

# BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

December 1988, Volume 7, Issue 12

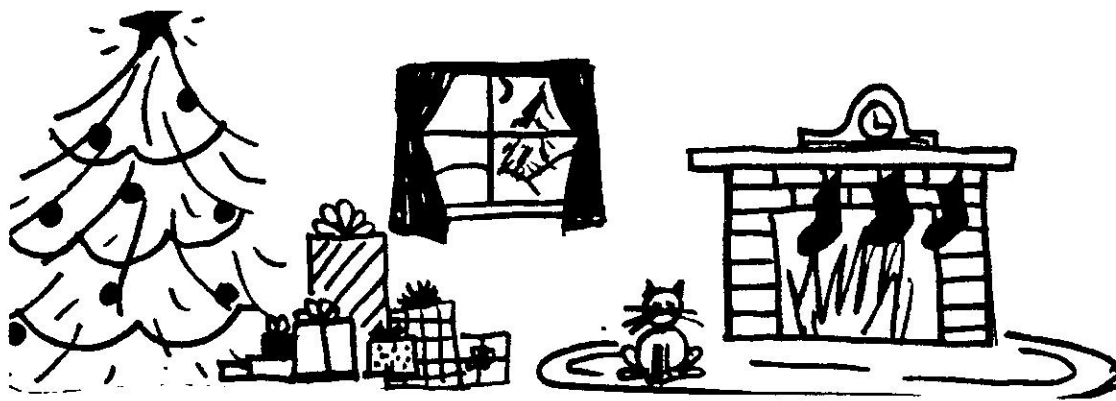
## Third Thursday Preview

### SECOND ANNUAL BAWA CHRISTMAS DINNER

DUE TO THE SUCCESS OF LAST YEARS EVENT, THE BOARD HAS PLANNED A CHRISTMAS DINNER WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, AT 6:30 PM. ALTHOUGH WE ALL ENJOY MEETING IN WOODWORKING SHOPS, WE DECIDED TO GO ALL OUT AND RENT A FACILITY FOR THIS FINE EVENT. STEVE MADDEN HAS MADE ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR US AT THE ALLIANCE 'FRANCAISE' IN SAN FRANCISCO. THE ADDRESS IS 1345 BUSH AND IS LOCATED BETWEEN POLK AND LARKIN. AFTER EXITING 101 IN DOWNTOWN S.F. GO NORTH ON 9TH ST. CROSSING MARKET TO LARKIN. BUSH ST. IS ONE WAY FROM POLK AND LARKIN, SO TURN EITHER ONE BLOCK BEFORE OR AFTER BUSH AND RETURN FROM POLK ST. WHICH IS A TWO WAY ST. THERE IS GROUND LEVEL PARKING ACROSS THE STREET AS WELL AS A COUPLE PARKING GARAGES NEARBY.

ADMISSION TO THIS EVENT FOR OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR INVITED GUESTS WILL BE A POTLUCK DISH FOR 8-10 PEOPLE OR \$5.00 PER PERSON WHICH WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE DOOR. THE BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE COOKING THE TURKEY, DRESSING, ETC. AND MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING "ALL THE TRIMMINGS" ( APPETIZERS, SALADS, HOT VEGETABLES, DESSERTS, ETC.) WE HAVE A FULL KITCHEN, BUT WE ASK THAT YOU BRING YOUR ITEM IN "READY TO SERVE" CONDITION WITH A SERVING UTENSIL. HOT DISHES CAN BE KEPT WARM IN THE OVENS.

PLEASE R.S.V.P. NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, SO WE KNOW HOW MANY TURKEYS TO BUY AND TABLES TO SET. EVEN IF YOU SIGNED UP AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING, PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AT 415-537-4096 AS TO HOW MANY ARE COMING, AND WHAT FOOD ITEM YOU ARE BRINGING, OR IF YOU WILL BE PAYING AT THE DOOR. THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN MAKING THE BEST EVER CHRISTMAS FOR BAWA.



