

BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

February 1987 - Vol. 6, Issue 2

Box 421195 San Francisco CA 94142

THIRD THURSDAY PREVIEW

The February general meeting will be held at 7:30pm on February 19th at Mike Laine's shop, 2200 Adeline St., Oakland at the corner of Adeline and West Grand Ave. This will be an all-BAWA meeting with various members presenting and talking about their work. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know who's in BAWA and what they do. It should be very informative and a lot of fun.

NEW EXHIBIT AT ELAINE POTTER GALLERY

"Furniture '87" will open Feb. 10th and will run through Mar. 14th. An artists' reception will be held Feb. 12th 5:30 - 8pm. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Saturday, 11am - 6pm.

The entire bay area is represented in this show, including Garry Knox Bennett, Alan Meisner, Norman Perersen, Gail Fredell Smith, Edward Gottesman, Jerry Carniglia, Jerry Cebe, Cheryl Riley, Lee Davis, Bill Byrne, Donna Braverman and Eric Zimmerman.

SAN FRANCISCO WORKING WITH WOOD SHOW

March 6, 7, 8 at the Concourse, Seventh & Brannan

Please note the change in dates for this show. The San Mateo show will be April 10, 11, 12. The new deadline for photos, slides and a description of work you'd like to display is FEB. 19. Bring them to the meeting along with a return envelope if you want them mailed back to you. Our plan is to assemble the displays and use them at both shows. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting for everyone to give a couple of hours to the organization that gives so much to each of us.

- (1) Submit a minimum of one 5x7 or 8x10 photo of your work and a business card to be displayed on a wall exhibit. Send these to Norma Brooks, 4973 Elrod Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94546.
- (2) Submit slides (duplicates preferred for a permanent collection) to be shown on a carousel monitor. If your slides must be returned, please include appropriate packaging and postage. Send slides to Tim Kennedy, 585 Stambaugh St., Apt. E, Redwood City, CA 94063.
- (3) Display your woodworking masterpieces at the show.
- (4) Bring your portfolio with you to display while you are in the booth representing BAWA.

Full time job available late February at Shopsmith, 1121 Industrial Rd., San Carlos. The job is primarily teaching 3-day classes using Shopsmith equipment. Typical class subjects are fundamentals - building a 3-leg shaker table, solid wood cabinet making, kitchen cabinet making and turning. The job is currently held by Brian Burns, who is leaving to start a career writing woodworking books. If interested, call Gary Graham or Bill Irwin at 593-3607.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

As some of you know, a decision to annualize our membership dues was made at the January meeting. This action will serve in two ways: First, BAWA will have a lump sum to work with as an aid in planning and partially funding yearly activities, and second, it will simplify the jobs of your officers. To calculate your adjustment fee, if any, refer to the expiration date on your newsletter mailing label. You arrive at your adjustment figure by dividing the year into thirds at April/May and August/September (approximately). For example, if you paid dues around April/May, a check for \$20. would make you current through 1987. If your break point is near August/September make your check for \$10. I wait with baited breath for a flood of funds from the field.

Terry Ward, treasurer

GETTING PAID

A commentary by Peter Good

Let's face it; being a professional woodworker requires that we make money in the process. Making money is a fact of life, and yet it is often treated as an extremely private, even dirty subject. Woodworkers, perhaps because they work with an imperfect natural material which is "collected" from the wild, seem to be viewed by the rest of the world as manipulators of found material, and as such are classified as neither true manufacturers nor true artists nor true innovators. Couple this with the fact that many woodworkers operate small, unsophisticated businesses and you have the prime components of a condition known as Difficulty Obtaining Payment. It seems that we are easy, perhaps even likely targets for being taken advantage of by our clients.

As someone who's been in both construction and woodworking for a number of years, I think I've heard just about every excuse that anyone can come up with for not paying on time, and in at least a couple of bizarre cases, not paying at all. Architects and contractors are the worst. As surely as the planets revolve around the sun, dealings with architects and contractors revolve around one word: Nonpayment. Any supplier of building materials can tell you about the delinquent payment performance of contractors. Architects, on the other hand, seem to believe that they are charter members of the Kingdom of the Divine and, as such, are not required to pay until they are good and ready, and even then they have been given the Authority from Beyond to withhold 10% for an indeterminate period in case whatever you did for them self-destructs or suddenly turns to well, we'll let that one pass.

Then there are all of the other folks; people who think they're better story-tellers than they really are, who come up with every imaginable reason for not paying: They had to pay an unexpected insurance bill, they had to buy a casket for their mother who just died, they suddenly discovered that they have to have an operation, their car disintegrated and they had to buy a new one, they were just hit with an unusually high tax bill, their kid's orthodontist took all their money, etc., etc. And we all know the one about "the check is in the mail". Then there are the institutional clients; churches, schools, governmental agencies and big companies where the release of funds can only be done by certain persons or committees, all of whom seem to be out of town right now.

