The TOOL SHED

NUMBER 46 APRIL 1987

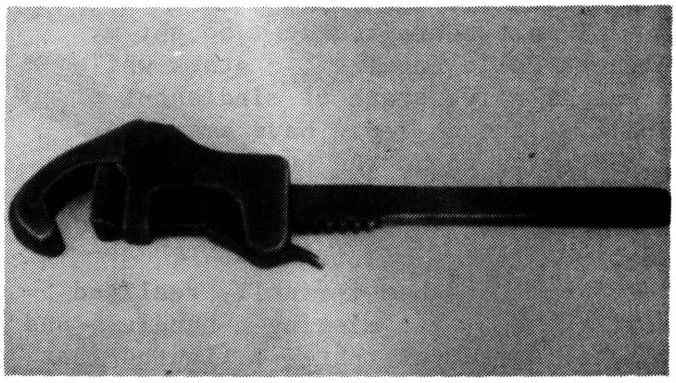
A Journal of Tool Collecting published by CRAFTS of New Jersey

THE J. L. TAYLOR PIPE WRENCH

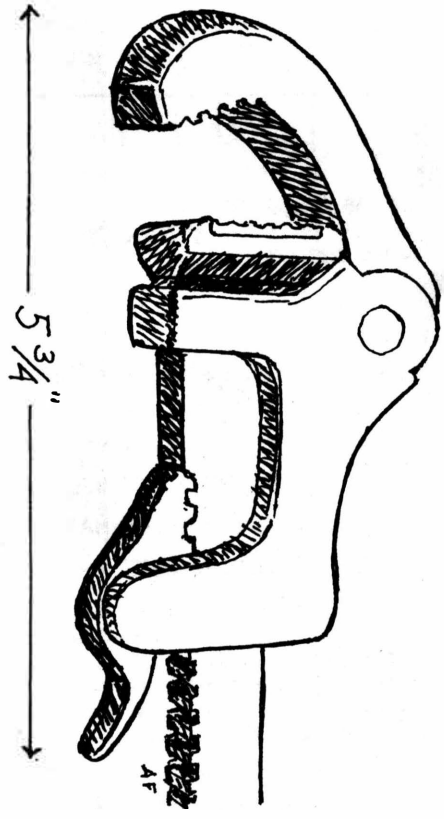
by Alexander Farnham

James L. Taylor, an inventor living at 36 Clinton Avenue, Newark, N. J., patented the J. L. Taylor Pipe Wrench on December 1, 1891. The wrench was manufactured by C. H. Redman & Co., which in 1891 was listed as a tool and machine works at 216 High Street in Newark.

Although the Taylor Wrench works well on conventional, household water pipes, it does not adjust to anything much larger or smaller. There are twelve teeth cut into the front of the wrench handle for the purpose of adjusting the head, but only three are of practical use. As can be seen in the drawing on the left, the others are superfluous.



Taylor Pipe Wrench



Adjusting Mechanism, Taylor Pipe Wrench

Charles H. Redman and his partner, C. E. Birdsall, were manufacturing hardware as late as 1910, but it is probable that these wrenches were made only for a few years and none were produced beyond the turn of the century. Their inventor, James L. Taylor, was listed in the Newark directory in 1905 as a clamp manufacturer.

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APRIL 5 MEETING AT CLINTON MUSEUM VILLAGE

The spring meeting of CRAFTS of New Jersey will be held on April 5 at the Clinton Historical Museum Village in Clinton.

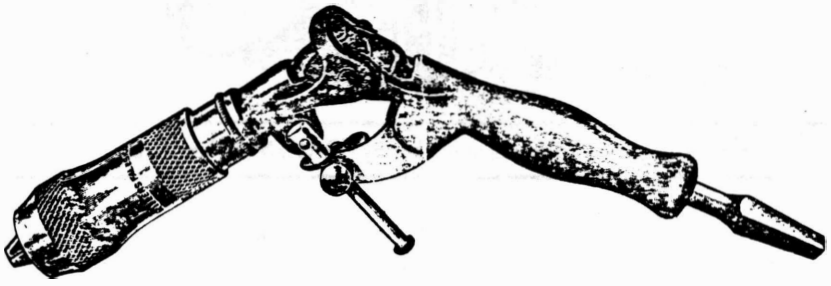
Tailgate sales begin at 1:00 p.m., or earlier if the weather is nice. The program for the meeting will begin at 2:00.

