

BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

November 1986 - Vol. 5, Issue 11

Box 421195 San Francisco CA 94142

THIRD THURSDAY PREVIEW

The November general meeting will be held at 7:30pm on November 20th at Gail Redman's shop, 77 - 14th St., San Francisco, between Harrison and Folsom. Gail's shop is located opposite Craig and Green. To get there from the East Bay, take the 9th St./Civic Center exit, continue on Harrison, turn right on 14th and start looking for a parking place. 77 - 14th is at the end of the block. It's not advisable to park on Trainor. This month we have 2 presentations on the subject of turning. Gail, a professional turner, and her assistant, Grant Jacobs, will demonstrate, answer questions and talk about what it's like to operate a production turning shop. We are also fortunate to have Bob Stocksedale, the grand champion of bowlmakers, who will show slides and talk about his work. This is a rare opportunity to learn about wood turning from some top people in the field. Space will be a little tight, so plan to get there early.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MEETING

The BAWA meeting for October was at the Gale Lawrence Studio Workshop. Prior to the demonstrations of artistic flair and "fantasy finishes", the membership heard a proposal from the executive committee to raise the annual dues from \$20. to \$30. There was discussion about why this was necessary. Treasurer Terry Ward was pleased to announce that BAWA has regained its solvency, but that there were two other goals: One was to build a fund sufficient for further emergencies such as the Bayview fire, and another was to return the newsletter to its elegance of yesteryear, with photos, professional typesetting and other features. [Editor's note: As this newsletter goes to print, the BAWA treasury has again been reduced to near-zero because of payment of bills and expenses incurred in preparation for BAWA's participation in the upcoming woodworking show in San Jose.] At the November meeting the membership will vote on raising the dues. Gale Lawrence was trained in special techniques and approaches to decorative finishing in New York City. Her studio on Folsom Street is busy; classes are offered in different styles of painted decoration, and various specialists work in the studio on their own. Two of them, Lee (who specializes in wall glazing) and Carol Tosath (whose work in chinoiserie I can say is superb), demonstrated faux marbres on a painted ground. Lee also demonstrated "goatskin". Their work was fascinating. While they scumbled and pounced, Gale explained and spoke of the finishing materials. BAWA membership was appreciative and respectful. I'd love to be able to do it too.

Bob Greenberg

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WOODWORKING SHOW NOVEMBER 21-23, 1986

BAWA's exhibit in this show will cover about 400 sq. ft. and will consist of draped tables and open space, probably along a wall. We need:

1. Photos of BAWA members, their workspaces and any work in progress. Send these and your business card to: Louis Kern, 1040 Fulton St., # 15, San Francisco, CA 94117. SEND IT NOW!
2. Commitments from members to display their portfolios, pieces of work or other pertinent things.
3. Commitments from members to staff our exhibit.

We're working hard on this and we have to get it together FAST. Our primary purpose is to let the woodworking public know who BAWA is and to recruit new members. Will you help? Contact any executive member, all of whom are listed near the back of this newsletter.

Bayview Fire Survivors Rise From the Ashes

By Gary E. Swan

On the ground floor of a cavernous warehouse off of Third Street, a group of craftsmen and woodworkers are carefully rebuilding their workshops and their lives.

"Before the explosion, we shared tools, energy, advice and coffee. We still need those things," said Cynthia Huntington, 36, one of the survivors of the Bayview Industrial Park fire in San Francisco on April 4. "A lot of us wanted to stay together in a community."

Six months ago tomorrow, and less than a mile from their new home, a colony of artisans and small businessmen was working in 125 stalls when an illegal fireworks laboratory exploded beneath it with the force of a large bomb.

A five-alarm fire, one of the worst in recent San Francisco history, devoured its work and cremated a number of its companions. Damage was put at \$10 million with eight or nine people killed and many remains impossible to identify.

Firefighters poured 7 million gallons of water on the inferno, although they had no water pressure for the first 45 minutes. The ruins stayed so hot they could not find the site of the blast for two days.

It has taken a while for the survivors to come back. To find tools, loans, counseling, and, in the case of the woodworkers, "to find a place for a marriage of seven people," Huntington said.

The new floor under them is all concrete. It has a sprinkler system and lots of wide-open space.

Other small businesses located in the destroyed Bayview building have had their own problems. Most were there because rent was cheap and they did not carry insurance. The Small Business Administration has approved \$240,000 in loans so far.