The only way to avoid these problems is to protect yourself as many other businesses do. If a mover transports your household goods, nothing gets unloaded at the other end until the driver gets a certified check. If you don't pay your utility bill, the service gets shut off. If you don't make your car payments, the car is repossessed. If you don't pay your rent, you get evicted. Woodworkers can protect themselves in similar ways. One of the best is to not allow goods to leave your shop until you have been paid, waiting an additional week for the check to clear the bank. If you deliver, require full payment in the form of a certified or cashier's check before unloading. If the client has "forgotten" this detail, drive away without unloading and impose an additional \$200. redelivery charge when they do remember.

Remember, once the goods have left your possession without being paid for, your only recourse may be legal action such as small claims court, property liens or foreclosure suits. There are costly and time consuming. Try to avoid them by getting paid while you still have some leverage.

CLASSIFIEDS

Kurt Star #KS-5000 2 spindle carver. 1½hp, 10" spacing, \$850.
Advantage dovetailer. 1hp, 20" width, 1" centers, manual clamping, \$1500.
Rockwell 6" jointer. 3/4hp, 42" bed, enclosed stand, \$750.
Murphy Rodgers #MRM-10 7½hp baghouse dust collector. 10" inlet, \$2495.
Hall Machinery, (408) 248-3535.

Equipment and hardwoods for sale. Hitachi 12" planer, \$800. Grinder and lots of other stuff. GOOD DEALS!
Steve Savitch, 239-2999.

Attention: Stuart Lehrman Studios does superior quality finishing including staining, clear finishes, lacquer, colored lacquers, enamel and polane. 547-8255.

Heartwood Cooperative Woodworking Shop is interviewing for a new member. Call 845-4887 for information.



By Richard Rea
Executive Editor

An action you can take

Just about every American must realize by now that we have a serious product liability problem in this country. It has been the subject of countless newspaper and magazine articles and recently has been popping up in TV news programs and commentaries.

The impact of product liability lawsuits and unbelievably high liability insurance premiums is being felt in one way or another in nearly every segment of the economy. The latest to feel the liability sting are public parks and playgrounds that no longer can get liability insurance and so are having

to close.

The woodworking industry was one of the early victims of the problem, mostly due to the vulnerability of its machine suppliers to liability lawsuits. FURNITURE WOOD DIGEST has long championed the need for legislated product liability reform. Our editorial record in support of this goal goes back for more than a decade. But despite our efforts and the efforts of other industry magazines and all the coverage given to the problem in consumer news media, the needed federal reform has never been enacted by Congress.

Product liability reform has been a top priority goal of the Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America for many years. But despite the strenuous best efforts of that association, legislative relief still remains elusive. Resources of WMMA member companies continue to be drained by skyrocketing costs of liability insurance and outrageous court awards against them.

The worsening problem was the No. 1 topic of conversation at the recent joint industry convention of WMMA and WMDA in Scottsdale, Arizona. A sense of near-futility pervaded much of the talk at the meeting and it was perhaps best expressed by outgoing WMMA President W. E. Bair when he said, "We don't believe Congress is going to do anything about the problem because they don't know what to do."

Well now, I think this might be something in which we can help. If Congressmen don't know what to do, we can tell them what to do. After all, Congressmen are politicians. They live and breathe by what voters think and what voters want. Voters are what keep politicians in office and we are voters.

Maybe some of the past publicity on the problem has been too general in nature to do any good in Washington. I would like to suggest a specific action that every reader can take. I would like to urge you to write your Congressman (better if you write on your company letterhead) and tell him you want a fair and balanced product liability bill passed in 1986 that will:

- Hold manufacturers liable only when their conduct is unreasonable.
- Consider whether plaintiffs were responsible for their injuries.
- Eliminate capricious litigation/limit damage awards.
- Establish a reasonable statute of limitations.
- Develop clear guidelines on product warnings.

Who knows? If enough of you do this, it might just be the Congressional persuader it takes to get a reform bill passed this year. We're all in the product liability mess together and it's high time we got out.