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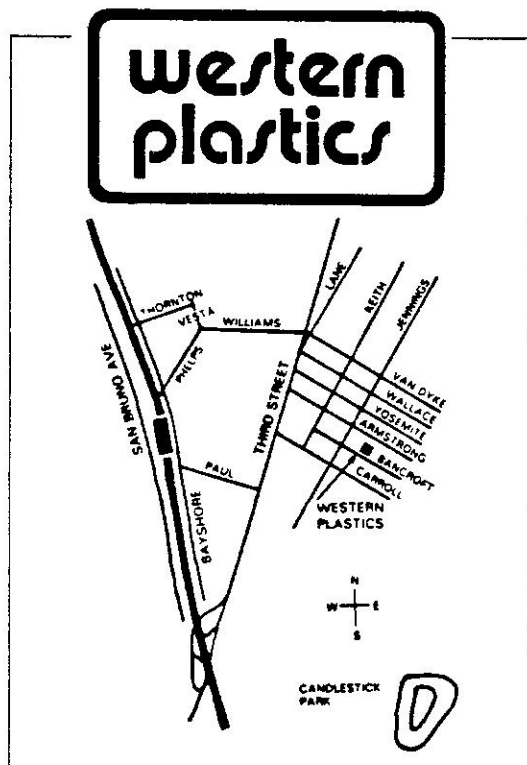
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SPECIAL EVENT: THE GALLERY 44/BAWA SHOW IS OPENING THURS. DEC. 1. GALLERY HOURS ARE 2-6 PM WED.-SAT. AND IS LOCATED AT 4401 SAN LEANDRO BLVD. NEAR HIGH ST., OAKLAND, CA. 415-534-6500.

BAWA T-SHIRTS: AVAILABLE AT THE MEETINGS OR MAIL ORDER. MEMBERS \$8, NON-MEMBERS \$10 PLUS \$1.50 POSTAGE AND HANDLING.

## Calendar

JAN. 4 NEWSLETTER - BOARD MEETING  
JAN. 19 GENERAL MEETING  
FEB. 1 NEWSLETTER - BOARD MEETING  
FEB. 16 GENERAL MEETING  
MAR. 1 NEWSLETTER - BOARD MEETING  
MAR. 19 GENERAL MEETING  
MAR. 31-APR. 2 NO. CA. WOODWORKING SHOW  
APR. 5 NEWSLETTER - BOARD MEETING  
APR. 20 GENERAL MEETING



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## Highlights from Last Meeting

November's meeting was held at The Splinter Group, a woodworking co-op in Berkeley. Dan Fernandez, along with several other of the co-op's members were our hosts for the evening. They gave us a look into their operations and organization as a co-op. This included a history of the group from its founding to where the group is today. Though the group has seen members come and go, the present group of woodworkers have all been together for a number of years.

Each of the members spoke to us about such things as their job duties, handling of accounts and inventories, sharing of space and tools, meetings, and even conflicts. They spoke of the ups and downs that the group has experienced, and though there are advantages and disadvantages, the comradery and friendships that developed has made the co-op a unique experience. It goes without saying that working in such an environment must have its rewards to make The Splinter Group the success it is.

In addition to the main evenings topic, Woody Woodward gave us another look into some of the assortment of Jigs that he has constructed over the years. He made mention that sometimes the majority of his time may go into creating and constructing a jig to do a project, rather than the project itself. In retrospect, the use of a jig can ensure a more accurate project as well as a much safer project.

If there was one thing that Woody attempted to get across to us all, was the subject of safety. True he builds his jigs-- and he has alot of them-- to do cleaner and more accurate work, but he really wanted to emphasize safety. This included such things as proper clothing being worn, the wearing of safety glasses or goggles, as well as abstaining from having that beer until such time as the machines are off for the day.

Woody has agreed to continue with his discussions of jigs in future meetings, so be sure to attend and get some great ideas on these elaborate and handy "helpers".

