The TOOL SHED

No. 30 February 1984

A Journal of Tool Collecting published by CRAFTS of New Jersey

EARLY AMERICAN INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN NEW JERSEY NEXT JUNE

The Early American Industries Association has announced that its Spring, 1984, meeting will be held June 14 through 16 in Madison, N.J. CRAFTS of New Jersey will play a major role in planning and carrying out this event.

The headquarters for the meeting will be at Drew University in Madison. This will be within commuting distance for many of our members. For those who will want to stay overnight, accomodations will be available in Drew University dormitories. If you prefer something a little more spacious than a dormitory room, hotel rooms will also be available in the nearby Madison and Morristown area.

William N. Gilliland is chairing the CRAFTS Steering Committee for the meeting, and Emil S. Pollak is acting as liaison with the EAIA Meetings and Programs Committee.

Bill and his Committee have been hard at work for several months, making arrangements and working out program details. Among the many features that will be of special interest to our members will be a comprehensive exhibition of tools made in New Jersey. The director of this exhibit will be Alexander Farnham (see announcement elsewhere in this issue). The complete program of talks, displays, and activities is to be announced in the near future.

A meeting of this size requires a lot of work. President Steve Zluky has asked that anyone willing to lend a hand get in touch with him as soon as possible. Volunteers are needed to assist at the registration and information desks and to set up displays and prepare for programs. Steve promises that the tours of duty will be short and that no one will be overworked.

This June meeting will mark the first time that the Early American Industries Association has met in New Jersey. Let's help make the meeting a memorable one. All CRAFTS members should plan to attend.

Additional information will be given at future meetings.

DOROTHEA CONNOLLY TO SPEAK AT FEBRUARY 5th MEETING

The next meeting of CRAFTS of New Jersey will be on Sunday, February 5, at East Jersey Olde Towne in Piscataway.

The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. with the "Swap & Sell," and the formal program will begin at 2:00. The speaker will be Dorothea Connolly. The title of her talk is "Kitchen Tools: Colonial and Victorian." There will also be a "What-sit" session.

The speaker for the April 8 meeting will be Raymond R. Townsend of Williamsburg, Va., who will talk on "Early Shoemaking.

"EARLY TOOLS OF NEW JERSEY AND THE MEN WHO MADE THEM"

As most of our members probably know, CRAFTSman Alexander Farnham has been working for several years on a book about tools made in New Jersey.

Entitled Early Tools of New Jersey and the Men Who Made Them, the book is scheduled for publication on April 1. If the printer and the binder cooperate, it will be available for our April meeting.

The work will run to approximately 200 pages and covers tool making in the Garden State before 1900. The list

[Continued on page 7]

CRAFTS of New Jersey

Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society of New Jersey

President ——— STEPHEN ZLUKY, Whitehouse

Vice President ——— HARRY J. O'NEILL, Annandale

Secretary ——— BARBARA FARNHAM, Stockton

Treasurer ——— JOHN M. WHELAN, Murray Hill

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 seven dollars for the membership year of July 1 to June 30. Membership fees may be sent to the Treasurer: John M. Whelan, 38 Colony Court, Murray Hill, NJ 07974.

The Tool Shed

Published five times per year for members of CRAFTS of New Jersey. Editor: Robert Fridlington, 8 Keith Jeffries Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016. Contributions, especially about New Jersey tools and trades, are welcomed.

DR. JOSEPH H. KLER, FOUNDER OF EAST JERSEY OLDE TOWNE, DIES AT 80

It is with sadness that we note the death of Dr. Joseph H. Kler, 80, one of the first members of CRAFTS of New Jersey. Dr. Kler, who lived in Bound Brook, died on November 21, 1983.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Medical College, Dr. Kler had maintained a private practice in ophthalmology in New Brunswick since 1929. For fifteen years, from 1967 to 1982, he was President of the State Commission for the Blind, and he was a former member of the State Welfare Board.

Dr. Kler's love of American history led him to found East Jersey Olde Towne in 1971, and it was his dedication that brought the restored village into being. He served as President of EJOT until his death.

