The TOOL SHED

NUMBER 114 NOVEMBER 2000

A Journal of Tool Collecting published by CRAFTS of New Jersey

Millennium Year Picnic

by Hank Allen

September 10th was a spectacular late-summer day, even better than the one Ken Vliet promises every year. It wasn't too hot; it wasn't too cold; it was perfect. Attendance was off a bit and Clarence wasn't there passing out the Brown Catalog, but otherwise the usual colorful Craftsmen were present and in good spirits. Ever since I can remember, our gatekeeper has been Jack Whelan, and this year was no different. See photo.

Jack Whelan at the gate

Throughout the morning (earlybirds arrive at 8 a.m.) the ringing of hammer meeting anvil reminded us that a blacksmith was at work demonstrating his art. See photo. Ed Land was a videotape editor for ABC in Chicago until he and his wife purchased a country inn and general store in Barto, Pennsylvania. They call it Landhaven. The Inn is now a B & B and the general store is now an antique shop, which also offers iron work by Ed. [e-mail Landhaven@worldnet.att.net] Ed allowed participation by spectators. This was our president's finest hour. One wag (from Albuquerque) asked, "Ed, is that a chestnut tree you're working under?" *(continued on page 9)*

Blacksmith Ed Land

Arnold Goldstein's Axes

November 5 - CRAFTS Meeting
High Bridge, New Jersey, Masonic Lodge
Old Iron Furnaces
1 p.m. program by Sue Jacob

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CRAFTS of New Jersey

Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society
of New Jersey

President ..... JOE HAUCK, Lebanon
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Secretary ..... DON WALLACE, Collingswood
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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 meets at the HOST Masonic Lodge, High Bridge. 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 12 P.M.; meeting starts at 1 P.M.

The TOOL SHED

Published five times a year for members of CRAFTS of New Jersey. Managing Editor: Hank Allen, 524 Harristown Rd, Glen Rock, NJ 07452. Production editor: Stuart Shippey, 251 Hillside Ave., Chatham, NJ 07928-1732. Articles, especially about early tools and trades, are encouraged and may be sent to the Managing Editor. Please send legible hand-written or typed text, or a PC disk with *Word Perfect®*, *MS-Word®* or ascii file, FAX: 973 701-2050 or e-mail: stushippey@prodigy.net

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CRAFTS Calendar of Events

Nov. 5, 2000 - CRAFTS meeting, High Bridge, N.J.
Nov. 30, 2000 - *ToolShed* (Feb.) free ad deadline
Feb. 4, 2001 - CRAFTS meeting, High Bridge, N.J.
April 21, 2001 - CRAFTS Auction
April 22, 2001 - CRAFTS meeting, High Bridge, N.J.

CRAFTS Website

http://craftsofnj.org

Speaker's Profile - Sue Jacob

Suzanne Fellman Jacob, we can call her Sue, is an honors graduate of Temple University with a B. A. in history. Now she researches and writes about nineteenth-century American history. Sue is married to Walter Jacob, no small-time researcher, writer, and lecturer on his own. On Sunday November 4th Sue will make her first CRAFTS presentation.

Sue's most recent book is, *The History of Joanna Furnace 1791 - 1999.* It's a wonderful book, the story of a charcoal iron furnace in Berks County, Pennsylvania, near Reading. Joanna Furnace was built in 1791 and was known for its high-quality iron, which Sue credits to its ironmaster and his secret formula for the mix of iron ore, limestone, and charcoal. When the then ironmaster died suddenly in 1898, the furnace was closed and abandoned. Joanna's revival began in 1979 when Bethlehem Steel gave the property to the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association.

Sue's book details the history of the site, from 1791 to the present. In reading it I noted that Charles and Walter Jacob served on the original Restoration Committee, and that both families have been instrumental in the site's restoration to its present state. This historic site is now open to the public four days each year: three days for a Fall Festival, the weekend after Labor Day, and on Apple Day, the second Saturday in October.

Sue's presentation will focus on how the old iron furnaces were built, how ingredients were processed to produce iron, and how the molten iron emerging from the furnace iron was fashioned into products such as the old tools we admire and collect. When Sue is done you'll know all about pig iron, wrought iron, cast iron, and more. Don't miss this one.

New Editor

Starting with the April 2001 issue, Bob Garay will become the managing editor of the *Tool Shed.* Stu Shippey, who does such a fantastic job formatting and publishing, will still be the editor. Bob is the technology teacher at the Randolph (NJ) Middle School (see the June issue), the person known to eBayers as "takeadip," and a CRAFTS director. Good luck, Bob.

Current Issue

You will note there's no feature article this issue; for the first time in six years, we were "left at the altar" late in the game by a person who had agreed to write it. We had to scramble beyond the last minute to complete this issue and as a result, the issue may be late. Apologies.

Hank Allen

Thanks, Hank, for your terrific effort in getting and writing articles and your careful editing these past years as Managing Editor. One more to go! ... Stu

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, many will call this the summer that wasn't, but that didn't stop CRAFTS from having our annual picnic, which we consider the end of summer. Again my thanks to Ken Vliet for the great food and weather. There were deals to be had at the tailgate sales. Can you believe a toted Amos Wheaton nosing plane for $55! Members brought some nice displays for which we gave some valuable prizes including two NIB Lie Nielsen bronze planes: a #95 edge and a #120 block. I was especially pleased to see a rare and complicated brass protractor by Stephen Dodd of Mendam NJ entered in the most beautiful tool contest.

I do believe our working blacksmith was a big hit, giving many of us the opportunity to ask questions and see how much fun it can be to produce some beautiful and useful items, such as fireplace trammels and decorative hooks. Finally, we want your suggestions of things we can do to make the picnic even more enjoyable.

Ken Hopfel would very much like to begin re-printing some old books related to New Jersey toolmakers, such as catalogs, Newark history, etc. The problem is what to publish? If you have ever seen anything, anywhere that you believe would be worth re-printing for our members, please get in touch with Ken. Important: you do not need to own a copy of the item; at this point we just want to identify a hit list of publications that we want to track down.

The Internet is about more than eBay. Last week while looking for information about the Ballantine House in Newark, I stumbled across a terrific website about Newark's history, which included lists of early settlers. There were at least six surnames familiar to New Jersey collectors going way back to the early 1700s. The big find was a lengthy genealogy of the Farrand family with several Samuel Farrands, one of whom had a son named Andruss Farrand! The address is http://www.rootsweb.com/~genepool/farrand.htm. Go check it out.

