

The TOOL SHED

NUMBER 68



SEPTEMBER 1991

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THE BEITLER TOOL AUCTION OF JUNE 16, 1991

by Robert Zarich

The temperature outside the Inn at Reading was in the high 90's; inside the auction hall the heat was generated by some spirited bidding. Of the 300 lots, only 52 were below \$100; none lower than \$25. Eighty-three lots went for \$100 to \$195. One hundred ten lots brought \$200 to \$495 while thirty-one lots reached \$500 to \$995. Amazingly, twenty-three lots commanded \$1000 to \$8500. The one record breaking lot consisted of two Thomas Napier crown molders, one with a 6 7/8" iron and the other with a 6 1/2" iron, both measuring 18" X 10", brought a \$11,250 winning bid.

A 15 1/2" X 6 1/4" double blade crown molder by B. Sheneman of Philadelphia, which Mr. Beitler had bought at auction a few years ago for \$2400, went for \$4,000. An E. W. Carpenter bit brace, which was bought at a CRAFTS of New Jersey auction about four years ago for \$3,000, now brought \$5,000. Herb Kean, the CRAFTS auctioneer at the time, got some good-natured kidding about how much a good auctioneer can get for a tool. The total for these aforementioned two bids was \$3600 higher than Mr. Beitler's cost three to four years ago. I think this is reflective of the strong market for high quality antique tools.

Some unusual and special purpose wooden planes did well. A 6" boxed bead by Israel White brought \$375. A double blade convex bead plane by William Goldsmith commanded \$1100. A curved stair plane by Israel White came in at \$1,000, while a circular stair plane by Goldsmith with no iron got \$500.

An L. C. Stevens Patented Inclinometer of brass and ebony brought a record \$4,000. An R. Porter plumb and level indicator got \$2800. A two fold, two level rule by Thomas Foulds (very unusual) came in at \$800.

How much is a pair of clapboard gages worth? One by E. W. Carpenter brought \$475, the other by J. F. Bauder of Manheim, Lancaster County, commanded \$1200.

There were three E. W. Carpenter plow planes with the Improved Arms patented feature. The one in the best condition got \$2500. The other two received \$900 each.

The second highest price of the auction was \$8500 for a three arm Israel White plow with a pair of ivory tipped ebony arms and an ivory scale. A beautiful plane! Another beauty, a handled plow by Kieffer & Auxer of Lancaster brought \$5,000.

A mix of some other prices follows: A Goosewing axe by G. Sener---\$450. Other goosewings brought from \$250 to \$350. An F. Nicholson, Wrentham, molding plane in poor condition brought \$1100. A 1st edition of ANCIENT CARPENTER TOOLS signed by Mercer reached \$410. A 53 inch Richardson saw trade sign went for \$850. A W. Raymond crown molder with a 4 3/4" cut commanded \$900. A pair of fine carriage maker's routers got \$1600. Several Davis levels, in good condition, all did well. A patented Mellick level reached \$375. A brass bound 6 1/2" Stratton rosewood level got \$450. A carriage maker's double pistol grip router by Auxer and Remley of Lancaster went for a reasonable \$600.

There were approximately sixty Stanley lots and prices were generally strong. A No. 1 plane brought \$750 while the same in its original box reached \$1250. A Miller's 1872 Patent Combination plane manufactured by Stanley only in 1872 commanded \$5500. A Stanley 2nd Model No.41 Miller's patent got \$2300. A No. 196 curved rabbit went for \$900 while a No. 340 furring plane brought (Continued on page 2)



Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society
of New Jersey

President.....JOHN M. WHELAN, Murray Hill
Vice President.....JOSEPH G. HAUCK, Lebanon
Secretary.....BARBARA FARNHAM, Stockton
Treasurer.....HELEN 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 ten dollars for the membership year of July 1 thru June 30. Membership fees may be sent to the Treasurer: Helen Whelan, 38 Colony Court, Murray Hill, N.J. 07974.

