

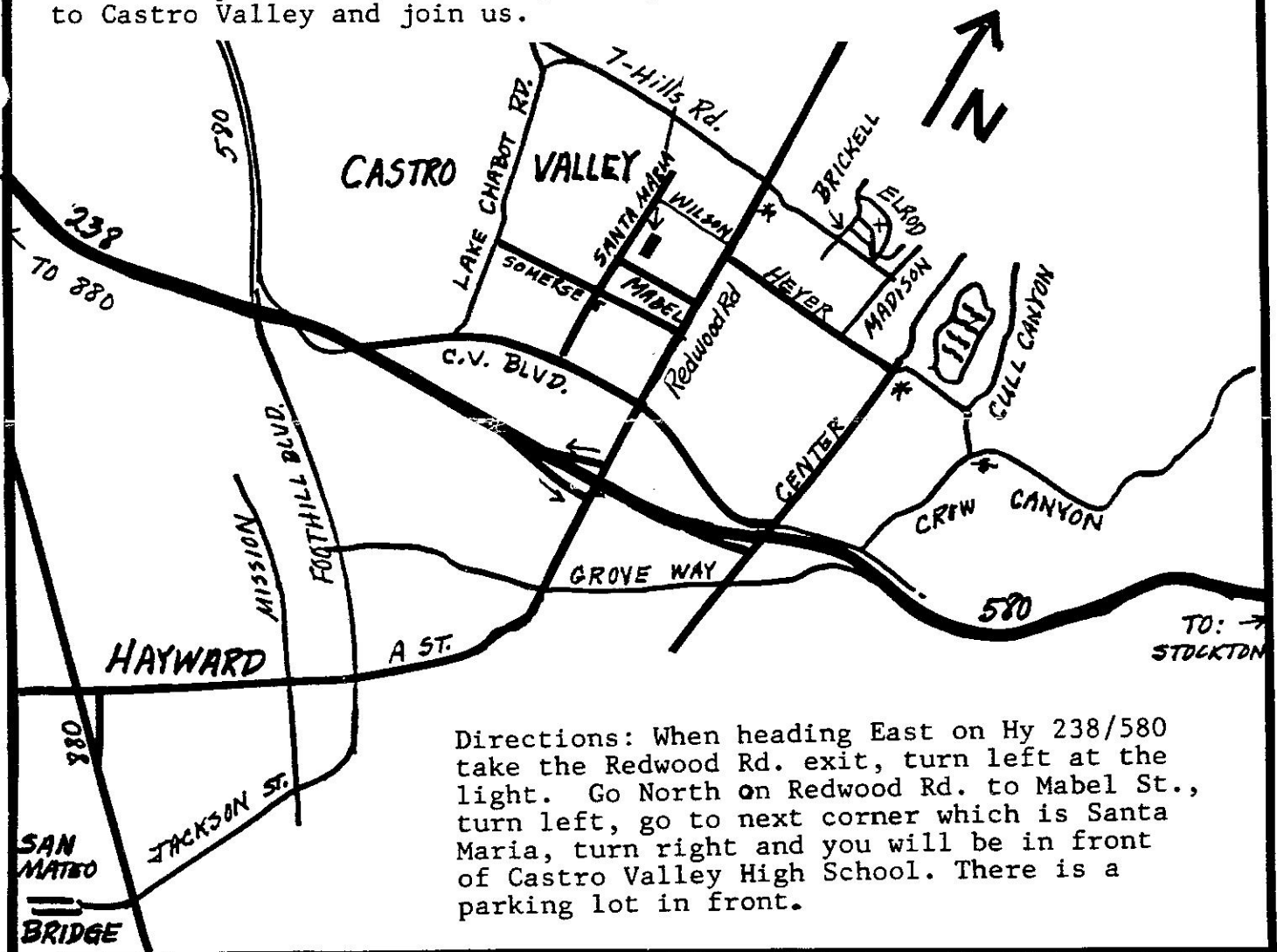
BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

