The TOOL SHED

No. 22 June, 1982

A Journal of Tool Collecting published by CRAFTS of New Jersey

AN EARLY STANLEY—WITH SOMETHING ADDED

by Dominic Micalizzi

How many times have you heard someone say that the old tools stood up much better than modern ones? That hackneyed phrase can be applied quite literally to a plane recently added to my collection. It is an old one—and it stands up remarkably well.

My flea-market forays this spring had been total disasters. I had struck out at both Lambertville and Englishtown. Discouraged and depressed, I decided to try a place that I had seen advertising "Yard-Sale Day on Sundays"—no new merchandize allowed and no one permitted to set up before 10:00 a.m. Not an inviting prospect, perhaps, but at least I could sleep late.

It began badly, but eventually I saw a long metal plane on one of the tables. Two things about the plane were immediately apparent: first, it was probably one of the dirtiest tools ever offered for sale anywhere; and second, it had a peculiar metal appendage at the fore end, ahead and at the sides of the front knob.

As the plane was covered with dirt and grease and rust, I examined it gingerly, but I could not find a name. After scraping away some of the grime I could see that the iron was marked Stanley Rule & Level. When I asked the dealer what kind of plane it was, he snapped: "You saw it on the blade."

At this point I finally realized that the plane was a pre-lateral Stanley. But it was unlike any Stanley I had ever seen. As a matter of fact, it was unlike any plane I had ever seen.

Of course, I bought it. And I meekly asked the dealer if he would wrap it in newspaper, as any further examination would have to wait until I could get rid of some of the dirt. After arriving home, I doused the plane with kerosine and cleaned it off enough to get a good look at it.

The plane is a conventional Stanley pre-lateral No. 7, type 2 (Smith), 21 3/8 inches long. What makes it unusual is a metal plate attached to the

(continued on page 3)

O'NEILL TO SPEAK AT JUNE 6th MEETING

CRAFTS of New Jersey will hold its last meeting of the 1981-1982 year on Sunday, June 6, at East Jersey Olde Towne, in Piscataway.

The June meeting will begin with the Swap & Sell at 1:00 p.m. The formal program will begin at 2:15. The business portion of the meeting will include the annual election of directors and officers and the appointment of standing committees.

The program for the afternoon will feature CRAFTS Vice President Harry O'Neill, who will speak on and demonstrate "Pattern Making and Moulding."

Chuck Granick will report on the May 1 auction, which was a tremendous success, and the meeting will conclude with the "Whatsit?" session.

CRAFTS of New Jersey

Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society of New Jersey

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Membership in CRAFTS is open to anyone interested in early trades and industries, and the identification, study, and preservation of tools and implements used and made in New Jersey. Annual dues are five dollars for the membership year of July 1 to June 30. Membership fees may be sent to the Treasurer: C. Carroll Palmer, 725 Pemberton Ave., Plainfield, N.J. 07060.

The Tool Shed

Published five times per year for members of CRAFTS of New Jersey. EditorRobert Fridlington, 8 Keith Jeffries Ave., Cranford, N.J. 07016. Contributions, especially about New Jersey tools and trades, are welcomed.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On behalf of the membership of CRAFTS of New Jersey, we want to welcome the following new members.

Dr. Jonathan Allen
75 E. Prospect Street
Hopewell, NJ 08525

Mr. and Mrs. Leo F. Donnelly
Box 240
Old Zionsville, PA 18068

Mr. and Mrs. John Gallagher
414 Tremont Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090

Mr. Paul F. Murphy
R.D. # 2
1039B State Park Road
Chester, NJ 07930

Mr. Bruce S. Rennie
R.R. #2, Box 206
Honey Hollow Road
Pound Ridge, NY 10576

Mr. Gregg Schwartz
11 Lance Drive
Clark, NJ 07066

Mr. Arthur D. Steinberg
10 Leonard Road
Syosset, NY 11791

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HOWARD BRUCKNER COLLECTION TO BE AUCTIONED IN AUGUST

Lee Murray has announced the auction of CRAFTSman Howard Bruckner's entire collection on August 27 and August 28, at the Holiday Inn in Nashua, N. H.

The Bruckner collection will offer an outstanding selection of high quality and unique tools for the middle and advanced collectors.

Consisting of about 1,000 pieces, the collection contains tools representing almost almost every aspect of woodworking. It includes braces, saws, axes, adzes, froes, slicks, spokeshaves, drawknives, chisels, gouges, hammers, mallets, hand screws, levels, squares, rulers, wood screw boxes, gauges, and brass plumb bobs.

It also contains approximately 150 wooden planes, a number of them 18th century. There are four Crown molders, one an 18th century, signed "A. Adams," with a five-inch blade; and there are 15 plows, one a signed rosewood, ivory tipped, in superb condition.

Approximately one-fourth of the Stanley planes cataloged in Alvin Sellens' book are represented. Especially noteworthy are the nos. 1, 9, the 10 series, 42 (gunmetal, dated early version in superb condition), 41 (early version, with cutters), and a 444.

There will be a continuous tag sale and a listed sale on August 27th and a cataloged auction on the 28th. More details concerning the Bruckner auction will be released in June by advance flyers.

Other scheduled auctions by Crane and Murray will be held June 19th and July 17th at Hillsboro, N. H. A blacksmith sale will be announced at a later date.

The Crane and Murray fall auctions are now being organized and will also be announced later

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(Early Stanley, cont'd from page 1)
fore end. The plate pivots on pins set into the sides of the plane, 5/8" from the front edge. The sides of this plate The sides of this plate are 3 1/4" long and form two legs (See Figure 1).