It was through his interest that CRAFTS became associated with East Jersey Olde Towne, and at his invitation CRAFTS held its first meeting, on December 4, 1977, at the Jeremiah Field Homestead of Olde Towne.

Dr. Kler is survived by two daughters and five grandchildren. Miss Marjorie Kler, one of his daughters is a member of CRAFTS.

A JOSEPH SMITH PRICE LIST FOR THE "KEY"

[The following information was received from Mr. John S. Kebabian.—Ed.]

A Joseph Smith price list has come to light in the copy of his Explanation or Key to the Various Manufactories of Sheffield which is now in the collection of Gene Kijowski.

This seems to be the only known copy of this list. It is headed, "Joseph Smith, Manufacturer of Joiners' and Carpenters' Tools, Carver Street, Sheffield." The Kijowski copy of the Key comprises nos. 1-432 of the work, and the price list covers these numbers only. As the list is complete, this is proof that copies of the Key were issued in that abbreviated form.

This list will be a very desirable addition for the owners of the EAIA reprint of the Key, and by courtesy of Mr. Kijowski, of PATINA, the Potomic area tool group, a reprint is being offered gratis to all who wish to have a copy of the list.

Send 37¢ (in stamps, to cover mailing), to

John S. Kebabian
308 N. Bradford St.
Dover, DE 19901

and a copy of the list will be sent to you.

N.B.: If you do not now have a copy of the Key, one can be obtained from EAIA, P.O. Box 2128, Empire State Plaza Sta., Albany, NY 12220 - 0128. Clothbound. 162 pages. Over 1,000 illustrations of tools and cutlery, on 130 plates. Price, $3.75.

INFORMATION WANTED

CRAFTSman Mark Wallace is seeking information on two "fairly old" jig saws. Both are bench-top models.

One is a Gilbert P6727. The other, which "seems a little newer," is a Companion, model no. 103·040.

Mark is particularly interested in determining the age of these saws; but he would appreciate any and all information that anyone might have. His address is: R.D. 1, Box 151A
Sussex, NJ 07461
Phone: (201) 875-5927

AN UPDATE ON THOSE CURIOUS INITIALS ON WHITE PLANES

by Carl E. Bopp

In the November, 1983, issue of the Tool Shed I wrote that Peter Corrigan and I had discovered that bench-hands working for the White family of plane makers in Philadelphia at one time put their own initials on the front of the planes, near the White maker's-mark; and I asked all CRAFTSmen to let me know if they had any Israel White planes bearing such initials.

The response to my request was both good and bad. It was good because we received new and interesting information. It was bad because such a small number responded. But if you have initialed planes and did not report them, there is still time to redeem yourself.

The following is an "interim report" based on all of the planes reported to me as of January 4, 1984.

One-half of the planes marked with the initials "A.M" (Adam Miller) are bench (smooth) planes.

All of the planes marked "D.H" (David Hanley) are either plows or sash filletsters.

"W.M.D" (William McDaniel) was the rabbet man, as all of his planes make a rabbet-type cut. About one-half of them are panel raisers; the balance are rabbets and filletsters.

All of the planes marked "S.L" are moulding types. "S.L" is the most frequently found mark on our list, but we still do not have a name to go with the initials.

The initials "J.S" (James Silcock) are on three Israel White patented three-arm plow planes and on one "standard" boxwood two-arm plow.

The second most frequent mark is "T.D" (Thomas Donoho. The majority of these planes are side beads. Thomas Donoho later had his own shop in Philadelphia.

Four of seven planes marked "N.N" (Nathan Norton) are sash planes. Nathan Norton later had his own shop in Camden, N.J. (see Tool Shed, January, 1981, p. 4).

"F.M" (Frederrick Miller) must have been an all-around workman, because his planes include crown moulding, panel raiser, filletster, match (tongue and groove), and Grecian ovolo and bead. Frederrick Miller was later in partnership with Edward W. Pennell under the name Pennell & Miller.