February 1988, Volume 7, Issue 2

Box 421195, San Francisco, CA 94142

Third Thursday Preview

The general meeting will be held on thursday, February 18th at Castro Valley High School on Santa Maria in Castro Valley. Consult map for directions. Social at 7:00pm, general meeting at 7:30. Our main presenter will be veteran BAWA member, Dick Taylor. For many years, Dick has been a versatile and innovative woodworker and will entertain and enlighten us with the many techniques he employs. He will talk about such diverse subjects as low tech woodworking, veneer pressing, face frame clamping and high school woodshop, which he teaches. We will also have a representative from Belzona Molecular, developers and manufacturers of industrial polymers, who will demonstrate one of their unique products, mouldable wood. For a special mid-meeting treat, we will have pies from Baker's Square (yum!). So, take the scenic drive to Castro Valley and join us.



Directions: When heading East on Hy 238/580 take the Redwood Rd. exit, turn left at the light. Go North on Redwood Rd. to Mabel St., turn left, go to next corner which is Santa Maria, turn right and you will be in front of Castro Valley High School. There is a parking lot in front.


From the Editor

The response to the Topics of Interest Survey has been gratifying. Please continue to send them in along with your dues check for \$30. At the end of the first quarter we will be updating the mailing list, so don't delay.

As the new editor, I wish to apologize to Dick Taylor. His story "Mistakes" in January had quite a few, but they were mine, as typing is not my greatest asset. I am making a big effort to improve the layout of the newsletter. I will be working on uniform type in the future. Getting the newsletter to you about 10 days before the meeting time, makes the job of retyping submitted material a big hurdle. Sending newsletter material directly to 4973 Elrod Dr. Castro Valley, 94546 will help. Thank you for your support, contributions and comments.

Norma Brooks

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Highlights from Last Meeting

Let's give Rob Wood and the folks at Classic Constructs a big BAWA thank you for hosting the January meeting. The attending members were treated to a look at some of the modern day woodworking done at Classic Constructs. Rob presented a slide show featuring some of their recent projects for the entertainment business including sets for television and video production, sound stage equipment and a 35 foot motorhome converted into a rolling executive production office complex complete with cellular phones, FAX & copy machines, computer and a plush work environment. Also on display were the model planes that Rob and his crew build and fly for recreation. Thanks again to the folks at Classic Constructs

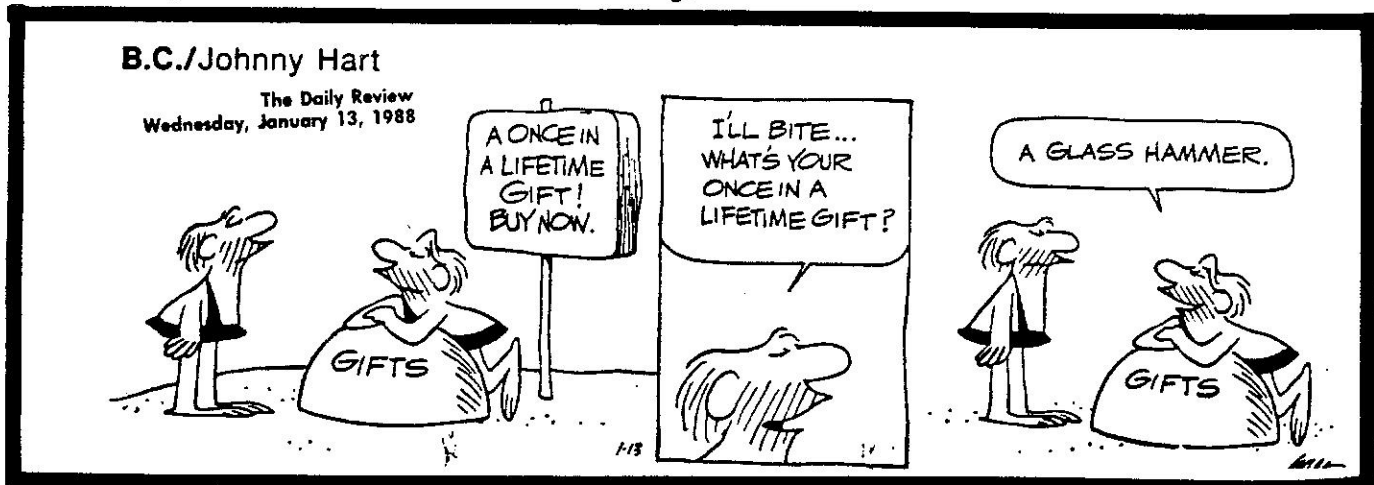
Peter Good and Steven Madden revealed their goals as co-chairs of BAWA. Peter wants to continue bringing our members the information we need to be better woodworkers and Steven will be planning social events, to include, tailgate parties to the A's and Gaints and a BAWA golf tournament.