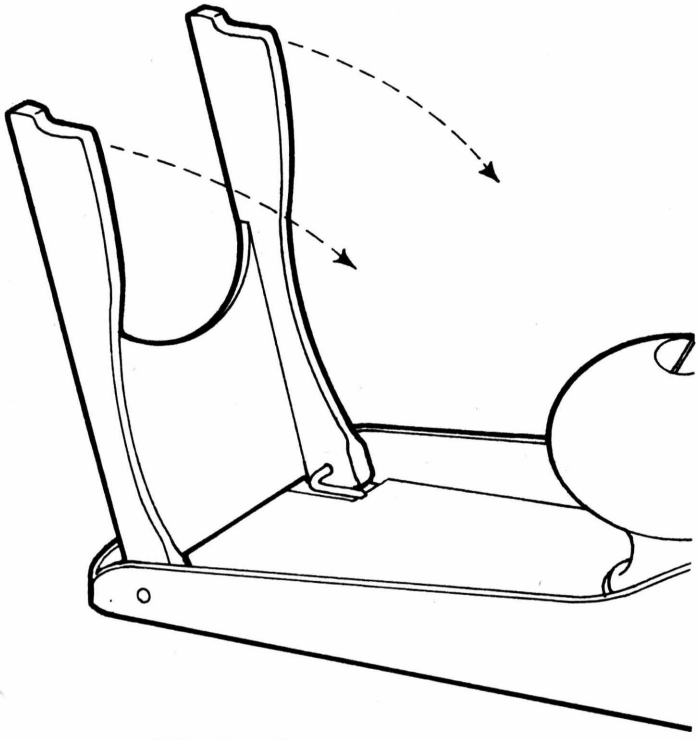

Figure 1

The attachment is well designed and well made. It appears to be cast, and small amounts of japanning remain on the metal. When lying flat, it fits snugly into the plane bed, with the legs extending along either side of the front knob.

When "opened," the legs swing up 120 degrees. Thus, when the plane is inverted, these legs form a stand, and the plane rests on the leg stand and on the top of the plane iron (See Figures 2 and 3).

When standing in this manner, with the sole of the plane upward, it is stable and well balanced. The cork covering on the top of the tote is obviously a protective pad; but as the top of the iron extends above (or, when inverted, below) the tote, this pad does not appear to be necessary.

There appears to be only one minor

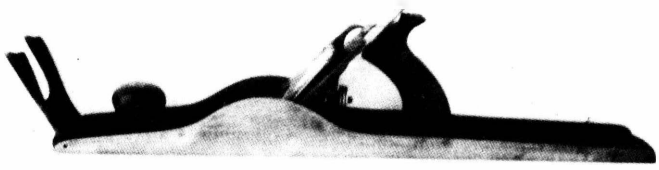

Figure 2: Showing leg stand.

flaw in the plane's manufacture. Below the pivot pins, shallow recesses have been hollowed out in the bottom of the plane to allow the legs to swing upward. The recess on the left side is rather poorly made. Otherwise, it is a precision-made piece.

The only other imperfection of any consequence is where the pivot pin on the right side has been broken by wear or neglect, and a small nail has been inserted in its place.

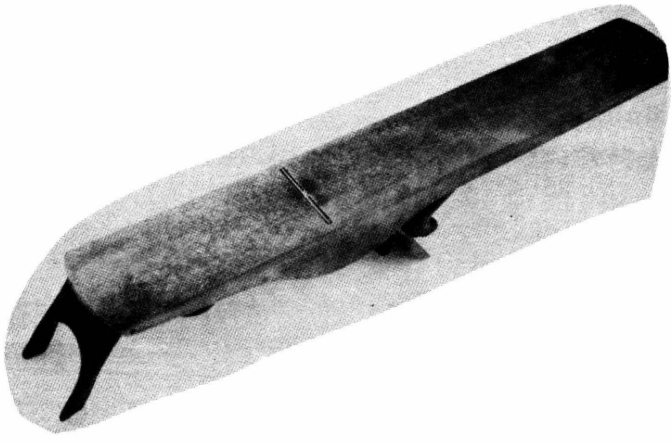

Figure 3: Plane inverted, standing on legs and top of iron.

The plane has seen a lot of use. It looks as though it would have been used as a jointer; but in tests it seems to work best with short pieces of wood, pieces six inches and under.

If anyone has any information on the origins or use of this plane, I would appreciate hearing from them.

(Ed. note: Dom Micalizzi will have have this unusual plane at the CRAFTS meeting on June 6.)

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PUDDING IN THE EAVES TROUGH: A NOTE ON IDENTIFYING AN UNUSUAL TINSMITH'S TOOL

by Robert Cameron

The ad in the tool catalog said: "Tinsmith's Pudding Molds available in three sizes." Actually, the items advertised were the cast-iron forms for shaping "pudding molds," and they were just what I wanted. A quick telephone call and I had the forms for my tinsmith's shop.

When they arrived, I was delighted with their condition. Exactly alike, except for size, they were identical to several other "pudding mold" forms that I had seen advertised by tool dealers, and they matched the shape of a wooden mold that I had seen in an auction catalog a few years before.

My new acquisitions had one curious feature, however. Cast into each of them, in script, was a patent date—Jan. 25, 1896. The existence of a patent date on a supposedly traditional tinsmith's form puzzled me, but I did not give the matter much thought.

It took only a few minutes in the shop to turn out the finished product, a mold shaped like a half-cylinder with fluted ends. I did not know what it was; but it was hardly the traditional pudding mold associated with the tinsmiths of the nineteenth century. My new "pudding mold" forms were a flop.

Suddenly, that patent date cast into the forms became important. A visit to the library produced the patent papers—papers for an "implement for forming ends for eaves-troughs," patented by one William W. Warren, of Dowagiac, Michigan. Now my "pudding molds" are out of the kitchen and back on the roof where they belong.

According to the patent papers, the objectives of Warren's invention were: "first, to provide a simple and convenient implement which can be used in closing the ends of an eaves-trough after the trough has been attached to the building or other place where it is intended to be used...; second, to provide an implement by means of which the ends of an eaves-trough can be quickly closed wothout the necessity of solder or slip joints and without waste of material; third, to provide a simple means of closing the ends of the eaves-trough that can be successfully used after the eaves-troughs are put into place."