I am looking for a webmaster to interface with the person who will be making updates to our website. You do not need to know about how the site is actually created, but rather decide what needs to be changed and added in the way of content and field questions that might come in from the general public. We have the technical expertise lined up, now we need some editorial expertise and control.

November is the meeting to get your auction consignor forms, either at the meeting or send a SASE to Greg Welsh. Last year's sale was a big success and we want to keep the ball rolling.

Welcome to new members: John Bjorge, Berkeley Heights, NJ; Jerry Cotter, Milford, NJ; Arnold Goldstein, NYC; Buddy & Gloria Groenwoldt, LaPlata, MD; Ted Hopkins, Manchester Center, VT; Nick Jarsulic, Basking Ridge, NJ; Joshua & Susan Kavett, Farmingdale, NJ; Patty MacLeish, Newport, RI; Robert Morris, Edison, NJ; Brent & Donna Wittig, Springfield, PA.

Joe

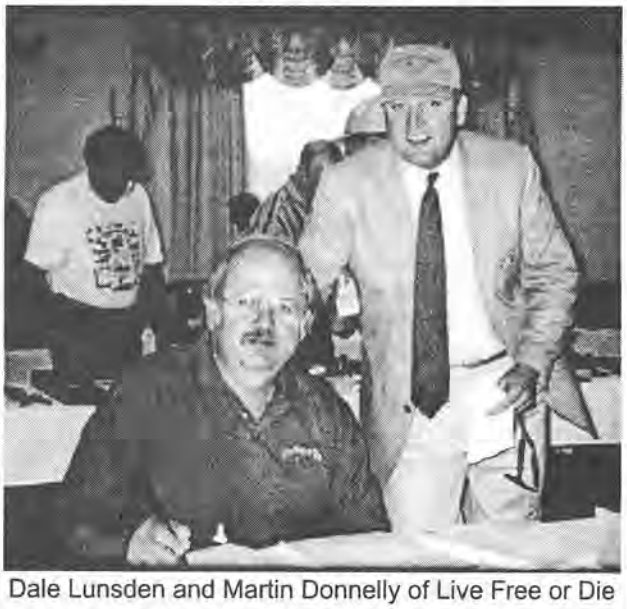
Meet Your Dealers

The purpose of this column is NOT to evaluate dealers, but simply to present useful & interesting information about tool sources.

APRIL 2001 IS "TOOL MONTH"

Here is your notice that April 2001 will be "Tool Month." Save your Saturdays and save your money, for you're going to be offered many great tools. You will absolutely have to add some to your collection.

In the last *Tool Shed* we reported that Live Free or Die Auctions would hold their premier auction in Nashua in September. Well they did, and the enthusiasm among collectors there, both before and after the auction, was just great. "It's just like the old days," was the feeling expressed by most everyone. The parking lot was filled with dealers, the auction was filled with good tools that we hadn't seen for years in Nashua, and collectors were filled with relief that we will be returning to Nashua twice each year in the future. What's amazing is the very short time that was available to put this event together, and how few glitches there were. Even the usual complainers weren't complaining. (This is probably temporary!) Congratulations and thanks to Martin & Kathy Donnelly, Allan Foster, Pat Leach, and Dale Lumsden for stepping up to this challenge.



Dale Lunsden and Martin Donnelly of Live Free or Die

Live Free or Die announced that they will be holding two auctions in Nashua on April 27-28, 2001. There will be a listed auction and dealer show on the 27th and a full-color catalog auction on the 28th. But read on, because you will have two earlier opportunities in April to acquire tools.

The CRAFTS auction will be on April 21, 2001. Some of the great stuff is already on the website, and is pictured on pages 10-11of this issue. Greg Welsh and Steve Zluky are possessed to break last year's gross of $115,000, so if you have some great tools to consign, get to them right away.

Well, nobody's asleep in Pownal, Maine. Clarence Blanchard has announced that Brown Auction Services will have two International Dealer Shows and Auctions next year. When? You guessed it, April 6-7, 2001, and the more traditional dates of October 19-20, 2001.

Get ready! *Hank Allen*

The Stanley Room of Ted Hopkins

by Hank Allen

For some time Ted Hopkins has invited me to visit Manchester, Vermont, to see his tool collection. Finally, we set the date for last April after Your Country Auctioneer's auction in Nashua. The timing was perfect because Bill McDougall and I had already planned to visit the Shelburne Museum, and Manchester is on the way from Nashua to Shelburne. (See Bill's story on Shelburne in the September *Tool Shed*.)

We came west across the mountains from New Hampshire and into Manchester. In the 1950s I drove many times through Manchester on Route 7, and remembered it as the most picturesque village on that route. The old Route 7 is now 7A; a new Route 7 is now an express, north-south bypass. Deja vu; there was the village green, and the Equinox Hotel, and beautiful Manchester Center, and Hopkins Drive. Anyone out there live on a street named for your family?

Many of you know Lois and Ted Hopkins. They are regulars at almost every New England tool event and Brown Auction. Ted has just finished his tenure as President of NETCA. I knew Ted's primary interest was Stanley tools, but I had no idea of what was in store. I also knew that Ted was a highly regarded homebuilder and home restorer, but I had underestimated what a superior craftsman he really is.

Ted and his son, Edward, build and restore upscale homes in and around Manchester Center, the most sought-after address in Vermont by people who have second (or third, etc.) homes. Bill and I received a tour of several of these homes, new and old. They were all of grand scale, beautifully furnished, and vacant, for this was off-season. My favorite was a home on a 500-acre orchard. Ted and Edward had converted an old, stone apple barn to living space, but not before tearing down a farm barn elsewhere and using the timbers to frame a huge addition to the stone barn. All of the interior cabinetry and built-ins were crafted in Ted's shop at his home shop. It was definitely the most impressive home I've ever been in, and the finest craftsmanship was evident everywhere.

Photo 1. Ted at the entrance to his Stanley room.

After our tour of homes, and a visit to a friend's house to see a most outstanding collection of guns that had been made in Vermont, we headed for the Stanley Room in Ted's basement. See Photo 1. The room is 14' x 28' with 12" x 12" marble floor tiles, which one of Ted's clients had him replace with something new. Lighting is fluorescent supplemented by lots of track lights. [Now I must add track lights in my basement.]

