

# NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 1994

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## OFFICERS

Ed Sheriff . . . . . President  
Richard Brewer . . . . . Vice President  
John Parker . . . . . Secretary-Treasurer

## DIRECTORS

Frank Jones  
Mike Key  
Ben Neighbors  
Harold Phillips  
Mary Spanos

## EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

Fred Baker  
Nelson Brooks  
Jim Caldwell  
Spruce McRee  
Leonard Sanders

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Happy New Year to you all, and best wishes for a productive and satisfying 1994 of working with wood. I hope you got the tool of your choice from Santa Claus and that it may improve your skill and enjoyment. I asked my wife to get me a book on Japanese Design from The Japan Woodworker, and while she was at it she got a book on Japanese Joinery; and, oh boy, if I ever master those puzzles, you'll probably see me working with a bench on the floor too. Additionally, she got me a bottle of Camelia Oil. The instructions are in Japanese, and not knowing that language, I don't know how to use it yet, but it sure makes my blades smell good. Seriously though, I hope all of you had as enjoyable a holiday season as I did.

If you didn't go to the Christmas party, you missed an enjoyable occasion. We had excellent food, turned in the rest of our toys, won some toys of our own, and sang some songs. Leonard Sanders even gave a solo rendition of "Oh Holy Night" and did quite well at it. Ronny Acton again played the part of Santa Claus and Sue Acton did her usual good work in preparing for us at the church. Mary Spanos worked with Sue to help make the affair a success.

Well, I'm looking forward to being president of the guild this year. Nevertheless, I approach the job with some trepidation in following a long line of good and true past presidents. One member told me that we have been uncommonly lucky to have such a succession. I will certainly try to join that procession, but I am

fortunate to have officers, a board, and members who will help me carry out that obligation. Richard Brewer is brewing up some excellent programs for us and I will be letting you know about some proposed activities as time goes on. John Parker will be handling the finances and now stands ready to collect your \$25 annual dues.

See you on Thursday, January 13 at 7:00 PM.

Ed

## NEXT PROGRAM JANUARY 13TH • 7:00 PM

We are sure each of us has attended craft and art shows without realizing what all is involved in being an exhibitor. So what is involved? How do you know when and where a show will be held? How much does it cost to get space at a show? How much space does one need to show his particular breed of craft? What happens if at the last minute you have to withdraw? Do you have to share your proceeds with the sponsor? Do you have to collect sales tax on what you sell? Do you have to secure a Sales Tax ID Number if you show your things for sale? In other words, what is showing your works for sale in a show all about. Well now is your chance to find out. Two veterans of the shows are Ethel Owens and Dale Lewis and there isn't much about this activity they don't know. They will be sharing this information with us in January so come and get the answers to those above and those you want to ask.

## LAST MEETING • NOVEMBER 1993

It has been so long since this meeting you all may not remember much about it. Well, it was a good one. The program consisted of demonstrations of the use of router tables by several members of the Guild and the lead-off demonstrator was Mike Key. Mike made rails and stiles for cabinet doors and then made the door panel, with shaped edges, and as if wonders would never cease they all fit together nicely. Ed Sheriff came along with his Rube Goldberg router table (hope he isn't offended by the description). Ed's table is a multi-purpose table, but he restricted his demonstration to slot mortising. This exercise deals with cutting slots in the mitered corners of a picture frame, for example, into which would be inserted a biscuit. Or, you can insert a spline if you wish. Wallace Williams showed us how to rout rockers for a child's chair, using a pattern of plywood to rub the collar of the router bit. He also had a jig for edging the rockers and, additionally, how to cut a slot in an arch. Bob Moore demonstrated you don't have to have a monstrous router table to rout. He has one that uses a Dremel router and can do small mortises and tenons as well as kitchen cabinets, book shelves and signs. He showed us how to position a slot in a shelf with a T square and he uses a Moto Tool to do round-overs. It was an excellent program and our thanks to you participants.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

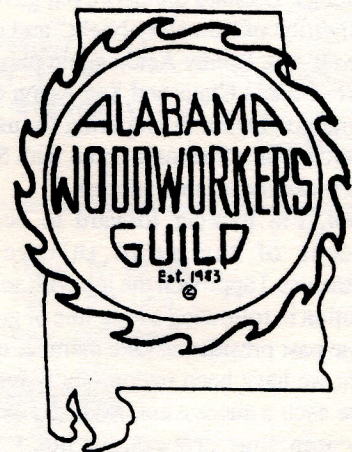
Since some of you missed this party, herewith is what you missed. At six o'clock sharp President Fred called for the blessing and with that done we all dived into as scrumptious a meal as we had ever seen. Covered dishes are simply and strictly the only way to go. There was an abundance of meats, vegetables, salads, and, oh yes, desserts. It was difficult to be able to rise from one's chair to go back for seconds, but there were quite a few who did (we were sitting near the serving tables and could observe and tally the returnees to the table). After depositing our trash, the whole group assembled in the church sanctuary because the piano had been positioned there with a microphone attached for use the next day by the church. We had printed song sheets with Christmas and seasonal songs and with the wonderful piano playing of Linda Caldwell and the not so able leadership of Leonard Sanders there was outstanding singing. Included in the songs was "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and you should have seen some of us bums turning to our wives or girl friends and singing that old song. It was as impressive as you can imagine. Oh yes, there was a solo by Leonard accompanied by Linda, and it may have been the first rendition of Oh Holy Night the group would hear this year. After assembling in the meeting room it was time for Santa Claus. Guess who Santa was. None other than Ron Acton. Ron wasn't flattered by some of us who remarked he didn't need much padding to make the suit fit, and he so indicated by his protesting the comparison. The gifts were abundant and just plain extra nice. The first gifts were for the members who had participated in the Toys for Tots program and were supplied by the Guild. Everyone who had participated received a nice gift. After the T for T gifts had been distributed by