"A disaster isn't always when it happens," says Pat Desha, owner of a small packaging company that has had trouble getting an SBA loan. "A disaster is trying to survive after."

Fireworks maker Tom Cuyos, 28, and his assistant, Nolan Florita, were mixing compounds of aluminum and potassium sulfate for M-80s firecrackers and cherry bombs on that Friday afternoon. They worked in the nude so as to reduce the risk of static electricity. When the mixture blew up, it left a crater four feet deep and six feet across.

The explosion collapsed walls and floors and reduced the three-story former tannery building to a pile of kindling that erupted in flames within minutes.

Three associates of Cuyos were arrested for conspiring to manufacture high-powered fireworks, but the federal charges were dropped. Assistant U.S. Attorney Martin Healey said last week that the case was again before the federal grand jury but he would not predict any indictments.

Civil lawsuits in the millions of dollars have been filed against Cuyos' associates and the owners of the building, Jon and Jok Legallet.

The suits charge that the Legallets should have known about the fireworks factory because there was "a massive fireworks exhibition conducted on the premises" weeks before the blast.

The Legallets failed to allow fire inspectors into Cuyos' stall, which he had said was a computer storage shed, on two or more occasions, the suits allege.

Fire officials, citing pending lawsuits, are keeping quiet about their investigation.

The feeder line to the sprinkler system in the building broke in the explosion and there was no hydrant pressure until the Water Department increased the flow and volume to the area.



BY FREDERIC LARSON/THE CHRONICLE

Larry Borsian, who had gone to buy supplies when the building blew up, was falsely accused as the culprit in the blast

There is hammering again in the new workroom and quiet chatter. But when something falls with a loud bang, there is an instinctive and panicky move toward the exits and sometimes tears.

"I looked at this building and the first thing I wondered is how fast can I get out of here," Huntington said.

Some of those who have fared the worst, she said, were out of the building that day. Guilt has led one person to try suicide three times, she said.

"It was better to have been there and get out than not to have been there at all, to have gotten off scot-free," she said.

Larry Borsian, who had gone to buy supplies, ran the shop above the fireworks lab where two co-workers were killed as they were spraying lacquer. He not only lost two friends but, for several days, was wrongly cited as the culprit in the explosion.

"There are still people who believe I caused it," said Borsian.

One of the men killed in Borsian's shop was Frank Wallis, 32, who shared Huntington's shop. They had a close relationship, she said.

"I was helping Frank get caught up in his work that day," Huntington said. "He had left 20 minutes earlier to go back upstairs.

"I saw a fireball outside the door, a big round ball of flame. Then someone was pulling me out. I felt my eyes were terribly big.

"I wanted to go back and look for Frank. I walked around and saw a lot of fire trucks with limp hoses. I was asking everybody 'where's Frank?' They kept reassuring me I'd find him somewhere. He would be fine. Someone asked me where he was and I told him and then he just turned away from me. That's when I lost it, because there was nothing there where Frank had been."

Huntington and several others got



'Before the explosion, we shared tools, energy and coffee. We still need those things,' said Cynthia Huntington

counseling from the Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute at the University of California at San Francisco medical center.

"For a while, any time there was a period of inactivity, waiting at a stop light, all this stuff kept flooding up," she said. "Loss of shop, tools, business — it's nothing compared to loss of some close friends."

She has been a driving force in finding new quarters for the craftsmen.

"I found myself rushing to get the shop together, thinking that as soon as the shop was together, Frank would be back," she said. "Of course, I have to keep reminding myself he's not."

But having a place to work with the others will help put her feet back on the ground, she said.

"Sometimes I hear a car start and I jump. I don't like being afraid of things and I find myself more afraid of things now than I was."

CLASSIFIEDS

Baldor 5hp Beach stroke sander on 100" centers with adjustable up and down stroke table and extra belts. \$1300. plus tax. Contact Oscar, Parkmead Products, (415) 532-5931.

3000 sq. ft. shop in Emeryville set up with power, dust, air, office. 34¢ plus improvements. Also, space available in Oakland. Brian, 655-8391.

Woodcarving business for sale. Clientele, machinery, fixtures, lease. 2000 sq. ft. storefront/studio/live-in. Bruce Britton, (415) 865-2797.

For sale: Mortise attachment for Pawermatic model 1150 drill press, \$50. Four Greenlee hollow square mortise chisels and bits, 1/4", 3/8", 1/2" and 3/8" x 1/2". (408) 372-6223.

