The TOOL SHED

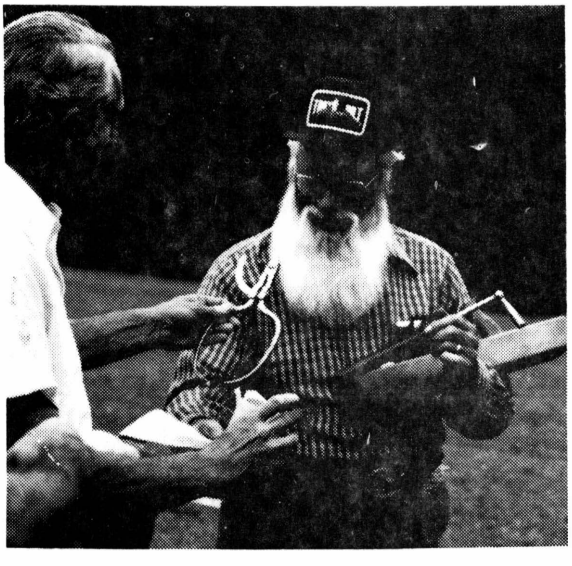
NUMBER 59 NOVEMBER 1989

A Journal of Tool Collecting published by CRAFTS of New Jersey

1989 PRESIDENT'S AWARD GOES TO EDITOR

At the September 17th meeting of CRAFTS of New Jersey held at the Brady Life Camp, President Steve Zluky announced his selection of the recipient of the 1989 CRAFTS President's Award. He described his designee as one of CRAFTS' best workers, someone who volunteers to help whenever possible, and who has been involved in helping regularly ever since he became a member. He has served on the Board of Directors and has helped with setting up the CRAFTS auctions. He has been a speaker at one of the CRAFTS meetings, is Editor of the TOOL SHED, and is an enthusiastic wrench collector. For his dedication, energetic efforts and effective performance on behalf of CRAFTS of New Jersey, Frank W. Kingsbury was presented with the 1989 President's Award.

Herb Kean was given the responsibility of delivering the actual prize—or prizes, as it turned out—to Frank.



Herb Kean presenting Frank W. Kingsbury with three tools as the President's Award.

These prizes included a 20" wooden block plane for Frank's KEEN KUTTER collection, a beautiful steel calipers circa 1875, and a 13 inch piano wrench with a rosewood handle. All three gifts were in mint condition.

An inveterate collector from his youth, Frank began collecting wrenches in 1983 after his retirement from Rutgers (December 31, 1981 on his 65th birthday) where he spent 18 years as Extension Veterinarian for the State of New Jersey. He has since expanded his collection to approximately 2000 wrenches, more than 150 KEEN KUTTER items, many bench vises, hand vises, pliers, draw knives, fencing tools and anvils (mostly miniature ones). His latest acquisition and his pride and joy is a 250 lb. Fisher anvil (1901) with raised eagle design. He has recently begun collecting brass padlocks and enjoys adding to his collection of sculptured bears.

The Kingsburys, Frank Wm. and Mary Alice, live at Frosty Hollow Farm in Lebanon Township north of High Bridge. They have three sons, Bill and Dan in California and Larry in Michigan. Dan and Trudy are the parents of one grandson, Jett, and Larry and Pam have a son, Alex. Frank is a Trustee of the FFA Foundation of New Jersey and is Secretary-Treasurer and former President of the Northwest Jersey Veterinary Society. He is also an Honor Roll member of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

When Frank is not collecting and cleaning his tools, he spends his time cutting and splitting firewood from his 18 acre Tree Farm and reading Western fiction, especially by Louis L'Amour.

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CRAFTS of New Jersey

Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society of New Jersey

President _____ STEPHEN ZLUKY, Whitehouse

Vice President _____ JOSEPH G. HAUCK, Lebanon

Secretary _____ BARBARA FARNHAM, Stockton

Treasurer _____ JOHN M. WHELAN, Murray Hill

The purpose of CRAFTS of New Jersey is to encourage interest in early trades and industries and in the identification, study, preservation and exhibition of tools and implements used and made in New Jersey as an integral part of our heritage.

