



When Last We Met

by Bill Ophoff.

The last meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild was held December 21, 1999 in the shop of Bill Fox. The pre-meeting demonstration on creating barley twist carvings was ably given by Bob Vergette. After giving a brief history of the form and its usage, Bob started to tell us about creating the carvings. He demonstrated the effect of lead and pitch and focused on a double lead twist, recommending the pitch be equal to the diameter of the spindle.

Bob then talked about the use of left- and right-handed twists in furniture and architectural design, suggesting that a chevron effect is what you want. He then showed how to layout your work by four quadrants the use pitch lines of $p/4$. Draw the diagonals using different coloured pens or pencils, choosing one colour as the saw cut line. He then followed up with a Shurform file and various hand files to complete the material removal. Bob also gave tips on smoothing and finishing the work.

PWG president Bob Bedier called the meeting to order wishing us all season's greetings in spite of his obvious frailty due to the flu. His announcements were:

- We received a thank you letter from the Help Fill a Dream Foundation for our \$1500 fundraising raffle at the October B.C. Woodworking Show in Cloverdale.
- Letter from G&G Trade Corporation regarding their height and table adjusting mechanism. More info:
www.skybusiness.com/ggtrade
- Invite from Country Living Exhibition to do similar activity as Delta workshop.
- Circulated a brochure from Exploration in Wood.

- A new search engine is available for woodworking magazines, details of which were circulated to members who are on our electronic mailing list.

Paulin Laberge reminded us of the speed with which the annual 2x4 Challenge is approaching. In addition to emphasizing the millennial twist to our Y2K contest of "wood only", Paulin asks for help with the running of the event in its new venue.

Visitors this month were: Doug McKee, Gord Bednard, and Hiam Roberts. Welcome and apologies for any misspellings.

Don Fralick handed around the Mighty Mo, a combination rule, level, and protractor available at House of Tools for PWG members at a special price of \$19.50.

Bob turned the meeting over to Art Liestman who introduced the speaker he arranged for us this month, Doug Clement of 3M, to talk about respiratory protection for woodworkers. Doug gave us a well organized and extensive talk on the topic with plenty of examples of protective gear to pass around while he spoke.

Doug started by explaining that filters have all changed in recent years as a consequence of new guidelines created after the Center for Disease Control merged with NIOSH. One of the changes was to classify filters by their efficiency of capturing 0.3 micron particles and whether they are good in a no oil atmosphere (N), are oil resistant (R), or are oil proof (P). For example N95 means 95% efficient in a no oil environment. Anything smaller than 2 microns is harder for the body to expel.

Doug spent some time talking about respirators for different applications, stressing that you had to be aware of what you want and/or need to protect yourself against. He said there are two secret ingredients to a good respirator, it

The Pacific Woodworkers Guild is a non-profit association of British Columbia Craftspeople dedicated to excellence in woodworking. Guild members meet on the third Tuesday of each month (except July and August) in Richmond, B.C.

The newsletter is published monthly, ten times per year, and distributed free to members and associate members. Membership is available to anyone interested in any form of fine woodworking. Membership fees are \$25 for twelve months; Associate membership fees (newsletter only) are \$15 for ten issues.

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Newsletter submissions should be directed to the newsletter editor, Steve Hansen, via email: shansen@bc-alter.net or call 585-0638.