Inside the room, my favorite was the display stand for Bed Rock planes that Ted made for Stanley's 150th anniversary. See Photo 2. It's made from bird's-eye maple, beech, and butternut with black walnut trim. The top shelves extend through the sides

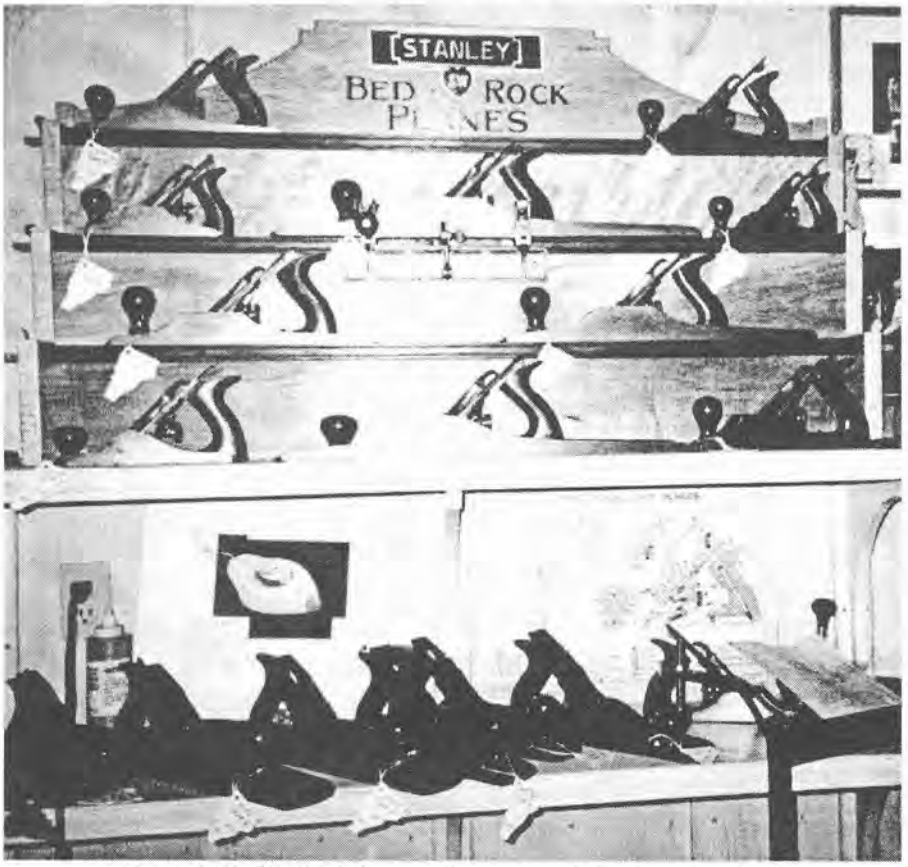


Photo 2. Ted's *Bed Rock* collection and display stand.

and are pegged there, each pin made from a different wood. In all eighteen species of wood were used. You can see that the identification tags on the tools are Vermont shaped. The nameplate is a Stanley original. Photo 3 shows a tool chest that Ted has fitted to display the working tools of a local carpenter in the 1920s. All of these tools are clean and in top condition.

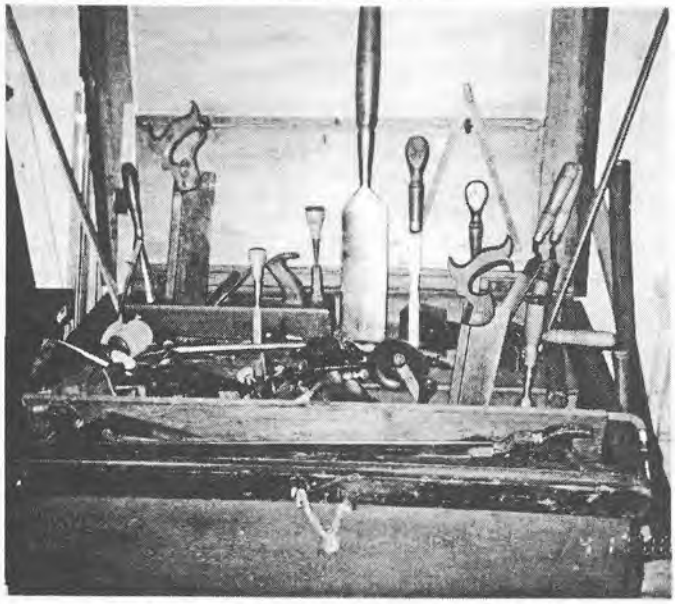


Photo 3. A 1920s carpenter's tool chest.

Can you believe that the kitchen cupboard in Photo 4 is a discard? It came from an old home that Ted renovated. I wish you could see this cupboard in color, because it has been beautifully restored. "Notice anything about the hinges," Ted asked me, a total non-Stanley type. I hadn't; but they are replacements made by Ted in the shape of the top of a Stanley No. 2 iron, stamp and all. The cupboard is lighted inside and track lights illuminate its front. Photo 5 shows one of the three sets of drawers that Ted made to fit the cupboard. Note the beads that were applied by hand.

Photo 5. Cupboard drawers.

The display rack in Photo 6 was made to showcase Stanley No. 39 dado planes. Of the eight sizes that were made, only the 13/16" size is missing. If Ted finds one, that little block plane on the bottom row is headed for a drawer somewhere. The rack for framing

Photo 4. Restored kitchen cupboard.

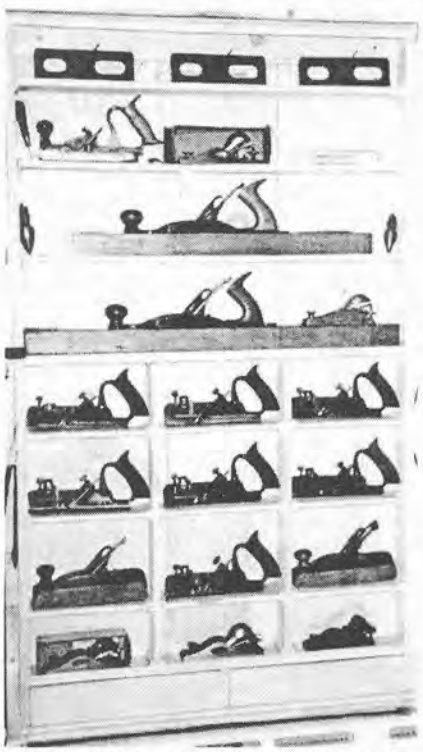


Photo 6. Stanley #39 display rack.

squares in Photo 7 holds some pretty unusual ones. Some were prototypes that were never marketed, including one with a gold finish that couldn't be read. There are silver ones, copper ones, a black one with copper numbers, a black one with white numbers, an R100 special, and more.

