

THE OLD SAW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GUILD OF NEW HAMPSHIRE WOODWORKERS
132 Drinkwater Road, Kensington, NH 03833

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - - - John Skewes

Well, I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and a hiatus from Guild meetings. I've been getting a lot of Guild mail lately. It seems the days are long and the weeks are short.

I would like to take some time now to answer some of that mail in broad strokes. Many new members are looking to the Guild for help in making the transition from weekend to full-time woodworking. Although as an organization we don't offer any marketing tools or advice, as a body of individuals we do. Each of our meetings is a kind of meet, greet, re-meet and get-to-know session. The real meat of the gathering may not be in the formal demonstration, but in the sideshows that spontaneously occur during lunch and after.

As far as transition from weekend to full-time, I have some thoughts I'd like to share. Recently one of the better woodworking magazines sent me the current issue along with some questions about the Guild. Before I forwarded the whole business to Steve Cunliffe, I read the magazine. I was fairly disappointed. It seems they view "hobby" work as mutually exclusive from "professional" work. Professionals, it seems, have mastered the dovetail and dispense advice; while hobbyists are fed plans for Shaker peg boards and herb racks.

The separation of professional and amateurs, or weekenders and full-timers is unfair. I began my career in woodworking as an amateur and I hope to finish up that way. If I haven't burned out, I hope to work exclusively for my children and grandchildren at a leisurely pace. In serious woodwork the only consideration should be quality, utility and beauty. The name "hobbyist" brings to mind a grown man in an engineer's cap building towns for model trains. When you come to a Guild meeting, no one cares what you do for a living, it is what you do with wood that counts.

Some thoughts on going full-time. When people ask me, "Do you manage to get in 40 hours?" I answer back "40 hours of what? Woodworking, NO." The hats of a small shop owner are many and mixed. First off, don't just think of yourself as your own boss. Think of yourself as your own janitor. From there the list might include tool maker, field surgeon, joiner, metalsmith, marketing manager, photographer, estimator, drafter, mechanic, purchasing agent, delivery driver, inventor, installer, bookkeeper, billing agent, researcher, chemist, forester, sawyer, and a few I've missed that I'll remember tomorrow. It is a good job and a good life. But it has frustrations and uncertainty. Give yourself at least three years to

achieve profitability. Begin photographing your work now. A painter's drop cloth painted gray, hung against a building works great. Shot on an overcast day for shadowless lighting. Load up the camera and fire off a whole roll. My wife used to think I was nuts. But five years later some of the packs of 24 are almost empty. Don't be afraid to charge people what your work is worth. If they had liked what they saw at Crate-&-Barrel, they would have bought it. If you are not sure what to charge, look around at other people's prices on like items, chances are if they are making money, you will too.

Other advice? Find something new to do with your spare time. Make sure your spouse has a steady job. Plan for retirement now. And remember, before you turned pro, you loved woodworking.

At our next meeting we will hold a voice vote election for our officers. Paul Tuller wishes to step down as Treasurer so that he can act as liaison to the North Country Studio Conference. Teri Browning has been nominated to fill the position. Teri is a furniture maker and restorer, and owner of the Re-Store in Wentworth, NH. She has been with the Guild since its inception. She has always been a valuable voice in the development of the Guild (with a sense of humor, too), and we are eager to see her become an officer.

No other officers plan to step down at this time. Nominations will be taken from the floor and votes will be cast.

Congratulations to Terry Moore for his award, 1991 "Best in Wood" at the Sunapee Fair. (Other members of the Guild receiving Honorable Mention were John Skewes and Steve Copplestone. ed.) Also our thanks to Terry for hosting the last meeting. For anyone who couldn't make it, Terry's dovetail demonstration is now available on video cassette.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Guild is one year old and almost everyone is due to renew his/her membership. We would like to get everyone onto a September renewal date. To accomplish this, everyone who paid in calendar year 1990 should send in \$15 to renew. Anyone who paid for the first time in the first half of 1991 will not have to renew until September 1992. By sending your money in ahead, you will save time at the meeting. ANYONE NOT PAID BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER 1991 WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE MAILING LIST. Please check your address label and make sure it is correct.