The program will feature Barret Dalrymple and a staff of assistants who

[Continued on page 5]

THERE IT WAS— A COMPLETED TOOL

by Robert S. Gargiuli



Millers Falls Universal Angular Bit Stock

I must confess that I bought my Millers Falls angular bit stock while in a rather naive state of mind about tools, although I did have a strong gut-feeling about the purchase (I had done this sort of thing a number of times before, so I guess everything was really quite normal.

However, when I finally realized that the tool was missing a handle— and a metal handle at that— I figured that the odds of ever locating a genuine replacement were astronomical.

Then one day, more than a year later, while browsing through a market place, I spied something that jogged my memory. Could this cockamamie configuration of a handle that I saw actually be a replacement handle for that lame-duck tool that I had at home? Again I could feel that strong gut-feeling possess me, so much so that I refused to be dismayed when the vendor volunteered that the handle originally came from a saw. I was so intent on the handle that I heard myself replying something to the effect, "Well, O.K., if you say so".... and all the while I was hoping against hope that he was wrong. I decided to speculate, and I bought the handle.

When I arrived home, I immediately got the bit stock and nervously placed the handle against it. It matched. The handle was a manufactured fit to that tool. What a find!

I rummaged through a box of miscellaneous hardware and found two fine threaded machine screws that I simply had to cut and finish to proper length. The screws floated through the clearance holes in the tool and engaged perfectly into the tapped holes of the handle. Suddenly, there it was, a completed tool.

The personal satisfaction and exhileration I felt at that moment is difficult to describe, except to confirm that I am definitely that breed of tool collector who enjoys the hunt. You see, it's not the tools, per se, of my meager collection that gives them prominence, but similar behind-the-scenes tales that make them special— special to me, anyway.

To be sure, all of my tools are not winners. But at this point, since I have more winners than losers, I believe that I'll stay with my brand of tool collecting, mainly because I enjoy it this way and, after all, isn't that what

[Continued on page 5]

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

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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 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.

H. A. AYVAD AND THE CHISEL-EDGE CLAW HAMMER CO. OF HOBOKEN, N. J.

by Harold E. Fountain

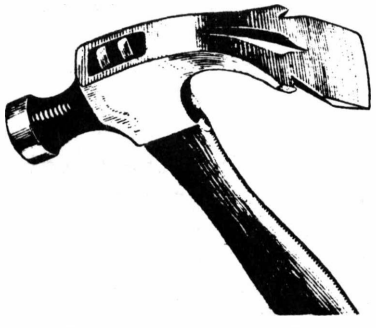
Under the heading "What's New?", the January, 1927, issue of American Builder (p. 184) introduced its readers to several new products that were on the market. Among these products was a "hammer of unique design" (see description below, left), which was manufactured by H. A. Ayvad's Chisel-Edge Claw Hammer Co., of Hoboken, N. J.

The Builder explained in an editor's note that it did "not accept payment in any form" for what appeared in its pages, and "in order to avoid any appearance of doing so," it omitted the name of any maker or seller whose product it described. Any interested reader could write in and receive this information, however.

Mr. Ayvad, leaving nothing to chance, saved potential customers the trouble. He ran an advertisement for the Chisel-Edge Claw Hammer on page 271 of the same issue (reproduced below, right).

This Novel Tool is Useful

HERE is a novel tool which should prove widely useful. It is a perfectly balanced, one pound hammer of crucible steel. In this hammer the claw ends have been put to use by being finished with a chisel edge. This makes the hammer also a cutting tool of great usefulness. You can chop with it in places where a hatchet or chisel are ordinarily used, pry open boxes and crates, dress down or level planks or beams, scrape old markings off boxes or floors and take off a tongue and groove. The angle at which it is set enables even an unskilled workman to chip away wedge after wedge of wood without effort.



A Hammer of Unique Design Which Is an Efficient Tool of Finest Quality.

Instead of two claws there is an oval hole with two beveled ends. It is possible to pull nails with either end of this hole. The lower end is very carefully designed and bites right into the nail. With soft wood, you can get a grip on the pointed end and pull the head right through the wood. Two extra claws are provided on the outside edges and these make it possible to grip a nail close to a wall or any other obstruction where the ordinary claw hammer cannot reach.

