

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XI NUMBER 1 JANUARY 1993

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Fred Baker . . . . . President  
Ed Sheriff . . . . . Vice President  
Cliff Saxon . . . . Secretary-Treasurer

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Frank Jones  
Mike Key  
Ben Neighbors  
Harold Phillips  
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Nelson Brooks  
Jim Caldwell  
Spruce McRee  
Leonard Sanders

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a Christmas party! Everyone that attended seemed to have a good time. Many thanks to Sue and Ron (Santa) Acton for everything that they did to make the party a success. Sue was going non-stop in the kitchen seeing that everything was in order and Ron was also moving non-stop delivering the truck load of gifts that he and Sue had donated. Thanks also to the Christmas committee headed by Leonard Sanders and assisted by Ben Neighbors, Cliff Saxon and Frank Jones. It was a most enjoyable evening!

As we get ready to begin a new year, we have many activities to look forward to such as classes, the annual show, demonstrations geared to attract new members, toy making and many good monthly meetings.

Dale Lewis has served as Vice President and Program Chairman for the past two years and has done a very good job in planning our monthly programs. Sometimes, when the original program didn't work out, with Dale's resourcefulness, his replacement program was as good or better than the original plan. I know that Dale will be happy to help in the future when he is called upon. Ben Sheriff, our in-coming Vice President and Program Chairman will need all of our support and help in the coming years and I know that he can count on all of us for input and assistance in the months ahead.

See you at the January meeting.

Fred

## NEXT PROGRAM JANUARY 14, 1993 • 7:00 PM

If you have ever tried to veneer anything, no matter how large or small, you know it is quite an undertaking to find a way to press it on until it is stuck completely, without bubbles. Now comes the technology of vacuum pressing. The subject is placed in an airtight bag with an attached vacuum pump. When the air is removed, and the vacuum created, you have uniform pressure on the subject at all points. The BREWERS, Sterling and Richard, will demonstrate vacuum veneer pressing. Your woodworking education will not be complete until you are acquainted with this procedure.

## NOVEMBER MEETING

This was the last regular meeting of 1992 and it was a good one. By now we have held our Christmas party, had Christmas and are well on our way toward a good and prosperous 1993. At the November meeting some of the usual things took place, but highly significant was our annual "bringing of the toys." What a wonderful experience to see all those toys. There were close to 600 toys and at the time of this writing we expect 200 to 300 more at the Christmas party (this is being written on Thanksgiving morning). Elsewhere in this *Newsletter* we will report exactly what came in at the party. Present at the November meeting were representatives of Children's

Hospital, the U. S. Marine Corps and the Helena Police. These representatives were there to select and transport those toys they can use in their respective programs. At that time, Ben Landrum led the race to see who would make the largest number with 225 toys. WOW! Ben Neighbors presided over this part of the meeting inasmuch as he is chairman of the program.

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Dale Lewis regretfully announced that our Mobile speaker would not be present. This is the third time he has canceled on us, and Dale remarked that would be the last time he would cancel on us. Instead, Dale put together a program that will remain in our memory and be very much appreciated. Many of us keep an album of our works and taking pictures of our tables, bowls, chairs, toys and whatever we make is a chore, but something that has to be done. There are a few of us who make things worthy of being shown in shows all over the country. Usually, galleries will require that one or two slides be submitted and it is from these slides they decide which artists they will permit in their shows. Obviously the slides must be good ones and making good slides is not easy. Dale and Ed Sheriff came prepared to show us how to do this. The lighting diffused with umbrellas is just one thing most of us do not use. There is the paper backdrop they use, usually of light blue, gray or white so as not to have anything else in the picture to distract or detract from the subject. Of course, the

camera, type of film and lights were shown to be of great importance. As for the camera, it was pointed out that a tripod and a cable shutter activator are essential. Both men had flood and spot lights to demonstrate. Usually, a 250 watt bulb is used and Ed showed us his K-Mart reflector (\$10) with a blue daylight bulb. We learned that when we see pictures of these beautiful works in the magazines they didn't just happen accidentally. We appreciate Dale and Ed's going to the trouble to bring and show us this program.

