



# KNOT KNEWS



Monthly Newsletter of the Collins Woodworkers Guild

Volume 4, Issue 6

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

March 1999

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 16 - 5:00 p.m.  
35th Street Cafeteria

## Jigs and Gadgets Show & Tell

Dan Ortz, Facilitator

Bring your favorite woodworking jig or gadget ... we are going to have another Show & Tell! If you bring and present an item at the meeting we'll put your name in the door prize can. Only those presenting will be entered this month. Wayne will dig-up a nice prize to make it well worth your time. Bring two and get two entries (max). Dan is also planning a demonstration and videotape on a nifty wood clamping system featured in a recent *Wood* magazine article. - Be There !!



Win this 10" Incra T-Rule - First draw from the door prize can. Second draw will be a 6" Square.

## April Meeting

Scott Nessler, Facilitator

At this writing, we have scheduled Jim Sanders from the Cedar Valley Carvers to give us a carving demonstration. The next meeting will be held April 20<sup>th</sup> in the 35<sup>th</sup> Street Cafeteria.

## February's Meeting Cabinet Creations Tour Greg Davis, Facilitator

The February meeting was held at Cabinet Creations, Inc. at 2389 10th Avenue in Marion with over forty members and guests in attendance. Jim Moeller, part owner of this very impressive cabinet shop, cordially gave us a tour of their facilities.

Jim started the business eight years ago with partner Randy Gardner after being laid-off from a job as a carpenter. They specialize in custom cabinetry and laminates for both residential and commercial customers. They employ one additional craftsman.

Jim gave a brief over-view of several of the production-level tools they have accumulated over the years. Of mention were: an 18" *Whirlwind* bottom cut chop saw, a *Denray* down-draft sanding table, a 37" *sandyuno* power-feed belt sander, a large single-head shaper, a *Porter-Cable* pocket hole machine, a 48" by 6" vertical *Ritter* belt sander, a line-boring machine, and a *Grass Ecopress* automatic (European) hinge press. Jim reminded us that, "This is a business, time is money, and carefully selected tools will pay for themselves". Jim indicated that with his compliment of cabinet making tools, he could compete with companies like Menard's. He also reviewed their favorite glues, finishing materials, wood and cutting tools, and sheet-good sources.

The shop was neat and clean of dust with lots of cabinets and drawers for storage for tools and materials. Jim say's, "The vacuum system handles the major dust and chip problem and the sanding table will quickly clean the air after a major 'blow down' with compressed air". He noted that they thoroughly clean the shop area every day. Guild members in attendance expressed their thanks to Jim for sharing his time and for giving us an informative tour of *Cabinet Creations*.

Photos on page 2.

# Book Review

## Do it Yourself House Building

*George Nash*

O.K. So you want to build a house. Or even if you don't want to build a house, if you're like me the "how to" is of interest just in case you might want to someday.

I've received an overdue notice from our guild librarian requesting return of "Do-It-Yourself Housebuilding. The Complete Handbook" by George Nash. I checked it out at a meeting last fall because it included a section on trusses, an item of interest at the time. Once I got my hands on it and I began to explore the other pages I was intrigued and overwhelmed with the amount of information and detail in this book.

As it happens I did, to some extent, build my own home twenty years ago. We had the house framed up and closed in and I took it from there. At that time I paid about \$8 for a lesser book on the same subject. That book resided by the "john" and I gradually became more proficient in some of the techniques required to complete the house: roofing first, siding, then plaster-board and trim, etc.



That book was not nearly so complete as Nash's. If you want to build a block foundation, apply a stucco finish, or cut a hole in a flue tile, it's in the book. So are developing an on site water supply and how to lay carpet. It's all there in 704 pages.

The reason the book was overdue is that I am reluctant to let it go, I wanted to keep it. Roger Thompson pointed out that I can have my own copy by purchasing through a wood working book club at a 15% discount which brings the price down to \$21, or so. The price pales compared to the cost of doing almost anything to your home. Check it out! Or better yet, purchase your own copy and install it by your "john" for hours of informative reading.

- Dave Yeoman



February's *Cabinet Creations, Inc.* tour.