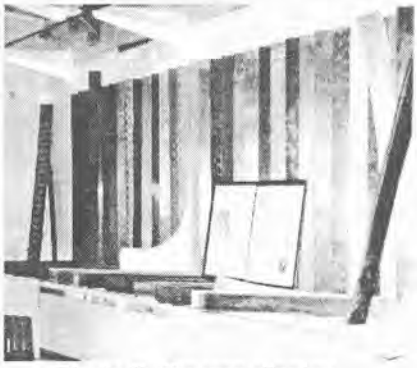


Photo 7. Square display.

There are some unusual items in Ted's collection. For example, he has a machine that Stanley used to etch the in-and-out lines on the inside jaw of a caliper rule. There's a Stanley A-358 miter box made of aluminum that he hasn't seen anywhere else. Also, there's a sizeable collection of early Stanley electric tools, a business Stanley abandoned years ago.

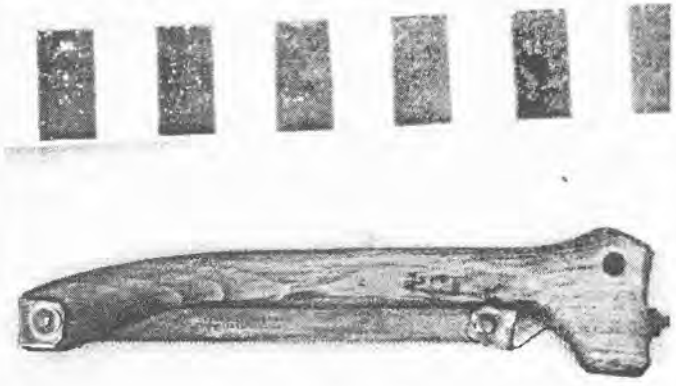
Ted has a symbiotic relationship with the people at Stanley's nearby Eagle Square Plant. He was able to arrange for NETCA members to visit the plant and observe squares being made. He's made some display cases for their lobby, and has received in turn some plant discards such as some of those squares and the original mold for a Stanley scraper. See Photo 8.

Photo 8. Ted with original mold for a Stanley scraper.

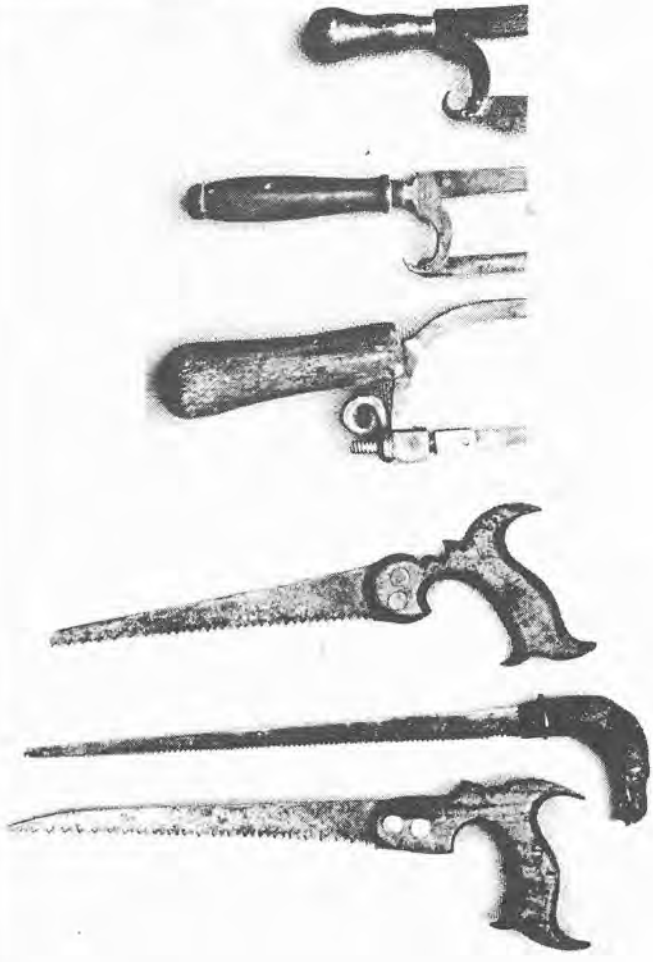
I'm glad to have made this trip to Manchester, to have spent some time with Ted and Lois, and to have seen the Stanley Room. Someone should write another article someday about the special and unusual tools in Ted's collection.

More on Small Saws by Karl West

After reading the article on small saws (April 2000 *Tool Shed*), I thought I would share with you a strange saw that I have. It is the one pictured with the one-inch rule above it. It is a very unusual saw with a hacksaw blade. There's not much room for back-and-forth movement, and certainly the depth of cut is limited.



While the camera was out I took two more. The three old hacksaws are very artistic with nicely flowing curves. The third picture is of three true planemaker's saws. They are long enough, the teeth are right, and the thickness at the teeth is certainly wide enough



Displaying Tools
by Bill Pendleton

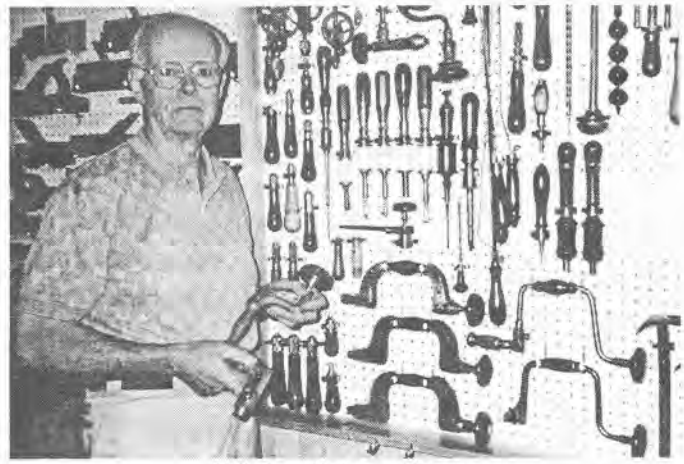
Taking my cue from Herb Kean and Phil Lothrop (see the *Tool Shed* for April and September, 1997), I recently mounted a tool display in the Brewster Ladies' Library. (Brewster is on Cape Cod in Massachusetts.) The name of the library, incidentally, grated on me for the first year or so that we lived in Brewster, but with time the BLL has become one of my favorite haunts. To quote from the library's brochure:

> "In 1852, when Brewster was flourishing with the wealth of homecoming sea captains and the vigor of many small businesses, the Brewster Ladies' Library came into being. Two young ladies, Augusta Mayo and Mary Louise Cobb, engaged in the ambitious project of interesting their friends in the town's need for a library. They were so successful that twelve founding ladies established a shelf of books as a library in the home of Captain Mayo. It opened on January 29, 1853."