The head, or hammering end, is lowered a full inch from the curved top making a semi-circle from end to end. This permits the full leverage of the claws to be used. In the ordinary hammer the driving end gets in the way and stops the leverage. This offset also creates a perfect balance and gives an additional inch fulcrum.

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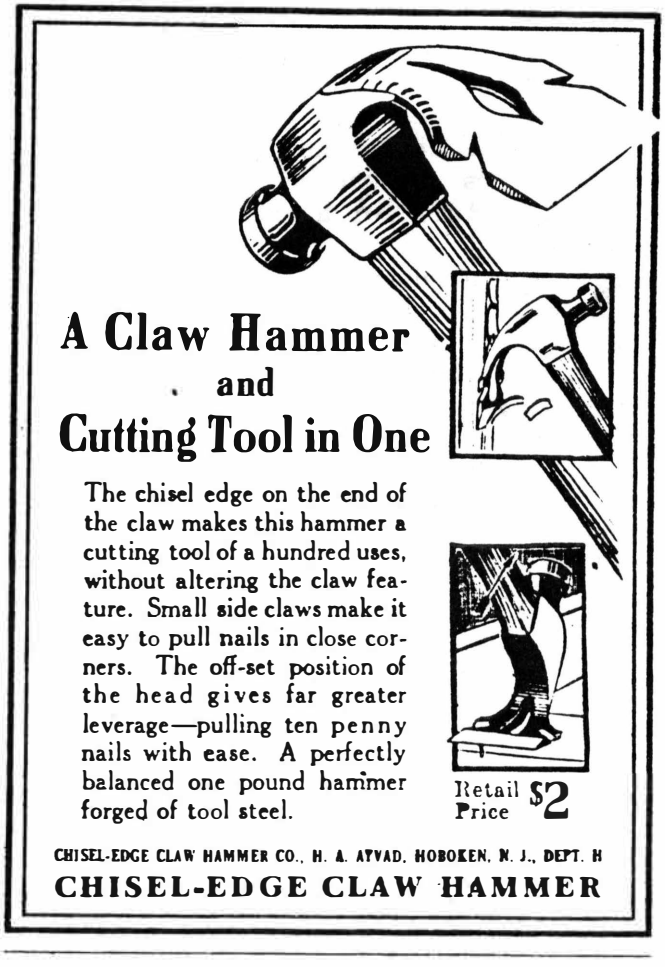

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Kean Kuttin's

PRIORITIES

The other day I was rummaging around in the attic, and I came upon an old window fan that brought back memories.

It was the summer of '78 and it was a hot one. Doris had rented a small cottage on Lake St. Catherine in western Vermont, and we were packing for our one week stay. I had trouble staying more than one week at any one place, as I was more interested in tool-hunting than fishing or boating. As we were going on-the-road for an additional week after St. Catherine, Doris had to fill the wagon with clothes for "possible" places. I was at the height of my Saturday Sales and wanted to come back with enough stuff for a great sale in September.

So, the argument started. Why is this needed, and can't you leave those shoes home? I didn't win any part of the argument (even though my logic was overwhelmingly superior). At one point I suggested that as the lake was a cool spot, we ought to leave the large bulky window fan at home. The only thing cool at that point was her look. The fan remained in the station wagon.

Our stay at the lake was not one of our better ones, but that is another story. What helped for me was a run up to Vern Ward's old place near Lake Bomoseen. Vern was cleaning up his back room, and we struck a deal for the stuff that was "in the way." However, there was one major problem. There were so many more tools than I had expected, I couldn't fit them all in and still have room for the suitcases and clothes back at the cottage. Vern wondered what the fan was doing in the wagon. It certainly was cool enough the past few weeks. He agreed to hold it for me until the next trip up, and that settled the problem. (We both forgot about it, and I didn't take it back until years later.)

We left the cottage a few days earlier than planned and decided to use the time to go all the way up to Jonesport, Maine, and visit the Jonesport Tool Co. I had heard that they had all kinds of tools, new and old. Doris hadn't noticed the missing fan, and I was sure that Maine would be cool near the water. I had pulled off a coup.