### ELECTION FOR 1993

As required by our bylaws, after the nominations for election have been published, voting on the nominations will take place at the last meeting of the year. Accordingly, President Baker read the list of nominees and upon conclusion of the reading, upon motion duly made and seconded, the following nominees were elected to serve our Guild for the Year 1993:

President . . . . . Fred Baker  
 Vice-President . . . . . Ed Sheriff  
 Secretary-Treasurer . . . . . Cliff Saxon  
 Board Members . . . . . Frank Jones  
    Mike Key  
    Ben Neighbors  
    Harold Phillips  
    Mary Spanos

We congratulate these members on their being elected to serve and look forward to another great year for the Guild. To those officers and Board members leaving office, please know your service is appreciated.

### SHOW AND TELL

Almost as popular as our fine programs is the Show and Tell feature of our meetings. This month we had Frank Jones' two lazy susans, just two of some 14 he made recently. Charles Ard brought a telescope he and his father made. It is a beauty, with exotic wood and brass abounding. Ed Sheriff displayed a tenoning jig he has made. As always, we appreciate our members bringing their works to the meetings and giving us the benefit of their experience and challenging us to do as well with our own works. We hope several of you will continue to bring something to each meeting.

### DOOR PRIZE

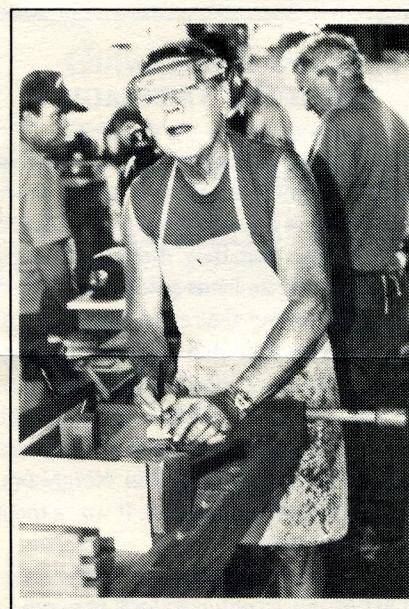
Having signed his name upon arriving (with an X, and properly witnessed), Ed Ramsey won the door prize which was a gluing clamp, something none of us have too many of.

### SALE — TRADE — SWAP

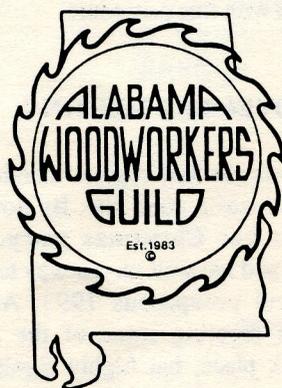
ITEM ONE: We are always glad to accommodate our members when they have anything in this category to dispose of. What is one man's junk, or just in the way, is another man's treasure or

something he can use. This month we have a gluing press and a lathe. This press was shown in the October 1991 issue of Fine Woodworking, issue #90, on page 26. It is designed for edge gluing and will hold up to 43" wide material and do their work spaced 18" to 20" apart. It is known as Plano Glue Press and is made in Sweden. They aren't cheap, but Bob Minor wants to get rid of them since they don't do the job he expected them to. Call him at 870-1307.

ITEM TWO: SEARS 12" woodturning lathe, 1/2 HP motor, like new since it has been run a few times, resting on a custom-made wooden bench, six piece turning tool set, for a package price of \$250. Call Mrs. Lesa Honeycutt, 995-9183.



WOULD YOU TRUST YOUR MOTHER, WIFE OR DAUGHTER WITH THIS MAN?



Alabama Woodworkers Guild Newsletter is published monthly for its members and other interested parties. Guild meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday at 7:00 P.M. at Acton Moulding & Supply Co. Information concerning the Guild may be secured by writing P.O. Box 506, Helena, Al 35080 or calling the Editor, Leonard Sanders, at 822-6876.