But back to the twenty-first century. The library presents regular exhibits in its glassed-in display case. The case was ideal for a compact display of carpenter's tools, along with a selection of the great books our fraternity has produced in the last few years. Not having "gone public" before, I was most gratified with the way the display fell into place, and with the response of library patrons to it. As the photos indicate, I stacked the exhibit with some of the showier pieces from my collection. In writing the captions, I stole shamelessly from the labels Herb Kean put together for his display. (Again, see the insert in the September, 1997 *Tool Shed.*)

My theme was "Some 19th Century Woodworking Tools," and I used the following as an introduction:

> "People collect and preserve antique tools for many reasons. My reasons are that I like the way they look and the way they feel in my hand.
>
> "Most old tools that have survived were made in the last century. Nineteenth-century toolmakers took great care to produce tools that were both handsome and functional. Their design reflected beauty as well as usefulness and durability. And, they were made of materials that went together - cast steel, bronze, brass, and a multitude of attractive woods - mahogany, rosewood, ebony, boxwood, applewood, beech, birch, and many others. The result was an array of woodworking tools worthy of the magnificent furniture and cabinetry produced by the craftsmen who used them.
>
> "This display exemplifies the pride, the skill, and the good taste of the early makers of tools."

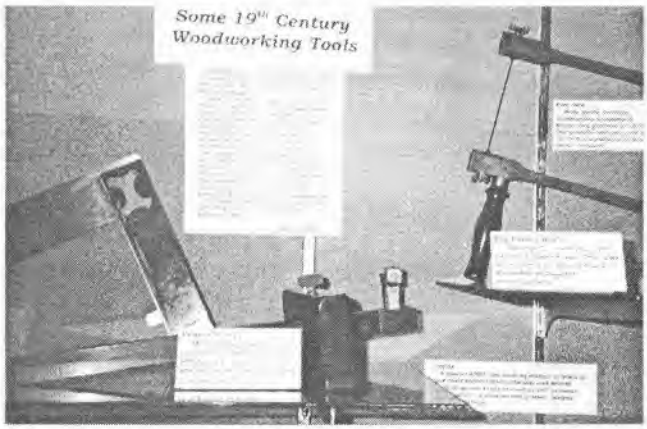


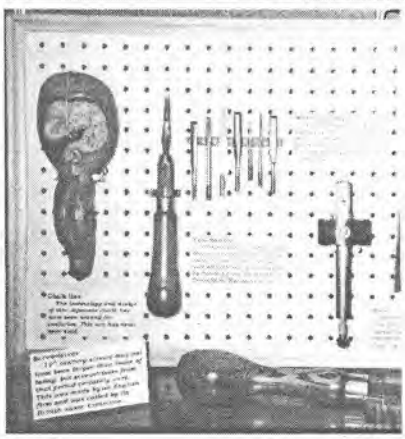
Bill Pendleton at home

Library displays of tools and tool books are an ideal way to spread the word about our obsession. They may also establish connections with other tool collectors, and perhaps uncover a treasure or two in some reader's attic. Librarians also appreciate this kind of help with their exhibits.

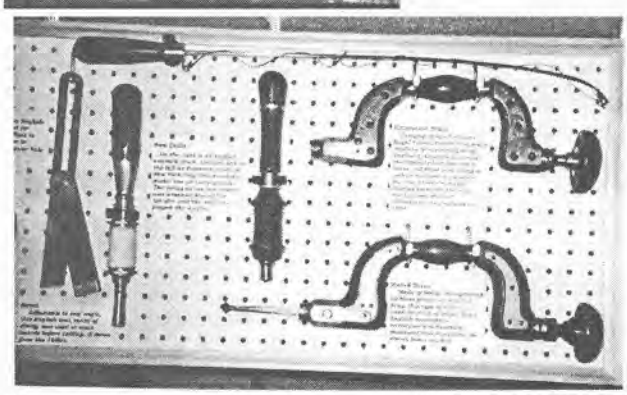
Ed: Bill Pendleton moved to Brewster on the Cape following his retirement from the Ford Foundation in New York. He's been collecting tools since 1993, and claims that he will not let his collection expand beyond the space he has allotted to it? We run into each other regularly at the Spicer auctions, at Nashua, and at Harrisburg. But, he also finds tools at nearby estate auctions and sales. Bill will do the "Meet Your Dealers" column for February.

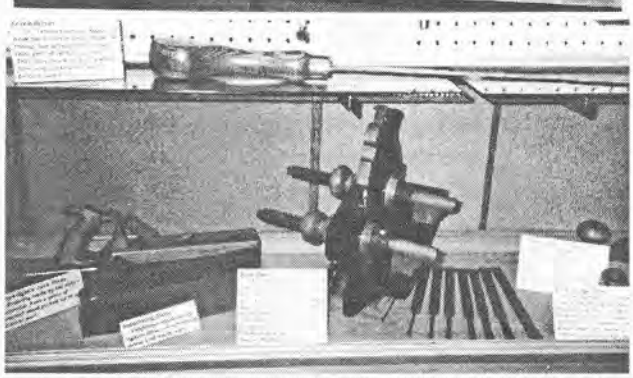
Bill's library display (see page 8 for more photos)





Bill Pendleton's
Library Display



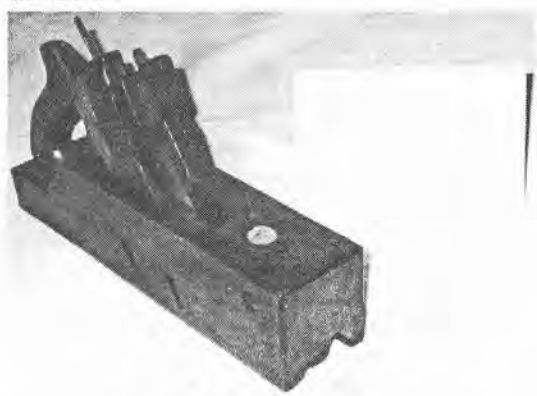


Very-Complex Molding Planes

by Hank Allen

At the joint SWTCA-RMTC-PAST joint meeting last year in Albuquerque, I met and had the chance to talk tools with Roger Phillips from La Jolla, California. Roger has often been the host for the annual, winter (for NJ) PAST meeting in San Diego. I've never been there, but friends who have say that Roger has an extraordinary collection. I believe that; thirty-one pages in *The Art of Fine Tools* show some of his more photogenic tools.