Photos by John Cox

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BOOK REVIEW

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## The HANDPLANE Book

Garrett Hack

The author, Garrett Hack, is a professional cabinetmaker and frequent contributor to the *Fine Woodworking* magazine. This 260-page book is one of the newer books in our library and is a Taunton Press publication. Taunton Press produces high quality publications and this book is no exception. Nearly every page has high quality photos or top-notch graphics. The title for the book pretty much gives away what this book is all about. However, it's not about collecting Stanleys or Sargents but about how to use them as they have been used by craftsman for the last several hundred years. Hack starts out with the obligatory chapters on history and cutting mechanics but rapidly moves on to extensive explanations of tuning and using planes. The chapter on tuning covers 24 pages and does a good job of explaining frogs, mouths and irons. Frogs? Mouths? Irons? Like any specialty, these tools have their own lingo and Hack does a good job of explaining these with words and

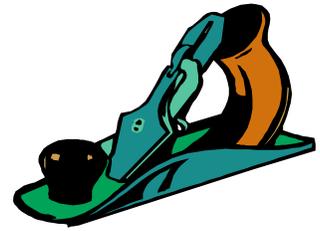
graphics.

A big part of keeping a plane tuned is sharpening the iron (the cutting blade). Hack does a good job of explaining the different methods as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each method of sharpening. He describes the different types of stones for sharpening and the different jigs and fixtures commonly used. This topic gets a lot of magazine press but is still a necessary part of a book such as this.

The next several chapters are, in my humble opinion, where this book shines. Chapters 5 through 10 cover different areas - *How To Plane* and where planes are used - *Sizing Stock, Joinery, Surfacing, Scrapers, Shaping*. Each chapter describes the planes used for the task, the techniques appropriate to the task and any special sharpening techniques appropriate for the task. I've read a number of magazine articles that try to cover this subject in two or three pages - Hack does it in five chapters and 134 pages. I think I can safely say that Hack does a better job than the magazine articles do. The last three chapters cover Specialty Planes, Contemporary Plane Makers and Buying Planes. As of this writing, I haven't read through these chapters but I'm looking forward to doing so.

I've been interested in planes since my father gave me

several old planes that had been passed down through the family from my great uncles. They were carpenters in the early part of this century and had the usual tools of the trade. My prize plane from them is a Stanley #5C, which is generally thought of as a jackplane (as in "jack of all trades"). I've tried a variety of things with this plane with mixed success. After reading this book, I have a much better understanding of how to use my #5C and the others I've collected in recent years. If you're interested in using planes in your woodworking, I highly recommend this book. It's a mix of romantic notions of old planes and the reality of really using them for useful tasks. Whichever camp you're in, you won't be disappointed in this book.



- Wayne Hanson

P.S. Anybody else in the club read anything that's worth sharing with the club? We always have space available here in the newsletter and would really like to hear from you.

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### Guild Benefits

- ◆ Access to our Extensive Library and Tool Collection
- ◆ Open Exchange of Ideas
- ◆ Social Activities
- ◆ Workshops
- ◆ Opportunity to Help our Community through Toys-For-Tots Program
- ◆ Educational Presentations
- ◆ Open Houses
- ◆ Tours
- ◆ Discounts at:
  - Janda's Tool Center
  - Eastern Iowa Supply
  - Woodsmith Store - Des Moines
  - Pucket's Tools & Fasteners

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### Retiring?

Keep in touch. Don't miss a copy of the newsletter. Send an e-mail to our membership person, Kelley Kirtz at [kkkirtz@collins.rockwell.com](mailto:kkkirtz@collins.rockwell.com) and give her your new (home) address.

## "New Life for an Older Radial Arm Saw" By: Roger Thompson

I was approached by an employee at work and asked if I was interested in a radial arm saw that they did not want. Because I have a radial arm saw I was not interested in it for myself, but maybe someone in the Woodworking Guild would be.

I talked with Dave Wetzel about this find. We decided if the saw looked like something we could restore, we would work on it together and make it available to members of the Woodworking Guild.

Arrangements were made to look at this saw Friday afternoon after work. When we got to the address, we were shown an older ten-inch *Craftsman* radial arm saw mounted on a short heavy two-inch angle-iron base. There was a small plywood top bolted to the frame of the saw and a long narrow board was bolted to the back of the top as a fence. The entire thing was covered with specks of white paint. I plugged in the saw and Dave started the saw motor. Actually, the motor sounded pretty good. I guess we both thought we were up to a good challenge. However, we could see some hope for this one-time good radial arm saw.