Traveling on US 1 in Maine was terrific in those days (as long as you didn't go too far beyond Bar Harbor). Route 1 was both a tourist road and a mecca for tool dealers. Even today, towns like Ogunquit, Wells, Kennebunk, Arundel, Freeport, Wiscasset, Damariscotta, Camden, Lincolnville, and Searsport have shops and fleas that are loaded with tools. Not top-notch tools, but at least something to pick over.

The Jonesport Tool Co. was somewhat disappointing— probably because I over-anticipated. So, rather than stay in Jonesport (which I don't think has a motel anyway), we started back and stopped at Cherryfield around supper-time. Cherryfield is in the cranberry country and generally humid. It is also 40 miles from anywhere.

That day the temperature reached way beyond the norm and the humidity was one point from a downpour. I don't think I have to tell you that the motel had no airconditioning or even a fan. And of course, Doris wanted to know what happened to our fan. It looked bleak for me at that point. I had nothing left to do but fess-up. As I explained it, the fan was merely a question of priorities. Something had to go, back there at Vern's— the fan or the shoes or some tools. It really wasn't a hard choice for me. How about you?

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CRAFTS AUCTION
APRIL 4. 1987

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To the Editor:

Enough monkeys already!

I think it is time to lay to rest that charming but entirely apochryphal tale of Monk, Monke, Moncke, et al., as "inventor" of the monkey wrench. As an expert on the shortcomings of experts, I feel obliged to point out a fact well known to wrench collectors— that Solyman Merrick patented the first movable-jaw wrench in 1835. The Merrick wrench was indisputably a monkey wrench by all legitimate definitions (and by several of uncertain parentage) and antedates the latest fictitious attribution ("Tool Shed," No. 45) by what used to be voting age.

This whole business probably began as the standing joke of Charles Monk, a real person who lived and worked in Brooklyn and made foundry tools (but not wrenches). You have probably seen sand molding tools, trowels, etc., made by him. They are usually marked "Monk," occasionally "C. Monk," and have no other marks except for an occasional "Cast Steel."

Now, among engineers you sometimes encounter one who can't see a joke. You already know that if you hang around any of them much. N. Hawkins, M.E., author of Hawkins' Mechanical Dictionary, seems to have been that type (In all fairness, he probably got the story third- or fourth-hand from a "reliable source" who swore it was true but got the name as "Moncky"). Anyway, Hawkins published it as fact, and it has ever since been believed by those who believe everything they read.

The term "monkey wrench" is comparable to, and probably derived from, the terms "monkey-engine," "monkey-hammer," "monkey-press," etc., all of which refer to mechanisms characterized by a weight or block, called a "monkey," that moves up and down on guides. You may have noticed that the movable jaw that defines a monkey wrench moves up and down on a guide or guides (except when you are holding the wrench sideways, at which time it moves back and forth). This usage of the term "monkey" is ancient. You also may have noticed, at some time in your life, that monkeys of the simian sort have been known and characterized by their ability, among others, to move up and down ropes, poles, palm trees, and other vertical guides.

I hardly expect mine to be the last words on the subject— would that it were so!— but someone had to make a start at stopping this excessive Moncky (sic) business. If you're short of copy, see me for a story about Jonathan Clawe, who invented a well-known type of hammer.

— Noah Little

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[Meeting, continued from page 1]
will speak on "Tools Made from Files." Any member who has a favorite or an unusual tool made from an old file or rasp is asked to bring it along to the meeting for display. Please bring ONLY ONE such tool, however, as Barret and the others have no wish to buried under this stuff.

The business meeting will include a full report by Joe Hauck on the April 4 Spring Auction.

Looking ahead to the final meeting of the current year, on June 7 Kenneth Wirtz will speak on "Early American Mortising Tools." Those who are aware of Ken's outstanding collection know they have a treat in store for them.

During 1987-88 CRAFTS of New Jersey will celebrate its Tenth Anniversary.

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[There It Was, continued from page 2]
collecting is really all about?

Like a mother who, I'm told, forgets the pangs of childbirth upon the first sight of her newborn, I too can forget the disappointments and frustrations about the loser tools when I'm blessed with a winner.