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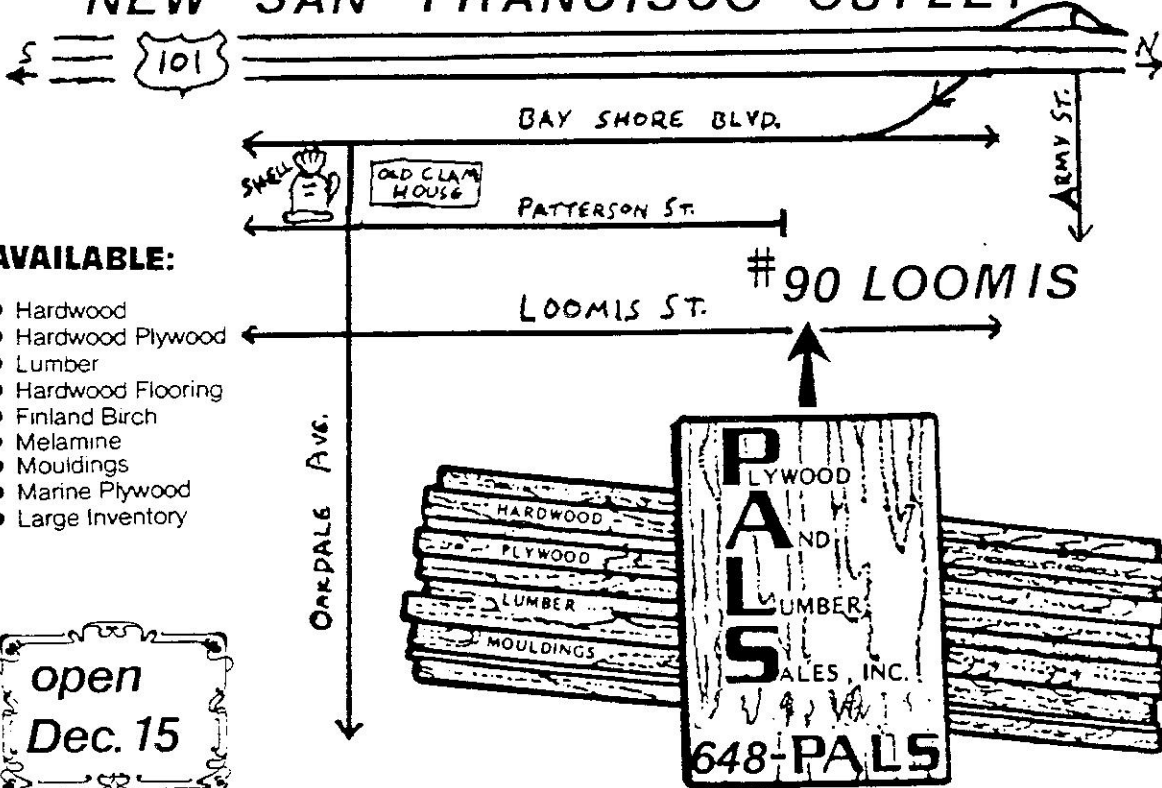
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HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MEETING

The BAWA general meeting for January was held at the shop of Larry Borsian, Cynthia Huntington, and Louis Kern. About forty members showed up at this newly-opened shop to hear and take part in a rich evening that mixed displays of work by BAWA members and, also, the return of some members whom we've missed seeing lately. Treasurer Ward reported that we've recovered from our perils. Editor Good said that he's getting the needed help on the newsletter. Steve Savitch suggested a "Good Strokes Column" for suppliers deserving it, especially advertisers (send note of really good treatment by a supplier to newsletter editor). Ron Hazleton of Cow Hollow Woodworks (and BAWA's first chairman) offered for sale a 20" bandsaw. Under "Old Business" was the change of term of membership from the present staggered moments of dues-paying to a single stretch for us all, beginning on January 1st. There was a short discussion on members' response to recent speakers. Consensus swirled around chairman Borsian's thoughts that people asking us to buy from them probably should not be at the center of our meetings. Peter Good then showed us how he builds the cores of the doors he makes by gluing and layering styrofoam into a thin sandwich and adding facings of solid wood. His approach was to avoid the slightest hint of a "hi-tech" solution to his manufacturing problems. Larry Borsian demonstrated his new Altendorf 12" sliding table saw (a handsome monster of some 2700 pounds). Mark Klipfel's presentation of many samples of his marquetry ended the evening. It was good to have a member show not only a recent work of great beauty, a necklace box some 14" high, but also his first efforts of years ago. Excellent craftsmanship taking shape.