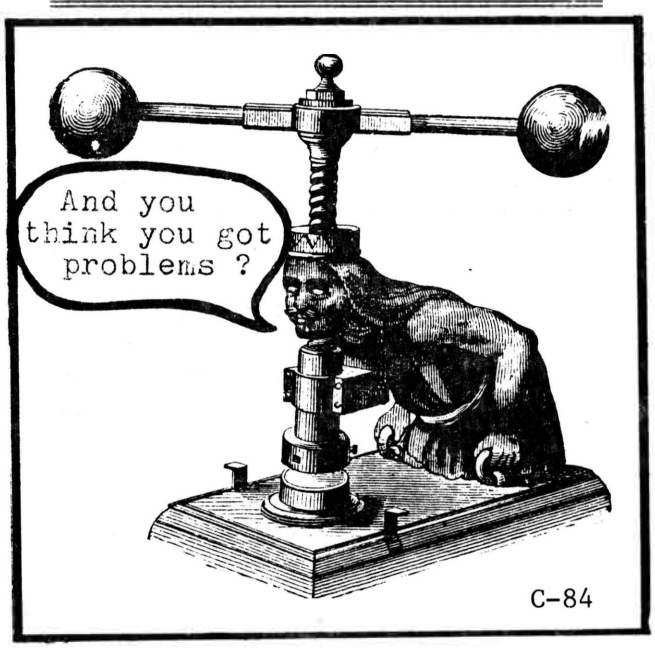
We have also expanded the number of known initials on White planes, as two new sets have been reported. A "T.B" mark was found on a bench plane, and "C.M" was found on a match plane. The names of these two men are unknown at this time.

SPEAKER PROFILE
DOROTHEA CONNOLLY

Dorothea Connolly, who will speak on "Kitchen Tools: Colonial and Victorian" at the February 5 meeting, is a native of New Jersey, born and reared in Dunellen.

She has lectured widely on Colonial life and early American industries and has appeared frequently on New Jersey Public Television. Her column, "The Distaff Side," appears in the Tool Shed.

Despite her many other accomplishments, Dorothea is probably best known as a founder of museums. She started the Clinton Museum in 1963 and Liberty Village in Flemington seven years later. She is presently Curator of the Township of Lebanon Museum in New Hampton, which she began in 1981.



SOME LITTLE-KNOWN MANUFACTURERS: 1832 AND EARLIER

by Raymond R. Townsend

On January 19, 1832, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution requesting that information on the manufacturers in the United States be collected and transmitted to the Congress. The resulting accounts deal primarily with the New England states, the major manufacturing section in this period. They are most interesting. A few have been chosen to show the extent and variety of manufacturing in the first third of the nineteenth century. All figures given represent annual amounts.

Pail and Tub Manufacturing:

Seabrook, N.H. The manufacturing was carried on by machinery. The material used consisted of $600 worth of wood and paints and $400 worth of imported iron hoops. The value of the pails and tubs made was $25,000. They were sold in New York. Three men were employed at 83¢ a day, boarding themselves.

Hampton, N.H. The manufacturing was carried on by "usual hand work, and not by machinery, as in Seabrook." The materials used were $125 worth of wood obtained in New Hampshire and $100 worth of imported iron hoops. The value of the pails and tubs was $900. They were sold in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Two men were employed at 83¢ a day.

It is possible that some of the iron hoops for both of these establishments came from the iron works listed below.

Iron Works:

Dover, Mass. Established "not recently." Josiah Newell was the proprietor. It used $2,000 worth of coal and 250 tons of iron, valued at $18,750, half of which was obtained in Massachusetts and half in New York and New Jersey. In addition, the company imported 750 tons of "Gotten'g & Russia iron," valued at $63,750, and 15 cwt. of steel, valued at $285. The works produced 33 tons of hoops, 33 tons of horse nail rods, and 33 tons of plates for nails, for a total value of $33,500. The products were sold principally in Massachusetts and partly in New York, Connecticut, and the southern states. Twenty-five men were employed at $1.00 a day.