INTERVIEW - - - Jere Osgood, host of next Guild Meeting

Jere Osgood has been designing and building furniture professionally since he graduated from the School for American Craftsmen, Rochester Institute of Technology with a BFA in Furniture Design in 1960. He taught at R.I.T. for three years and at Boston University's Program in Artisanry for ten years. His work has been exhibited nationally since 1958, and he has work in a show touring Europe until 1992. Old Saw interviewer Paul Tuller went to Jere's shop in Wilton NH.

O.S.: Was furniture design always your goal?

JERE: No. I began studying architecture for three years at the University of Illinois, but realized I was more interested in the smaller details such as doors and furniture rather than the entire building. I heard about the R.I.T. program and enrolled there.

O.S.: Did you have an early mentor or person whose work inspired you when you began?

JERE: Tage Frid at R.I.T. was the catalyst which allowed me to build furniture. My early inspiration came from Warton Esherick. His work gave me permission to build furniture out of the mainstream. My early training in architecture gave me an understanding of the design process.

O.S.: Where do you find inspiration today?

JERE: That is harder to answer. Twenty-five years ago I was on the outside looking in, when it came to designing. Now I am on the inside looking out. Past and present work seem to feed on themselves. I find inspiration in the wood itself, the way light and shadow play across objects, many times noticing small details which most people would not think of as inspirational.

O.S.: Your work is shown at the Pritam and Eames Gallery and you do commissions, what proportion of your work is speculative versus commissions?

JERE: Most of my work is commissioned in advance. This provides necessary income to operate the shop. However, speculative pieces are essential. They have been where my work has moved forward without the restrictions which are always present with commissions.

O.S.: You have been doing tapered bent lamination since the late 60's. Is this technique still challenging?

JERE: Yes. I keep refining what I want to do with lamination so it remains a challenge.

O.S.: Have you ever considered changing the scale of your work?

JERE: I have done some larger projects in homes, designing doors and furniture. I like to think that if a large scale project came along I'd be ready to do it, but it is not my focus.

O.S.: You have done a lot of teaching. Would you consider going back to it full-time?

JERE: No. I got into teaching by accident. I taught three years at R.I.T. and retired. Then they asked me to teach at B.U. and I was there for ten years. It was a great opportunity to meet many talented students and the steady income allowed me to have a better equipped shop than I would have had, but I always thought of myself as a craftsman who just happened to be teaching. I get more of my own work done now and teach several short workshops each year. That's enough.

O.S.: If you could only keep one machine in your shop, what would it be?

JERE: I use the bandsaw and thicknesser the most for my laminating, but if I could only choose one it would be the table saw. It's the most versatile.

O.S.: Do you have trouble arranging your schedule to have time for designing, shop work and work around the house?

JERE: Yes. I always find time to design, but I do cooking, gardening, home improvements and everything in the shop. When you work at home it is sometimes hard to stay focused on the work, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

CONCORD LUMBER COMPANY AUCTION - - - Review/Opinion by Jon Siegel

A bit of history went on the auction block on July 26, when Concord Lumber Company was liquidated. The company, which was in operation since 1904, was sold piece by piece to the highest bidder: machinery, lumber, sawmill, building materials, and hardware store.

Of greatest interest to woodworkers was the contents of the millwork shop which consisted of over 40 pieces of machinery. Several members of the Guild of NH Woodworkers were on the scene picking up bargains. If you missed it, here are some examples:

Tannewitz table saws: from \$200 to \$400.

Greenlee hollow chisel mortisers: \$300 to \$400.

J.H.White swing saw, 18" blade: \$70.

L.Power single end tenoner: \$250.

McDonough band resaw, 54" diameter wheels: \$500.

Perhaps the most interesting thing in the auction was the extensive collection of moulder knives accumulated through a century of operation. The quantity was listed at 3000, although this could have been a slight exaggeration. The knives were of the slotted type which bolted onto square heads. They were stored in cabinets which held them in neat little rows on shelves and on the doors --- they seemed to go on forever. Some were up to 10" wide. Obviously hand ground, it staggers one's imagination to think of how many work-hours went into their production. This shop had used these knives on a Hermance moulder which was about 40 years old. Anyway, the plan was to sell the knives with the moulder as one lot. However the auctioneer announced that he had requests to sell them separately, so he would sell them both ways. Whichever way brought the most money would be the way it would go. The moulder brought \$1400, but the knives only brought \$500! (In the end someone bid \$2100 on the package and won it.) Many people were in shock. Most did not have a moulder at home on which to use the knives, but one woodworker remarked, "...I would have paid \$500 for them just to hang them on the walls!"