\* \* \* \* \*

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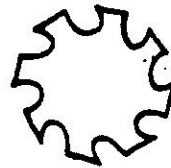
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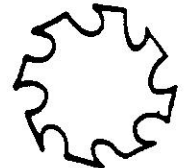
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## From the Editor

In continuation of Kevin's review of the November meeting, the following is the results of the elections:

President-----Kevin Seger  
Vice President-----Carl Johnson  
Treasurer-----Dave Sowa  
Newsletter Editor-----Norma Brooks  
Secretary-----VACANT

We will reopen the nominations and complete the election of a Secretary at the December meeting. The job of the Secretary is to record minutes at the general meeting and the board meeting and write a synopsis of this for the newsletter. As with all the elected positions, the Secretary will serve on the board and help administer the organization for 1989.

Although my intention was to pass the newsletter position on to someone at this time, here I am again. Since my work load in my business is continuing to increase, my acceptance was conditional that an Assistant Editor be chosen who wants to learn the job. Although I have accomplished some of the things I set out to do with the format and the mailing list, it's time to take another step and find someone with a computer and desktop publishing program to further improve the newsletter. The other greatest need is for people to contribute articles for the newsletter. Most woodworkers are "doers" not writers, but we can all at least cut and paste. I also need black and white photos of your work, a jig, etc. and a brief story about it. I've enjoyed being Newsletter Editor as well as co-Chm. with Don Segale, and before that Secretary, but its time for some new energy.

Now that our membership has reached 180 (about 10 new members each month) we are ready to form year-round committees. This is an opportunity for each one of you to give something to an organization which gives to you each month. The following committees were proposed at the Board meeting last night:

- A. PROGRAM: Coordinate monthly meeting subjects and locations, field trips, and Saturday workshops.
- B. SHOWS: Coordinate participation in Trade shows and Exhibits of BAWA members work.
- C. HOSPITALITY: Refreshments; greeting, sign in, and name tags at monthly meetings.
- D. HISTORICAL/LIBRARY: Maintain binders with past newsletters, publications, slide collection, and video tapes.
- E. COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Coordinate an annual project such as the Larkin St. Center or several smaller projects.
- F. PUBLICITY: Submit information to area newspapers about upcoming meetings, shows, etc.
- G. SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Coordinate events like the golf tournament baseball games, ski trip, and whatever.
- H. NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Select possible candidates for offices to be elected at the November meeting.

ALTHOUGH THE CHRISTMAS DINNER IS PRIMARILY A SOCIAL EVENT, THERE WILL BE SIGNUP SHEETS FOR THE COMMITTEES. THE NEXT BOARD/NEWSLETTER MEETING WILL BE JANUNARY 4, 1989. SEE YOU AT THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.

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# Larkin Street Services

# Larkin Street Youth Center

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## LARKIN STREET'S REMODELING IS IN FULL SWING !

Thanks to the many BAWA members who volunteered their time, the Center will be able to build a new Drug Abuse Center, Medical Clinic, Classroom and Street Outreach Offices. Our other generous donors are:

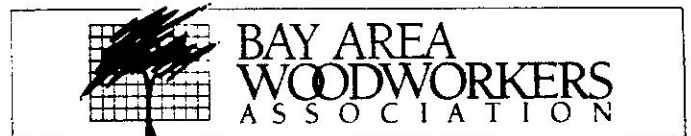
Marty Zwick & Associates (architectural services)  
John O'Brien Mechanical (all plumbing services)  
Bob Huggins (all electrical services thru Alcoholics Anonymous)  
Thrifty Jr. (new kitchen and shower)  
And many more!

By the time you read this newsletter, the first BAWA crews will be raising partition walls in two of our buildings. Over the next few weeks, They'll be raising some more, nail sheetrock and hang doors, all most likely before Christmas. We hope to take occupancy of those buildings by January 15, and immediately move on to our last project. We anticipate to finish our total remodeling by March 1st, 1988, and would like to invite you to our Open House Celebration (further notice will appear in an upcoming newsletter)

Again, thanks so much for your support. These 'throw-away' kids deserve a second chance; they really need a hand to get back on track; you are helping them take their first steps into that direction.

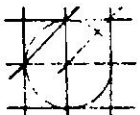
Peter de Goey  
Volunteer project coordinator

SHOW OPENS DEC 1ST  
Reception 6-8pm  
Slides by Gary Bennett 8pm  
SHOW CLOSES DEC 23RD



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## WORKS IN WOOD



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# WOOD OF THE MONTH

## BIRD'S-EYE MAPLE

Bird's-eye maple — a North American original.