Starch Factory:

Stratham, N.H. The factory used $1,400 worth of potatoes obtained in New Hampshire and manufactured $1,920 worth of starch, which was sold in New England. Two men were employed at 75¢ a day.

Gilsum, N.H. L. Abbot, 1830, used 12,000 bushels of potatoes, valued at $1.680, obtained "in the vicinity." He produced 60,000 lbs. of starch at 3½¢ per pound, for a total value of $2,000. It was sold principally in Massachusetts and a small part in New Hampshire. He employed four men at 83¢ a day.

(In the manufacture of cotton cloth, one company in Newmarket, New Hampshire, used 230 barrels of flour, 17,000 pounds of potato starch and 362 pounds of isinglass for sizing. Hence the market for starch.)

Palm Leaf Hats:

Dearfield, Mass. "Manufactured in the families, at 18¢ and 20¢ each, paid in goods at retail prices." Used 3,000 imported palm leaves valued at $100. Made 3,000 hats at 20¢, value $600, which were sold in New York.

Wendell, Mass. Lewis Stone imported palm leaf valued at $1,000 and made 27,000 hats at 20¢, to the total of $5,400. They were sold in Massachusetts. "Manufactured in the families of Wendell, and adjoining towns, at 18¢ each."

Derry, N.H. It was "estimated that 70,000 [hats] are manufactured in the houses of this town annually, by females, from the ages of six years to seventy-five; the hats average twenty cents each. Some females braid from one to six hats per day, according to the quality of fineness. Some hats are worth $1.26. The leaf is imported principally from the island of Cuba, in bales, at a duty of '15 per cent. ad valorem.' Whole amount manufactured $14,000."

Shaving Boxes, Broom Handles, and Window Sashes:

Buckland, Mass. Merrit Stetson in business since 1827. Used water power.

Stetson consumed 80,000 feet of maple timber valued at $800 and 75,000 feet of maple valued at $750, obtained in Massachusetts. The amount of timber used for sashes was not available. He used 56 gallons of varnish valued at $112. The only foreign material used was gum. He made 900 "groce" [sic] shaving boxes (that is 129,600) at $3.50 per "groce," for a total of $3,150; sashes valued at $600; and 200,000 broom handles, at $1.12½ per hundred, for a total value of $2,250. These were sold in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, as well as in Massachusetts. He employed five men at 68¢ a day and one woman or girl at 34¢ a day. [The use of water power indicates that some type of machinery was used.]

Chair Manufacturer:

Wendell, Mass. Emeriah Sawyer. Used water and animal power. He used $150 worth of timber $125 worth of paint purchased in the state. He also used $100 worth of foreign paints. He made 2,000 chairs at 60¢ per chair, for a total of $1,200. They were sold in Massachusetts. He employed two men at $1.00 a day.

Scythe Factory:

Palmer, Mass: Blanchard's Scythe Factory. Had a capital of $7,000, with a 10% profit. Made 600 dozen (7,200) scythes at $10 per dozen. They were sold in New York, Boston and Virginia. He employed 14 men at $20 per month.

Church Organ Manufactory:

East Cambridge, Mass. Used three tons of lead valued at $360, obtained from New Orleans; $150 worth of lumber from Maine; and $60 worth of leather from Massachusetts. Imported material included $300 worth of block tin; $200 worth of mahogany; and "Sundry articles $100." Made $4,000 worth of organs, which were sold principally in Massachusetts. Employed five men at $1.50 a day.

Nail Manufactory:

Malden, Mass. T. & T. Odiorne's nail manufactory. Used water power and 225 tons of charcoal, valued at $950 and obtained in the state. Imported 600 tons of iron valued at $52,000. Made 600 tons of nails valued at $70,000, which were sold in New England and "South States." Employed 23 men at $1.35 a day and three boys at 50¢ a day. A footnote stated: "The manufacture of nails commenced in the year 1806, by G. & T. Odiorne.