THE TOOL SHED

Published five times a year for members of CRAFTS of New Jersey. Coeditors: Frank W. and Mary Alice Kingsbury, R.D. 1, Box 316, Glen Gardner, N.J. 08826. Editor elect: Stuart Shippey, 251 Hillside Ave., Chatham, N.J. 07928. Articles, especially about New Jersey tools and trades, are encouraged and may be sent to the editors.



CRAFTS PICNIC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 1991
Ken Vliet, Chairman

September can't be far away when we find our club members looking for that favorite tool in their collection, or maybe a rusty old item, that whatyamacallit that surfaced at the flea market this summer, or that "make-do" tool with the adaptation you added. All are eligible for prizes at our different picnic contests. Yours might win, so bring them along to the Brady Camp on the Black River near Pottersville, N. J. The lawns will be mowed, the horseshoes set up and we can all throw a wrench or two into a bucket.

Displays this year will be set up inside the main hall since our small pavillion has been converted into a classroom. There are plenty of tables there but it won't hurt to bring your own. So bring out your best and your favorites and share them with your CRAFTS friends. There will be prizes for the different categories: most beautiful, most unusual, ugliest and "make-do" or repair, as well as for the best displays set up.

As before, there might be time to stop for the catered lunch. Because of the number of late walk-ins for the picnic lunch last year, you will be required to register early so the caterer can prepare for the actual number arriving.

After several requests for a small auction, we have decided to run a trial, limited sale, of about 25 to 30 lots. Limit for now is one (1) lot per club member. If you're interested, let us know when you arrive. Joe Hauck will do the honors of auctioning.

See you Sunday, September 15th....RAIN OR SHINE!

* * *

June 29, 1991
Ken Vliet

Joe Hauck added this comment in regard to the auction at our picnic:

"There will be-----No advertising
No forms
No runners &
No commission."

* * *

WARNING:

We hope your 1991 to '92 DUES are paid. If you neglect to get them in, this will be your last issue of THE TOOL SHED.

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BEITLER TOOL AUCTION (Continued from page 1)
\$800. A two fold boxwood rule by A. Stanley at 24 inches and brassbound reached \$700. An unusual item, a Stanley Manual for the No. 55 plane written in French brought \$75.

I noted several CRAFTS of New Jersey members, aside from myself, at the auction. Most went home with something as a result of winning the bid, but I detected a little frustration, myself included, for the ones that got away.

* * *



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The business meeting ending the 1990-91 season reconfirmed the by-law revisions presented last year, and re-elected the present slate of officers with one exception. As reported in the last issue, Frank and Mary Alice Kingsbury have asked to be replaced as Editors of the TOOLSHED. They will retire after the November issue, with our sincere thanks for a job well done. Stuart Shippey has agreed to accept this post, and was elected Editor.

Stu is particularly well qualified for the office, having the computer expertise and the same equipment the Kingsburys used for "desktop" publication. He's working with Frank and Mary Alice on this and the next issue, so that we are assured of a smooth transition. But even the best of Editors cannot produce a publication without material. You, the members of CRAFTS, have collectively an enormous amount of information that deserves dissemination. To quote member Ray Townsend, "Don't save your tool tales for Saint Peter: let us hear them."

I've asked several of you to accept the responsibility for writing (or getting someone else to write) one article per year. The accompanying auction review by Bob Zarich fulfills his pledge for this year. Are you willing to join this task force? You needn't be a John Steinbeck. The meat of an article is all that is required, and Stu or former Editor Bob Fridlington will turn it into sparkling prose if you so desire.

The E.A.I.A. meeting at Landis Valley Museum drew a large representation from our club members. The organization, by Kathy Fox, was flawless. CRAFTSmen were well represented among those winning awards for their displays, including Roger Smith, Fred Kampmier, Dom Micalizzi and Don Wallace. Emil Pollak's Rhykofab brought forth a variety of unusual and fascinating planes, and a new Condition Classification for eighteenth century planes was proposed by Dave Englund. Jim Hill's session on measuring instruments was very instructive.