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THOS. MILLS & BRO. TOOLS

by Alexander Farnham

Listening to Thomas Lamond's talk on spokeshaves at the February meeting of CRAFTS reminded me of the use these tools were put to by confectioners. Thos. Mills & Bro. of Philadelphia, founded in 1864, was one of the nation's largest manufacturers of confectioners' machinery and tools. Among the tools they supplied to bakers, ice cream manufacturers, and candy makers were several used by woodworkers and other craftsmen.

Some of their products during the 1920s were ice chisels at $2.00; ice axes, $1.75; wagon axes, $2.75; ice shovels, $1.75; ice saws with 30-inch blades, $2.00; ice hooks with 4' to 6' long handles, $2.25; wood mallets, 50¢; and bung-hole borers, $3.50. They also sold hatchets for peeling coconuts and shaves for paring them.

After 100 years of supplying tools to confectioners and bakers, Thos. Mills & Bro. went out of business. A large collection of their tinsmith and coppersmith tools as well as hundreds of candy and ice cream moulds and machines were sold at auction on March 9 and 11, 1968, at Perkiomenville, Pa.

Shown below is a portion of a page from a 1930 Thos. Mills & Bro. catalog, on which is illustrated a hatchet and shave used in the preparation of coconuts. Either would have been at home in a wheelwright's or carpenter's shop.

CANDY HOOKS AND WOOD SCREWS COMPLETE

1—Fig. 171

2—Fig. 172

PRICES:

No.	Tinned	Nickel Plated
1	$1.25	$2.50
2	2.00	3.50
3	4.25	....
4	5.50	....

Candy Hook No. 1 has a heavy shield attached, and is provided with three bolts or woodscrews to fasten in position, making it a strong and durable fixture.

Candy Hook No. 2 is portable, the shield of which is secured to the post, and is provided with a dove-tail slot, into which the hook is fitted, and can be taken out when desired for [illegible] or other purposes.

Candy Hook No. 3. Extra large style of No. 1.

Candy Hook No. 4. Extra large style of No. 2.

HATCHETS—For Peeling Cocoanuts

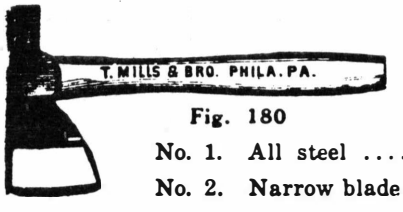

Fig. 180

No. 1. All steel	$1.50
No. 2. Narrow blade	1.50

COCOANUT PARERS

Fig. 181

2½-in. wood frame	$1.50
2⅛-in. iron frame	.60

Fig. 188

CANDY SCRAPER AND SPREADER

Saw steel 12 in. long

Price $1.00

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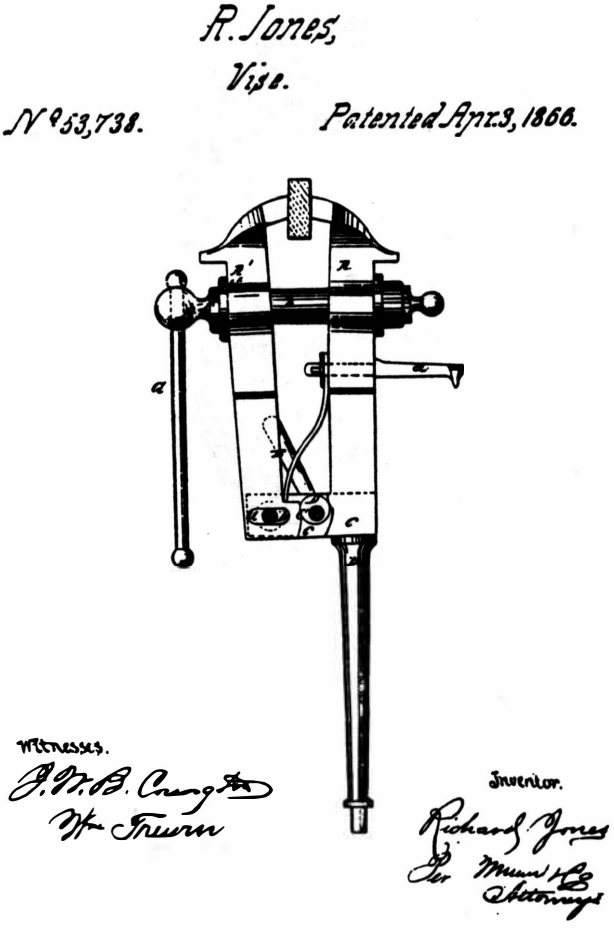
RICHARD JONES' IMPROVED BENCH VISE