Turned Wood Ware:

Greenfield, Mass. William W. Draper. Started in 1830. Used water power. Used 64 gallons of oil at $64; 40 gallons of varnish at $40; timber at $60 and boards at $80, obtained from Massachusetts and New York. He imported three tons of hoop iron, valued at $450. He made kegs, tubs, keelers, churns, bottles, and pails amounting to $3,600. Two-thirds were sold in N.Y. and one-fourth in Philadelphia. He employed four men at 80¢ a day.

Carpets:

Brentwood, N.H. It was reported that "much domestic carpeting is made; more than enough for home consumption. In one family 1,000 yards of carpeting, worth 75¢ per yard is annually manufactured."

Farmingham, Mass. Knights Carpet Factory, established in 1830 used 25,000 lbs. of wool valued at $7,250 and wood valued at $300, obtained in N.H. and Vt. Knights imported 6,000 lbs. of wool, valued at $1,500, and Buenos Aires dye woods, valued at $300. They made 11,000 yards of carpeting valued at $10,620. Two-thirds were sold in Boston and one-third in Philadelphia. They employed eight men at 83¢ and four boys at 25¢ a day.

Visiting Card Factory:

Marblehead, Mass. Samuel Avery used 1,000 reams of paper worth $4,000 obtained in Mass. He made $6,000 worth of visiting cards, sold all in Mass. He employed three men at $1.00, two boys under 16 at 50¢, and three women or girls at 20¢ a day.

Fire Engines:

Granby, Mass. M. Holland made fire engines and used iron, copper, and block tin. He made 50 engines at $200 for a total of $10,000. They were sold in the northern states. He employed six men at $1.00 a day.

Since the name of this column is "The Distaff Side," I thought I would give you some information on spinning.

I have been a spinner since 1964. I was studying weaving under Emily Post in Princeton and went to the Flemington Fair that year. There I had the great fortune to meet a Mrs. Carter of Lebanon, N.J., who was spinning the hairs of Angora rabbits. She would simply pick out the hairs from the rabbits that she had in large hutches by her side.

I was fascinated by this and very casually said to her, "I would love to be able to spin like you." And she replied, "Come to my house and I will teach you." I took her up on the offer and the week after the fair I was at her front door.

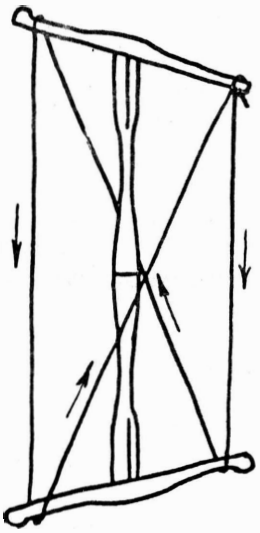
She began by teaching me spinning on a drop spindle. After I mastered that, she let me sit at the wheel. That was it—I loved it. I have been spinning ever since, and I now spin more than I weave.

The process of spinning requires a lot of work. First, you shear the sheep. Then you pick apart the fleece to get all the little particles out. Then you card with the carders and make what is called a "rolag." When you have a basketful of rolags, you sit at your wheel and spin the yarn. This is known as spinning in the grease.

From the bobbin of the wheel, you transfer the spun wool onto a "niddy-noddy," a "clock reel," or a "weasel" (these are measuring tools, and they make up the hanks). Every 40 turns (80 yards), you tie threads in three places. This is a knot; and when you have seven knots or 560 yards, you have a hank of wool.

The spun wool is then taken off and washed. Next it is put in a mordant solution, which can be alum, copper, tin, vinegar, amonia, etc., and then it is dyed.

There is a wide variety of sources for natural dyes, such as flowers, onion skins, goldenrod, beet juice, coffee, tea, mushrooms, barks of trees, and black walnuts. If you stop by the Township of Lebanon Museum, you can see the lovely colors I have obtained from natural dying.



Niddy Noddy

After the wool is dyed, it is hung and dried. Then the skein is put on a swift. After rolling up the balls of wool, you are now ready to knit, crochet, weave, crewel, or needlepoint. I also spin flax and cotton, as well as yak, camel, and dog hair.