Guild Executive

Elected Officers

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| <i>Treasurer</i> | Dan Lemire |
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| <i>Members-at-Large</i> | Paul Townsend Bill Fox Art Liestman Phil Laliberte |

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| <i>Mailout</i> | Fred Otte |
| <i>Reporters</i> | Marco Berera Fred Baldwin Murray MacKinnon Bill Ophoff Denis Reid |
| <i>Meeting Entertainment and Workshops</i> | Art Liestman Robert Prinse |
| <i>2x4 Challenge</i> | Paulin Laberge |
| <i>Richmond Carvers' Show</i> | Ted Fromson |
| <i>BC Woodworking Show - Delta Workshop</i> | Vic Harrison Art Eberwein Ron McLeod |
| <i>PWG Booth</i> | Denis Reid |
| <i>Christmas Toy Workshop</i> | Robert Prinse |
| <i>Habitat for Humanity</i> | Cydney Harling |
| <i>Charity Raffle</i> | Bob Bedier Art Liestman |
| <i>Library</i> | Bob Bedier Art Liestman |

looks after you and it has to be comfortable. After describing the difference between positive and negative pressure masks, Doug emphasized the importance of being clean shaven for a face fitting mask to avoid the passage of contaminants in the gaps caused by facial hair.

Next, Doug outlined the pros and cons of a wide range of protective gear leaving each of us an excellent information package for future reference. Doug impressed us with the variety of gear available and with the important differences to be considered when making your decision. He said if we want more information call him at 273-2211 extension 488.

To wrap up, Doug raffled off some great samples of his wares and Don Fralick dug into his bag of tricks to assure everyone was a winner.

A special thanks to everyone who helped maintain the festive air of the meeting by bringing in the very excellent Christmas ornaments to donate, and all those delicious treats. New years greetings to all.

Upcoming Events Info

by Art Liestman.

To start the new year, we have scheduled some special presentations by our own members. The January 18th meeting will begin with a woodturning demonstration by the ever popular (although rotten) Marco Berera. I don't know what he'll turn, but don't be late!

Our main speaker is Murray MacKinnon who advocates combining woodworking with stained glass! Since most of us know about the wood side, he will tell us about the history of stained glass and give us details on the types of glass, how art glass is made, how to cut it and methods of joining it. Having covered all of that, he'll tell us about some projects in wood and glass. This promises to be great fun as well as interesting!

See you there.

Book Review: The Timber of British Columbia

by Ed Pretty.

A while back Steve was over for the evening and out of the blue we started talking about woodturning (duh). As conversations often go, this one strayed to the topic of local wood and eventually to logging.

Although I am no longer associated with the logging industry personally, my family enjoys a rich heritage in the formative stages of the industry in the province. I took the time to show Steve a small booklet promoting my grandfather's company - "Pretty's Timber Exchange". The company specialized in assembling blocks of timber (timber berths) and selling the cutting rights to investors. Brooks - Scanlon was an example: this company became the Powell River Company and eventually the town of Powell River came into being as a result. This book was published around the turn of the 20th century and has some perspectives that I thought Steve would enjoy reading. He found it interesting and asked if I would do a short review since we are all interested in wood in general. It gives a brief snapshot of the economic climate and the province itself at the time, in a way that a formal volume on history couldn't. It speaks at the same time with incredible irony and stunningly accurate prophecy when referring to the life of the resource. Not bad for a sales brochure.

The booklet starts off by painting a fairly dismal picture of the forestry resource in the U.S. at the time (1905) "...We are consuming yearly three or four times as much timber as the forest growth restores. Our supply of some varieties will be practically exhausted in ten or twelve years. In the case of others, without reforestation, the present century will see the end...". It goes on to say that such was not quite the case in British Columbia and ultimately that this had "...brought to the notice of all parties in timber as an investment, the forests of

British Columbia". This passage ends with "...Although our forests are large, many of us will see their depletion, not many years hence.". In other words "Get 'em while they last, folks!"

Although my grandfather was trying to make a buck (a lot of bucks) he was seeing the result of a technological turning point in the industry and was concerned for the future of the resource. At the time, logging methods were rapidly changing from ox/horse drawn motive power to steam powered donkeys and trains that resulted in a ten fold increase in the ability to get timber out of the bush. Gone were the days when the only merchantable timber was that which you could fall directly into the water. He was a visionary man, but even he would have been shocked by the advances that came with the advent of the chain saw, the pneumatic tire...and verily, the helicopter.

