

# BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

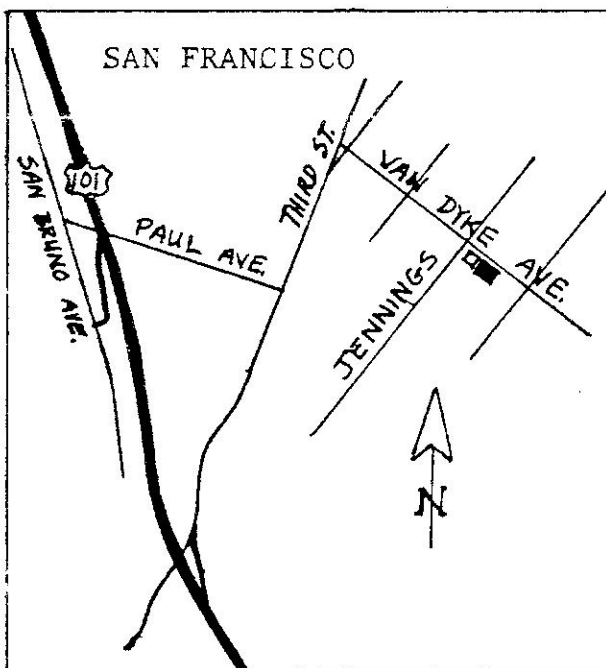
January 1988. Volume 7, Issue 1

Box 421195, San Francisco, CA 94142

## Third Thursday Preview

For our first meeting of the new year we are pleased to be able to offer a special presentation. The general meeting will be held on January 21st at 7:30pm at Classical Constructs, 1375 Van Dyke Avenue, Unit B, San Francisco. This is located in the Bayview District. Our host and guest presenter will be Rob Wood, owner of Classical Constructs. Rob is from a family composed predominantly of woodworkers and builders and, although there were some hopes in the family that he would be the one to break out of the field, it didn't happen. After 7 years of college and subsequent work in several fields such as real estate and theater, Rob is back in woodworking. But not just woodworking. His business specializes in a wide variety of materials including wood, metal, glass and plastic, and produces primarily prototypes and unique items employing a wide range of crafts for a diverse group of clients. Rob's shop designs and produces furniture, cabinetry, props for theater, movies and television, remote controlled model airplanes, neon displays, highly custom fixtures and creates special effects props for television commercials. A unique project was the conversion of a 32' motor home to a mobile television production facility. This unit will be available at the meeting for our inspection. We will also get to see work in progress and Rob will show us numerous slides of some of the unusual jobs he has done. When I was talking to Rob on the phone, even though I had never met him, I knew he was a creative and refreshing person because several new ideas and insights came to him as we talked and he is obviously overflowing with ideas and passion for his work. Please join us for this special evening.

Peter Good



Directions: Take 101 South past the Army St., 280, and Silver St. exits. Take the Paul St. exit, turn right, go one blk., turn right and take Paul to 3rd. Turn left and go about 9 blks., turn right in Van Dyke. Go 2 blks. to Jennings. Classical Constructs will be in the next block on your right at 1375 Van Dyke Ave. (phone 822-2101)

### Agenda:

- 7:00-7:30 Social
- 7:30-7:50 Business Meeting
- 7:50-10:00 Presentation (with brief intermission)

If you're coming North on 101 take the 3rd St. exit to Van Dyke.

## From the Chair

Okay, it's time for some changes in BAWA. For the past year or two, this organization has, as I see it, been casting about in search of a purpose or a direction or the meaning of life in woodworking, or something. During our term as co-chairs, Steve Madden and I would like to help bring new vitality to BAWA in the form of meaningful programs and events, increased membership and a positive and progressive attitude toward woodworking as a business, hobby and fine craft.

The Bay Area is a populous place with a generous supply of brains, money, talent and creativity. When it comes to human resources, our area has a lot more going for it than most places. So, the question comes to me that in the midst of one of the world's primary centers of innovation, prosperity and excellence, why has our organization been languishing in apathy and disinterest? Why do we have so much trouble getting more than 30 people to come to a meeting? Why is it practically impossible to get anyone to contribute anything to the newsletter? Why can't we get enough members interested in participating in a show to put one together? And why is it so bloody hard to get anyone to take office or help in any way to run the organization?

Seems to me there are a few things around here that need improving. The new board will be examining these issues in an attempt to make BAWA what it should be; one of the best woodworking organizations in the country. We already have the main ingredient: We're in the middle of one of the world's largest concentrations of superb woodworkers, craftspeople and artists. I urge each of you to help us make BAWA something that's really important to you. Tell us what you want BAWA to be and not be; seek out new people who might like to be members and invite them to a meeting; share your presence with us by attending meetings and participating in events. BAWA is your organization, and energy and time that you put into it will be an investment in yourself.

Peter Good

I'd like to thank the membership for it's vote of confidence although I feel a little like the lucky guy that just got elected marshal of the town because no one else wanted the job. My experience with the exec committee last term was fun, and I hope, benefical to the membership. I think Norma and Don did a splendid job at the helm and I hope Peter and I can continue the fine work they started with a few of our own silly ideas thrown in for good measure. So grab hold of your hat and get ready for some fun and games. See you all at the next meeting. And I do mean ALL. Let's start BAWA off with a bang in 1988.

Thanks Again

Steven Madden


## Highlights from Last Meeting

The Christmas party was held at Steve Madden's shop in Oakland. I don't think BAWA could have asked for better hosts. Steve and his wife Kathryn went all out to help with this party. Steve made the turkeys, Kathryn the stuffing and the rest was potluck coordinated by Norma Brooks. The food was excellent and the company superb. I would like to express many thanks to the unknown or unmentioned contributors to these events as well as our other meetings. Without your support BAWA would not be what it is today. If this party was any indication of the parties and/or events to come you would want to keep in touch with BAWA and attend the meetings.