The use of the device was quite simple. It was placed in the end of an attached trough, and the end of the trough was rounded off in a rough semicircle, as indicated in Figure 1 on the opposite page.

"The end portion having corrugations C is then brought near the end, and by the use of a peening-hammer the trough is indented into the various corrugations at C, which starts the formation of the end. The forming device is then reversed, and the end [D]* with its corrugations, is brought next to the fluting already started, and as the corrugations at each end correspond the corrugations started in the trough are driven tight into the form, as indicated in Fig. 2. Thus the end of the trough is closed in an artistic manner very quickly without solder, rivets, or any seaming."

My further inquiries into Mr. Warren's invention did not produce much information. Then, Phil Kelly, the tinsmith at the Pennsylvania Farm Museum, Landis Valley, Pa., sent me a photo copy of a page from the catalog of L. D. Berger, of Philadephia. The Berger catalog offered "Bishop Gutter Formers" in five different sizes: 3 1/2, 4, 4 1/2, 5, and 6 inches. And the

*The description here actually reads "end B." This is obviously a misprint, as B represents "one of my improved forming devices."

(continued on page 11)

(No Model.)

W. W. WARREN.

IMPLEMENT FOR FORMING ENDS FOR EAVES TROUGHS.

No. 597,924. Patented Jan. 25, 1898.

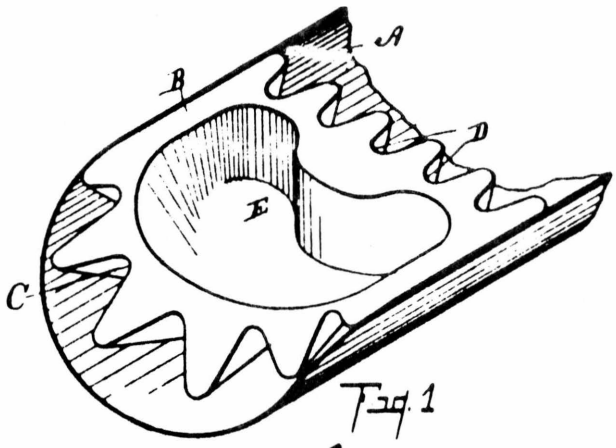


Fig. 1

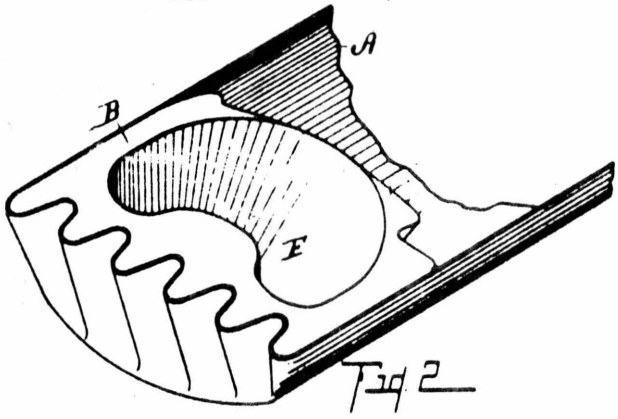


Fig. 2

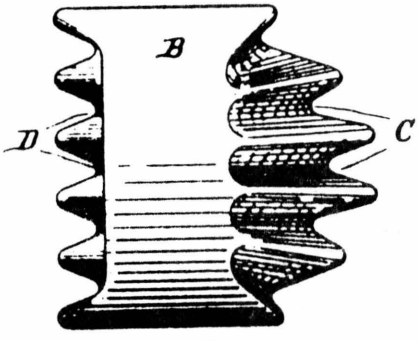


Fig 3

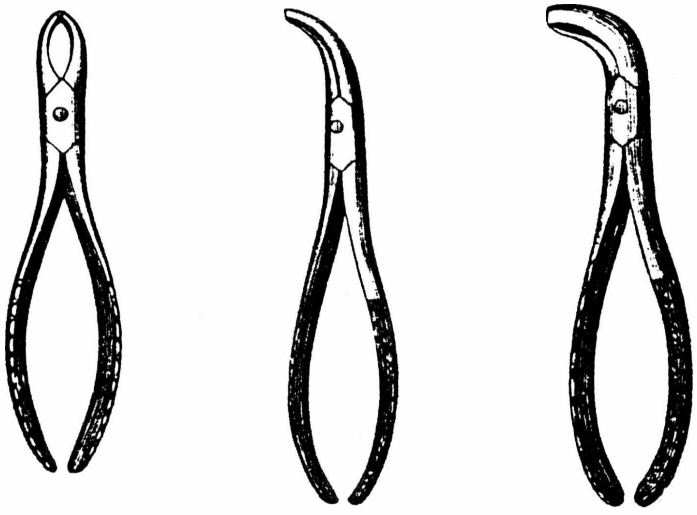
Witnesses,
H. B. Wood
E. C. Wood.

Inventor.
William W. Warren
By Fred L. Chappell
Attorney.

FOLLOW-UP ON "WHATSIT?"

In the "Whatsit?" session at the CRAFTS meeting on April 18, there was a great deal of discussion over a small pair of shears. The range of "identifications" ran from silversmith's shears to poultry shears.

Lew Cooper has sent us the illustrations of dental tools shown below, which are taken from Joseph Smith's Explanation or Key... (1816). Noting their similarity to the shears, Lew suggests that the latter may be a surgical tool.



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CATALOGING: THE ABER METHOD

Most tool collectors have some kind of cataloging system, however primitive to assist them in classifying and keeping track of their collection. Many take great pride in the original or unusual aspects of their systems.

Without doubt one of the more unusual catalogs that we have seen, and certainly the most attractive, belongs to CRAFTSman Jim Aber, of Glen Rock. In the third issue of the Tool Shed, four years ago this month, we reproduced a page from Jim's catalog. As many of our present readers probably did not see it that time, we thought that we would give you a look at another Aber selection (See facing page). Now you can see what a little patience—and talent!—can do.

