cover, was made of cherry wood, it was dated, 1822 I think. But the truly amazing feature was that it was imprinted ND on one end and Dominy on the other. It was made by the same family whose workshop is a part of the Winterthur collection in the Hagley Museum located in Delaware. I'm hoping its owner will provide pictures and an article for a future Tool Shed.

This is was the This year I brought a tool display. I've seen so many wonderful displays put together by our members in past years and I had never entered one myself ,so this would be my first effort. After I made the rounds of the early sellers, picking up a couple of bargains in the process, I went off to stake out a table in the display area and begin setting it up.

Lunch is served!

Ken Vliet's catered lunch was another superb effort and from the number of people going back for seconds and even thirds this is definitely one of the highlights of the day.

After lunch the activities moved indoors with the silent auction, door prizes, what's-it session and awards taking center stage.

This year the Presidents Award was presented to James Travis for his terrific work on revamping the CRAFTS web site. If you didn't know we had one or haven't seen it lately, it's been completely updated with new features and photo's of CRAFTS activities.

Greg Welsh presented the Presidents Award to this years winner, James Travis

The web address is: http://www.craftsofnj.org.

The displays were especially nice this year in a wide range of subjects, with something for everyone. Jacob Novinger brought a collection of embossed axes and hatchets.

Ken Vliet's diorama, skillfully blending photographs, childrens toys, signs and tools showed an early view of farming along the Black River. Greg Welsh brought an exquisite collection of small block planes and

Chuck Granick displayed his collection of Treenware. Anna Rokita always brings unusual kitchen tools. Joe Hauck displayed tools made of Lignum Vitae, Richard Burton brought a collection of sharpening stones and I brought some North Bros. tools and advertising.

Farming along the Black River

Greg's small block planes

I know that all who attended this year's picnic had a great time. For those of you who haven't been able to attend the CRAFTS picnic, I hope you'll be able to get to one in the future. It's a really enjoyable day, being out in the country with good friends and good food .

Anna Rokita's kitchen tools

Chuck Granick's Treen

North Bros. "Yankee" tools and advertising

Tools and implements made from Lignum Vitae

As always, many thanks go to Ken Vliet who puts in so much time and effort to make the CRAFTS picnic one of the nicest tool events of the year.

Kean Kuttin's

COMPANIONS

I have heard people refer to many inanimate objects as their "companions". Cars, boats, games, even computers -- although there are times when I have seriously thought of killing my computer "companion".

Hobbies also make great companions. I have seen the owner of a doll collection name and talk to each one. She was a lonely spinster and these dolls were her life. Maybe not quite as passionate, but certainly in the ballpark, are those model train hobbyists, and even to some degree stamp collectors.

I have been collecting antique tools for over 30 years, and I consider them my friends and companions. And I know many others that feel the same way. Mine are all displayed, so it's easy to walk by, pick one up, and reminisce about its procurement, restoration, and research.

Of all my tools, there are only a few that I cannot remember the time and place where I got them. True, many did not need restoration, and many were not in the research category, but the ones that were - continue to bring a little deeper breath and a smile when I pick them up to dust them off, and make sure they are still working.

Many of the better stories have been transmitted into the Tool Shed over the years, but there are tons of stories left. Most are the kind that go with the expression, "You had to be there". But to me they are all priceless, because I <u>was</u> there!

As I do less and less galavanting around in the flea markets in the wee hours, and ceasing the garage sale routes altogether, I feel a closer kinship to those tools that are still in my collection. They are truly companions (regardless of any jealousy that might be generated up out of Doris.)

I feel sorry for the collectors that just have the tools packed away in boxes somewhere, and rarely get to see them or dust them off. Even picking one up and holding it in the working position stirs up a warm spot for me. And in rare cases, I actually use them.

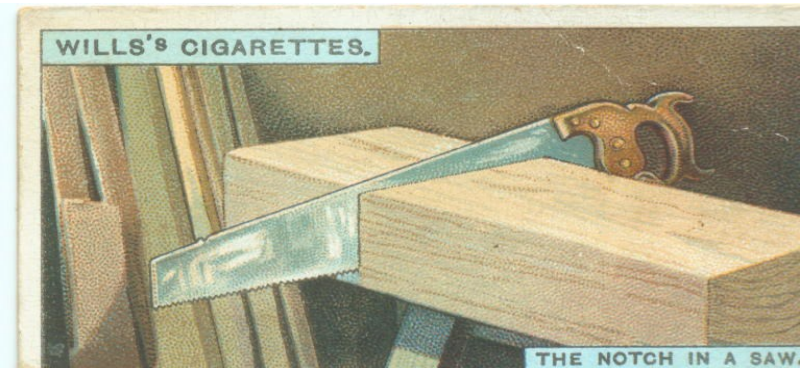
It has always amazed me that tools, which the foundation of our society moved forward on, get such little respect. That is starting to change with TV programs etc. but we have a ways to go to bring tools to there rightful place in the scheme of things.

