

# GuildNews

VOLUME XV

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OCTOBER 1997

## *President's Letter*

It's hard to believe we've made it through three-fourths of 1997.

Whew! How time flies when you're having fun. We've really accomplished a lot and I'm proud to have been a part of it. Just to reminisce a bit—We've had nine great programs (thanks to Dale Lewis)—A demonstration at Home Depot, a Turning Seminar, our annual show with the largest number of entries ever, the continuation of our Toys for Children program (and the expansion of the program year round), increase in our membership, and one of our most important accomplishments is the increased enthusiasm toward the Guild. I'm sure the list is not all inclusive, but I do hope each member shares my pride about our accomplishments.

It's time now to direct our attention to the last quarter of this year. We're working on a couple of demonstrations (for which we'll need lots of help), a tour at Folmers Millworks in Montevallo, possibly a Winter show at Thustons, and the donation of the largest number of toys ever to needy children. Last but certainly not least, is the election of Officers at our November meeting and our Annual Christmas party on December 11th. I'm looking forward to a really good last quarter of 1997 and hope you folks continue to give me and all the Guild officers your

continued support. See you October 11th.

*Dan*

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## *Next Program-October 9, 1997*

This is one program you don't want to miss. Two ole leg men (you know what they are—they aren't \_\_\_\_\_ men), Dale Lewis and Frank Jones are going to fill the air with instruction and unbelievable mirth as they demonstrate the making of legs. Dale will handle the ALIEN legs and Frank will handle the cabriole legs. They want you to know it doesn't take a rocket scientist to

make or appreciate nice legs. Of course there are table and chair legs and when they finish the program you will have witnessed a display of legs unequaled by the Rocketts at Radio City Music Hall. Bring your binoculars for a really good up close look at the legs. It just doesn't get any better than this.





## *Last Program*

John Groshong was a most interesting guest speaker. He is from Anniston but comes from Missouri originally. John is what he calls an architectural carver and/or sculptor. He can make whimsical characters or life-size "people" for a nativity scene. He does shells for furniture as well as other decorative add-ons. He uses walnut, mahogany and maple mostly, but uses basswood if the object is to be painted. He recommends to carvers that they use their carving tools to do the work rather than relying on sandpaper to smoothe the finished surface. As for sharpening your carving tools it is recommended that 220 grit emory paper be used for edging and finished off on the buffing wheel using "green compound". We can't pass up the opportunity to compare John to the jolly old gent we see around Christmas when you consider the white beard he sports. We very much appreciate John making the trip from Anniston to be with us.

## *Financial Report*

Haven't had space to make this report lately so will make a brief one. As of August 31st, we show we started the year with \$353, have received \$5,359 and have disbursed \$3,739 leaving a balance of \$1,973. The report also shows we have 159 members. We appreciate Charley Yerby looking after this important part of our organization.

## *The Show In Pictures*

You were not impressed, we are sure, with the insert in last month's GUILD NEWS depicting a collage of pictures of some of the entries in THE SHOW. There just wasn't space for more pictures in the collage. Back to the pictures. Our printer, RIVERCHASE PRINT AND COPY, who has been doing our GUILD NEWS and making our ID tags for many years apologizes for the poor reproduction you received. As much of the work on the newsletter is done by machine, they didn't notice the insert was bad. When confronted with the problem they reran it, furnished us with enough copies to give out at the September meeting and offered to put the new collage in the October newsletter. We appreciate their cooperation.

## *Door Prize*

It is always kind of fun to see who will get the door prize each month. Predictably, there will be a few moans when the winner is announced, and last month was no exception. Mike Palmer won.

## *Back To The Show*

We want to make it perfectly clear that the Editor knows the difference between someone named CHARLES and someone named CHARLENE. There really isn't any comparison. If you will look at the list of entries in THE SHOW and the listing of

the winners, you will find CHARLES Kirkland listed twice. We apologize. It should have read CHARLENE KIRKLAND and we seek forgiveness.