Membership in CRAFTS is open to anyone who shares the above interests. Annual dues per person or couple are seven dollars for the membership year of July 1 to June 30. Membership fees may be sent to the Treasurer: John M. Whelan, 38 Colony Court, Murray Hill, N.J. 07974.

The Tool Shed

Published five times a year for members of CRAFTS of New Jersey. Editor: Frank W. Kingsbury, R.D. 1 Box 316, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826. Articles, especially about New Jersey tools and trades, are encouraged and may be sent to the editor.

MARK OSTERMAN, SPEAKER AT NOVEMBER MEETING

The November 12th meeting of CRAFTS of New Jersey will be held at the Hobart Masonic Lodge in High Bridge. preceded by the Tailgate Swap and Exchange of Tools in the parking lot. It is scheduled to begin at 1:00 P.M. (but those eager beavers would come at 12:01 if they suspected a good display of tools).

At the 2:00 P.M. formal meeting, Mark Osterman will speak on banjo making and exhibit some examples of his workmanship. He has had extensive experience in making banjos and decorating them with inlayed mother of pearl. He demonstrates their music and often appears as Dr. Bumstead, a medicine man. We are bound to have a very entertaining meeting with such a versatile speaker.

The "What's It?" tool session with Harry O'Neill and his assistants will round out a most profitable and enjoyable Sunday afternoon.

* * *

SPEAKER'S PROFILE MARK OSTERMAN

Although Mark Osterman is only 34 years old, he has been teaching at George School in Newtown, Penna. for 11 years. Newtown is located about 10 miles south of New Hope.

The George School—a private Quaker boarding and day school—has nine full-time art faculty and approximately 530 students. The Woodshop, where the Wood Turning Association of America holds their seminars, is well known. These yearly seminars attract people from as far away as Colorado.

Mark Osterman spent four years at the Kansas City Art Institure in Missouri where he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. His training began in drawing and painting, then he switched to the design of musical instruments with engraving and mother-of-pearl inlay. Mark has made over 300 banjos as well as restoring many more.

Our speaker is also known as Dr. Bumstead, the medicine man. He gives a lively show, singing, talking and selling snake oil. His stage pulls out at the rear of a 1919 Model-T Ford. He appears at the Kutztown Art Festival each year. His latest appearance in New Jersey was at the Waterloo Village Craft Show in September. Dr. Bumstead has performed in shows and festivals many times in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

Besides teaching Photography at the George School, Mark does plate glass photography and makes tin types. When home he enjoys the company of his wife Susan. Hobbies? They have lots of "irons in the fire".

AN AUTUMN DREAM

The naked hills lie wanton
to the breeze;
The fields are nude, the
groves unfrocked;
Bare are the shivering limbs
of shameless trees;—
What wonder is it that the
corn is shocked!

from an 1889 Almanac

The Agricultural Museum of the State of New Jersey

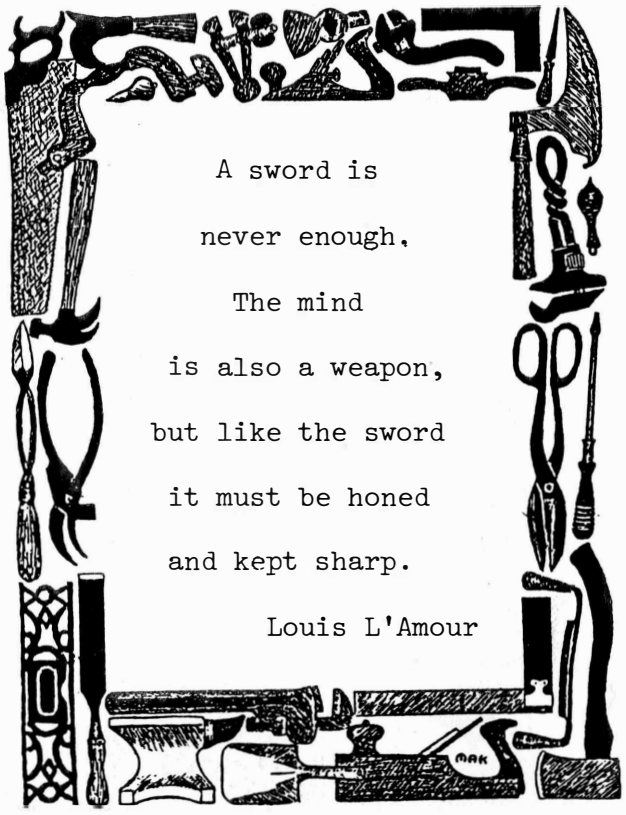
The New Jersey Museum of Agriculture would like to invite the CRAFTS of New Jersey members to the dedication of our new building an Monday, November 27, at 11:00 A.M. Governor Kean will officiate as we celebrate the completion of our 30,000 sq. ft. facility.