In some respects we are going backwards. Look at what is happening in our school system. Manual Training and Machine Shop classes have all but been deleted from Middle Schools and High Schools. Even the Vocational Schools are changing to include more academics and less shops. The young people today are having a rough time with simple things like changing a sink washer, planing a door, or in some cases even hanging a picture.

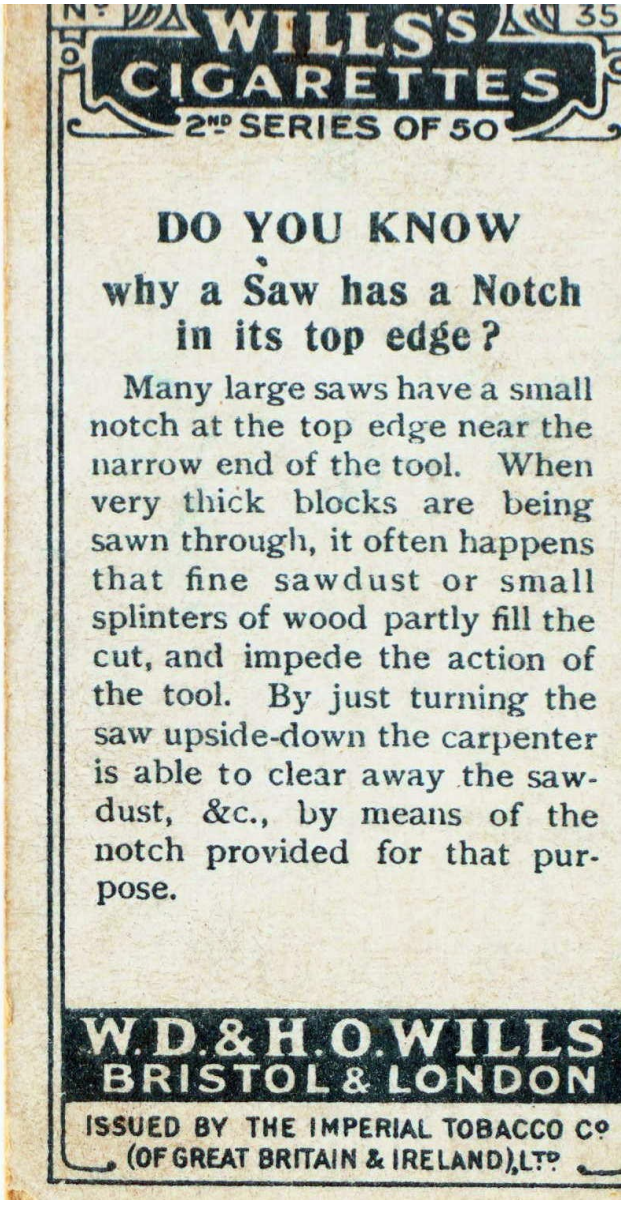
I am presently working with a museum to hold classes for Boy Scouts to give them some background about tools and their use, so when they become householders they can perform simple repairs etc. I'm not sure how it will work out, but it's a start. A good project for our club is to do something to help in this area. I end this article with that thought.

I also am ending Kean Kuttin's for a while. I took a sabbatical a few years back, and I am going to take another one now. As one of the ancient radio programs used to end with the song, "So long for a while", so do I. ------ Herb

Another "Mystery of Life" question answered??



This cigarette card was a gift to Dan Ludwig from Mrs. Helen Beitler



The back of the card provides an unusual explanation for the saw notch (nib). I'm not sure that this "Mystery of Life" question has been resolved since I don't believe that the author ever used a saw before! *ED*

TOOL EVENTS

November 7th - CRAFTS Meeting 1PM
HOST Masonic Lodge Highbridge, NJ

November 17 - David Stanley Auctions
1000 lots Antique and Modern woodworking tools
Leicestershire, England
www.davidstanley.com
TEL:011441530 222320

January 23 - 24 - M-WTCA Area P Meet
York, PA William Warner 717-843-8105

WANT ADS

Need help disposing of your tools or home items? Entire or partial house clean-outs available. Call Steve Zluky, (908) 534-2710.

Seeking McKinnon axe of Rockaway, NJ made between 1845 and 1905. Please call Stephen at (732) 682-8236.