On Roger's sales table he had on display (not for sale) two very-complex, multiple-iron molders, one French and one British. As a collector of British wooden planes I have a few Scottish 3-iron complex molders, which are nice but not particularly early, and even a Mathieson 4-iron, gothic-arch plane, but I had not seen a 4-iron complex moulder or a 5-iron molder of any kind; Roger had both. With his permission I have photos of them, and I thank him for letting me present them in the *Tool Shed*.

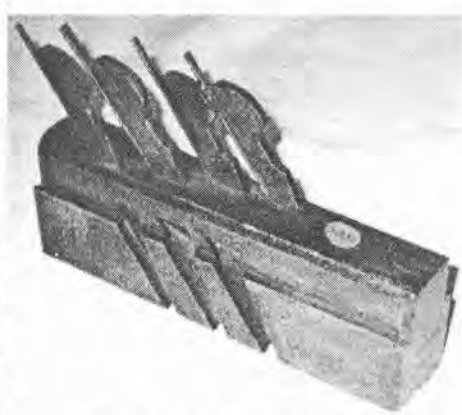


J. Polet Molder

Roger's 5-iron, very-complex, French molder is by J. POLET of Village Dijon. It's shown above with a sketch of its profile, which I hope you will be able to make out. The first reader who can correctly name this profile to Jack's satisfaction will have their CRAFTS membership extended by a year.

The 4-iron molder is what I would call, after reviewing how Jack Whelan labels these things, a fillet cove ogee with bevel. It was made by MACGUIRE & JAGO of Glasgow, who worked 1880-1924. See below.

Another 5-iron plane has surfaced. It was lot 708 in the October 2000 Brown auction. Made by L. & I. J. White, it's an ogee, screw-arm sash plane, which had a pre-sale estimate of $2,250-3,000. We'll let you know what was realized in the next issue.



Macguire & Jago Molder

Millennium Year Picnic

by Hank Allen (continued from page 1)

The first Live Free or Die Auction in Nashua had been the day before the picnic. (See page 3.) Yet, there was Martin, who couldn't have had more than a few hours of sleep, being Martin. Numbers of dealers made the trip from Nashua. Roger Smith was there with an offering of a dozen very rare 18th century plows and crown molders; it was quite a sight. Regular *Tool Shed* author, Bob Nelson, was there with an offering of old farm tools. Dave Englund, Bill McDougall and Don Rosebrook came to Lamington from Nashua as well; all were thousands of miles from home. All in all, the camaraderie was top notch.

Arnold Goldstein, a new CRAFTS member that day, was tailgating with some pretty nice axes and handforged iron tools. See the photo of his axes on page 1. Wrought in America, his firm in New York City, has been doing some decorating with tools for some of the rich and famous around the country. This can't hurt the price of tools. We'll have more about Arnold's work in the February issue.

Lunch was good, as usual, and gave us a chance to rest and talk. One table, in particular, must have been flush with memories as three of CRAFTS' founders gathered there: Bob Fridlington, Larry Fuhro, and Steve Zluky. Another table featured Herb and some of our newer members, all of whom are used to Herb. See photos.

The President's Award, which isn't given out routinely, went to Auction Manager Greg Welsh. See photo. Dave Englund pointed out in the most recent *Shavings* that CRAFTS is now the #2 auction in the country. Greg, assisted by Steve Zluky, and with lots of support from Joe and Herb, has set records with all of his auctions. It's nice when nice guys finish first. But, it's a wonder Joe went through with this award, for days earlier Greg had beat Joe to a yard sale and went home with an armload of Mockridge & Francis planes. To rub it in, Greg displayed them at the picnic and won third place!

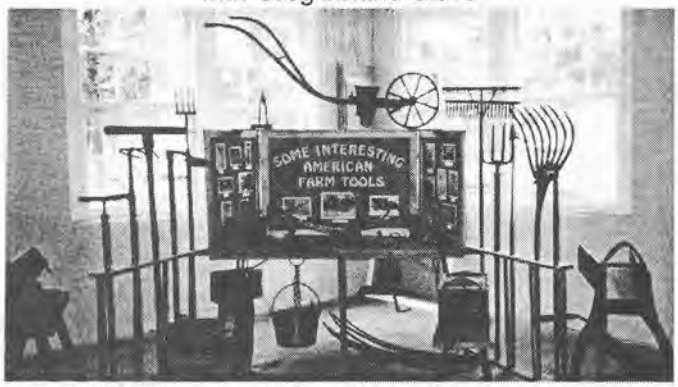
We had wonderful displays. First prize went to Mike Feeser of Topton, Pennsylvania, for his display of early American farm tools. You will see from the photo that this was a very dramatic display, but the photo doesn't do justice to the tools in the foreground. Mike went home with a new Lie Nielsen for his efforts. See award photo. Joe had a display too, a table full of Philadelphia sash filletsters and coping planes; but presidents aren't allowed to be winners. See photo. Second prize went to perennial winner Anna Rokita of Hampton, New Jersey, for her display of 14 cherry pitters. Anna chose a Lie Nielsen as well for her award. I think I recall that last year Anna won for apple peelers. See award photo. Thanks go to judges Pam and Don Rosebrook.

See you next year on September 9th.