While our exhibitions are just getting under way, visitors will have the opportunity to wee a number of our most prized artifacts. Of course, as CRAFTS members are well aware, we will need the help of many volunteers before we will be in the position of opening the museum on a regular schedule. Our traditional trades exhibit is one area that should be of particular interest to CRAFTS members.

If you would like to help build and design workshops for a cooper, tinsmith, carpenter, blacksmith and wheel wright, please contact Phyllis Mount, Curator, at 201-214-0077.

We will be offering a 5-part course on Agricultural History in New Jersey every Thursday night beginning November 2, for volunteers interested in serving as museum guides. The meeting will be held at the museum building at 7:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M.

We look forward to seeing you.



IN MEMORIAM

Word was recently received that Robert A. Garner, a Charter Member of CRAFTS of New Jersey, passed away in April. His home was in Norwood, New York and his wife, Flora H. Garner informed us that he enjoyed being a member for many years.

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THE WOODCARVER'S TOOLS
by Harry Hems, Exeter, England
from
THE MODERN CARPENTER JOINER AND CABINET MAKER
London 1904

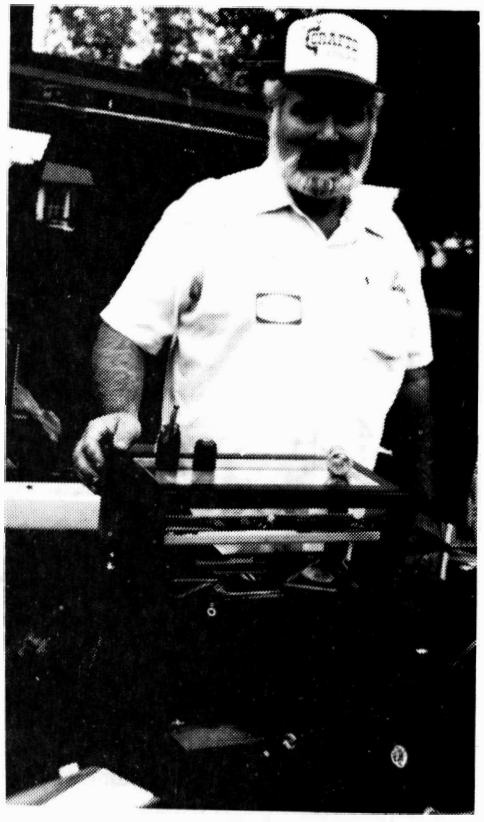
It is an intuition that in daily life leads one to pick out an expert craftsman from a "duffer". The way a man takes his tools out of his box, and places them on the bench, and a brief glance at the chisels themselves, often speak volumes as to what manner of man he is.

Don't let your tools get in a heap on the bench. You will always be wanting to sharpen if you do. Keep them level, each showing itself, and with their edges always toward the worker. It is a singular but certain fact that soft wood requires keener-edged tools to finish work cleanly than hard wood. Thus deal or cedar must be carved with sharper tools than oak demands.

A good carver rarely carries a lead pencil. He trusts his eye. What will deceive a practical and well-trained optic

(Continued on page 7)

CRAFTS PICNIC

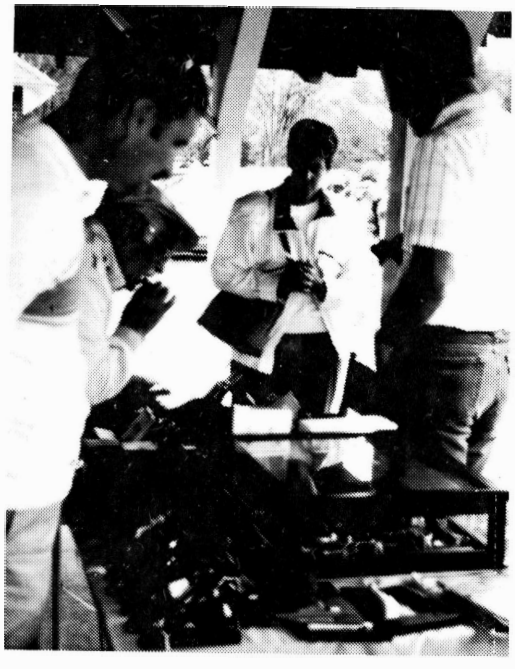


Ken Vliet, Picnic Chairman
with his wooden trucks & miniature tools
(in truck display case)

