

# GuildNews

VOLUME XVI

NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1998

## *President's Letter*

Toys, Toys, and more toys. We've been talking about it all year and now it's time to come through. There will be TV coverage of our toy program this year so let's make 'em look extra nice. Channel 33-40 will be filming some members working at my shop soon and will also be at the November meeting so get to work and finish those toys. For the people who have never made toys before, you'll find it's a lot of fun so why don't you try to make at least one, and we'll have the best year we've ever had. Many thanks to Paul Mancill for taking over the toy program.

November is the time we elect our officers for the coming year and pretty much the same group has been nominated to be re-elected. Maybe by the end of next year you will be so tired of us that some others can be drafted to serve.

The board of directors has been discussing an exciting new proposal for the coming year so look for news about it soon.

I just received a call from Dean Black (Blackwood Galleries in Springville, Alabama) inviting all Guild members to a "Seasonal Show" he and his wife are hosting November 14 and 15. (more information elsewhere in the newsletter). This is always a great show and a fun Saturday or Sunday afternoon trip.

See you November 12!

*Dan*

## *Next Program—*

*November 12, 1998 · 7:00PM*

All of you are going to enjoy this "program." Instead of an instructional program, we are going to bring our toys for the TOYS FOR CHILDREN annual undertaking. If you have not been at our November meeting before, you are in for an astonishing surprise. Last year we had some 800 toys at that meeting, and milling around amongst them was inspiring as well as entertaining. It is almost unbelievable the variety of toys our members come up with and the astounding quality of them. Of course, if you haven't made any yet, the inventory will be short of what you didn't make. However, we know that is not the case because every year we have more and better quality toys than the year before. Now, we want you to bring the family with you. We want everyone to enjoy these toys before we turn them over to the hospitals. Plans call for some light refreshments while you are milling around among the hundreds of toys in total disbelief. This will rival our Christmas party to some extent but not surpass it so, by all means, plan to attend our November meeting and see what can be done with a piece of wood.



## *Last Program—*

*October, 1998*

Gerald Story, a South Central Bell employee, originally from Mobile but now of Pell City, told an interesting story of making Duck Decoys. He makes them from a block of Tupelo Gum, a wood that is hard to find. He gets his from Buchanan Lumber Co. in Mobile, and the blank measuring some 6" square and 15" long costs \$35. He said those blanks used to go for about \$5, but when the hobby of making decoys from them exploded a few years ago the price shot up. A pattern is drawn on the side of the block for the profile view of the duck, and a pattern is drawn on the top of the block for the other view. Just as when cutting out carbricole legs, when you cut the side view on the band saw you must tape or tack the piece just cut off back in its original place, then you may cut out the top profile. When you have done this correctly, you have some scraps that you may dispose of and what remains is a roughed-out duck decoy. He recommends that you work with the wood while it is still green because the older it gets and dries out the harder it becomes. Naturally, as any fool can plainly see, green wood that is still soft will carve easier than hard wood. He uses an electric carving machine (either FOREDOM or DREMEL) to carve some of the minute details and then turns to a burning tool to create the



feathers. He is not producing many right at this time, but plans to resume as soon as he can. He added that some of the carvers use white cedar but he still prefers Tupelo Gum. Thanks, Gerald.

**Dean Black**

The Guild is invited to Blackwood Galleries in Springville from 1 – 5 PM on November 14 & 15. The Show will feature some 50 artists and craftsmen showing Christmas & fall items.

Dean Black and his wife own Blackwood Galleries. He is the one who judged our Show this year.

This should certainly be worth our time.

**Shop Tours**

Probably in January, Harold Phillips will organize some shop tours. We did this several years ago and it proved popular. By visiting someone else's shop you may pick up ideas useful in improving your shop. There are several of the members who have said they would participate in such tours and they are: Frank Jones, Leonard Sanders, Dan Browning, Walter Barnett, Harold Phillips, Mike Key and Charlie Yerby. Surely you may learn something from a bunch of bohunks (defined as unskilled or semiskilled) like these. No, it should be fun to see just what our wives have allowed us to buy and put in our shops. Be looking forward to this, and the detailed information will be forthcoming.