Joe Hauck's (r) President's Award to Greg Welsh (l)

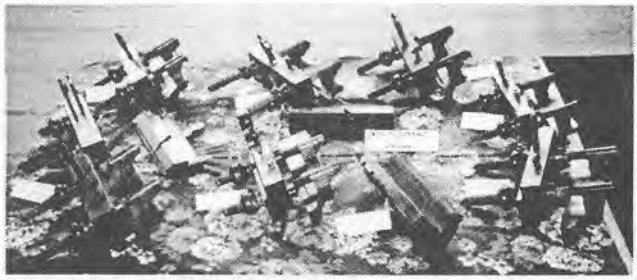
Founding members Zlukys, Fuhros, and Fridlingtons with Greg behind Steve

Herb with (l to r) Pam & Don Rosebrook, Edith & Frank Klausz, Dave Englund, Jack, & Bill McDougall



Mike Feeser's display of American farm tools

Mike Feeser with his Lie Nielsen and Joe Hauck



Joe Hauck's display of Philadelphia planes

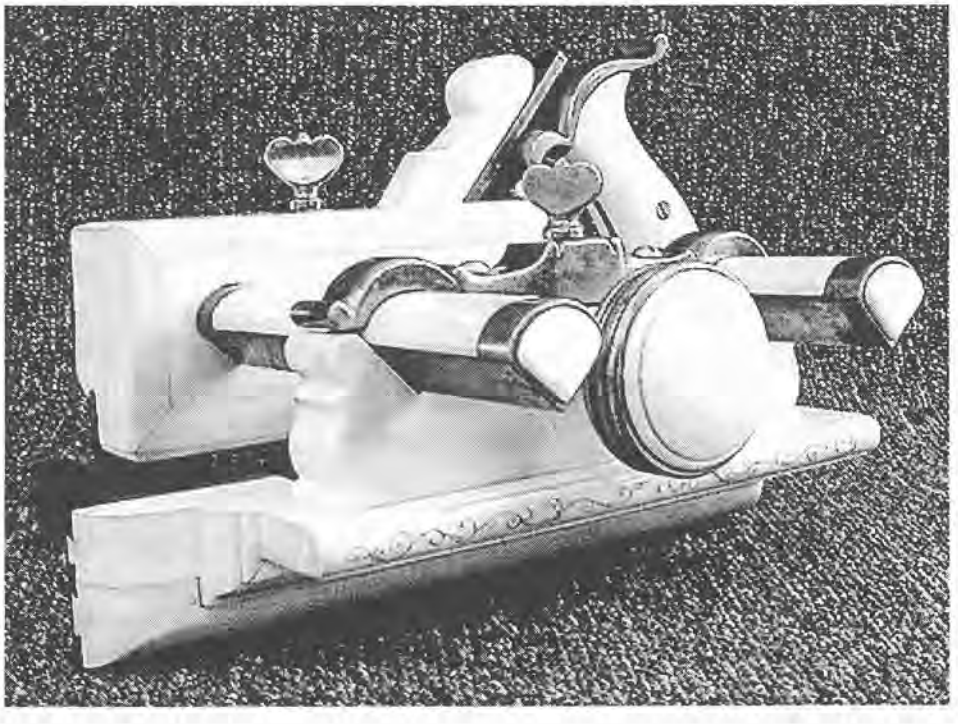
Anna Rokita with her Lie Nielsen & Joe Hauck

Kean Kuttin's

CRAFTS 2001 Auction Sparklers

CRAFTS is proud to announce that in the April 21,2001 auction we will be selling tools that were the very favorites of our former member, Dominic Micalizzi, who died over a year ago. Favorites to the degree that his family chose not to sell them at our previous auction, but instead donated them to CRAFTS in Dominic's memory. We've displayed them at CRAFTS functions so members have had a chance to see them. Now CRAFTS and the Micalizzi family believe that the memory of Dominic would be better served in another way.

Our plan is to sell the eight special favorites in the spring auction and place the proceeds into the Dominic Micalizzi Memorial Fund. This fund will be used to help young, aspiring woodworkers during their apprenticeships. Some of the finest cabinet shops in our area (maybe anywhere) have agreed to participate in this program, as have several manual-training teachers who will be making the recommendations for participants. And now for the tools!



IVORY PLOW PLANE

Here is Dominic's handled, center-arm, bridle, ivory plow plane with brass trim. It is signed "Dominic Micalizzi 1976 / BKLYN N. Y.

Thanks to Paul Hamler here is the story about the only other ivory plow plane known to the world. John Moseley & Son of London made an ivory plow plane for the 1855 World's Fair. It was an unhandled, slide-arm plow with lots of scrimshaw. Some years ago it was photographed for a poster that took your breath away. As the story goes, it was stolen and to this day it has not been recovered. However, Paul has researched the photos of the plane and has made five reproductions of it that went sailing out as fast as he could finish them at $12,000! The Moseley plane had a body and fence at 90% size because the ivory wasn't large enough to do full size; the remaining parts were full size. Paul made his reproductions at 90% throughout for comparative correctness.

Dominic's plane is NOT a reproduction. It is an ORIGINAL DESIGN by a contemporary craftsman, a craftsman of the highest order. Dominic faced ivory over the body using mitered borders. Not a single joint has budged since 1976. The fence, composed of ivory pieces, has a triple-dovetailed ebony face and scrimshaw on the side and rear. The triangular arms, with top convexity, have brass bottoms and tips. The arms are solid ivory, as are the wedge and bridle saddle. The ornate bridle clamp is brass. The threaded center arm has a two-inch, triple-knurled brass knob with a solid ivory face that controls the in-and-out movement of the fence. The handle has a one-eighth inch brass plate centered between two solid ivory grips. There is an ornate brass cap to the handle, which extends to the body. This plane is a magnificent, original work of utilitarian art by one of our finest contemporary planemakers. In years to come it may be as famous as the Moseley plow!

The box that Dominic made for the plane is 7" x 11" x 12", is veneered in burl walnut, and is brassbound on all edges. The corners, hinges, and handle are all of brass. The interior is suade lined. This box goes with the plane.

ERLANDSEN TOOLS and CUSTOM CASE

Here are seven lots - six pianomaker's tools by Napolean Erlandsen and the case that Dominic modified to house them We are not selling them as a set, because that is not the way they were used in their day. They were acquired by Dominic at different times and put in his special case. Each tool and the case will be sold separately. We had considered the auction technique of auctioning the tools separately, adding the winning bids, and then asking for a higher cumulative bid for the tools and case. We chose not to do that because of the disappointment that might occur. All of the tools were shown in the September 1994 *Tool Shed*. They are shown here collectively, and described below individually. [Please check the CRAFTS website for details, condition, etc.]

Napoleon Erlandsen was first listed in the New York City Directory of 1864-65. Aside from his well-known, cast-iron miter planes, he also made many other tools for pianomakers, as you will see below. He excelled in elegance and his work rivaled, and in the opinion of many surpassed, his British counterparts.

MITER PLANE: 8 3/4" x 2 1/4" signed N. ERLANDSEN/ N.Y. on the cap and with 319 on the toe extension. Here is an example of a precision-made, low-angle plane for cross-grain or straight-grain work. Rosewood infills. Last year a similar plane made by Napoleon's son, Julius (not quite as collectible), was sold by CRAFTS for $4,500.

