

The Wood Rack

Newsletter of the Long Island Woodworkers' Club

November 1995

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Next Meeting -- November 1 Smithtown Barn 7:30 P.M.

Sign-Carver to Speak

For the past fifteen years, Greg Krockta has been adorning his native Long Island with hand-carved signs. He estimates that he has carved, painted, lettered and gold-leafed at least 6,000 signs during that time. Many of his customers consider him the best sign carver on Long Island.

Mr. Krockta will start the program with a slide show to give us a look at some of these signs. He will then demonstrate how he creates incised letters and how he applies 23 karat gold leaf to the carved letters. He will also discuss choice of woods for his work and the latest in gluing technology.

Guitars at October Meeting

Tom Petry was the featured speaker at the October meeting, and he impressed the members present with the skill and expertise he showed in the making of

concert quality classical guitars. His craftsmanship was nothing short of astonishing.

In his presentation he spoke with great understanding concerning the various woods he uses in the guitars, such as spruce, cedar, rosewood, and ebony. His remarks concerning the use of quarter-sawn lumber could be useful to any woodworker.

Spring Exhibition

At a meeting of the Executive Board held on October 17, 1995, it was suggested by Roger Schroeder and approved unanimously by all Board Members present that the club should sponsor an exhibition in the spring of 1996 of work by the members of the club.

The exhibition will provide a showcase for all kinds of work done by club members -- everything from large and small pieces of furniture to craft items. The exhibition will not be a contest of any kind. It will be an opportunity to share work with other club members and the public.

The Smithtown barn has already been

reserved for Saturday, March 30, for the exhibition. Between now and that date it will be important for club members to decide which pieces they intend to submit. Pieces do not have to be recent work. Anything a member has ever made is eligible.

Volunteers will be needed to help to transport various objects to the exhibition and to set up the displays in an attractive manner.

The Board hopes that the exhibition will be a stimulus to all the members of the Club and that it will provide positive publicity for woodworkers and their craft.

Doubts and Indecisions

When my daughter got married several months ago, I promised to make her a bedroom set. First we toured the furniture stores here, then when my wife and I visited her in North Carolina we toured all the major manufacturers there. She liked a bit of this and a bit of that, but there was nothing that I could really copy. I want to make a family treasure that even if you could buy it in a store, the cost would be prohibitive. Now came out my woodworking journals. The first being *Home Furniture*.

Is fine furniture made from solid wood? Can you use plywood and veneer it? What can be solid, what should be veneered? What type of solid wood? Can I get solid wood with a consistent grain pattern? How do you

work with solid wood and allow for wood movement? What type of veneer? I had to send away and get a whole slew of veneer samples. Now came out more journals -- *Fine Woodworking*, *Woodsmith* and *American Woodworker*.

What about drawers? Should they be side hung, bottom centered, rail and runner, commercial drawer slides? Should I use sliding dovetail, half-blind or through dovetail? Should the drawer fronts be flush, should they have a false front? Should the drawer sides and bottoms be made of solid wood or plywood? What constitutes quality furniture?

What about the parts that go basically unseen? Do they have to meet the same standard as the visible parts? How traditional do you have to be to have quality? I haven't thought about the finishing yet nor have I attempted to do any drafting. The thought of this cares me since I'm pretty hopeless when it comes to visualizing and drawing the various views. I recall when I took machine shop drawing in school. One year at the final exam I couldn't imagine the three view drawing or the isometric projection so I failed to hand in my paper hoping I would be marked absent rather than get a low mark. It failed.

There is good news, however. In talking to many club members (This is the purpose of the club.) and doing a lot of reading, I am now almost ready to make decisions.

- Brian Hayward

Woodworking in America Show -- November 10-12

American Woodworker magazine is presenting a woodworker's extravaganza at the Fort Washington Expo Center, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania (about 2 1/2 to 3 hours from Long Island). Representatives from the major tool companies will be there. Workshops and demonstrations will be given by well-known craftsmen, such as Ernie Conover, Frank Klausz, Mark Duginske, Ian Kirby, and Mike Dunbar. Norm Abram will appear for seminars on both Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 P.M. Issue # 48 (1996 Tool Buyer's Guide) of *American Woodworker* has more details.

Brian Hayward is planning to go to the show on Friday, November 10, to attend the workshop of Ian Kirby "Designing Solid Wood Furniture." He would welcome company. Brian's number is 549-9096.

Show and Tell

The club continues to encourage members to bring to the monthly meetings examples of work that they are doing, tools and jigs they are using, books they have found interesting, etc. Sharing ideas and experiences should be one of the most important advantages of club membership.

If any member is interested in going beyond "Show and Tell" and making a full presentation to the club, he should

contact Bill Hermanek (360-1216).

Visit to Roberts Plywood

The visit to Roberts Plywood will be on Saturday, November 4. The company is located at 150 Rodeo Drive, Brentwood, near the LIRR station in Deer Park. Maps will be available at the November 1 meeting for those interested in participating in the tour. For further information call Howard Whitman at 586-5815.

Toys for Tots

LIWC has committed itself to contribute toys this year to the Toys for Tots program sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. Members are asked to do everything they possibly can to produce toys in time for the December meeting.

Scroll Saw Workshop

In order to encourage wide participation in the event, the Executive Board has decided to reduce the price of the Scroll Saw workshop. Even though the workshop will cost the club approximately \$20.00 per participant, the registration fee has been reduced to only \$5.00.

The workshop will be held at the Smithtown Barn on December 9, from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. It should be appropriate for all skill levels. Please attend if you are interested.

Boxes

There is still a need for boxes in which to place membership forms which are being distributed to various locations around Long Island. Remember, the boxes can be plain and functional.

Bruce Hoadley -- Oct. 29

Bruce Hoadley, one of the country's foremost experts on wood and the author of many books, including *Understanding Wood*, will be speaking at the Carriage Museum in Stonybrook on Sunday, October 29. His topic will be "Wood and Its Characteristics." The admission price will be limited to the cost of entering the museum.

Market Place

Wood lathe for sale. Unusual old model Sears that features an extension bed for turning extra long spindles.

Many accessories at a good price. \$175.00. Contact Roger Schroeder, 691-2095.

Dovetail jig for sale. Never used. \$40.00. Contact Howard Whitman, 586-5815.

Porter Cable Plate Joiner, Model 555. Used, but still in good shape. Includes metal case. I'll throw in 200 #20 biscuits. Price \$100.00. Contact Jim Cosgrove, 781-4304.

Wanted. Any old Stanley Tool Co. planes, levels, rules, catalogs, advertising pieces ... pretty much anything that happens to deal with this company is wanted. Contact Bill Hermanek, 360-1216. Also selling a variety of antique and usable woodworking planes, levels, rules, scrapers, etc.

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