I've been using electrochemical rust removal as a routine means of treating the iron of any plane I get. I was pleased to meet the man

whose Chronicle article introduced me to the technique, Prof. Ted Kinsey. Ron Pearson's demonstration of the process brought forth some new and useful wrinkles, and hopefully made some new converts. Bob Baker shared some of his expertise in tool restoration.

A panel discussion on price trends in antique tools wrestled with the problem of relatively slow appreciation. Bob Nelson presented some interesting charts of auction trends. There was general agreement that the big ticket items were the ones to concentrate on if financial return was a major consideration. This should not be taken to mean that you should buy only the sparklers. Paul Kebabian, among others, eloquently expressed the view that the rewards of collecting were not primarily monetary and that an inexpensive acquisition that appeals to you offers pleasure beyond the pecuniary.

A session in which Bud Brown and Martin Donnelly appraised tools brought forward by members was most interesting. These two experts being in close agreement in every case, in spite of the fact that most submissions were well off the beaten track.

Ivan Risley was in rare form, both in the Whatsit session (which dropped our batting average precipitously) and in the informal auction. The dealers brought out a delightful selection of goodies, and were rewarded with brisk sales.

The meeting wasn't all tools, however. Tours of the nearby Amish attractions lured some away, and Madame Treasurer acquired a lesson in the Pennsylvania Dutch accent. The E.A.I.A. program was so full that little time was left for the many demonstrations at the Museum: there are some left to be seen even after my second visit.

As you've already learned from the Bob Zarich article, Sunday afternoon provided a one-of-a-kind auction that will be spoken of for years to come. Barry Hurchalla saved the cream of Mr. Beitler's collection for this, and it was a sight to behold. I'll be cussing myself for a long while for not keeping my hand up long enough on any of the items for which I can't expect a second chance.

Enough rambling. Submit articles and you will have more interesting fare to read.

We are resuming (Continued on page 4)

the practice of welcoming new members in these pages, with apologies to those neglected in the interim. Joining us since the June meeting are Lenny and Wendy Wintfeld of Cranford, and Richard and Jacqueline Moser of Colledgeville, PA. Welcome!

* * *

WORMY WOOD REMEDY

by Joe Hauck

Worm infested tools have been treated in as many ways as the common cold. Well, for a limited time there is a sure-fire cure you may want to try. The Clinton Historical Museum Village will be fumigating the Red Mill building and its contents sometime in September. The entire building will be sealed in plastic and a gas will be pumped in to eradicate the little hole-makers. Kathy Jordan, the curator at the museum has extended an offer to CRAFTS members. If you have some small items you would like to have treated, tag them with your name, etc. and they will be placed in the building before it is treated. Please call Kathy to make arrangements to drop the tools off. She can be reached during business hours, Monday thru Friday, at the Museum---908-735-4101.

* * *

NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

At the June 5th Director's meeting, it was proposed that we again publish an 8 1/2" X 11" book style CRAFTS Membership Directory. In order to have it updated, we should have the new addresses that are being assigned to rural residents of New Jersey, and also the spouse's first name if it is not already on the list.

The address changes are also necessary for THE TOOL SHED mailing list, so make sure that the treasurer has that information as soon as you are assigned your new Street Number.

We are looking forward to seeing the new cover design that we understand is being designed by Alex Farnham.

* * *

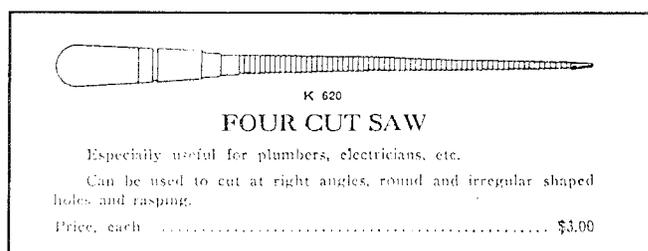
If an object traveled at the speed of sound it would take 14 years to reach the sun.