His vision of the industry at the time was enduring to say the least. His sales pitch echoes the path of development along the coast over the last century. "...Logging is carried on the whole year round, the climate being temperate and the snowfall very light, although odd days are lost during the rainy season. The logging is done principally with donkey engines which are placed at the water's edge or on floats. Where there are no drivable streams, railways are used, and the average cost of logging in British Columbia is from \$3.00 to \$7.00 per thousand (!), according to the distance from the water and the nature of the ground. Towing is comparatively safe for almost any distance along the coast on account of the many islands and inside channels. Mill sites and water powers, harbors and townsites are abundant in many bays and at the mouths of numberless rivers and creeks which come from the mountains along the coast."

He went on to extol the virtues of the great railroads that existed and where gazetted and how they would open up the vast "inventory" in the interior of the province. Of course, none of this ever amounted to much!

An interesting side bar here. He commented on a future third rail terminus between Prince Rupert and Vancouver and in general was a keen promoter of transportation links. I understand that he lobbied very hard for a road link to Vancouver Island. The road bridge would have used Ripple Rock in Seymour Narrows as a footing. When I learned this I finally understood why my eldest uncle was so upset when it was blown up.

His description of the "merchantable woods" were rather blasé, yet would aptly describe the "tree museums" that exist in only a few areas of the province now: "Douglas or Yellow fir grows to a great size and height, some trees being 12 feet in diameter and 175 feet to the first limb; but the average and most cheaply logged areas are those that are covered by timber which runs from 3 to 5 feet on the stump and from 75 to 150 feet to the first limb. White or Silver Fir...3 feet on the stump. Larch...two and a half feet. Giant Arbor Vitae (Red Cedar)...average 8 to 10 feet and occasionally much larger..". In general his description of the timber inventory of the province includes the geographic range, the virtues and marketability of each species. If I could only get my hands on the tight grained, clear wood he took for granted....

A description of the wonderful integrity of the company seems in order at one point in the booklet. The subtle significance of this is lost even in this volume since the background must be known to appreciate the point. It politely alludes to the "experience" and "depth" of the company and the influential connections that can be made. At the time, Seymour street was the home of timber berth hawkers; apparently on the level of a Kingsway used car salesman. These denizens had no offices and stalked the street in pursuit of the many Englishmen who were themselves in pursuit of a good investment. Many an investor was stuck with timber berths atop mountains or on steep sidehills that were virtually inaccessible at the time. This type of activity eventually led to all major En-

glish investors pulling all capital out of the industry. My grandfather went to England for a year in 1912 to lobby and promote the good will of more scrupulous brokers and bring back the cash cow. Powell River was the first step back as a result of this effort.

The booklet describes the company's experienced timber cruisers (in reality my grandfather and older uncles) and contains a photo from an old family album. In the photo, it shows Grandfather in one of two native Coast Salish (unheard of ?) canoes on Harrison Lake returning from a timber cruising trip up to what is now Pemberton. One of those canoes is now housed in the Museum Of Anthropology at UBC: another long (but not tall) story. To put this in perspective, timber cruising is now done from satellites.

He saw the future of the industry in pulp and paper. There is a whole section devoted to the suitability of the timber for pulping, the opportunity for vast amounts of hydro power and a huge market; one we now describe as the Pacific Rim. How could one pass on such an opportunity!? He speaks of the vast emerging market in Japan due to the huge population - does this sound like the way we look at China today? As much as some things change, some things stay the same - or - "there ain't nothin' new that ain't old".

Although this little volume was published nearly 100 years ago strictly for the promotion of a business, it remains today a time capsule that makes an interesting read just for the heck of it. It contains some history, some prophecy....and some wisdom that still holds true today.

Newsletter via Email

Just a reminder that you can get the PWG newsletter sent to you via the internet. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, send your email address to Murray MacKinnon, also known as:
murraym@istar.ca