drawing, there came another huge group of gifts provided by Acton's. There was something for everyone and everyone got at least one, and several got more than one. The wives were properly included in this, and it was interesting to see how some of them reacted to receiving hand tools that they were not familiar with. However, their husbands quickly took charge of the tools and assured their wives they were good tools. Following the gift section of the program, Ed Sheriff asked to be recognized for the purpose of making a presentation. Ed recited what was already known, that Fred Baker (with the able assistance of Elsie) had done a superb job of leading the Guild for two years and the Guild members are eternally grateful. He then presented Fred with a check in an amount designed to allow him to purchase a tool or tools of his choosing. It is hoped that when the tools are used he will be reminded that we, the Guild, appreciate his efforts to keep the Guild going like it always has. Then Pres-Elect Ed called for the closing moment we have each year. There was a poinsettia on each table, and by lottery someone won it as an additional reminder of the wonderful time we had at our Christmas party. We are appreciative of the time and efforts of Mary Spanos and her committee for making the necessary arrangements for everything to be in place so a successful party could be enjoyed by us all.

## CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

There were two significant moments with respect to the Children's Hospital. First, there was a speaker's podium built by Mike Key from walnut donated by Seaman Timber Company. A truly lovely piece of the enclosed type, as opposed to the post type. On the front was the distinguished logo of the hospital carved by Ivan Kronberg. A representative of the hospital was there to receive the presentation. The other significant bit of news relating to Children's Hospital deals with President Fred. The hospital put out the word they needed help with some scenery to be used at the Festival of Trees at the Civic Center. Fred gave us the opportunity to participate in this project but got no response. So, he did it himself. He went over on the Southside several Saturdays and administered the hammer and nail to the scenery. We appreciate Fred's upholding our tradition of being civic-minded. Thanks, Fred. Then the representative also thanked us for the toys we built for their patients. This year, our Toys for Tots produced a little over 600 toys, over all. Three entities shared the toys starting with Children's Hospital, followed by the U. S. Marine Corps and the Helena Police. All three were represented at our meeting. Another successful year with the toys, and it never fails to amaze us the high quality and the innovativeness (is that a good word?) of our members when it comes to making toys. They obviously enjoy the feeling that derives from the realization that the toys they are working on will make some children's eyes light up and create happiness. Thanks to all of you who participated.

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.



## ELECTION OF 1994 OFFICERS

President Fred Baker will always be remembered for his willingness to do whatever was necessary to get the job done for our Guild. You succeeding presidents have something to live up to. Fred, in his inimitable way, tried to be modest about his work as president, but the crowd would have none of that. He was so appreciated the ovation told it all. Fred made his farewell speech and it will be remembered. He then announced it was time to turn the reins over to Ed Sheriff, as President, Richard Brewer as Vice-President and John Parker as Secretary-Treasurer. The Board remained as before, except Fred is now an Ex-Officio Director like all our preceding presidents. The election took place in November and Fred was just turning it over to them. Good Luck, fellows!

### RECOGNITION — DALE LEWIS

It was some time ago, now, but Dale Lewis and another honoree were selected by the jurors in the Kentuck Festival to receive an Award of Distinction at a juried art show in Northport, AL. Congratulations to Dale and we appreciate having members like him in our Guild.

## DOOR PRIZE — NOVEMBER

You didn't think we would have a meeting without a door prize drawing did you? Well, we did have the drawing and it went to Elbert Walker who received the \$15 gift certificate to Acton's.

### SHOW AND TELL — NOVEMBER

One of the best things about our Guild is our members are good enough to share some of their works with the rest of us. A special treat was the bowl lathe Richard McRee made for his granddaughter. It was made from a Sears lathe with concentration on making it usable and understandable by a teenager. Richard did a good job on it. Then, even though he couldn't be present, Frank Ryerson sent an offering. You may not know this but Frank travels the farthest of any of our members each month to get to our meeting. Frank lives in Tuscaloosa (spelled Tuscaloosa by the Indians and the bank in Tuscaloosa). That is about 75 miles each way for him. Now, to his show and tell: a really lovely doll house, the kind that sets on a table. There were a couple of innovations associated with it and we commend him on his effort.

## FINE WOODWORKING (TAUNTON PRESS)

We have received information regarding some new publications from these fine people. By the way, Fine Woodworking gives the Guild permission to copy articles or whatever we want from their magazine for reprint in our Newsletter and we are glad to mention the following new publications for them:

TAGE FRID TEACHES WOODWORKING	\$29.95
THE TABLE SAW BOOK	25.95
JOINERY TECHNIQUES	14.95
THE SMALL WOOD SHOP	14.95
THE LATHE BOOK	25.95
FINE WOODWORKING INDEX	12.95

You may get the mailing address out of a copy of FINE WOODWORKING in our library to place your orders for any or all of these publications.

*Happy New Year  
1994!*