A liaison committee was formed to work with the upcoming N.Cal Woodworking Show. Ray Ruble and Craig Schiemann will head the group.

The first of a series woodworking contests was announced and discussed. Rules and prize info will appear in this newsletter.

Thanks to all the attending members for helping to make our first meeting of 1988 a success.

The January exec meeting was held at Steve Madden's home/shop in N.Oakland. Steve Madden, Peter Good, Norma Brooks, Craig Schiemann, Dick Taylor, Byron Montague, Ray Ruble and Rob Katzenstein were in attendance. Discussions centered around upcoming meeting locations, featured speakers, a proposed series on contract law for woodworkers and updating the BAWA bylaws. In regards to the last topic, the current board is concerned about the policy of printing any and all material submitted to the newsletter. This policy was inacted in haste during the Maloof/Grew-Sheridan controversy and deserves a second thinking and a vote of the membership and will be included in the bylaws review. All members are encouraged to contribute any thoughts on this and other issues concerning the bylaws review. Also discussed were ideas for giving the newsletter a more professional look. Ideas for the newsletter can be directed to Norma Brooks. The board is committed to making our involvement in the upcoming N. Cal woodworking show beneficial to ALL members so please get involved. See you all at the next meeting.



Healthy Building Materials

In this table you'll find products and techniques that minimize toxic risks posed by common building and decorative materials. Our research indicates the biggest problem for most people is with formaldehyde outgassing from various materials. However, people are also sensitive to other chemicals to varying degrees, and the materials described below cover a wide range of potential problems and ways to avoid them. (Manufacturers of the products mentioned below are listed in Resources on page 118.)