**Hoover Library**

The management of the library was so impressed with our SHOW they have offered to display some of our work at times other than at SHOW time. One of the glass display cases was left at the library (so as to have a place to keep it) and Jack Perry is the DISPLAY GURU who will consider anything any of you would like to display and might like to sell. The purpose of the display is to advertise our GUILD, but as a special added attraction we may put prices on our work and if it sells, great! For more details and/or information, please call Jack Perry (he's in the roster book). In addition to the "commercial" phase of displaying our work, the library would like for us to display a variety of toys during the month of December. We will take a sampling of the toys from our November meeting and place them in the display case.

**Christmas Party**

Yep, it is almost here. It has been our custom to have our party on our regular meeting night in December. It is early enough so as not to conflict with other activities but late enough to have us in the mood for Christmas. We will be holding the party at the RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH this year at the invitation of Sue and Ronnie Acton. This is the church that has been meeting in one end of their store for about a year. Sue and Ron have become active in the church and have been instrumental in the building of the new structure. There will be a post card mailed to you early in

December giving directions (it is easy) and the time. Also, at the Christmas party we bring such toys as were not finished by the November meeting, and if the truth repeats itself we will have almost as many at the party as we had in November. Oh well, just so we get it done. As a special added attraction, we have a covered dish dinner at the party followed by Santa Claus. It is truly a great party.

**Election of Officers**

It is time to elect officers for 1999, and Mike Key undertook the task of coming up with a slate. He did his usual good job as he always does with anything he tackles. The By-Laws call for a reading of the slate at the October meeting, which was done, and for the election (railroad job) at the November meeting. These are the nominations:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| President       | Dan Browning    |
| Vice President  | Charlie Ard     |
| Sec'y-Treasurer | Charlie Yerby   |
| Guild News Ed.  | Leonard Sanders |
|                 |                 |
| Directors       | Paul Mancil     |
|                 | Walter Barnett  |
|                 | Jack Perry      |
|                 | Hal Salka       |
|                 | Frank Jones     |
|                 | Cliff Saxon     |

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 PM at Acton Moulding & Supply Co. Information concerning the Guild may be secured by writing P.O. Box 506, Helena AL 35080.



***Children's Hospital Tours***

By the time you read this, there will have been two tours of the Hospital which will give us a better understanding just what the Hospital is all about and why we support it. This is just another in the long list of toymaking and other efforts of Paul Mancil and before him Pete Jenson and Ben Neighbors. Maybe someone will report at the November meeting how the tours went. We appreciate Paul attending to our association with Children's Hospital.

***Sue and Ronnie Acton***

These nice people have been with us from the start of the GUILD in 1983. They have contributed their resources so we might have a place to meet as well as other constructive support. We have found them to be available for consultation when we get to an impasse in our projects. If Sue doesn't know what you should do next she will sic Ronnie on the problem and between them they will help you get the job done. Don't hesitate to ask them for help. There was a time when we all tried to get to the meeting at least an hour before the meeting so as to shop around the store for those items we might need at that time. Why not return to that practice and do yourself a favor by having that supply item or tool you know you are going to need right away. There is a possibility that Acton's will start providing a special table with bargain prices on the merchandise, tempting you to stock up on these items. All of this paragraph has been provided to encourage you to come early, shop needfully, enjoy

our program for that month and go home happy.

***1999 Programs***

Just a word about our programs beginning in January. It was decided at a recent board meeting that we would begin the year with programs provided by some of the talented members of our Guild. Now, before you smirk consider this: we have at least a couple of professional woodworkers in the Guild; we have several other members who could make their living with their imagination and talent; we have found in the past our members put on as good a program, as inspirational a program, as instructional a program and it has been observed that our members are more relaxed and comfortable with our members on the rostrum; and, to say the least, much more economical than hiring our programs. Charlie Ard promises to keep your interest tweaked with his programs.