Joseph Janiszewski chats with Philip Whitby of
Englewood, Colorado in display pavilion at picnic

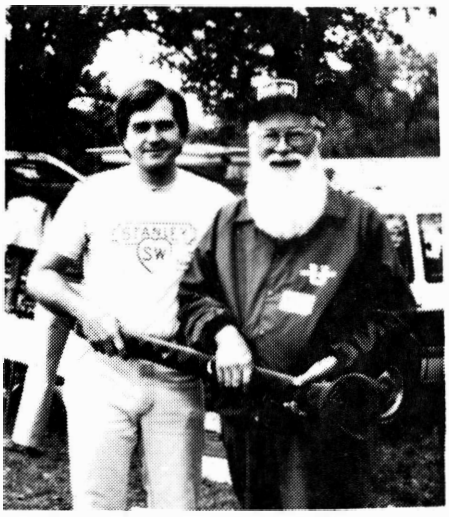
Sunday, September 17th was a great day for our 1989 picnic. Ken Vliet did a superb job of planning and keeping all the many, various activities moving smoothly. The food was excellent and the members outdid themselves in participation—especially with exhibits!

Dominic Micalizzi examining
display by Martin Donnelly of Bath, New York

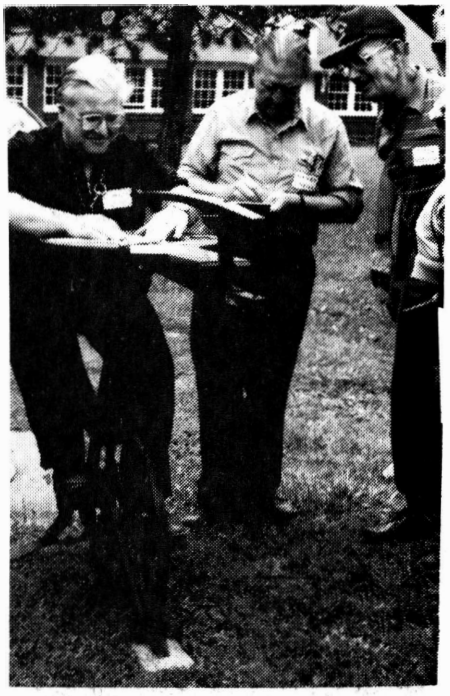


Steve Zluky and Sam Merin observe
Charles Morgan's exhibit

CRAFTS PICNIC



Bill Hermanez and Frank Kingsbury with Wrench presented to him for his presentation at LIATCA.



Dominic Micalizzi operates Harry O'Neill's Jigsaw
Peter Neborsky looks on
as Harry draws design
Photo by Don Kahn

Knitted Woolen Dolls by Barbara Farnham
accompanied by her granddaughter Sarah

Jason Vliet won the junior horseshoes and wrench toss while Eric Vliet was their dart board winner. The ladies champions were Carolyn Vliet, horseshoes, Joyce Georges, wrench toss, and Betty Bopp at darts. Winners for men were Chuck Brown, horseshoes, Ed Smith, wrench toss and Don Kahn, darts.

Ted and Vickie Groke were awarded the prize for coming the farthest distance—from the Marshall Islands!

Laurie Ann Tavia came the closest to guessing the number of gummy bears in a jar. It was Ann Koehler whose estimate was the closest on the buttons, and Fred Kampmier on the nails.

(Continued on page 8)

Ladies Before Lunch
Marianne Hauck, Helen Whelan, Betty Bopp,
Markay Zluky, Edna Williams & Kathleen Fulghem

TEN YEARS AGO IN THE TOOL SHED

The November 1979 Issue Number 10 of the TOOL SHED had only 4 pages. In spite of its brevity it contained some worthwhile information.