June 21, 1991

Enclosed is an example of the keyhold saw described in the June 1991 TOOL SHED. This appeared in a Lehigh Valley Supply Co. catalog of plumber's tools, circa 1922.

Carl Bopp



May 26, 1991

Hi:

In answer to the tool request by Lee E. Byrd I believe he has a button hole punch and slitter for the old button shoes. It would seem from the picture that it is missing the stop gauge for locating the button hole. I don't have one of these but I do have the tool that installs the buttons and I'll bring it along to the June meeting.

Carl Schintzel

* * *

May 28, 1991

Editors:

I believe the tool in the June 1991 issue of CRAFTS' TOOL SHED is a button hole cutter. It is my expectation that the rotating brass back up is "stepped" so that it will back up different lengths of the slitting blade depending on its rotational position. If so, you can visualize how it will permit cutting different length button holes.

In this country Wiss is a well known maker of shears, tin-snips, etc.

Max Richardson

* * *

If you open a can of worms, you need a larger can to get them back in.

LETTERS (Continued)

June 3, 1991

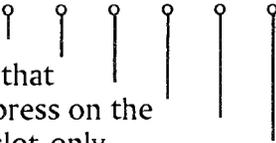
May 29, 1991

Frank:

The tool described and pictured on p.4 of the June 1991 TOOL SHED is a button hole cutter. I have one in my collection, but with no identifiable manufacturer.

The brass piece which is removed in the bottom picture is ten sided. Six of the facets cut a slot and a small hole, the slots being of six different lengths; the slot and the hole will show on the facet.

The other four facets are located so that the hole does not impress on the brass, thus making a slot only.



The tool could be used on leather---i.e. button shoes---or on heavy material.

Bill Curtis

* * *

5/29/91

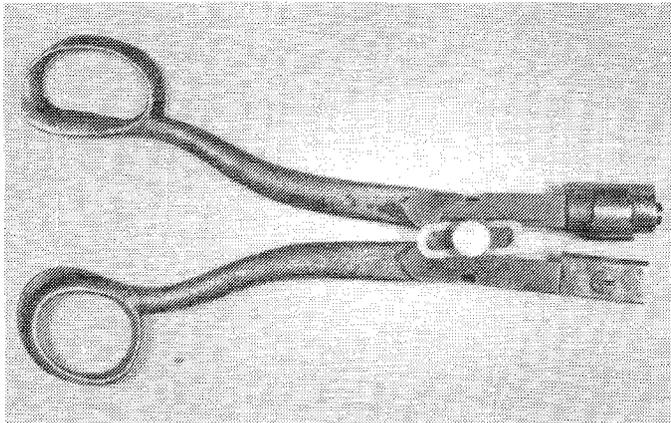
Dear Frank:

As we discussed on the phone, the tool inquired about is an adjustable button hole plier. A non-adjustable is illustrated on page 100 of Salaman's Dictionary of Leather Working Tools. J. B. Wiss is a 19th century Scissor Manufacturer, still in business today. To adjust this tool, the brass anvil is rotated to the desired length of the button hole to be cut. I believe the sizes are marked on the end of the brass anvil. This end should fall out so that one could read the sizes.

Sincerely,
David Weinbaum

* * *

Also received were similar identifications from Vince Soukup and Harry L. Stevens. Harry has a similar tool marked Chase Boston, Pat. Dec. 28, 1869, 6 3/4" long pictured below.