Because it was raining at the time, we picked up the saw promptly at 10:00 Saturday morning as agreed. We unloaded this thing in the driveway at my house in front of the workshop. (If I remembered right, at one time this used to be a two-car garage. But that probably, is another story.) The first thing we did was remove a dozen carriage bolts and take the plywood top off and discarded it. I made the mistake of giving an air hose to Dave. The first thing he did was to stick that air nozzle in every opening in that motor and blew #%\*!&# everywhere. It sure did let that motor run smother and quite. Next we took off the two side covers for the motor carriage in the overhead arm. The four bolts were caked with sawdust and pitch. We spent some time cleaning the rollers and the surfaces where these rollers ride along the arm. After putting a light film of lithium lubricant where needed, the motor carriage moved freely front to rear. By loosening the lever lock on the blade 90 degrees to the left and right. The pivot



surfaces were cleaned and lubricated. Next we found that the brake would not maintain a 90-degree vertical position. Upon continued inspection we found the four adjustment bolts were loose. This was due to a build-up of sawdust etc. around the heads of the bolts so that they would not tighten down. All this was cleaned and dried. The next thing to clean up was the rear column where the arm is suspended from. This wasn't bad to start with and cleaned up easily. Some *WD-40* here finished this up. The final clean up detailing consisted of using some acetone to remove the white paint specks and minor grease and dirt.

It was a sure thing the base had to go, this was a short heavy four-legged structure with two-inch-wide angle iron and cross bracing. I had a like-new dark gray-painted steel-legged stand I must have saved just for this purpose. It adapted nicely and it looks like it belongs. For the new top we used a two-foot by four-foot piece of three-quarter particleboard. A good piece of Oak made a proper fence, which was dadoed in toward the back of the tabletop, and another piece of Oak was fastened under the top along the front edge to add rigidity.

Some final adjusting of the top for perfect level and square to the motor shaft and this once-old derelict saw has become a respectable piece of woodworking equipment.

Dave and I want this saw available to someone in our Guild who needs a good saw. If you are the one, let Dave or myself know. - Roger

## Member Classified Ads

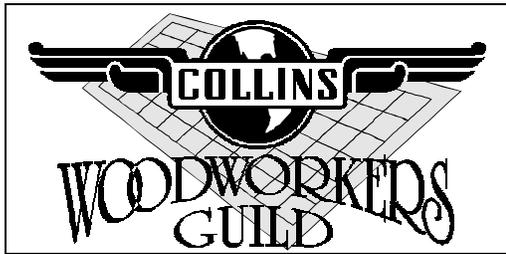
FOR SALE

Craftsman 10" Radial Arm Saw, new top, Oak fence, tuned, and adjusted.

Roger Thompson, Springville 845-7229  
Dave Wetzel, Cedar Rapids 393-6763

## Bus Tour Planned

Based on the success of the trip to Des Moines last spring and our trip to Spring Green Wisconsin last summer, we are planning another bus tour and are looking for a place to visit. Jerry Roland, Rich Beckett, and Jim Wright are heading-up a committee to plan an outing for our club.



## 1999 Collins Woodworkers Guild Officers and Executive Committee

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Membership in the Collins Woodworkers Guild is open to all Rockwell Collins, Inc. employees, spouses, and retirees.

Everyone is welcome at our meetings!

Yearly dues, renewed in September, are \$10.

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Knot Knews is published monthly. Additional copies are available.

Contact Larry Tjaden @ MS 192-101 or e-mail to ldtjaden@collins.rockwell.com or larry@tjaden.net

## Future Meeting Topics

(Some topics scheduled ... some not)

**April 20**, Carving by Jim Sanders

**May 18**, Intarsia by Joan West

**June 22**, Saw Mill ???

**July 20**, Facilitator Needed !

**August 17**, Election of Officers ???

**September 21**, Membership Drive

**October 19**, Toys-for-Tots kickoff

**Suggestions:**

Visit WOODHAVEN - Durant, IA

Visit Pella Window Company - Pella, IA

Another Router workshop presentation.

Sharpening Plane Irons, Chisels, etc.

Have any Ideas for a Meeting Topic?  
Share them with anyone on the planning committee.



Check out the Guild's website within Collins' RWEB

<http://rweb.rockwell.com/data/clubs/cwc/>

The Collins Woodworkers Guild website is now available for viewing on the world wide web at

<http://www.tjaden.net/cwc/>

*Some pages (ie. membership list) are restricted from view*

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Is published monthly by the  
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Cedar Rapids, IA 52498

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