***Bill West***

Our long time member, Bill West, has agreed to resume the old guys get-togethers that have been held at Thuston's for several years by Fred Baker. The hours will be on Fridays from about 11:00 to 4:00 pm and will deal with a lot of talk, lunch together (bring your own) and a smattering of woodworking. Bill is a talented woodworker and will be a terrific Master of Ceremonies. Fred decided to retire from this extracurricular activity to devote more time to producing his exquisite work in his shop, and whatever else Elsie wants him to do.

***Mike Key***

The Guild has provided classes of instruction almost every year since we began in 1983. Mike has agreed to teach a class if enough of you want it. He will limit it to 15 people; will deal with basic techniques; a beginner's class; the use of small tools; and will require a fee for admission mainly to pay for supplies. The announcement of when and where will be forthcoming.

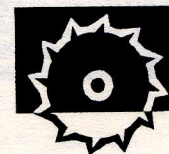
***Show and Tell***

What a wonderful array of show and tell stuff (??) we had at the last meeting. It was the largest group in some time and was very much appreciated. Here is who and what:

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Lawrence Thomas | A knife made from the kit from the last meeting                            |
| George Shoppert | Drawing Board, Bird Feeder, and a little car                               |
| Harold Phillips | An oval picture frame  |
| Cliff Daniels   | Fire truck and watch dog   |
| Buddy Finch     | Indian Dream catcher   |
| Jim Anchors     | Kleenex box cover  |
| Frank Jones     | Sides of Bombay chest  |
| Dale Lewis      | A stunning end table with three stunning girls' legs; A teapot from scraps |

***Door Prize***

The door prize this month went to Leon Anderson who promises to spend every dollar of the fifteen dollars at Acton's.

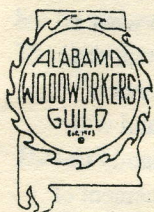
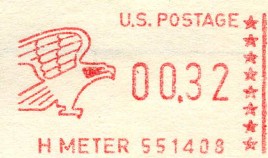




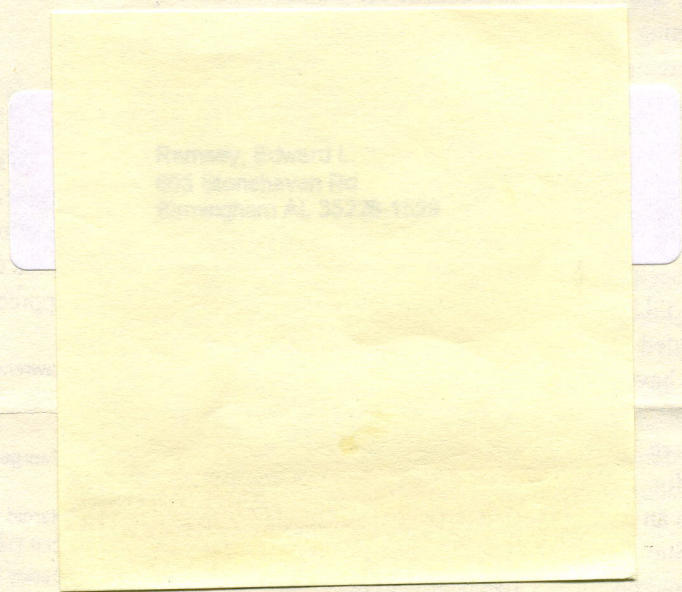
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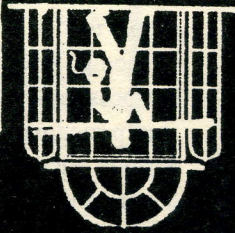
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