For sale: 1957 Delta metal and woodcutting bandsaw, \$725. With step block, 24" rails & fence, lamp, 3/4hp Baldor. Terrie Noll, 759-1066 or 540-6247.

For sale: Old door press for making stile and rail doors. Will handle up to 5 by 9 feet. Screw type. 5hp, 220v, 3ph. Weighs about 2500 lbs. \$900. Peter Good, 530-3198.

Hugh Fite (finisher) is losing his shop to a parking lot and must be out by the end of December. He's presently located at 373 Dore St., San Francisco. If anyone knows where Hugh might find 1500-2000 sq. ft. of shop space, single or shared, call him at 431-4646.

Dick Sheets (caning & refinishing) also has to be out of his shop by the end of December and needs 2500-3000 sq. ft. He's now located at 2127 Harrison, S.F. Call him at 864-3688.

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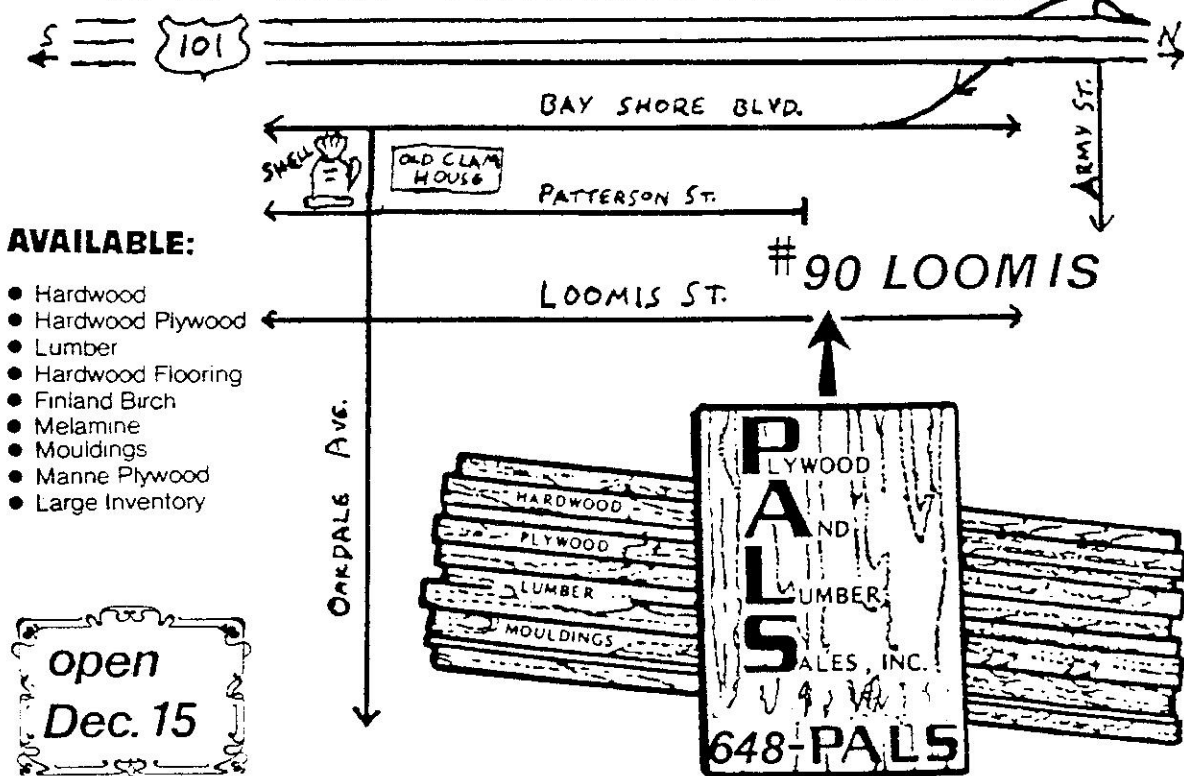
2150 OAKDALE AVENUE
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(415) 647-0782