By Jo-Ann Kaiser

Maple's appeal as a furniture wood dates back to colonial days. Then, as now, both plain and figured maples were prized as hard, heavy woods with excellent resistance to abrasion and wide availability. Colonial woodworkers found both types to be extremely versatile, making them good choices for flooring, musical instruments, paneling and even gunstocks.

There was, however, one particular maple figure that the colonists wanted little to do with — bird's-eye maple. To them it was a defective wood.

But things have changed. Today, bird's-eye maple is a wood in vogue. Partly because it is unpredictable supply-wise, but more so because of its unique beauty, bird's-eye is regarded as one of the most valuable maple figures.

### A mystery of the ages

Most of the supply of bird's-eye comes from sugar maple trees. How the bird's-eye is formed is a mystery that continues to befuddle the experts. A few theories exist, though.

In his book, "Know Your Woods," Albert Constantine Jr. writes, "There has long been a discussion as to what causes the bird's-eye figure in maple. The accepted belief today is that it is caused by a stunted growth. It is found in trees where the growth has been the slowest — always on the northeast slopes of hills and in trees that have been hemmed in on all sides in the forest, where the tree has had little light and air."

Constantine cites studies in which trees were marked and left standing alone after others around them were felled. Some of these trees, left as long as 20 years in open clearings, yielded plain veneers. Meanwhile, trees of the same type, left to grow beneath the shade of larger trees, showed the bird's-eye figure.

Warren Lee, executive vice president of the Birds Eye Veneer Co., Escanaba, Mich., said the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory has conducted studies on what causes the bird's-eye figure. "The researchers believe something has suppressed the growth of the tree — that growth conditions are not quite proper. They think that either lack of sunshine or lack of water causes it."

Lee added that FPL researchers planted seeds from bird's-eye maples but that the



resulting trees did not yield bird's-eyes. "They don't believe it is genetic," he said.

### A 'prized commodity'

"Bird's-eye maple is a highly prized commodity," said Steve Webb of the David R. Webb Co. Inc., based in Edinburgh, Ind. Webb said that typical prices for an 8-foot panel-length cut is about \$2.50 a square foot. "Furniture grades of bird's-eye maple cut shorter for use as table tops and desk fronts would range in price from 50 cents to \$1.25 per square foot," said Webb. "Long, good bird's-eye is difficult to find."

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***How the bird's-eye is formed is a mystery that continues to befuddle the experts. A few theories exist, though.***

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Webb also said that no one is completely certain how bird's-eye figures occur, but added that some experts theorize they result from a genetic defect or a disease that attack the tree. "Until you cut it, there is no way to know if a tree has the bird's-eye maple. In a forest you can cut 100 maples and 10 trees may have it or maybe none will have it. That is what makes it so valuable," he said.

Webb added that the largest concentrations of bird's-eye maple seem to be in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Other sites of more than average bird's-eye occurrence are in parts of Canada along the Lake Superior shore. Loggers who cut maple are constantly on the lookout for it. A log buyer can see the characteristics with the marking on the bark of a tree and by reading the fresh cut butt ends for a clue as to

which trees contain the highly prized figures.

Bird's-eye is one of the many types of figures maple trees yield. Others include: curly fiddleback figures (so-called because it is used for violins), wormy sugar maple, quilted maple, leaf figure and straight grain. While some refer to bird's-eye maple as a burl, most wood and veneer experts classify it as a figure. Constantine explains the confusion. He notes that a bird's-eye figure somewhat resembles a figure in a burl because it has the small eye of a burl. However, burls usually feature eyes that are surrounded by a series of clusters. In the bird's-eye maple, each eye stands out separately.

Sugar maple veneer is rotary cut, which means the veneer is cut in a continuous strip by rotating a log against the edge of a knife using a veneer lathe. This method produces the best yield of distinctive veneers. The term denotes a small spot in the wood surrounded by an ellipse of concentric fibers. Bird's-eye figures rarely appear in other woods, among the exceptions are: yew, red oak and Masur birch.