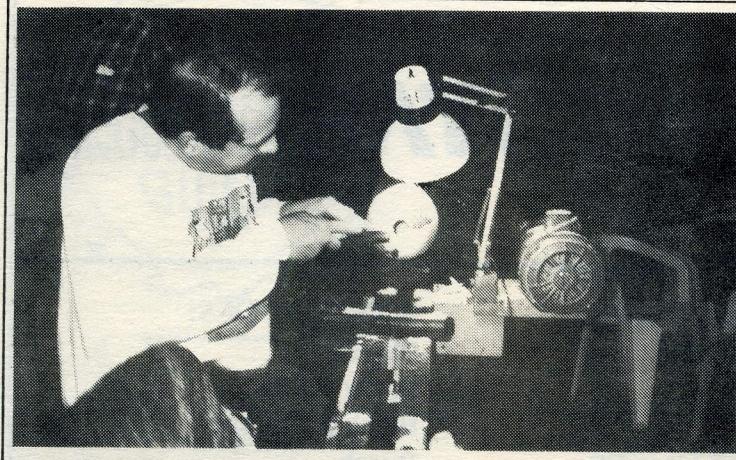


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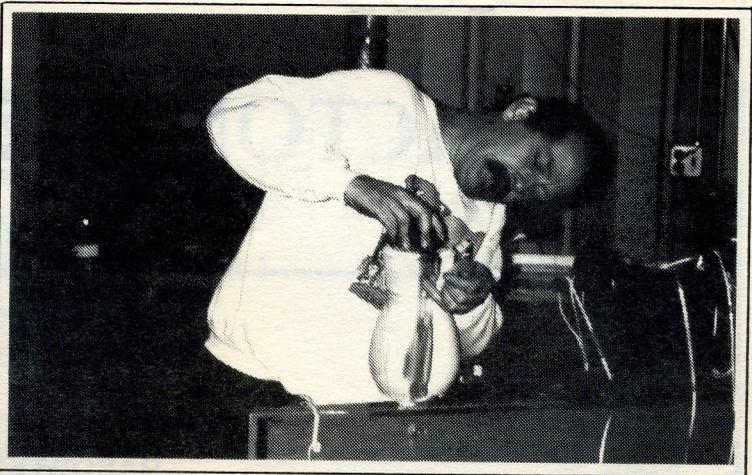
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## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Before relating the activities at the party it is appropriate to tell you the party would not have been possible without the contributions and help of Sue Acton. She spearheaded the roundup of supplies, materials and the Santa suit. She saw to it that the tea and coffee was made and available and just so many other things too numerous to mention. We appreciate her and, for that matter, ole Ron who belongs to Sue. The decorations were especially nice, including a decorated tree already in place for activities at the church. The food — oh boy, what food — was fabulous. There was something for all no matter their tastes. There was plenty of it too, in fact some was left over and had to be taken home. There were some 90 members and wives there, and that constitutes a nice size party. The rest of our toys were brought to the party, and when combined with those at the November meeting, we had a total of some 775 toys. After eating there was time for singing. Performing again this year at the piano was Linda Caldwell who has a way with a piano, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed singing Christmas songs. As the last song was ending there was a commotion from a side room consisting of bells ringing and a red blur crossing the room. It was SANTA CLAUS complete with red suit, white beard and a pillow stuffed in the front of the suit (someone said he didn't really need the pillow). Everyone was delighted. It became Santa's job to pass out the door prizes and gifts. The first batch were those purchased by the Guild to be awarded to those members who participated in the Toys for Toys program. Then Santa produced a huge assortment of tools and other shop supplies so that everyone there, wives and husbands, got a gift. The special prize to the member who produced the largest number of toys was a Porter Cable palm sander, and it was awarded to Ben Landrum who made 225 toys for the program. An added attraction this year was a poinsettia on each table. The last item on the program was to award the poinsettia to someone at each table, and by counting off around the table the winner was announced as number 5 and everyone was happy. It was now time to say Merry Christmas to each other and be on our way. It is no exaggeration to say the Party was a huge success and we only wish more of you had come.

FOOTNOTE: In case you are curious about who was in the Santa Claus suit, it was none other than Sue's personal and private Santa, Ronnie Acton).