As you will notice, when Jim gave us this copy he conveniently omitted the prices of these tools. His excuse was that it would only make our readers envious if they found out what he had paid for them.

But how could anyone who knows how much Jim paid for his Stanley No. 1 be more envious?

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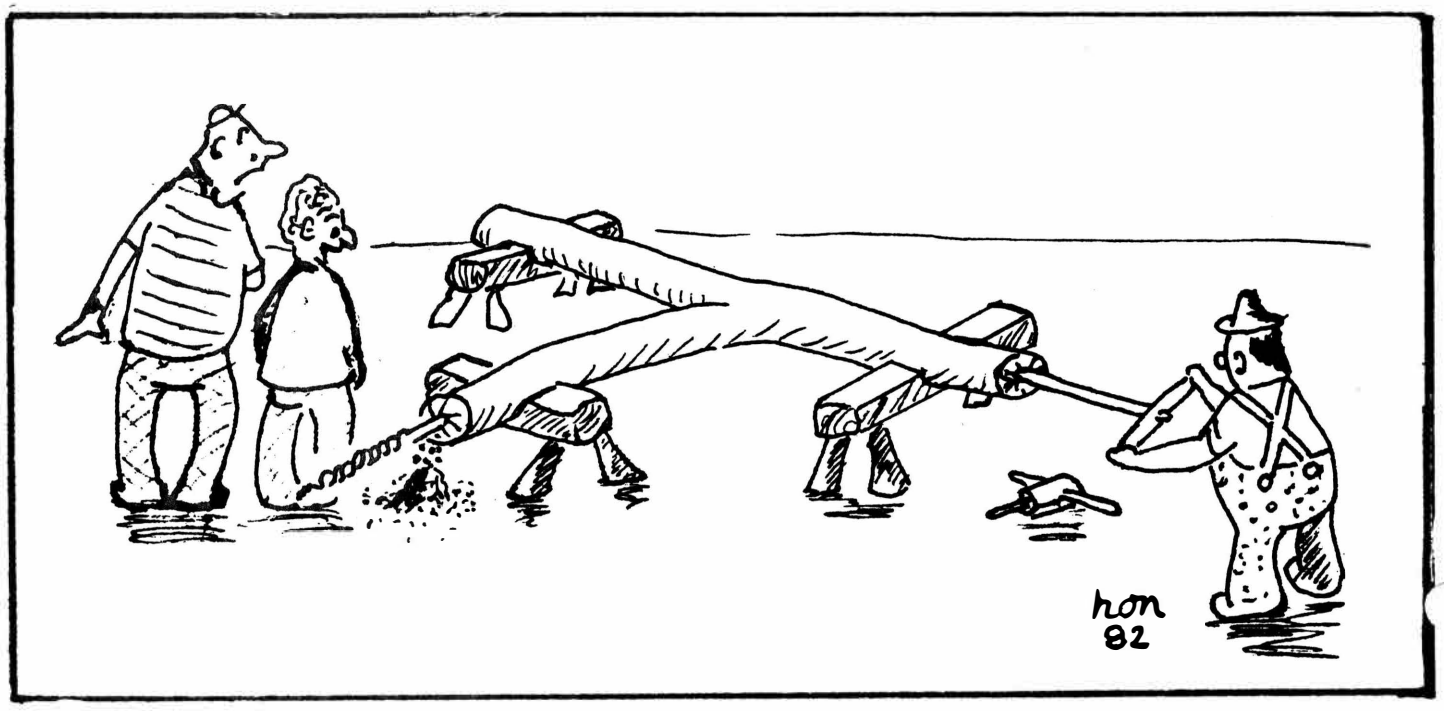
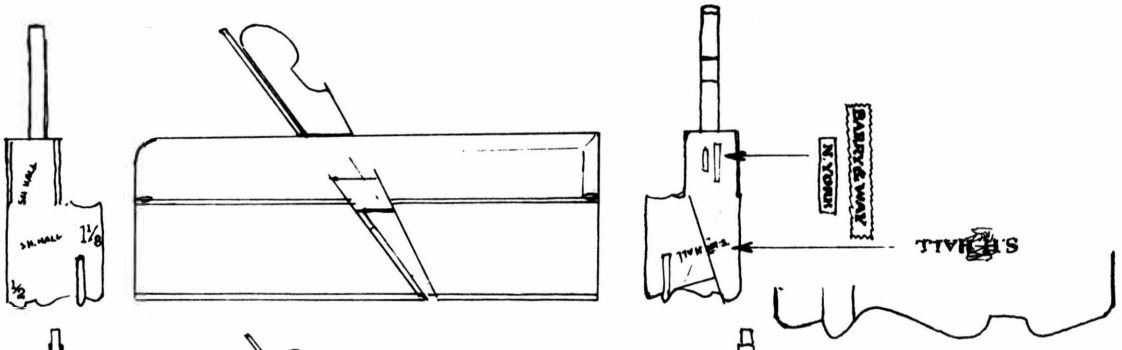
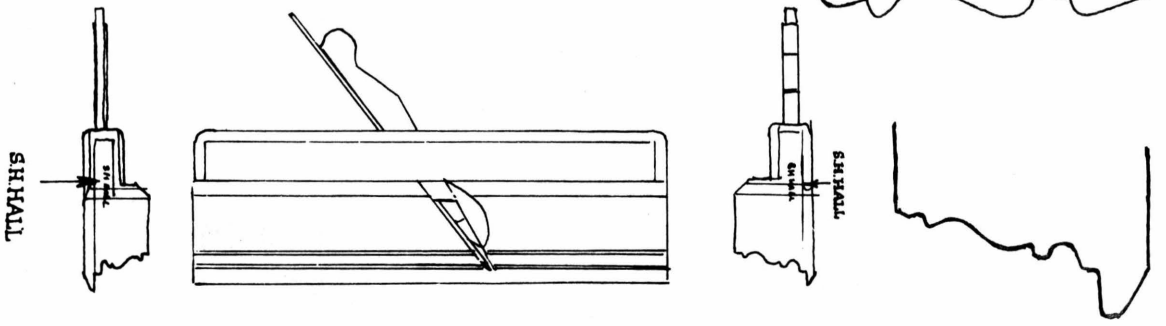