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
<p>Wood Products Formaldehyde outgassing from particleboard, hardboard, paneling, plywood, and other manufactured wood products. (Particleboard is often used in factory-built kitchen cabinets, shelves, and furniture).</p>	<p>Use solid wood where possible or plywood made with exterior-grade glue.</p> <p>Use "low formaldehyde" or HUD-approved manufactured-home particleboard, or particleboard made without formaldehyde, such as Iso-Board.</p> <p>Purchase products containing formaldehyde far in advance of use and store them for several months in a warm, ventilated space to let them age and outgas.</p> <p>To retard formaldehyde outgassing, apply a sealer such as Right On Crystal Aire, Aqua Fabulon, Auro Particleboard Fume Sealer, Auro Clear Wood Sealer, De Grayco Particleboard Sealer, and AFM Water Seal or Hard Seal. For even greater resistance, apply an impervious metal foil laminate such as Dennyfoil over unsealed surfaces.</p>
<p>Wall Finishes & Wall Coverings Vinyl wall coverings may have outgassing from plasticizers.</p> <p>Some wallpaper glues contain fungicides and mildewcides.</p> <p>Plaster or drywall walls are generally OK, but drywall joint compound used to fill and smooth the surface may contain mildewcides, preservatives, asbestos, or formaldehyde.</p>	<p>Use wall coverings made of pure paper, linen, or genuine metallic foils.</p> <p>Use low-toxic wallpaper glues such as Auro Wallpaper Adhesive or Lavo Wallpaper Paste.</p> <p>Use low-toxic drywall joint compounds such as Murco M-100 HiPo Asbestos-Free Joint Compound, Auro Spackling Paste and Compound, Velo Spackling Compound, or Anavo Oil-Based Spackle.</p>
<p>Floors & Floor Coverings Formaldehyde and solvents in carpets and rugs.</p> <p>Particleboard with formaldehyde resins used for carpet or tile underlayment.</p> <p>Solvents and reactive chemicals are usually present in adhesives for all types of flooring.</p> <p>Solvents in sealers and finishes for wood floors.</p> <p>Asbestos in floor tiles.</p> <p>Plasticizers in vinyl flooring materials.</p>	<p>Use a carpet sealer such as Carpet Guard; consider untreated natural fiber carpets (nylon is the least toxic synthetic).</p> <p>Use formaldehyde-free underlayments such as Wonderboard, a lightweight water-resistant concrete board reinforced with fiberglass (cover only with hard surface materials), and Homasote 440 Carpet Board (no formaldehyde or asbestos, but it does contain some mildewcide).</p> <p>Use adhesives that are water-based (such as acrylics) and have low solvent content; see also "Adhesives."</p> <p>Provide adequate ventilation while finish is drying; use natural oil finishes (tung, linseed) with low solvent content; use special non-toxic cleaners, waxes, and polishes like Auro Brand or Bilo-Floor Wax.</p> <p>Hazardous when drilled or sawed; use an effective respirator.</p> <p>Use hard vinyl tiles instead of soft (hard vinyl contains less plasticizer).</p>

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
<p>Paints, Stains & Finishes Oil-based or alkyd paints contain toxic hydrocarbon solvents; stains, varnishes, shellac, and most other finishes pose the same hazard. Water-based latex paints contain fungicides and other biocides, plus small amounts of hydrocarbon solvents.</p> <p>Wood preservatives (fungicides and mildewcides).</p>	<p>Allow plenty of time to dry before inhabiting the space; wear OSHA-approved face mask for protection against solvent vapors; use a large fan for ventilation—don't rely on just an open window or door; use low-solvent water-based latex paint or stain.</p> <p>If solvents cannot be tolerated at all, select a low- or nontoxic product such as Negley's Fungicide & Biocide-Free Paint Products; Casein-Based Milk Paint (limited color selection, not for use in damp areas); and Safecoat Paint, a low-odor nontoxic sealant and finish coat for walls and woodwork. Auro Brand and Livos Plant Chemistry supply a full line of paints, stains, and wood finishes made of natural and nontoxic ingredients; Auro Brand also includes natural cleaners and polishes.</p> <p>Use naturally rot-resistant woods such as redwood, cedar, or cypress; or use low-toxic wood preservatives such as Auro Brand, Aravi-Borax Wood Preservative, or Donnos Wood-Pitch Impregnation.</p>
<p>Adhesives, Glues & Mastics Many adhesives contain toxic hydrocarbon solvents.</p>	<p>Epoxy-type adhesives are relatively nontoxic when fully cured.</p> <p>White glue (polyvinyl acetate) and carpenter's glue (yellow aliphatic resin) are safe when dry.</p> <p>Use alternative adhesives made from natural and nontoxic materials, such as Dyno Flex water-based synthetic rubber sealant and Dyno Seal liquid copolymer, used as a sealer and waterproofing membrane.</p> <p>Linami Cork Adhesive and Melino Carpet and Linoleum Adhesive are nontoxic adhesives; use Auro Brand Adhesives for carpet, tile, parquet floor, wallpaper, wood, and furniture and Solomon Brand nontoxic wood glue (also good for use on leather, fabrics, and paper).</p>
<p>Insulation Materials Fiberglass insulation sheds fiberglass fibers during installation, causing lung irritation.</p>	<p>Wear a particle filter mask.</p>
<p>Furniture Frequently constructed of particleboard or other wood products containing formaldehyde.</p>	<p>Choose furniture made with solid wood, metal, or natural materials such as bamboo, wicker, rattan, etc.</p> <p>Apply a sealant, low-toxic paint, or vapor barrier to all accessible areas of particleboard furniture.</p>
<p>Fabrics Upholstery fabrics may contain formaldehyde, plasticizers, dye residues, and fungicides; synthetic fabrics pose the greatest problem, but even natural fabrics may contain some of these chemicals.</p>	<p>Choose furniture with untreated natural fiber fabrics (cotton, wool, linen, jute, etc.); Acme Brand natural fiber upholstery fabrics have no flame retardants or moth-proofing.</p>