The lead article which occupied more than 2 pages with its 10 illustrations, was authored by one of our most prolific contributors, Raymond R. Townsend. In the article, THE BEAM COMPASS "CUTTER" Ray states that it "is used for cutting arched pieces in marquetry that are later glued on a solid piece".

(You lucky CRAFTS members who possess a copy of the bound volume containing THE TOOL SHED from Volume 1, February 1978 to Volume 37, June 1985 have the opportunity to review this article and the others it contains.)

The meeting announcement which was printed in a box on the front page stated that the November 18, 1979 meeting would be held at the Field Homestead on River Road, Piscataway where it continued to meet until February 1985 when it was moved to the Clinton Historical Museum (and then to its present location at the Hobart Masonic Lodge in November 1987).

The speaker for that 1979 meeting was Carl Sunberg assisted by Harry O'Neill. The program featured a talk and demonstration of "Basic Blacksmithing". Harry has been in there giving his time, ability and energy right from the start!

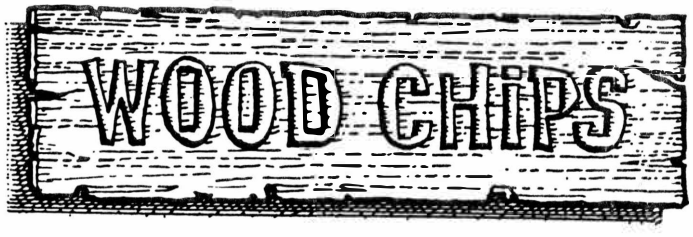
Another article in the Issue 10 concerns the Newark based firm of Mockridge & Son, Manufacturere of Planes and Dealers in Builders' Hardware and Mechanics' Tools from 1835 to 1882 (the present time as of the article's origin).

On page 4—Alex Farnham's listing of New Jersey tool makers, updating a previous list and requesting additional information and any new names, especially those in villages and small towns. More than one column of tool makers was listed and could still be of interest to us now. I was particularly interested in two entries on that list:

TRENTON
Fisher & Norris, 1847-1960....
NEWARK Anvils
Heller Bros., 1836.....
Blacksmith Tools

Both of these are directly related to my collection.

Yes, a great deal of information—still interesting today—can be gleaned from an old issue of the TOOL SHED!



A chip on the shoulder is often a piece of wood that has fallen from the head.

The brain is a wonderful organ; it starts the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get to the office. Robert Frost

All you need to grow fine, vigorous grass is a crack in your sidewalk. Will Rogers

If you get up early, work late, and pay your taxes, you will get ahead—if you strike oil!

Q. What is the only job you start at the top?
A. Well digging.

Procrastination
Putting things off is never good,
And often leads to sorrow.
The note found in the dead man's car:
"Get brakes fixed tomorrow".

Blacksmiths are honest forgers.

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THE WOODCARVER'S TOOLS

Continued from page 3

will readily deceive the whole world. He never carries a rule under any circumstances. If by any chance he should require one for a minute or two, he borrows it from a joiner.

Chisels and Gouges—There are, it is said, about 300 different sorts made, but I should fancy no carver would care to have anything like so many. A good kit generally averages about 80 to 100 chisels and gouges. In the days of my youth there were no bought tools to come up to those made by the Addis family. My master (his name was Hayball, and he took a medal for wood-carving at the 1851 Great Exhibition) always made his own tools. Some carvers prefer to make their own now. Probably the best procurable today are the output of semi-amateur toolsmiths who go round and sell them to the trade on the quiet. During the time of my apprenticeship a manufacturer named Taylor, of Fitzwilliam Street, Sheffield, whose trade-mark was an acorn, made very good chisels and gouges for wood-carvers. Good tools last practically a lifetime.

French carving tools are generally greatly inferior to English.

The various tools should have handles of different shape or colour. Then the eye helps the hand, when at work, in picking up quickly the particular one required.