Aug. 2, 1979 - Moving sale, 133 Franklin Tpke., Allendale (continued)

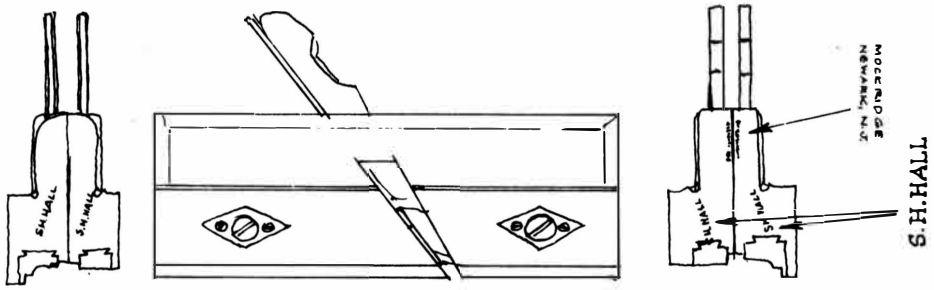
Barry & Way
N.York
1842-1847
Molding
Plane



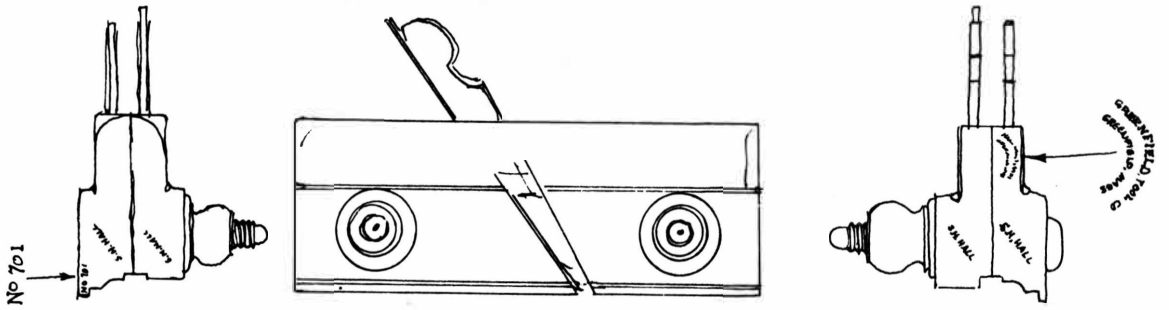
Molding
Plane



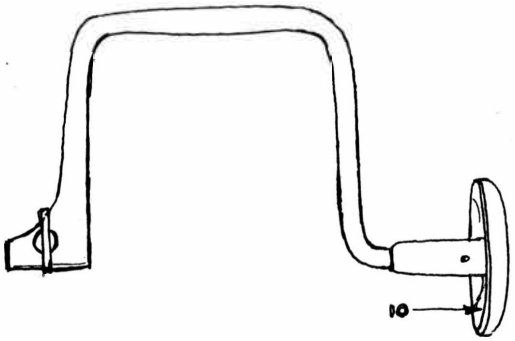
Sash
Plane



Sash
Plane



Iron
Brace



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CRAFTS SPRING AUCTION

by Alexander Farnham

The CRAFTS of New Jersey spring auction, held at the Taylor Hose Co. in High Bridge, on May 1, was an outstanding success. For an auction of antique tools, the procedures were impressively modern, with each bidder receiving a computerized auction "catalog."

Four-hundred-fifteen lots were listed, but in the course of the day another 25 or 30 "specials" were added, keeping the buyers alert. The tools sold were of excellent quality. Yet, there were considerably fewer highly priced pieces than at previous CRAFTS auctions.

The absense of the "big-ticket" items did not affect the overall financial success of the auction, however. Sales for the day totaled $16, 789.

Another striking feature of the sale was the large number of early New Jersey tools. As a matter of fact, for those interested in collecting tools manufactured within the state, this auction proved to be a treasure trove.

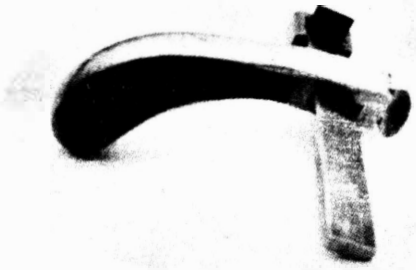
Among the New Jersey tools sold were three spirit levels made in Newark by Daniel M. Lyon. The first of these to go on the block brought $32.50, the next $30, and the final one sold toward the end of the day for $17.50.

Lyon, who started producing tools in Newark around 1845, was also represented in the auction by a rosewood and brass mortise gauge, which went for $45.

A level and a mortise gauge made by William Johnson, another Newark firm, were also sold. The level, which measured one foot in length, sold for $22.50, while the mortise gauge of rosewood and brass brought $30.

William Johnson, Sr., started making carpenter's and joiner's tools prior to 1834 and continued to make them until his death, around 1867, after which his son carried on the business. Though it would be difficult to date these tools accurately, it is probable that the Johnson tools sold at this auction were the products of William Johnson, Jr., and not of his father.

Some other early New Jersey tools sold were a C. S. Osborne leather sizer, for $47.50; an extremely rare leather draw gauge marked FRANCIS & WARD / NEWARK, N.J., $70; and two planes marked GAGE TOOL CO. / VINELAND, N.J., $32.50 and $42.50.



Francis & Ward leather draw gauge, $70.

Among the other New Jersey planes were a fine S.C. Cook plow plane with seven irons from New Brunswick, which brought $105; a Mockridge & Francis Grecian ovolo, $45; and a J. Searing complex moulder, $37.50. Both of these latter planes were produced in Newark during the second half of the nineteenth century.