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Bay Area Woodworkers Association
P.O. Box 421195
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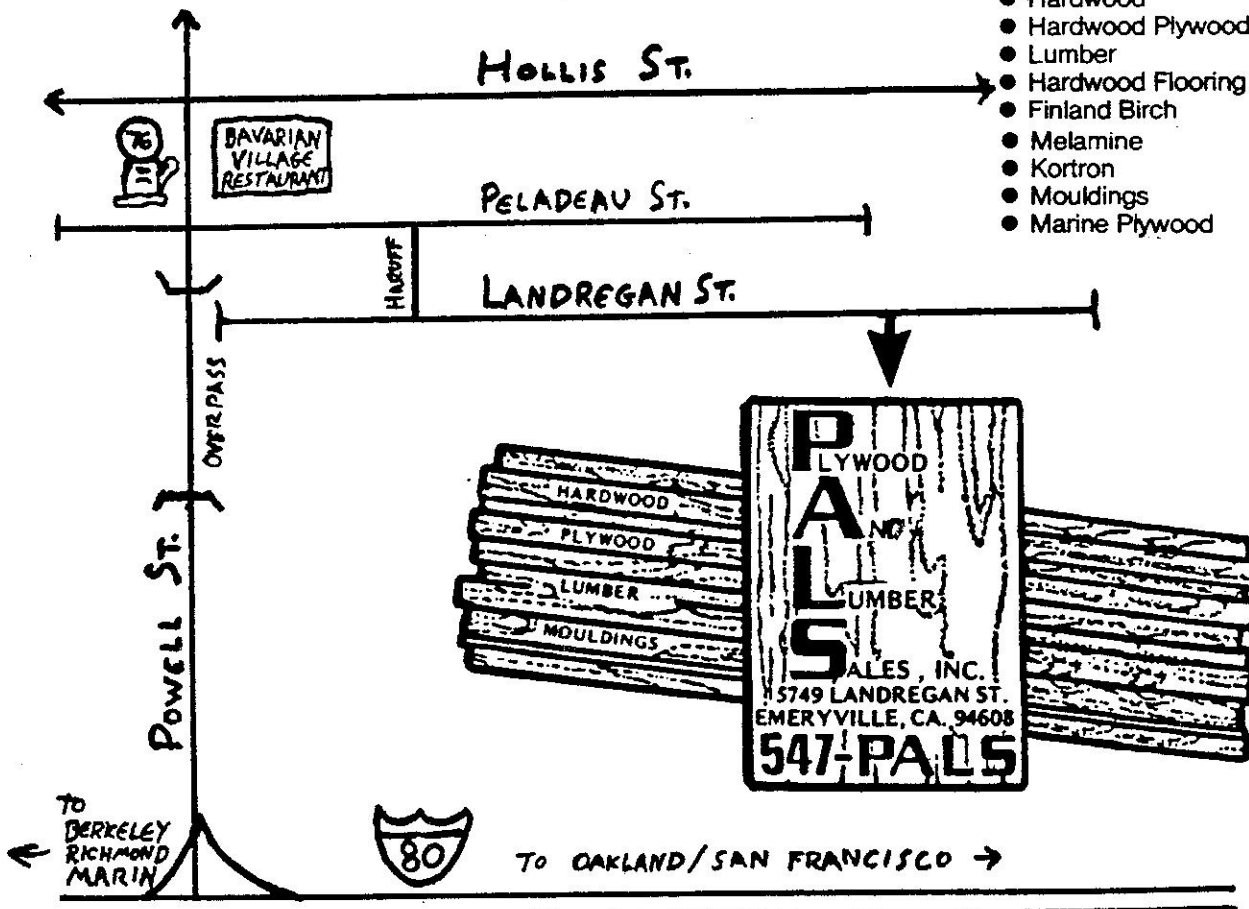
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Charlie/Charles Rodríguez



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Welcome to a B.A.W.A. meeting.

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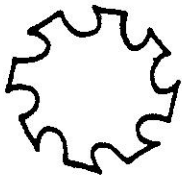
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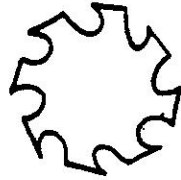
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BAWA DATA

The Bay Area Woodworkers' Association is an organization of woodworkers who have banded together to promote woodworking in both technical and aesthetic directions. This newsletter is a monthly publication intended to serve as a communications vehicle and a source directory for the membership of this Association.

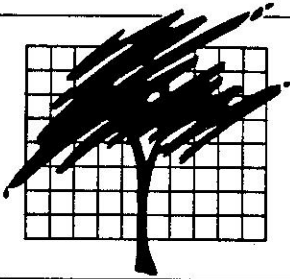
Membership dues are \$30/year, for which any member may participate fully in the Association, in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the By-Laws. This includes voting power on any issue brought before the membership for a vote, notification of the monthly shop talks and demonstrations put on by the Association, receipt of this newsletter each month, and privilege of participation in any special discount programs sponsored by local businesses in conjunction with this Association.

Checks for membership dues may be made out to the Bay Area Woodworkers' Association and sent to, P.O. Box 421195, San Francisco, CA 94142. Membership cards will be issued to all members in good standing.

Copies of the By-Laws are available at all monthly meetings, or can be requested by mail.

The monthly shop talks and demonstrations are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., at a location announced both in the newsletter and at the previous meeting.

The monthly executive committee meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, and are open to any interested members. To arrange attendance, contact any member of the executive committee by telephone or the address given above.



BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

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