Hi:

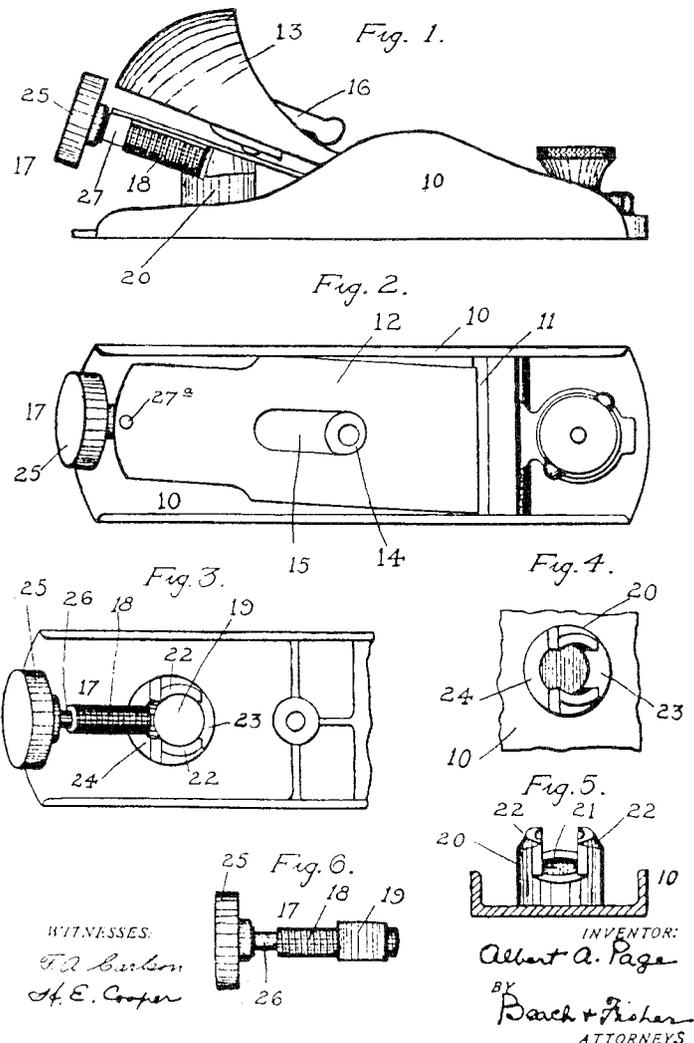
I've enclosed a copy of a patent for a plane that was assigned to the Sargent company. I would like very much to hear from any member who might have a plane with this mechanism. In speaking with Paul Weidenschilling, he said he knew of no use in a block plane, but it was used in a larger bench plane. It is possible it was not used at all in a production run, but then you never can tell what is around.

Sincerely,
Carl Schintzel

A. A. PAGE.
PLANE.
APPLICATION FILED JAN. 28, 1912.

1,090,225.

Patented Mar. 17, 1914



Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty
never grows old. Franz Kafka

PATENTS AND MODELS

Necessity is truly the "mother of invention", but to patent something it need only be new or different, not better. This was corroborated by the numerous models in the display entitled "In Search of a Better Mousetrap", an exhibition held recently at Cooper Union in New York. Jean LeMeé, current Chairman of Mechanical Engineering there, spoke at our June 2nd meeting.