"Bird's-eye maple is a beautiful, very expensive wood," said Rich Spraggs of Hartzel Hardwoods Inc., Piqua, Ohio. "An 8-foot cutting of bird's-eye veneer would range in price from \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot compared with walnut in the same 8-foot cutting going for 35 cents to 50 cents per square foot. The bird's-eye runs three times the price," he said.

### Colorizing bird's-eye figures

Webb said that bird's-eye, a distinctly North American product, is very popular in Europe and Taiwan as a furniture wood. Here it is every bit as popular for furniture, interior office design and cabinetry. "Bird's-eye is a highly figured wood with a real concentration of figure and lots of movement. I never met anyone who didn't like it. Because it is a light color and a true maple, it can be easily stained or dyed in a variety of colors," he said. "Anything goes today. I have seen it dyed every color from black to hot pink to lime green."

One coloring process involves cooking aniline dye into the sliced veneer with massive pressure cookers. The dye is heated and forced into the wood through steam pressure. Lee said this process is used widely in Italy and creates a veneer that is completely dyed. "No matter what is done to the wood, sanding for example, the piece is the same color throughout," he said. Other treatments include pickling. Like other maples, bird's-eye takes traditional stains extremely well. Poggenpohl, for example, features bird's-eye maple kitchen cabinets in a cherry stain. ■



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# The Deltagram

Published for Owners of Delta Shops Everywhere

JAMES TATE—Editor

Vol. I

MARCH, 1932

No. 2

"Without tools man is nothing; with tools he is all."—CARLYLE

## Hobbies and Mental Health

"LIFE is enriched by the use of the hands"—so runs a quotation from an article lately written by Sir Herbert Barker, a famous English surgeon. Writing on the value of handicrafts as an aid to mental development, he says: "It is deplorable that so few men and women today can boast of any skill of the hands at all. We take our 'daily dozen' as a matter of course; but our hands, those marvelous, prehensile tools provided by nature, lie idle, neglected."

More and more the modern physician is coming to realize the tremendous value, both mental and physical, of a good hobby. And foremost of all hobbies, in the eyes of those who have studied the subject from the standpoint of mental health, is that of owning and operating a home workshop. Sir Herbert goes on to say: "Much of the mute unhappiness of many people today is due to the fact that they have, unknown to themselves, a desire to create. They are not artists, yet they have deep down within them the artist's creative impulse. Those impulses find an outlet in the acquisition of manual skill. To make something—to stand back and regard a thing actually made by one's own hands—that is a joy akin to the artist's joy of creation. And, in its humble sphere, it is creation. The reward is fuller life and more perfect harmony of the body, closer rhythm between the body and the mind."

During the course of many years' contact with "homecrafts" of every kind, and of every degree of skill, we have come to realize just how true this statement of Sir Herbert's is. There is not a man who ever made something—no matter how simple—

with his own hands, who has not felt the richer for it. This feeling arises not only from the satisfaction of the creative instinct, deep though that satisfaction is, but, in addition, from the knowledge that difficulties have been encountered, and surmounted by patient effort and constructive thought. No man ever tackles a new job in his own workshop without encountering unexpected difficulties; difficulties that are sometimes due to lack of equipment, sometimes to the intractability of the material and often to the lack of skilled knowledge of the work itself.

Here is where the native ingenuity of the craftsman shows itself at its best. And when the difficulties have been overcome—often by the most unorthodox methods—what a feeling of satisfaction remains!

The mental and physical relaxation afforded through the medium of the home workshop is commencing to appeal more and more to a vast body of professional and semi-professional workers. These men find that the minor problems presented during the hours spent in the workshop are a perfect set-off against the cares of business. For who can worry about the stock market, or the case that is to come up tomorrow or the note that is due next week, when the piece of work on the bench demands all one's attention if the joints are to fit properly?

Nor does it greatly matter what is made in the home workshop; ship models, furniture, model engines, doll houses; nicknacks, clocks or what have you; the final result is the same—hours of pleasure and creative effort that can be gained in no other way.

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