That "brand-new" smell is hazardous to your health

CARPETING CLEANUP

If you've ever walked into a carpet store and been assaulted by an acrid, eye-stinging odor, you don't need to be told that carpeting is a significant source of indoor air pollution. A stew of more than two dozen chemicals—fungicides, pesticides, bactericides, and treatments to resist stains among them—ends up in and on the average carpet before it leaves the factory. When at last it reaches your floor, the carpet may still be wafting unpleasant and unhealthy fumes.

If your new carpeting is nice to look at but hard to live with, here's a two-stage cleaning procedure to rid it of some of the chemicals:

Stage 1. Rent a commercial carpet steam-cleaner (not a rug shampooer) and a supply of steam-cleaning concentrate *without* deodorants. Mix the concentrate according to the "heavy soil" directions, then dissolve one percent by weight of sodium bisulfite (available in drugstores) to neutralize the formaldehyde. Steam clean the carpet with this mix.

Stage 2. Mix the concentrate according to "light scrub" directions and clean the carpeting again. If the fumes still bother you after shampooing, call the U.S. EPA's hotline at (800) 424-9065 for information on other techniques.

Taking steps to clear the air

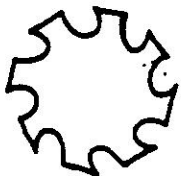
TESTING FOR FORMALDEHYDE

If you or any member of your family is experiencing symptoms you think might be related to formaldehyde fumes—eye, nose, or throat irritation, frequent nausea or fatigue—you may want to test the air in your home.

Home formaldehyde monitors, which cost about \$40, are made to

be hung in your house for a few hours, then returned to the laboratory for analysis. One tester that's widely available is the 3M 3720 Formaldehyde Monitor. For information, write to Occupational Health and Safety Products Division, 3M Center, St. Paul, MN 55144, or call (612) 426-0691.

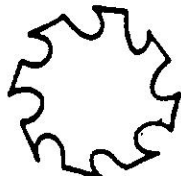
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BAY AREA WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION BY LAWS

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.
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.



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FURNITURE SALES TRENDS CAUSE WORRY

Even with all the recent tumult in world financial markets, it still seems certain that most furniture manufacturers will finish out 1987 with record-high sales. But as good as last year was, it should have been better, according to Richard Rea, Editor of Furniture Wood Digest.

Furniture's share of consumer spending has fallen from 1.31 percent in 1960 to .97 percent in 1986. Had the furniture industry maintained its 1960 share it would be double the size that it is today.

To try to reverse the trend the National Home Furnishings Foundation has been created by furniture retailers to develop an "Excellence and Equity" program that will offer marketing and educational materials for retailers and manufacturers.

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THE BAWA CREATIVE WOODWORKING CONTEST #1

Title: 2x4 contest

Objective: Be as creative as possible with a standard 2x4

Rules: Materials criteria are as follows (These are the only materials that can be used and projects need not include all of these materials in finished form.)