BAY AREA WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION BY LAWS

1. The name of the organization shall be the Bay Area Woodworkers' Association. (the Association)
2. Membership shall be open to anyone in the San Francisco Bay Area who is pursuing woodworking as an artisan or designer or both or who is interested in the field, be they professional or amateur.
3. The Association will promote professional woodworking in both technical and aesthetic directions.
4. The Association will explore commercial discounts and benefits for the members.
5. The Association will regularly offer public shows, a newsletter, educational programs, technical demonstrations, "Spotlight" talks, seminars, and lectures on topics of interest to the members.
6. The Association shall be administered by a Chair and Co-Chair, who shall act as alternate. The minutes of the meetings and correspondence shall be the responsibility of a Secretary and alternate Co-Secretary. The finances shall be kept by the Treasurer and Co-Treasurer. The newsletter shall be prepared by an Editor and an Assistant. The term of office shall be for six months in order to share fairly the work of running the Association. The positions shall be filled by nominations and a majority vote by the members in good standing, those who have paid their dues.
7. The Association shall organize various committees such as a steering or executive committee, a show committee, and other ad-hoc committees as may seem necessary. The responsibilities of the committees shall be clearly stated.

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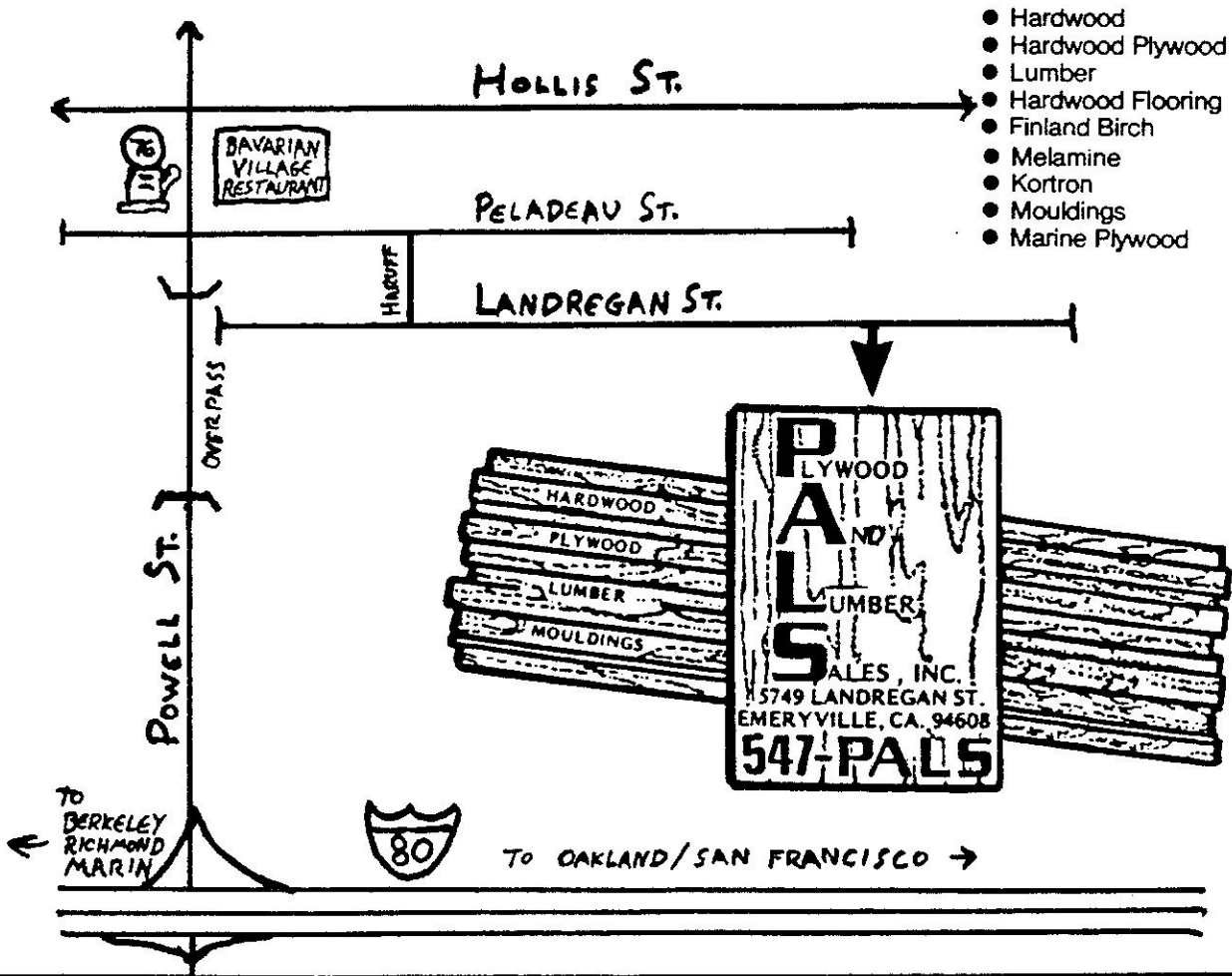