A McKinnon felling axe from Rockaway, which had seen a life of abuse, went for $12.50; a P. Lowentraut wrench brace from Newark sold for $50; and a Rusby drill from Newark brought $30.

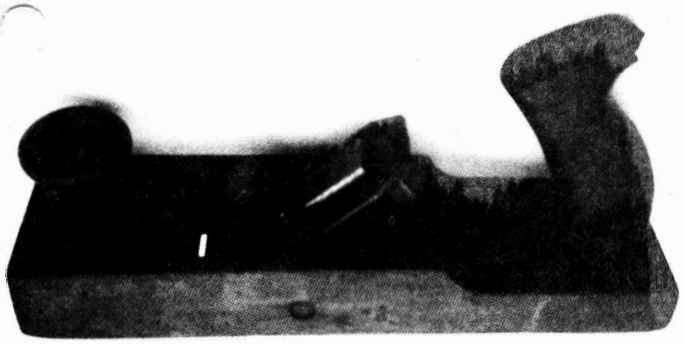
Of course, the New Jersey pieces made scarcely a dent in the wide selection of quality tools available. The range ran from primitives to an Ultimatum brace to the ever-present Stanley items. There were even a few

modern shop tools thrown in for good measure.

Among the tools sold were several fine braces and drills. A William Marples Ultimatum brought $475, the highest figure of the day. A chair-maker's brace went for $160; plated Sheffield braces for $100 to $120; and a handsome brass egg-beater drill for $250.

Some of the other items: a pump-log auger sold for $150; a six-foot cooper's jointer for $225; a goose wing axe for $150; and a four-fold ivory rule for $150. One of the better buys of the day was a pit saw, with box and tiller, that went for the bargain price of $130.

Credit for the efficient operation must go to Chuck Granick and Harry O'Neill, the co-managers, and to Carroll Palmer and Markay Zluky, who handled the finances. Each of them did an outstanding job.



Gage Plane, $32.50

Whether they collected New Jersey tools or some other kind, those who attended had a good time. Some went home with good buys and some didn't; but I believe that everyone enjoyed Herb Kean's superb auctioneering.

All in all, it was a great day for CRAFTS. The proceeds from the auction will make a substantial addition to the organization's publication fund.

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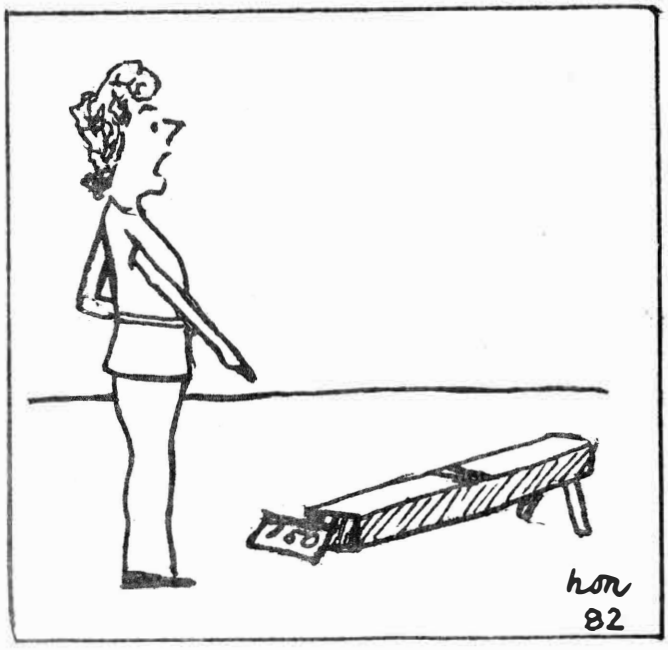
FROM: THE AMERICAN CARPENTER AND BUILDER (1914)

"American Saw Mills, Catalog No. 17"

The above is the title of a new publication now being sent out by the American Saw Mill Machinery Company from its works at Hackettstown, N. J. A feature of the cover design, which is in three colors, is the draped American flag, surmounted by the American eagle. For years this has been a characteristic mark of the catalogs of this company, the distribution of which, all over the world, has doubtless been effective in visualizing before foreign markets the progressiveness of American machinery manufacturers. The book is 6 by 9 inches in size, with 164 pages and cover. It lists with unusual care in detail the very complete line of "American" saw mills and saw-mill machinery, wood-working machinery, saws and accessories for the wood-working plant, contractors' wood-working equipment, and stationary and portable boilers and engines. In fact, the concern contemplating the erection of any plant for working wood for any purpose need not go beyond the pages of this catalog to find its equipment. The new catalog closes with several pages of the kind of information a practical man needs on installing and running saw mills, the proper speed for saws of various sizes, the care of saws, etc. Better to care for its trade, the company maintains offices and warehouses at Savannah, New Orleans, Chicago and Seattle.



"Isn't that kind of expensive for a cabbage cutter without any sides?"

A NEW IDENTIFICATION FOR A "PLANEMAKER'S FLOAT"

by Robert Cameron

The patent drawings on the right show a tool which, when found today, is almost invariably identified as a planemaker's float.

I had one of these little tools in my collection. Because it bore a twentieth century patent date, however, I was always a bit skeptical about its alleged function.

When I finally checked the patent papers, they revealed that it is actually a keyhole saw, invented by Alden R. Brewer, of Northport, Washington, and patented on September 8, 1917 (No. 1,240,173).

The tool is 16 inches long, overall. The handle is 5 1/4 inches; the blade, including the 3/4 inch tip, is 10 3/4 inches. The blade is made of saw plate stock.