1 board measuring 2x4x96 inches (any type of wood can be used)

Any type(s) of adhesives can be used.

Any type(s) of fasteners (except nails) can be used

Any type(s) of operable / ornamental hardware can be used

NO wood fillers , wood substitutes, or plastic laminates can be used

These criteria will be closely followed when judging all entries so please stay within the guidelines.

Any design is acceptable and all entries will be judged by the following criteria.

Popular vote of the attending members.

Prize: Two tickets to the upcoming production of Beth Henley's award winning Broadway play "Crimes of the Heart" opening Feb 26 at the San Jose Stage Company. Staring in this comedy/drama is the lovely and talented Kathryn Keats in the role of Meg McGrath. "Crimes of the Heart" was also a top ten movie in 1987 starring Jessica Lang, Sissy Specek and Diane Keaton. These tickets will be good for the 8:00 show, Friday March 18 only, so keep the evening open. BAWA will also provide the winner with \$40 cash for dinner after the show.

Judging of this contest will take place at the MARCH meeting. All members are encouraged to participate in this and all future contests. This is intended to be fun but you can take it seriously if you please.

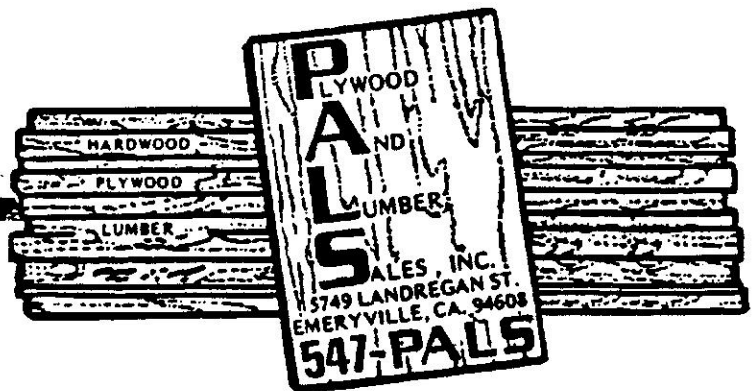
There will be a short discussion of contest #1 and ideas for contest #2 at the FEBURARY meeting.

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T.L.T.* WOODWORKING (*truly low tech)

When I started doing construction and woodworking for a living, I had little experience, no formal training and no money. I gave up a good job and a promising future with IBM Corporation to become a greenhorn wood butcher. People thought I was crazy. Of course, they've always had a few doubts about me, so my decision wasn't a total surprise. So, without any formalities, I put a 2-line classified ad in a local paper declaring myself to be in the business of fine construction and remodeling. Within a couple of weeks I sold my first job, a living room addition on a house, on the basis of little more than a talk with the owners.

I spent the next day or so wondering how one builds a living room addition. My primary method of finding out was to go to building material suppliers and ask them how to build this thing. Some people said I had guts. Others said I was stupid. In any event, the fact remains that with some research and self-instruction on my part, the addition was successfully built and the owners were quite satisfied.

I should back up a bit and say that from my early childhood I was a tinkerer and science-minded nerd who was always making things, from radios to secret forts in the woods and from goldfish pools to motorized gadgets. The only tools I had to work with were my father's and were downright primitive by most woodworking and construction standards. As I recall, the only electric tool he had was a very small, very old Delta table saw; what we'd call a hobby machine. Other than that, there were a few basic hand tools, most of them elderly and well worn, and that was it. From the beginning, therefore, I learned how to make one tool do a variety of things. A screwdriver can be a screwdriver, a lever, a chisel of sorts, a punch of sorts, a scraper, a small hammer, kind of, and if it's got a sharp point, you might even be able to use it to pick splinters out with. Pliers can be pliers, wrench, hammer, small anvil, small pry bar and, you got it, a splinter puller. Some things you don't even need tools for. With some luck and creativity it's sometimes possible to use materials or assemble parts without the aid of any

device or equipment. This is stretching things, however, and I wouldn't count on it except under the most dire circumstances. My father also had a standard procedure for fixing mechanical things; you soak it in kerosene for a few days or more and it usually got better. So you might say that I learned kind of a frontier version of woodworking because I had little more to work with than the pioneers did.