## *Toys For Children*

Pete Jenson continues to promote and do a splendid job of administering our program of furnishing toys to Children's Hospital. He takes any of us who want to tour the hospital most any time we want to go. Those of us who have made that tour can only recommend each of you make the effort to go. When you see the facilities made expressly for children, see the children themselves, and meet the people who operate the hospital, you can't be anything but overwhelmed with the hospital and our toy program. We have been doing this for some fourteen years and have donated thousands of toys all lovingly made by you all. A little different approach has been made this year and that includes providing toys all year. Several hundred have already been delivered to the hospital but that does not relieve us of finishing the job at Christmas. We are expected to

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.



# *Wheelwrights of the 11th Florida Infantry*

## *by Sam Hurlburt*

There's been Hurlburts in Florida since the British surrendered to the continental army. My grandpap had sworn his honor to the king and would not quit, so he and my gran left Charleston by night ahead of a mob and went to St. Augustine which was still loyal to the crown. Barely a year later the king gave all Florida back to the Spanish and they had to leave St. Augustine and move out to the wilds. His brother, my great uncle, went with a lot of loyalists to a Bahama island, I disremember where, and made rum. The Spaniards had a high tariff on liquor and it was too dear for most folks so my people did a smart trade in night shipping. It was just natural for their day business to be wagons. We have been wheelwrights and wagon makers and ship's carpenters ever since, and my grandsons makes 5 generations, tho they make that new tin lizzy which is a sin before the Almighty and will never amount to nothing.

I learned the work in my daddy's barn and could make a wheel as tall as a man, strong and true, before I was ten. We'd coop the hubs barrel stave fashion from oak from the swamps and band em with iron. The spokes was split from cypress and shaved on a horse and the hardest part was getting em all the same. The rim fellows was sawed from cypress to a pattern and when all fit right we put em in the loft to wait for iron tires. When it was time to shrink tires Daddy would gather all his friends, enticing em to the barn with a drop of his night medicine and they would tire every wheel we made. Heat er up red hot, spring er on and pour on water til she shrinks down tight. It would go on all day and half the night and sometimes a fight would break out. Next morning they'd all have swoled eyes and big heads and be dragging their feet back home.

When I was newly 17 daddy went off looking for his tire shrinking mob and came back to tell the yankees had took Jacksonville. Now we had no truck with that war and didn't care what the yankees did so long as they

left us alone. We had lived with British, Spanish, Indians and French Huguenots and we figured we could live with yankees too. Florida had only been in that union 15 years when she went out and it seemed like to us them yankees was taking it awful hard.

Old Abe had said if one tenth of the people of florida signed a oath of allegiance to the union they could form a scallywag govment and send a man to congress. He sent his man John Hay to take the oaths. Lincoln sent word "There is to be neither force nor persuasion used in this matter, you decide for yourselves" and he sent along Gen. Seymour's 3 brigades of infantry, 2 regiments of cavalry, and 4 batteries of artillery to help em make up their minds. Election time was coming up and Abe needed all the votes he could get.

Men came from miles around to the wheel barn and that night we decided we'd go to Lake City and we'd send in our oaths with ball and grape and steel. That's how I came to join the Kilcrease Light Artillery, attached to the 11th Florida Infantry. Known as the "butternut Skirmishers". Gen. Finegan said wagoners belonged to be artillery men and we was put to work on the 4 guns, 7 limbers, and 6 wagons the unit had. Next day we marched out to a place called Ocean Pond just this side of Olustee and dug in. We carpenters were plenty busy cutting pines to shore the ramparts, and patrols were sent ahead to scout for yanks. Our trenches were around the railroad to Lake City, the only dry ground there, with swamps for miles on the left and right.

On the third day, after dinner, we heard the firing of the scouts and we knowed it was the yanks a comming. When they finally go to where we could see em the captn hollered "fire" and we let em have load after load of grape and ball. They could only come up the railroad single file and we could fire from all sides. For two hours we made things warm for

em and the New Hampshiremen were the first to tuck and run (Continuing a tradition started at Bull Run).