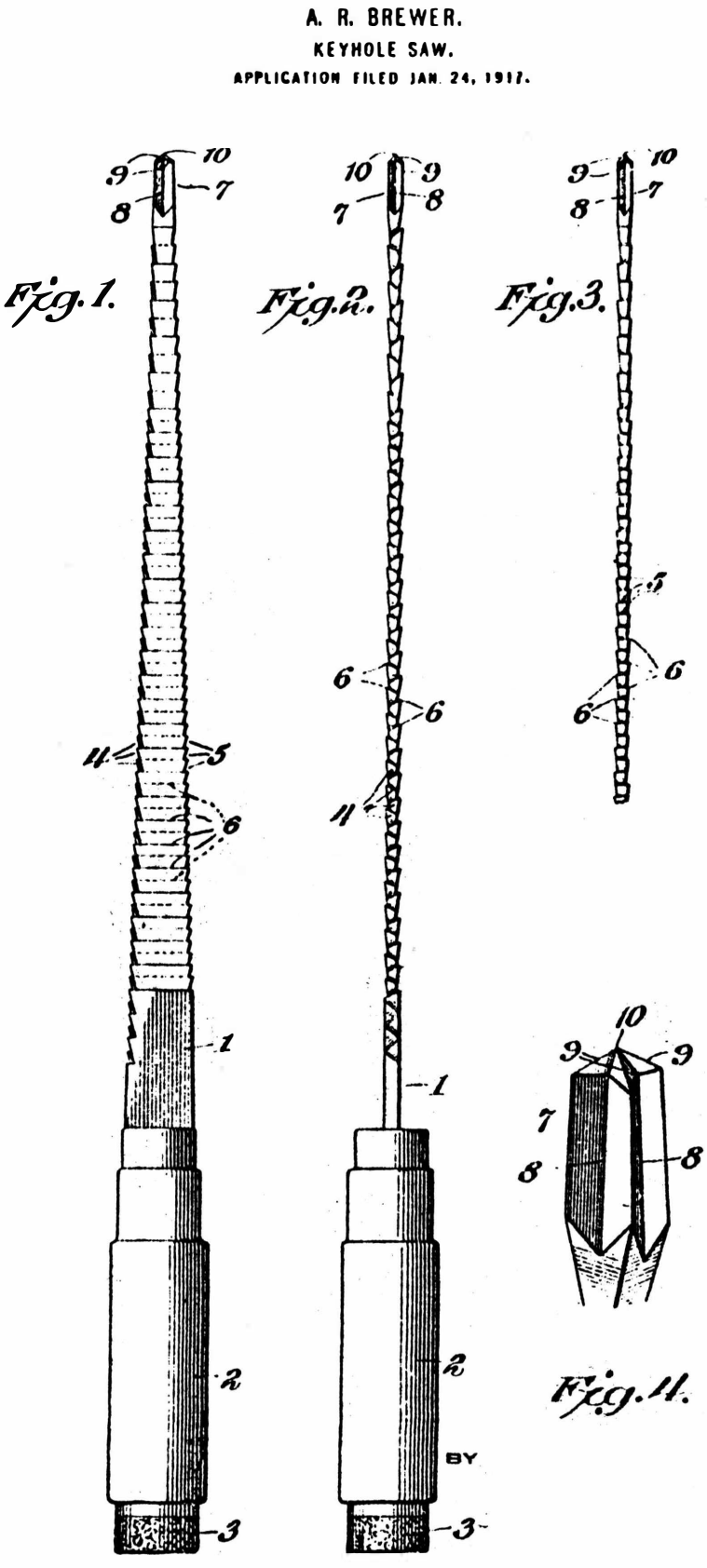
The opposite edges of the blade (Figures 2 and 3) are formed with a longitudinal double series of saw teeth. One edge is a cross-cut saw; the other is a rip saw.

The opposite faces of the blade (Figure 1) are each made up of a single series of chisel-like teeth, creating a "wood rasp."

A 3/4 inch tip (shown on an enlarged scale in Figure 4) extends beyond the teeth. This tip can be used either as a boring point or as a chisel-like punch to be pounded directly through a board.

I have used the tool in the manner described by its inventor. It works—but I now have a slightly bent version of the original. Many that have been used a boring tools or punches have had their tips broken off, making them about 3/4 inch shorter and enhancing their resemblance to floats.

The tool can be readily identified by the patent date stamped in the tang (the date often has the last digit of 1917 missing), by the saw teeth along its edges, and by its long, tapered form.



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(Eaves Trough, cont'd from page 4) catalog illustrations of the formers match Warren's patent drawings perfectly.

There the matter rested for some time. No other information seemed to be available. Recently, however, I acquired a copy of Catalog B (1923) of E. Corey & Co., of Portland, Maine. Page 334 of the Corey catalog contains an illustration of identical forms in the same five sizes as the Bishop gutter formers. But the ones that Corey advertised bear the PEXTO logo. Presumably, Warren's forms must have proven effective if they were picked up by PEXTO.

EAVE TROUGH END CLOSING FORMS

Form | **Trough After Being Closed**

Fig. 34687B

Fig. 34687C

The form is placed in gutter and the iron is worked into grooves with a hammer, producing a corrugated, closed end in any eave trough.

Made in the following sizes: 3½, 4, 4½, 5 and 6.

From E. Corey & Co., Catalog B (1923). Form is marked PEXTO.

The examples that I have in my collection were not made by either Bishop or Pexto. I assume that they are from an early production run. The later offerings by the larger manufacturers are identical in every respect, except that their labels appear on the same part of the form where the patent date appears on mine.

* * * * * * *

MADE IN NEW JERSEY?
by C.E.B.

Three Tools in One SQUARE LINE GAUGE MITRE

Compact, strong, no loose parts. *Guaranteed accurate.* Should be in every carpenter's and mechanic's tool kit. If your dealer can't furnish you with "The Rule Tool" send 25c for one postpaid. Pays for itself a thousand times over.

THE RULE TOOL CO., 15 Hermon St., NEWARK, N. J.

The two advertisements, shown above and below, are both taken from the March, 1914, issue of the American Carpenter and Builder.

The Rule Tool was made to go on a rule to make a 90° square, a 45° mitre, or a line gauge. Specimens of the tool that have been observed have only the patent date ("PAT'D. OCT. 1 — 07") on them.