It was, therefore, with this sort of background that I went into construction and woodworking. The fact that I also had two college degrees, one of them in architecture, had little, if anything, to do with preparing me to make a living. I had no idea of what a shaper or planer was, and if you told me that a jointer was something to make marijuana cigarettes with, I would have believed you.

After getting that living room addition job, the first thing I did was go to the local K-Mart to buy some tools, since I didn't even own a hammer. I bought the world's cheapest circular saw, the world's cheapest electric drill and a minimal assortment of basic hand tools. For less than \$50., I equipped myself for construction and woodworking. Threw it all in the back of my VW bus and I was in business. And here I am, 20 years and a countless number of jobs later and I'm still at it. I'm now a specialty woodworker and have a reputation for fine quality and innovative designs. Funny thing is, I'm still low tech. I don't mean like the use of hand tools instead of electric; I mean like gluing up something and using cement blocks and buckets of joint compound to weight it down instead of clamps and presses. I mean like sharpening chisels on a belt sander with an 80 grit belt and making mortises and tenons for doors using nothing but a 10" Rockwell table saw. I've moved up, though, from Truly Low Tech to Somewhat Low Tech, which is a cut above. I now use a planer, and, about a year ago, used a jointer for the first time. I have yet to use a shaper even though my primary business is the manufacture of upper end custom doors. I've learned to make the most of the tools and equipment that I have and have developed techniques for performing multiple tasks with a single tool. This obviously reduces not only the required number and variety of tools and equipment, but also the size and sophistication of the workspace.

The point is, it's not so much the equipment you use as the techniques. It's entirely possible to do good work and run a successful business without going to woodworking school or having state-of-the-art equipment, or a shop that looks like an industrial showcase. Oh, don't get me wrong. CNC equipment, laminate presses, moulders and laser cutters all have their places. I'm just saying that with a little creativity, you can do a lot with a table saw, an electric drill and a few pipe clamps. I've also seen beautiful things produced in shops that were very small, had dirt floors, a few bare bulbs hanging on wires, no dust collection and were equipped with tools that looked like they were straight out of the bronze age.

I could afford a shaper now; it's just that I've gotten to the point where I'm comfortable using other methods to arrive at a similar, but individualized, result. Lower tech methods, to be sure, but ones that work. The message in all of this might revolve around using tools, equipment and methods which you're comfortable with and which work for you. Perhaps it even touches on more profound issues like philosophies of woodworking or the future of woodworking as a craft and business. Perhaps we're in a transition stage during which woodworking splits and goes in two completely different directions, one being high tech mass production in which speed, accuracy, uniformity and conservation of labor are the prime directives, and the other being low tech, individualized, hand crafted single item production. In their way, both of these production methods can be state-of-the-art and produce high quality and perhaps very different results.

For now, however, the essential point is that there's more than one way to do most everything and, in many cases, the ways are not right or wrong, they're just different. What works, works, and that's the important thing.

Peter Good

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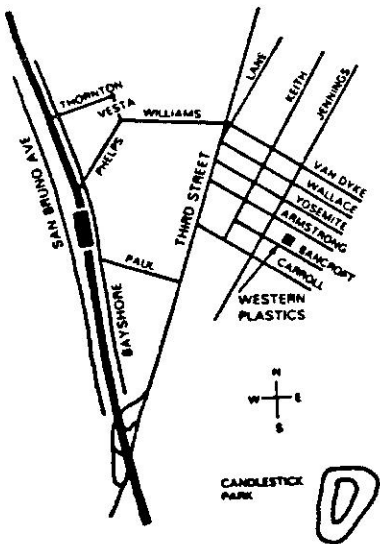
COMPANY

Calendar

MARCH 26, 27, 28, THE WOODWORKING SHOW - SAN JOSE

We will have a booth and display at this show if the membership is willing to contribute time, photographs, slides, examples of their work, etc. This a great public relations opportunity for you as an individual craftsman and for our organization. We will talk more about this at the general meeting and be forming a show committee (not just current board members).