Early in the evolution of spinning the twist in the yarn was imposed by rolling the fibers between the fingers, and the twisted length of the finger-spun yarn was stored on a stick. From this stick, the primitive spindle evolved. It consisted of a slightly tapered stick with the addition of a weight called a "whorl."

Whorl

The whorl was located in the middle or near the end of the stick and was made from stone, clay, bone, glass, or bronze.

It functioned as a flywheel, the stronger the fibers, the heavier the whorl. Spindle whorls have been found in the Valley of the Nile which date back to 4000 B.C. The date generally accorded to the invention of the wheel is 3500 B.C. (Encyclopedia Britannica). Thus, it is possible that understanding the principle of rotation as it was applied in a spindle whorl led to the invention of the wheel.

Sometime between 500 B.C. and 750 A.D., the spindle was mechanized. It is believed to have happened in India, although historians do not all agree on this. This wheel was known as a "charka," and evolved from the reel used by the Chinese for unwinding raw silk from cocoons. The charka is thought to have reached Europe during the Middle Ages. It was probably introduced into the British Isles from Holland in the 14th century as a "great wheel" for wool.

Historians disagree about the inventor of the bobbin and flyer. Leonardo da Vinci is often credited with designing a hand-driven spinning machine, because of drawings and notes that were found in a collection of his papers. There are paintings and illustrations, however, which indicate that the bobbin-flyer system evolved earlier and possibly from silk throwing.

Although the real inventor may continue to remain a secret, it can correctly be assumed that the bobbin flyer was driven by a wheel turned by hand. The foot treadle was developed early in the 17th century.

Whatever the origin, I am thankful for its existence, as I have spun for many a happy hour. If you are interested in furthering your knowledge of spinning, read: M.L. Channing's "Textile Tools of Colonial Homes"; Elsie Davenport's "Your Handspinning"; Alice Morse Earle's "Home Life in Colonial Days"; G.B. Thompson's "Spinning Wheels"; R.D. Forbes's "Studies in Ancient Technology"; and Elizabeth Leadbeater's "Handspinning."

["Early Tools...," continued from page 1] price of the book will not be known until March 1, but Alex has already announced that it will be sold at discount to all members of CRAFTS.

A CALL FOR NEW JERSEY TOOLS!

Alexander Farnham is chairman of a CRAFTS committee that is planning an exhibit of New Jersey tools for the EAIA meeting at Drew University next June.

In order to make the exhibit as comprehensive as possible, Alex is searching for good representative examples, as well as unusual, fine, and rare tools, by New Jersey makers.

If you have such tools and are willing to display them, please get in touch with: Alexander Farnham
Box 365, R.D. 2
Stockton, NJ 08559
Phone: (201) 996-4179