## JOHN JORDAN MASTER WOODTURNER

On Saturday, October 31st, the Guild was treated to the unusual experience of having a nationally recognized professional woodturner conduct a seminar for us. In June 1990 Mr. Jordan had an article in *AMERICAN WOODTURNER* describing how he carves flutes on hollow vessels, which he demonstrated to us on a vessel he had just turned. In the Summer 1990 edition of *WOODWORK* he had one of his hollow vessels featured in color and was described in the article as "a rising young turner from Antioch, Tn." There are now feathers in the caps of Pres. Baker and Harold Phillips, who were instrumental in getting Mr. Jordan to come to our Guild on a Saturday. Mr. Jordan conducts a class at the Arrowmont School in Gatlinburg, TN and seminars all over the country. In addition to making his work look easy, he has the ability to convey his thoughts, and what he is doing, to his listeners. We had 22 members present at Acton's, and the remarks were indeed glowing. John has some preferences as to kinds of wood he uses to create his bowls. They are red maple, box elder, osage orange and hackberry. We noted right off he wears safety glasses while working, something we all might emulate. One thing he does that none of us admitted we do is polish his tool rest with a piece of fine sandpaper and then wipe some paraffin on it to make rubbing his tools over it much easier. He keeps his grinding rock handy and stops to put a new edge on his tools frequently. He brought his own lathe and it is a Conover with a DC motor. He has a converter to make the DC motor work, and the reason he uses the DC motor is so he can change speed of turning at any time. This can't be done with AC. The first bowl he turned was of magnolia, and the tree had been cut down the day before. He uses 1100 to 1200 RPM as a rule. Most of the work he does on a green wood bowl is with the deep-fluted bowl gouge. He demonstrated how to rub the bevel of the tool on the work and by so doing the streams of shavings come off in long/thin ribbons. While he attached the bowl to the face plate with screws, he indicated a glue block may be used as well. He was questioned about the use of a glue block on green wood and answered affirmatively. He suggests leaving a lip on the rim of the bowl a little wider than the bowl side is thick for the purpose of controlling

the warping. He indicated that no matter what is done there will be some warping, so don't despair. One tip that was useful to those of us who turn bowls has to do with where to begin when you have mounted an uneven block of wood in the lathe. The unevenness is almost hazardous to attack and if you aren't very careful you will dig in and maybe even pull the block off the lathe. He suggests the way to start is to first determine which end is going to be the bottom and which will be the top. After that decision, start "hogging" the excess off the block at the bottom end. As you get that end about round you may move gradually up the block without encountering the big corners that usually cause so much trouble. The other bowl Mr. Jordan turned for us was a little different. It was a piece of silver maple standing some 14" high and about five or six inches in diameter. He shaped the outside somewhat like a Grecian urn, a little larger at the top (or, near the top) than at the bottom. A small collar was left at the rim of the top opening which was carved with lines vertical to the opening and which was a nice touch to dress it up. The opening through which he did his turning was about two inches, but the tools could be directed inside nicely due to the curved end. The inside was hollowed, and the bowl was completed in his professional way. He does make it all look so easy. One last thing. He demonstrated a "finishing" skew he made from an old skew he no longer was using. It had been ground so many times, the blade only protrudes about three inches from the handle. Now, instead of having two bevels, as a skew does, it only has one bevel and the bevel is at an angle. What he does with it is raise one corner of the tool off the tool rest leaving the other corner on it. By tenderly feeding the tool against the outside of the bowl, cutting down-slope, he removed "baby hair" size shavings, or scrapings. It was a pleasure to have Mr. Jordan with us for dinner on Friday night and all day Saturday. It was a learning experience for those in attendance and we only wish more of you had taken advantage of the opportunity. There will be more seminars or similar programs in the future, and we hope you will be encouraged to attend.

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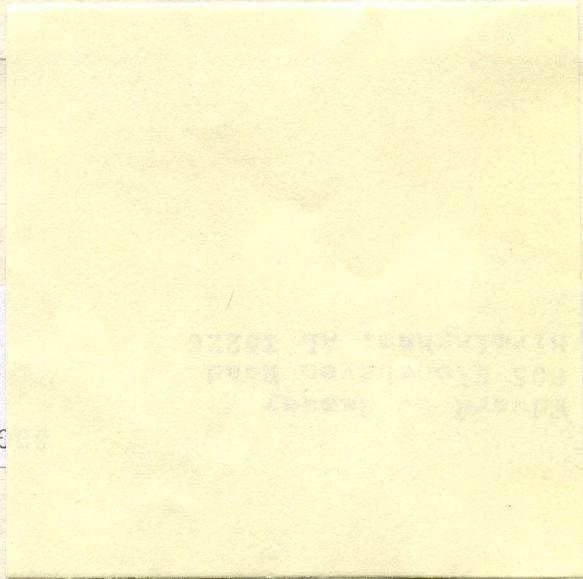
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