by Frank W. Kingsbury

At the February meeting of CRAFTS Carl Bopp was looking through my file folder of U. S. patents for wrenches. Hidden away in the folder Carl found the papers for an "improved bench vise" patented by one Richard Jones of Paterson, New Jersey, on April 3, 1866. As this was a "Jersey tool," Carl suggested that I send the information along to The Tool Shed.

The patent drawing shown below, much reduced in size from the original, represents a side view of a bench vise which has Jones' improvement applied to it.



According to the patent's specifications:

"This invention consists in the application of an eccentric or cam [seen between the lower ends of the jaws], or an equivalent device, to a bench-vise in such a manner that when an article is grasped in the device as firmly as possible under the action of the screw an additional power may be applied, so as to cause the jaws to grasp the article more firmly."

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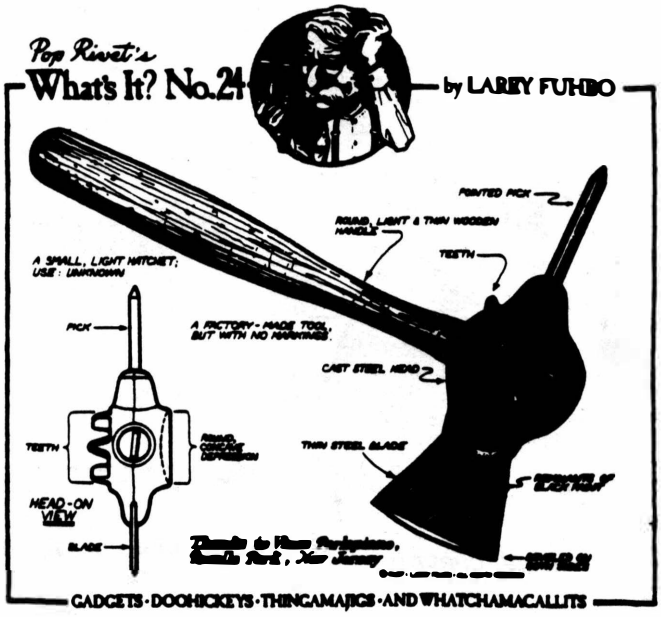
LETTERS TO POP RIVET



Pop Rivet's "What's It?" No. 24, in the February issue of The Tool Shed, brought some interesting responses but not much agreement.

The first to write in was Robert K. Holton of Essex Fells, who said:

"My guess is that the tool is for removing or replacing a cap on a fuel line or similar pipe. The teeth would engage in mating slots in the cap. The pick would be used to clean ice or dirt out of the slots in the cap, and the blade could be used to chop away ice. The driver on the oil truck has had to perform those functions in deliveries to my tank."

Next to be heard from was Jim Aber, snowbound in Glen Rock, who wrote:

"It looks to me like an ice hatchet. I have one with the axe blade and ice pick but not the side teeth. I think it would be used to chop a piece off the large cake of ice in the icebox and the side teeth used to crush the ice. Can't find any printed reference