8. The Association shall set the limits of financial responsibility for its officers and committees. Expenditures over \$75.00 require approval by a quorum of four Executive committee members. Expenditures over \$200.00 require a majority vote of the members attending a meeting and a prior announcement of the issue in the newsletter.
9. The Association shall also organize, if it is necessary, an arbitration committee that will offer to mediate business disputes between the members or between the members and their customers.
10. Decisions in the Association shall be by a majority vote of the members present except for questions of membership dues, removal of officers, expulsion of members, and changes in the by-laws which shall require a 2/3 vote of the members responding. "Responding" votes require that advance notice shall be given at least one meeting in advance at which discussion can take place after all members are notified of the proposal.
11. Dues shall be paid on a schedule determined by the finance committee. Any dues paid by an expelled member shall be refunded on a pro-rata basis.
12. To encourage the participation of all the members each meeting shall have a time for suggestions for the agenda of the meetings, the admission and welcoming of new members, and the setting of the location of the next meeting. There shall also be a Treasurer's report.

KOA

 (415) 530-3198

Some useful information for those who want





BY FREDERIC LARSON/THE CHRONICLE

Classwork on Lake Merced

Bob McKenzie took the first turn in a Petaluma recreational rowing shell he helped build. The shell was constructed by hand in just seven days by members of a class aboard the ferryboat Eureka at the National Maritime Museum's Hyde Street Pier. Seven

students participated in the class led by shipwright Simon Wright, who has conducted classes in boat-building and furniture-making across the country. Work on the boat was begun on October 10 and the 19 1/2-foot vessel was launched in Lake Merced yesterday.

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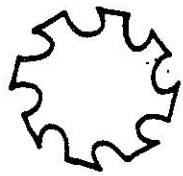
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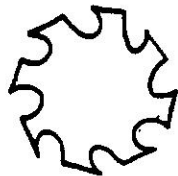
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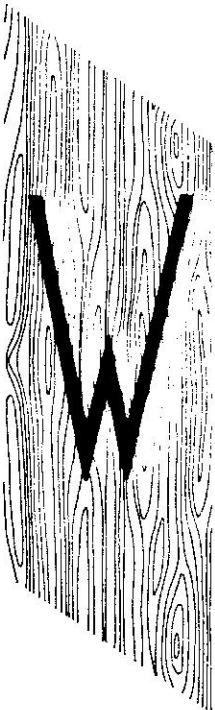
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Treasurer	Terry Ward	863-0700
Advertising	Don Segale Tim Kennedy	589-4890 583-5975 364-5658
Newsletter Editor	Peter Good 1966 Tiffin Rd. Oakland, CA 94602	530-3198

CONGRATULATIONS to Don and Meg Dupont
on the birth of their daughter,
Laura Marie who arrived on Halloween
and weighed in at 6 lbs. 3 oz.



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BAWA DATA

The Bay Area Woodworkers' Association is an organization of woodworkers who have banded together to promote woodworking in both technical and aesthetic directions. This newsletter is a monthly publication intended to serve as a communications vehicle and a source directory for the membership of this Association.

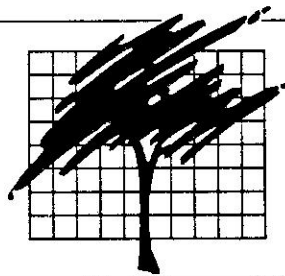
Membership dues are \$30/year, for which any member may participate fully in the Association, in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the By-Laws. This includes voting power on any issue brought before the membership for a vote, notification of the monthly shop talks and demonstrations put on by the Association, receipt of this newsletter each month, and privilege of participation in any special discount programs sponsored by local businesses in conjunction with this Association.

Checks for membership dues may be made out to the Bay Area Woodworkers' Association and sent to P.O. Box 421195, San Francisco, CA 94142. Membership cards will be issued to all members in good standing.

Copies of the By-Laws are available at all monthly meetings, or can be requested by mail.

The monthly shop talks and demonstrations are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., at a location announced both in the newsletter and at the previous meeting.

The monthly executive committee meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, and are open to any interested members. To arrange attendance, contact any member of the executive committee by telephone or the address given above.



BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

BAY AREA WOODWORKER'S ASSOC
POST OFFICE BOX 421195
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94142