At every auction there are "dinosaurs" which are hard to sell. If you could use a 60 HP dust collector with an 8' diameter blower (4" diameter shaft) with all the pipes, you could buy it for \$50. How about a 30" double side planer for \$50?

Later the auctioneers moved outside and sold the hardwood lumber. This was roughly sorted by specie and piled into lots of a few hundred board feet each. Unfortunately for the buyers, there were no bargains to be had here, as prices went right up to market levels for the most part.

The day ended in a hot muggy rain, while most buyers were scampering around dismantling their purchases and trying to find a fork lift which

would go high enough to bring the machines down from the second floor. (Unfortunately the auctioneer made no provision for this.) Most people did not get their machines out until the next day when one was found. The auctioneer, Martin Associates, gets low marks for organization, and security procedures were cumbersome, but the bidding went off smoothly and efficiently for the most part.

FUTURE GUILD MEETINGS

September 21: Jere Osgood in Wilton, NH - "Tapered Laminations".
January 18, 1992: Bill Thomas - "Old machinery/pouring a babbit bearing".

MEMBERS TAKE NOTE

Can you host a meeting at your shop? We have had meetings in Warner, Dublin, Franklin, and Newport. Our next two meetings are in Wilton and then Hillsboro. To continue our present policy of having meetings at different shops through out the state, we need volunteer hosts. The two main requirements are (1) space for about 50 people, and (2) an idea for a demonstration. And even these are negotiable. Please see me (Steve) at one of the meetings, or send a card with your ideas. Steve Cunliffe, 10 Patch Rd., Henniker NH 03242.

OTHER EVENTS

The Central New England Woodturners plan the following events:
October 26: Jon Siegel at Worcester Center for Crafts.
November 2: Dennis Stewart at Harvest Hardwoods, Hartford CT.
December, ongoing: Members show at Worcester Center for Crafts.
March: Charlie Sheaff, hands-on session at Keene State College.
For information call Guild member Andy Motter weekends at 847-9023 or CNEW president Pam Vogt 413-566-5061.

===== C L A S S I F I E D A D V E R T I S E M E N T S =====

FOR SALE

Air Dried Lumber. Rock Maple 4/4 and 8/4, 4" to 10" wide, 12' long. Red Oak 4/4 and 5/4, 4" to 8" wide, 12' long. White Pine 4/4 and 8/4, 4" to 20" wide, 8' to 16' long. Other assorted lumber includes Butternut, Ash, White and Yellow Birch. Moisture Content 12%. Call Steve for prices. 934-3348.

Leigh Dovetail Jig, like new, with Bits and Instruction Manual. Will trade. 428-7952.

1000 BF 4/4 Oak, air dried 2 yrs in shed to 13%. Width to 14". Mostly clear, some curly. \$2.00/BF. 225-3487.

12" Dewalt Radial Arm Saw, 2 HP, 240V, Single Phase. Heavy duty machine. \$650. Paul. 563-8884.

Black Walnut seedlings, 4' high. For fall planting. \$4 each. 428-7952.

WANTED TO BUY

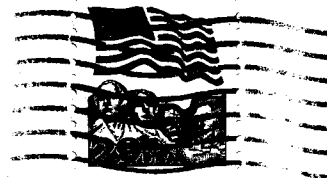
Table top wood lathe, prefer older Sears model (painted blue). Must be in good to excellent working condition. Contact Lou Yelgin at 424-4888.

Carving tools wanted. 428-7952.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Fine Woodworking Magazine seeks new Assistant Editor. Should have experience in writing, drawing, photography, as well as woodworking. Full time position requires relocating to CT. Send resume, photos of woodwork, and examples of writing to: Personnel Manager, The Taunton Press, Inc., 63 S. Main St., Box 5506, Newtown, CT 06470.

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