Because the tool and the Newark, N.J., company have the same name—i.e., the rule tool and the Rule Tool Company—I assume that the tool was made in New Jersey.

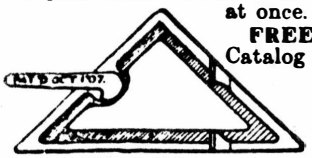
As you can see, the Rehm Hardware Co. advertisement says in part: "We do not sell to contractors or carpenters in Cook County, Illinois." Over the years Cook County has been charged with a variety of sins, particularly in connection with election results. But what was wrong with their contractors and carpenters?

After all, the famous New Jersey planemaker, John Porcius Gage, was born in Cook County, so it was not all that bad.

Buy 1—Get 3
TOOLS IN ONE
Mitre—Square—Line Gauge

If you haven't a Rule Tool Gauge in your kit, order one at once. 25c each, postpaid.

FREE—No. 5 Builders Hardware Catalog and price list to Contractors and Material Men. We do not sell to contractors or carpenters in Cook County, Illinois.



"THE RULE TOOL"

Rehm Hardware Company
1501 Blue Island Avenue CHICAGO, ILL.

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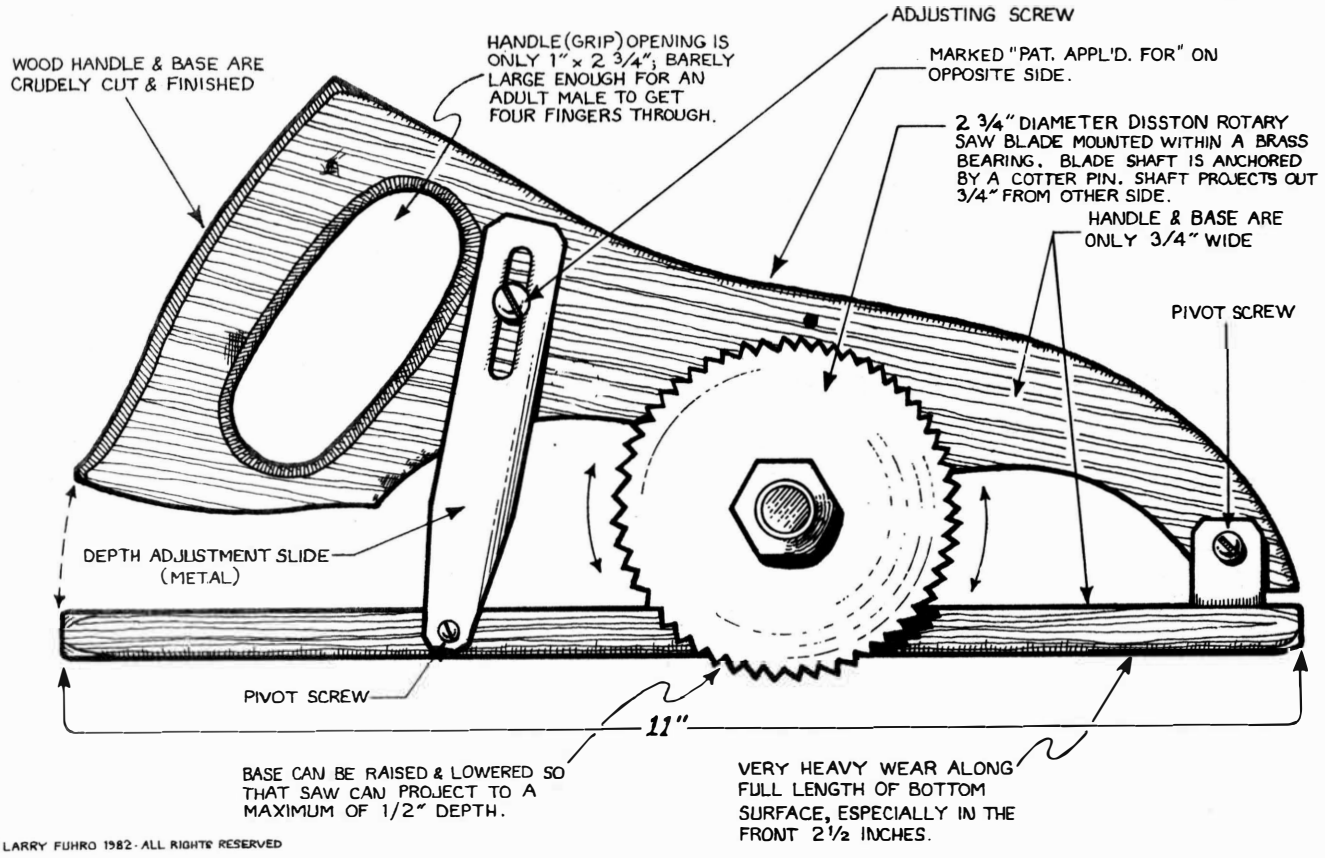
Pop Rivet's What's It? No. 4

by LARRY FUHRO

FROM HERB KEAN
MORRISTOWN, NJ . . .



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GADGETS · DOOHICKEYS · THINGAMAJIGS · AND WHATCHAMACALLITS

Pop Rivet's "What's It?" Number 3, the lathe-like gadget shown in the April issue of the Tool Shed, brought forth a number of responses and was even the subject of debate at the April meeting.

Several people thought that it perhaps was used in some way with thread or yarn; but it was pointed out at the meeting that such machines generally have multiple heads.

Robert E. Nelson of Cheverly, Md., wrote that the pewter chuck on the lathe might offer a clue as to its use. Bob suggests that it might be a pewter-maker's lathe. The easily adjustable tail piece could have been for stacking pieces on the lathe.

But as Bob points out, the major problem with this possibility is that there does not appear to be much clearance between the center line of the chuck/tailpiece and the lathe bed. For normal spinning or burnishing about five inches of clearance would be required—and even that would limit the range of pewter items that could be made.

Could it have been used only for small pieces of pewter?

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