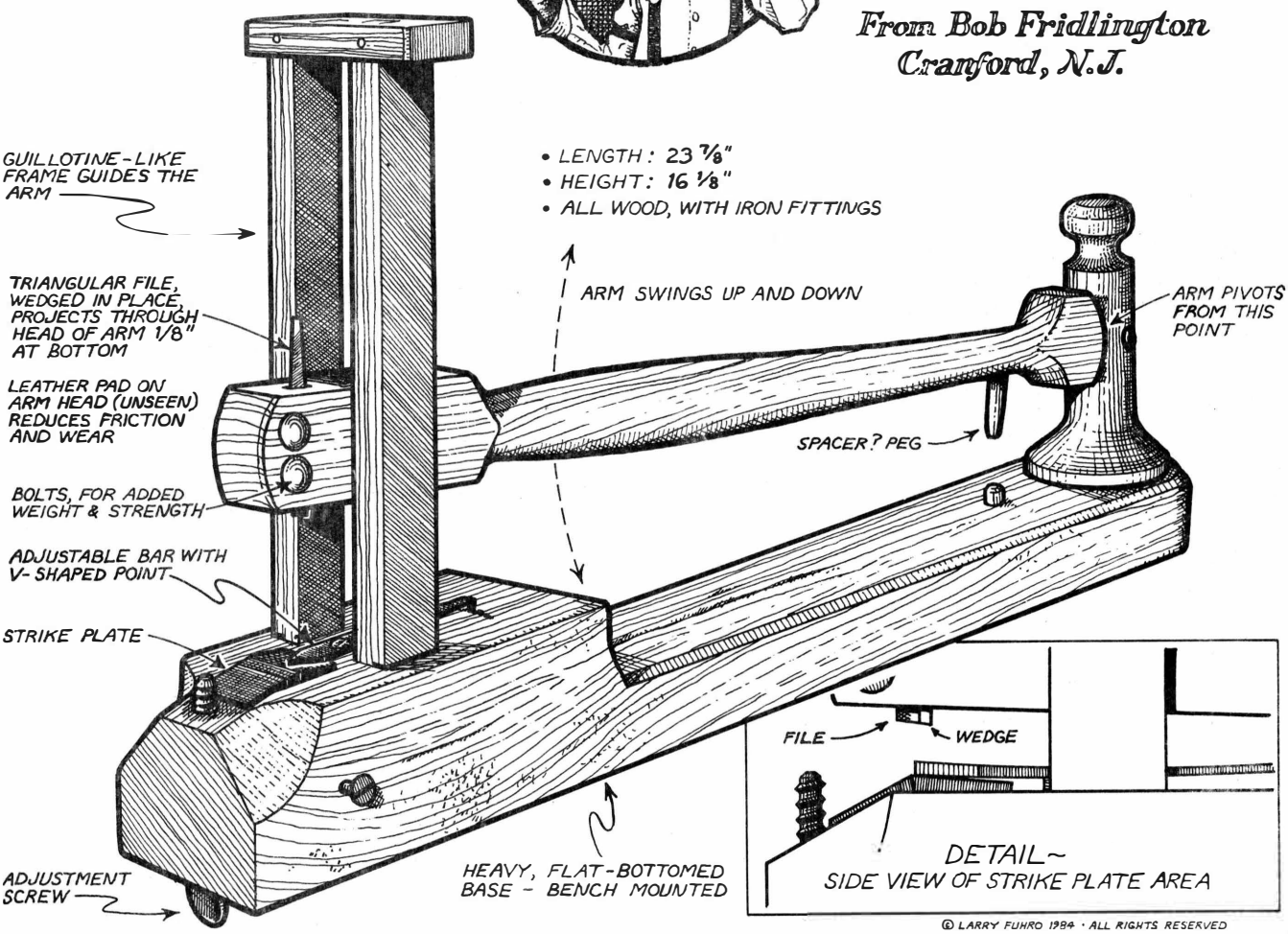
To allow time for labeling, the committee wants the tools by April 8. All of the tools will be displayed in covered, glass cases.

WHEN THE DOCTOR TOLD MARVIN TO EXERCISE MORE, HE TOOK UP TOOL COLLECTING.

Pop Rivet's What's It? No.12

by LARRY FUHRO

From Bob Fridlington
Cranford, N.J.



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GADGETS · DOOHICKEYS · THINGAMAJIGS · AND WHATCHAMACALLITS

CRAFTS SPRING AUCTION

President Steve Zluky has announced that Harry O'Neill and Chuck Granick will serve once again as co-managers of CRAFTS Spring Auction and that Herb Kean will return as auctioneer. This is the trio responsible for the tremendously successful auction last April.

The original date had to be cancelled because of a conflict with another auction. The new date will be announced at the February meeting.

Nevertheless, the auction committee is already at work accepting consignments. The committee will accept a total of 400 lots, and it is asking members to submit only good quality pieces.

If you have any tools to put into the auction, get in touch with either Harry O'Neill (201-638-6981) or Chuck Granick (201-685-1864).

PATINA's 3rd Annual Tool Auction. George Mason Elementary School, Alexandria, Va. Saturday, March 10, 1984. Auctioneer: Herb Kean. 300 to 350 lots. Inspection: 9:30 a.m. Auction starts: 11:30 a.m. Estimated finish: between 3:30 and 4:00. Good tools; quality tools; treasures.