RABBET PLANE #1: 7 1/2" x 1/2" signed N. ERLANDSEN/ N. Y. on the nose. This plane was described in the *Tool Shed* as polished cast iron with a rosewood wedge. What he left out, and the reason this rabbet and another one are in the case is -- THIS BLADE IS SKEWED! And, the mouth opening is only .024", thinner than a credit card! The pegged construction, which is best seen under magnification, is just one more indication of Erlandsen's super skill. A fine RARE plane.

RABBET PLANE #2: 6 1/2" x 5/8" solid stock stamped by its owner W. C. BACON/1888. This plane is shown on pages 194 and 195 of P-TAMPIA Vol.2. It is an Erlandsen plane and is shown in the Hammacher Schlemmer ad for planes made by Erlandsen (also on page 195). It has a walnut wedge. It's nice to own THE plane that was shown in P-TAMPIA.

PIANOMAKER'S WRENCH: 11" with a 1/4" socket signed N. ERLANDSEN / N. Y. A premier tool with a German-silver ferrule and rosewood handle.

PIANOMAKER'S BRACE: 11 1/2" signed N. ERLANDSEN / N. Y. This gorgeous rosewood brace has the original finish on both the wood and the brass. A pianomaker's brace, by itself, is quite rare and collectible. One with three original pads is a great plus. One signed by Napoleon Erlandsen is almost unheard of. And finally, one made of rosewood with all of the above is the tool of a lifetime!

IVORY-SPINDLED BOW DRILL: 11" with four pads and bits. The original design for these precision bow drills came from England, where they were mostly of ebony. Erlandsen made some of his premier models with a grooved spindle out of ivory. There is a round rosewood handle. (Ivory spindles almost always developed a vertical check, as with this one.) Many of Erlandsen's drills were not signed, and were sold with simple bows by Hammacher Schlemmer. In most cases the drill and bow became separated, as is the case here. What makes this drill "above and beyond" are the four pads that fit the chuck perfectly. Another super collectible.

THE CASE: Dominic modified this case to "French-fit" each tool in its velvet concavity. A rosewood, pull-down rack holds the two rabbet planes, the three pads for the brace, and the four pads for the drill. The case is nicely finished mahogany with lock and key. The person who wins it can use it as an incentive to do exactly what Dominic did, which was to collect a variety of pianomaker's tools. And if the winner also wins some, or all, of the tools, that will be much sweeter.

Don Rosebrook at the Live Free or Die Auction with Lot 32, a pristine, nifty, lock-mortising machine patented July 29, 1879 by Hiram A. Holt of Nashua

Winter Auction Schedule

Nov. 18, Jan. 7: N. Kingstown, Rhode Island. Bill Spicer's tool auctions managed by Bud and Vera Steere. Call Vera for information or to get on Bill's mailing list 401-884-5049. Send $2 for a list to 110 Glenwood Drive, N. Kingstown, RI 02852.

Nov. 18, Dec 2: Boyertown, Pennsylvania. Barry Hurchalla's regular monthly auctions. Call Barry 610-323-0333 for information or to get on his mailing list.

Dec. 3, March 4: *Fine Tool Journal* absentee auctions. Contact Clarence Blanchard for information or subscription at 207-688-4962 or check www.finetoolj.com.

Jan. 27: Day's Inn Conference Center, York, Pennsylvania. Barry Hurchalla's auction followed by M-WTCA Area P meeting on Jan. 28, also at Day's Inn. Call Barry 610-323-0333.

March 2-3: Baxter's, Indianapolis, Indiana. Tom Witte's Spring Tool Show and Auction. Call Tom 616-668-4161 for a catalog or information.

March 10-11: Damascus Volunteer Fire Dept. Activities Building, Damascus, Maryland. PATINA's annual Spring Dealer Sale (10th) and Auction (11th). Tailgating encouraged. For dealer sale info call John Williams after 7PM weekdays 301-439-8812. For auction info call Bob Rothen 301-972-1672.

March 31: England. David Stanley's 37th International Catalog Auction. You can contact David at 011-44-1530-222320 or at Davidstanley@btinternet.com. Check David's website at www.davidstanley.com. Call Mechanicks Workbench for a catalog 508-748-1680.

April: See "Meet Your Dealers" on page 3. This will be the biggest tool month ever. Details in the February *Tool Shed*.

Correction & Apology: In the June *Tool Shed* we said that Your Country Auctioneer had never had an auction with proceeds over $100,000. In fact, Lee Murray informs us that two of their 37 auctions were: April 1990 was over $125,000 and September 1991 was over $137,000. (Maybe auctioneers should put totals on their prices realized.) Sorry Lee.

Correction and Apology: In the September *Tool Shed* we reported that Ron Cushman was a principal in Live Free or Die Auctions. He is not. Ron was ok with this, and remarked to us that he would have been a great partner!

CRAFTS members are invited to join a new group of tool collectors, THE FAMILY BALDWIN ASSOCIATION, now forming.

The thrust of this club will be two-fold. First, as the name implies, the club is for collectors of planes and other tools made by the three generations of Baldwins, as well as friends, associates and apprentices ...

Secondly, we shall endeavor to research newly found, undocumented or ill-documented makers of American wooden planes.

Our first issue, due out on or about Christmas 2000 will be free. Dues thereafter will be $ 10.00 per year, mostly to cover paper and postage for quarterly issues. Activities and format will be determined by the most active members.

To join us- or for more information, please contact
Mark Thompson, 129 Washington Ave, New Milford, NJ 07646
(e-mail address and web site to come)

Buy, Swap, & Sell

CRAFTS members only may have a free 5 line (40 word) ad that is primarily related to the exchange of tools or information. Each line over 5 is $1. Send to: Stuart Shippey, 251 Hillside Ave., Chatham NJ 07928-1732, FAX 973 701-2050, or email: stushippey@prodigy.net. Ads accepted if space permitted.

Wanted

Corn-husking pegs - wood, bone, wrought, or unusual manufactured styles. Also catalogs- Boss, Kewanee, Clark, etc. Interested in information you may have for a research project. Sue Jacob 215-822-1020 or 44 E. Hillcrest Avenue, Chalfont, PA 18914-2717.

Information and specimens of US Army Signal Corps Telephone Linemans TL-13 and TL-13A pliers and TL-29 folding pocket knives. Harold Ratzburg, 22 Westminster Dr., Parsippany, NJ 07054. Tel 973-887-2574, cplratz@AOL.com