Jean LeMeé Leading Discussion at CRAFTS

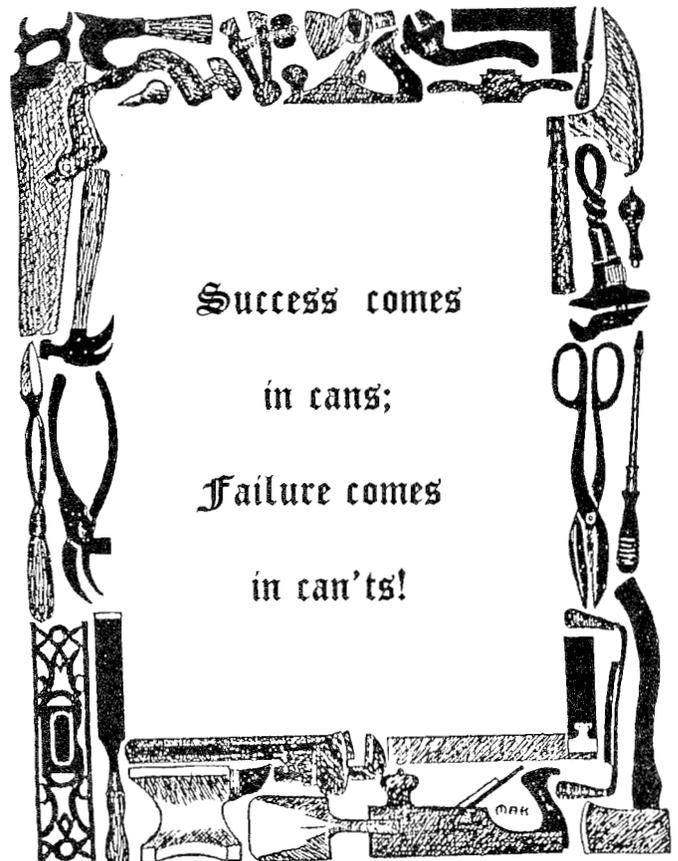
Congress voted in 1790 to institute a system for obtaining patents, and the U. S. Patent Office was born. An inventor was required to present both a description and a model, not to exceed one cubic foot in size. Although the patent office was destroyed by fire in 1836, over 200,000 models accumulated in storage between 1836 and 1880. In 1925, the patent office became a part of the Department of Commerce. A thousand of the most outstanding models were acquired by the Smithsonian and the rest were put up for sale. 60,000 models that were bought by an Englishman were, at his death purchased by Cliff Peterson, and are now located at the Garrison Inn in Garrison, N.Y.

The Bicentennial Exhibition of approximately 150 of these models was held to commemorate the opening of the U. S. Patent Office (1790) and the birth of Peter Cooper (1791). Cooper had founded Cooper Union for free instruction in art

and science. He began amassing his fortune with the manufacture of glue, isinglass and gelatin in the 1820's and built "Tom Thumb", the first American steam locomotive to operate on a commercial railroad (the Baltimore & Ohio), in 1830. Cooper pioneered in the manufacture of structural iron beams and helped lay the under-seas Atlantic Cable. Peter Cooper's portrait is included in the famous painting "Men of Progress" along with Colt, McCormick, Good-year, Mott, Ford, Morse, Howe, etc., some of this country's outstanding men of invention and industry.

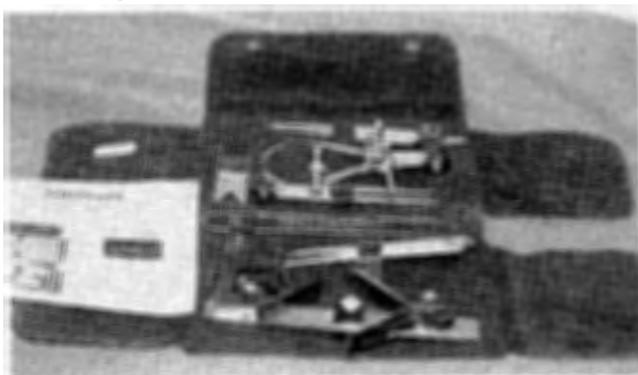
Many interesting models, from an 1837 hat box for a stovepipe hat to an 1876 rotary steam engine that LeMeé described as "very elegant and very smooth working", were illustrated by slides. An 1873 child's swing was made in the shape of an ornate sleigh and the exhibit had a whole section devoted to mousetraps.

An engineer is able to "think in models". However his full sized product must be able to withstand both internal and external stresses. Le Meé's discussion of unusual stress patterns and the means of testing aeronautic, architectural and mechanical stresses closed our program.