Carvers sharpen their chisels and gouges quite differently to joiners and carpenters. These latter rub all from one side and get a hard bevelled edge; the former get a thin keen edge—on chisels and gouges alike—in the middle of the steel, rubbing back and front. The best oil-stones probably are known as Washita, and the most favorite "slips" are those from Arkansas. The latter are, of course, for sharpening the concave insides of gouges, and are ground to various sweeps to fit them. After properly sharpening, the edges are "strapped" upon a buff-leather— a soldier's belt makes a capital strap, rubbed with crocus powder and tallow.

The best carver's mallets are turned, and made of apple-tree or yew. A good average weight is two pounds. A larger one may be rather cumbersome for general work. Don't have too small a mallet; one weighing under a pound gives the impression of playing with work rather than doing it. Hence it is not suggestive of a diligent journeyman. In the old days mallets were oblong, like those used by joiners, although generally rounded off at the top.

Besides his mallet and chisels, a carver practically wants nothing but a holdfast, screw, and pair of calipers. Then he is set up, and can go anywhere, and—if the ability is in him—do anything.

All respectable, self-respecting carvers have tool-boxes. These should not be too large. I have seen them 1 foot 10 inches x 1 foot 2 inches x 1 foot 1 inch, but that is altogether too big, as they cannot be readily shifted from place to place. The best size is 1 foot 3 inches x 1 foot 9 inches. This is big enough for anyone. They are best made of light stuff and ebonized, opening in front, with hinges at the bottom. Always have a good lock to the box, and a leather hand-strap like that on a hat-box to carry by.

The size recommended will give nice room for eight drawers, varying in depth, the deepest at bottom, to take various-sized tools. These drawers may have polished fronts of bird's-eye maple or any other fancy wood, and should run in grooves in the framing, with brass drop-handles. A box of this kind, with the tools packed in handle against steel and steel against handle, will hold just one hundred tools comfortably. It is as well to have a couple of battens nailed across the bottom of the tool-box. It keeps it from "winding", and the actual bottom from touching the bench.

—This article was composed by utilizing the remainder of excerpts submitted by Ken Wirtz (see the September TOOL SHED)

Consignment forms for the 1990 CRAFTS Tool Auction will be available at the next meeting. See Joe Hauck.

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A LOOK AHEAD.....

COMING EVENTS

November 12 (Sunday):
CRAFTS meeting at High Bridge.
"Banjo Making" by Mark Osterman.

November 13 (Monday):
Antique Club of New Jersey at Montclair. "Rare & Beautiful Wrenches" by Frank W. Kingsbury.

November 23 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

November 27 (Monday):
Dedication of the Agricultural Museum of New Jersey - 11:00 A.M.

Happy Holidays

January 5, 1990 (Friday)
DEADLINE for submitting material for the TOOL SHED.

February 4, 1990 (Sunday)
CRAFTS meeting at High Bridge.
"Zig-Zag Measuring Devices" by Charles & Walter Jocob.

READER ADS

OLD TOOL TAG SALE
Sunday, November 19,'89 at 9:00 A.M. sharp until 4:00 P.M. Over 50 signed wood planes (up to three stars), 50 Stanley and patent planes, along with 400 other user and collector tools. RED PARROT ANTIQUES, Rt. 206, center of Andover, N.J. Herb Kean, 539-3485.

NEW BOOK FOR SALE!
THE HAMMER— KING OF TOOLS - 352 pages, 1400 hammer photographs and identifications, 800 patent drawings - $25.00 postpaid. Available from:
Dan Comerford, Box 271, Stony Brook, NY 11790, (517)751-2805 or
Ron Baird, Rt. 1, Box 331AA, Fair Grove, MO 65648, (417)759-2816.

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CRAFTS PICNIC

Continued from page 5

Elvin Georges' Most Unusual Tool, a binged book-like affair, appeared in the November '87 TOOL SHED as What's It No. 27. It remains unidentified. The purfing tool devised by Alex Farnham, and a beauty, won the "Make-Do" Tool category. The Ugliest Tool was a wire-bound chunk of 2" diameter wood with bark used as a file handle, entered by Bob Garguili. The Most Beautiful Tool was the entry of Chuck Granick: a rosewood double fillister with patent arms and marked "E W CARPENTER, LANCASTER,PA"

The awarding of prizes for all contests and categories, and the drawings for the Chinese auction, completed a very enjoyable CRAFTS picnic.

"BUT EVERYBODY ELSE GIVES A SENIOR CITIZEN'S DISCOUNT!"