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B.A.W.A. EXECUTIVE BOARD January-June, 1988

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	Steve Madden	415-654-3332
Recording Secretary:	Tim Kennedy	415-822-3698
Treasurer:	Dick Taylor	415-846-3647
Newsletter Editor:	Norma Brooks	415-537-4096
Staff:	Ray Ruble	408-247-0848
	Terrie Noll	415-759-1066
	Kate Herald	415-431-7735
	Steve Madden	415-654-3332
Advertising	Tim Kennedy	415-822-3698
Refreshments:	Rob Katzenstein	415-652-0426
	Byron Montague	415-527-1441
Mailing List Coordinator:	Ray Ruble	408-247-0848
Executive Assistant:	Craig Schiemann	707-745-5878

Items to be included in the newsletter must be received by the first Tuesday of each month. To insure their inclusion in the newsletter, they may be sent directly to Norma Brooks, 4973 Elrod Dr., Castro Valley, 94546

Classifieds

FOR SALE: Porter thickness planer, 8"x24", 5 hp, 3 phase, completely reconditioned.
"6x48" Belt and 12" combination disk sander
Shopsmith with jointer attachments
Call Craig, 415-676-1165

SHOP SPACE AVAILABLE:
Hardwood workshop in Berkeley is looking for new member.
\$350 per month Call 845-4887

JOB OPPORTUNITY :
American Woodworker Magazine needs a fulltime Woodworking Editor. Applicant must have woodworking job experience or formal training plus experience as a writer or editor. Drawing and photo skills are a big plus. Applicant must be willing to move to Eastern Pennsylvania. Sent resume salary requirements, writing sample, and photos of recent work to: Personnel, Dept. AW, Rodale Press, Inc., 33 East Minor St., Emmaus, PA. 18098.

CLASS OFFERED: Contractors License Law, Career Planning, and Energy Conservation Class starting Monday, Feb. 8 (late regis. ok) at 101 Wurster Hall, Dept. of Architecture, UC Berkeley. Emphasis will be on studying for the state licensing exam. Class time is 6:00-8:00 p.m. Call Robin Freeman for more information 848-5713 Fee: \$10.00 Feb.-June

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP THIS MONTH!!!!!!

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

Special Interest (i.e. hobbyist, professional, (cabinets, furniture,?))

Please mail your check for \$30 and this page to:
BWA, c/o Norma Brooks, 4973 Elrod Dr., Castro Valley, Ca. 94546

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY: TOPICS OF INTEREST

PLEASE RATE 1:10

- _____ DEMONSTRATIONS- HOW TO DISCUSSIONS
- _____ PANEL OF SPEAKERS REGARDING WOODWORKING PROCEDURES AND SHOP METHODS
- _____ OUTSIDE SPEAKERS -SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE WOODWORKING BUSINESS
- _____ PRESENTATION BY FAMOUS WOODWORKERS ABOUT THEIR WORK
- _____ PRESENTATIONS BY OUR MEMBERS DEMONSTRATING THEIR SPECIALTY AND WORK IN PROGRESS
- _____ SLIDESHOWS BY MEMBERS REGARDING TRAVEL/TOURS WHICH RELATE TO WOODWORKING
- _____ EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC MACHINERY
- _____ BUSINESS METHODS (i.e. estimating, booking, insurance, taxes, etc.)
- _____ BOOK REVIEWS BY MEMBERS
- _____ OTHER _____

COMMENTS: _____