TWO MORE PLAQUES AWARDED

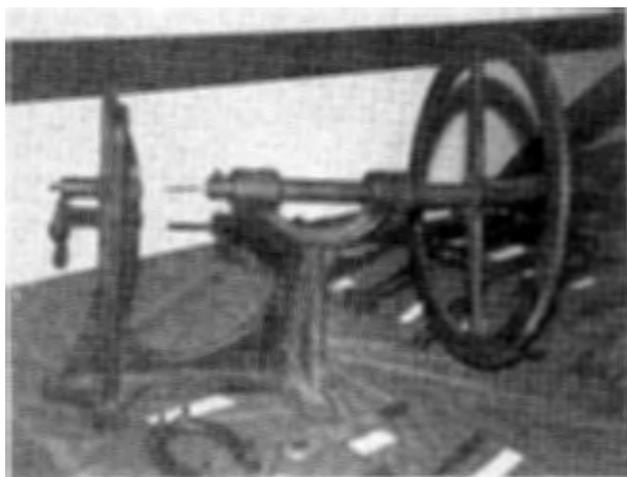
Two of our members from Long Island arrived early on June 2nd to set up displays for our enlightenment and enjoyment.



Tool Set by "L. S. Starrett Co. Athol Mass U S A"

Featuring Starrett Precision Tools, one of the displays was the work of Bill Hermanek. He accompanied each tool or set of tools with its depiction as it appeared in the Starrett catalog. The display included calipers, gauges, a rule, Try-square, micrometer, inclinometer, nippers, levels, etc. We learned that L. S. Starrett's first invention, the "Hasher", was a meat chopping machine that was designed and operated like the "walking beam" of the old Mississippi sidewheeler.

Ron Grabowski filled the other table with his display of a variety of farrier's tools. The two wooden shoeing stands at one end of his display contrasted with the mechanical device (for tapping horseshoes to insert calks) at the



Device for Tapping Horseshoes to Insert Calks

other end. There were horseshoes with three types of calks (drive calks, welded calks, and screw-in calks) used to prevent slipping in icy weather, and also calk extractors. Farrier's tongs, blacksmith's chisels, several specialized types of hammers, a cinch cutter and block, a sole knife and hoof cutter were arranged with identifying labels. There was even a nose twist-er or barnacle to "control an unruly horse".

Carl Bopp presented each of our exhibitors with a CRAFTS plaque as a token for their efforts. If you haven't had a display or signed up to have one in the future, Carl is the one to see about scheduling one.

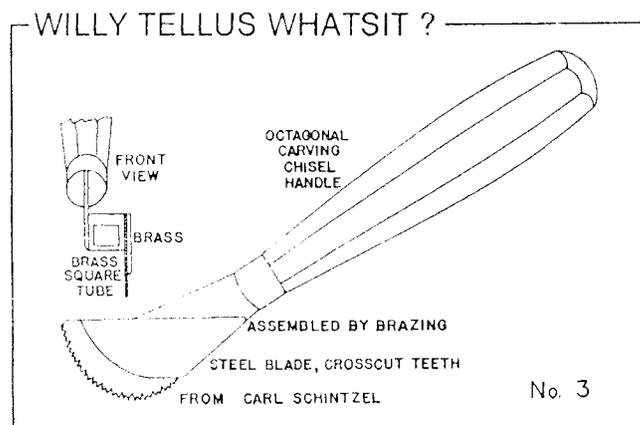
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WILLY GETS AN ANSWER

5-31-91

In reference to Whatsit No. 3 in the June 1991 issue of the TOOL SHED, this tool was used to free double-hung windows when stuck after painting. The modern version is fastened at a right angle for easier use by the do-it-yourselfer and is made by HARDWARE PRODUCTS CO. of Newark, N. J.

Len Howard



MISSOURI VALLEY WRENCH CLUB NEWS

The 1991 Spring meeting was held at Antiques America in Davenport, Iowa. Your editor made a rare find to add to his bear collection---a statue of a bear poised on a globe and with Lady Godiva atop the bear. On August 23 & 24, 1991 they will meet at Madison, S. D.