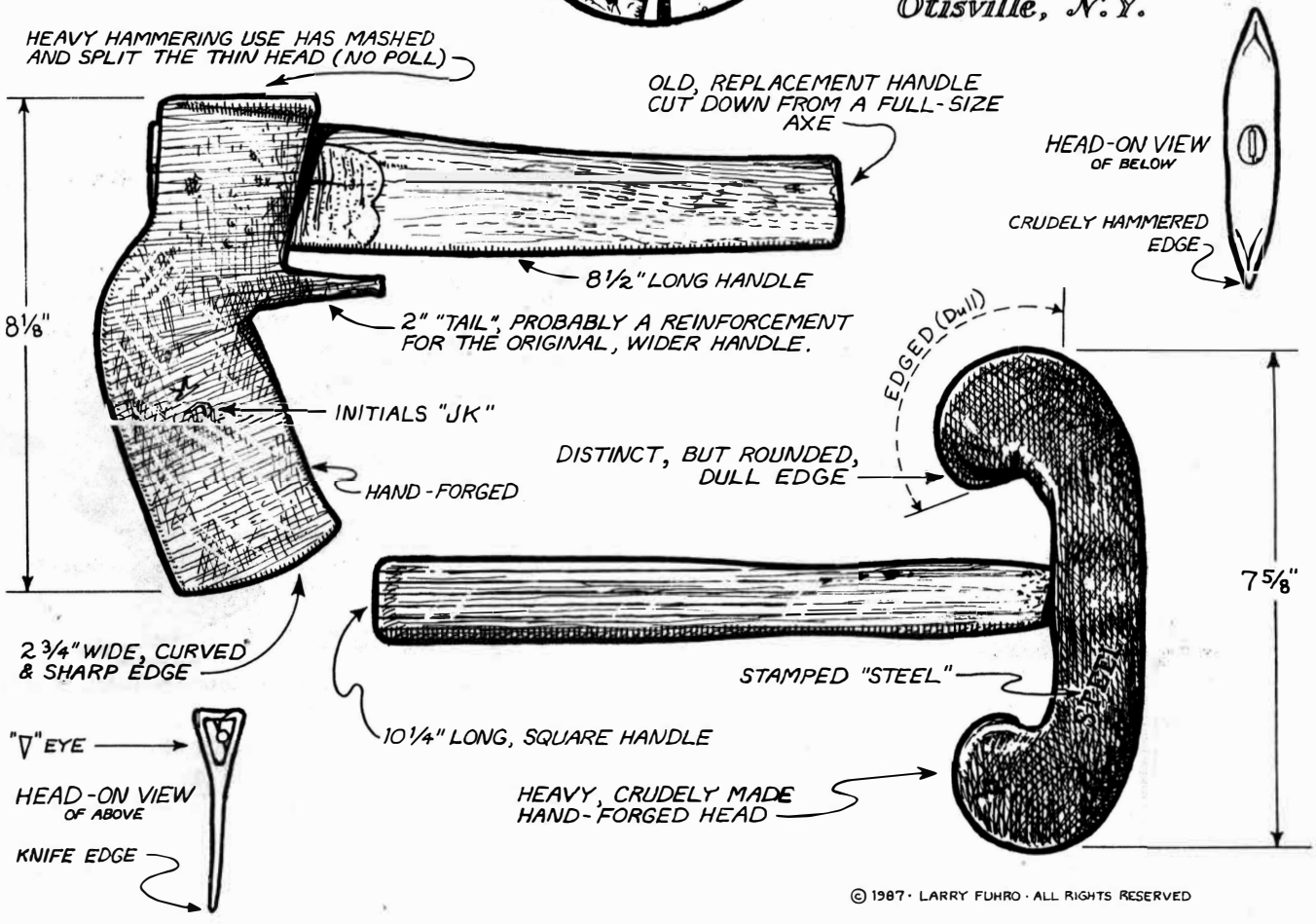
[Continued on page 8]

Pop Rivet's What's It? No. 25

by LARRY FUHRO

Two unusual hatchets; for what use?

Thanks to Vince Soukup, Otisville, N.Y.



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GADGETS · DOOHICKEYS · THINGAMAJIGS · AND WHATCHAMACALLITS

[Letters to Pop, cont'd from page 7]
but that's my suggestion."

Finally, Steve Zluky of White House took time out from the preparations for CRAFTS April auction to write a hasty note. Steve said:

"I am pretty sure that Pop Rivet's No. 24 is a kitchen tool. It is the next of kin to the steak tenderer shown in L. C. Franklin's From Hearth to Cook-Stove (p. 149). It is more distantly re related to the meat tenderizer & axe shown on the same page" (See illustrations at right).

Thank you, gentlemen.

Fig. 749. **STEAK TENDERER.** Iron, wood. F. A. Waker, c. 1870s.

Fig. 751. **MEAT TENDERIZER & AX.** Dec. 5, 1922. Nickeled steel, wood. L: 10"; W: 4¼". Tyler Mfg. Co., Muncie, Ind. Comes apart for cleaning by means of wing nut. Author's Collection.

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