As soon as the yanks turned tail, the captn ordered us out on the causeway to capture the wrecked guns. We had fired grape shot at the yank batteries hoping to wreck the carriages or kill the teams and here were 6 right under our noses. Two were only stuck in the swamp, three needed wheels and one was goodly wrecked by a ball. Quick as a flash we was on the field and chopping wheel. No time to shave spokes, we chopped em out with a hand ax. Plenty of timber was shot down by our guns, but no cypress, so we used pine. A hundred men was set to work hauling out the stuck guns and within an hour we had all but the shot up gun rolling back to Lake City.

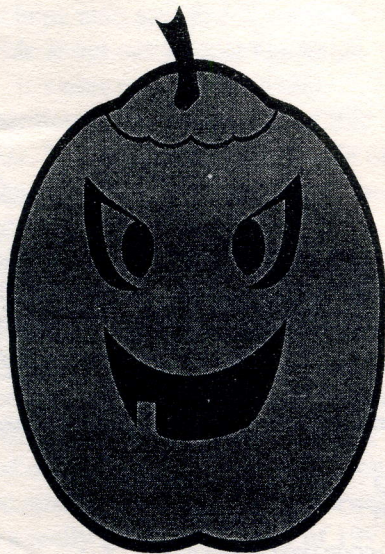
A new carriage had to be made and 6 of us set to it. Two sides of pine were squared up, rub chalk and snap, and hew to the line. Two men on gimlets boring holes and two on wheels. It took us til after dark and we saved one wheel, to get er moving. And a fine new gun it was, from Cincinnati. Now a 6 pounder weighs over a thousand pounds and kicks back 6 feet when she fires. It's unpleasant business touching one off with a match, but these yankee guns had a cap lock just like a rifle and was fired by pulling a cord, just like ringing the butler. Never know how them yanks got so much new truck and stuff. In four hours the Kilcrease Light Artillery went from a 4 gun outfit to a 10 gun outfit and we so terrified them yankees they never set foot outside Jacksonville again. We kept em holed up for two years til the surrender was signed and we was broken up and paroled on march 17, 1865. Mr. Hay moved on to Key West but never did get his tenth and finally went back to Washington. He reported that Key West was a "den of thieves and nest of debauchers" so he must of been an honest man. 61 years later that is still true and Jacksonville is still full of yankees.



bring our minimum of 10 toys each to the November meeting when the hospital will have someone there to pick them up and take them to the hospital. Now, there is a grace period here and this is if you for some reason don't finish your toys by November or are out of town or whatever, you may bring them to the Christmas party which will be held on December 11th. Please don't let his serious program slip by without making your toys and thus participating. The children need the toys and we need to provide them.

### Woodworking Class

It has not been determined when or if we will have a class this fall. The summer class was a huge success and if we can we will get another one together. More as news becomes available.



### Show And Tell

A really fine part of our program each month is when our members bring some of their crafted objects for us to see. It is always interesting to hear how something was made, what it is made of and what you do with it. This is when we onlookers get ideas for our next projects and get the urge to bring something we have made to the next meeting. Here are those who did at the September meeting:

John Farmer	Boxes (see note below)
Ivan Kronberg	Turned bowl with turquoise inlay
Ron Huff	Flag Box (memorial flag folded into a triangle)
George Schoppert	Racing Car made from scraps that would be thrown away, otherwise

Note: With respect to boxes, if you want to find out how skillful you are, try making one. There is a craft school in the northeast that requires their students who have been making furniture and cabinets for two years to make a box to graduate. Try it, you'll like it.

### For Sale

A former active member of the Guild, Tom Godfryd, has quit woodworking and has all his shop for sale. It looks like a good chance to pick up some tools at a reasonable price. Here is what he has: Powermatic Table Saw, DeWalt Radial Arm saw with Biesemeyer Square; Grisley shop Vac; Woodworker's Bench;

miscellaneous hand tools, power tools, and clamps. Everything in excellent condition. Also, small stock of oak, mahogany and cherry. Cash only. Call 991-8217 at home or 320-9372 on his beeper.

### And In Conclusion

As he has done before, Charles Ard has furnished us with a fascinating story about wagon wheels during the Civil War. See insert.



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