### EXECUTIVE MEETING - JANUARY, 1988

The newly elected executive board, Peter Good, Steve Madden, Dick Taylor, Norma Brooks, Tim Kennedy, and Craig Schiemann met at Norma Brooks' home in Castro Valley. Members volunteered to handle duties of distributing the newsletters. The issue of sending out invitations to former members and prospective members was brought up. The printshop has mentioned the original art wok for the advertisers needs new camera ready copy in order to maintain the quality of the newsletter. Dick Taylor will notify our advertisers in their next statements. Norma suggested that guests doing a commercial presentation at our meeting be asked to donate an item for our door prize drawing. (A \$50 gift certificate was donated by Woodsmith of Berkeley for December)

Craig Schiemann  
Rec. Sec. for Dec.



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## From the Editor

As the new editor of the newsletter and now past chairperson of BAWA, I'm looking forward to growth and improvement in the organization. I hope to continue to improve on the fine job the past editors have done. Continued support from the membership is vital. I look forward to my mailbox being full the first of each month. I'm printing the questionnaire that appeared in the December newsletter and at the December meeting. Please return these with your renewal of membership in January. As announced in 1987, our dues are now \$30 per year, payable each January and prorated per quarter for anyone joining mid-year.

Norma Brooks



## Calendar

- JANUARY 20- FEBRUARY 7 "AMERICAN CRAFTS/DESIGN 88"  
Sponsored by Baulines' Craft Guild  
Location: Showcase Design Center, 2 Henry Adams St.  
San Francisco, Info. Call 331-8520
- FEBRUARY 9, 1988 AMERICAN DECORATIVE ARTS FORUM  
Slide lecture-Frank Lloyd Wright: Shapes Of A Career  
Narrated by Dell Upton of U.C. Berkeley  
West entrance of the de Young Museum (Asian Art)  
Doors open at 7:15, Lecture at 8:00 p.m.
- MARCH 26, 27, 28, THE WOODWORKING SHOW - SAN JOSE  
We will have a booth and display at this show if the membership is willing to contribute time, photographs, slides, examples of their work, etc. This a great public relations opportunity for you as an individual craftsman and for our organization. We will talk more about this at the general meeting and be forming a show committee (not just current board members).

MISTAKES by Dick Taylor

I had a vision. On June 31, 1987 i was awakened from a sound sleep by the noise of a sander. I looke, and out of a cloud of dust came a gnarled little old man. He told me he was the Druid God of woodworking and that his name was unpronounceable to the English speaking world but I could call him Woody. After he shut off the sander, an old Rockwell 505, I asked why he had appeared to me. To help you understand the understandable was the answer

Why do my boards warp, I asked in my naivete? Woody told me the most unbelievable story.

"I sit all day on a small cloud watching over the wookworkers of the world. I control the sawyers cutting the trees and watch as the flaws go into the boards. These flaws are to test the intelligence of woodworkers everywhere. They tell me if the woodworker or my tree is smarter. When the wood blows out, the chisel slips or the board warps I say to myself, 'Self, will these poor mortals see that I an telling them to be more creative?' I watch as some people go into a rage of self destructive doubt. They throw their work and destroy it. They fling their tools across the shop. They give up, and I know the wood won. Others are not like that. Thew have learned to listen to the spirit of the wood and work with it, not forcing their will entirely upon the creation."

"On these days I smile as I look down on my woodowrkers and see they are smarter than the wood. They hear me tell them, 'Learn to make a dutchman, A decorative inlay might be nice here. The mistake is a chance to make something better? Don't they know that there is a need to put the work aside for the day and sleep on the problem? I will come to them as I have come to you in a dream in the middle of the night. or as they are stuck in commuter traffic.

You can imagine my reaction to this funny story from this strange little man but the more I thought about it the more I began to understand the importance of what he told me. We need to become one with our tools and materials in order to create. What I first perceived as a joke became a precious gift, one he told me to share with the world.

May your boards have knots in the right places, may your wood warp only when you need to make propellers, and may bugs never land on your wet finish.

I can knot believe yew wood leaf me like this.

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 (in S.F.) Room 317, City Hall 558-2821

STATE: Sales Tax State Board of Equalization 557-1877  
 Room 2262, 350 McCallister, S.F.


PAYROLL TAXES, Dept. of Employment Development 557-1660  
 INCLUDES: Employment Tax District Office in S.F.  
 Unemployment, State 745 Franklin, Room 302  
 Income &  
 Disability, etc.

State Corporation & Franchise Tax Board 800-852-7050  
 Individual Income Tax Sacramento 95867 (toll free)

Workman's Compensation State Compensation Insurance Fund 565-1344  
 1275 Market Street, San Francisco  
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You can get Your Business Tax Kit at any IRS office. An employee there will show you how to use the kit and will answer questions you have. If you cannot visit an IRS office a kit will be mailed to you at your request.

If you have not applied for an employer identification number, please send Form SS-4 which was furnished you for that purpose to the Internal Revenue Service Center for your area. You will receive an employer identification number, and your name will be placed on our mailing list

Department of the Treasury - IRS

Rv. 3/85

True or False?

There is no such thing as Ironwood.

True! There is no specific wood that is an ironwood. Ironwood is a generic term implying the heaviest of hardest wood, or both, in that particular region of the U.S.

AAFW Newsletter Nov/Dec '87

No matter where the switch is located, it should be of a nature and design so that it can be turned OFF with a quick slap. Switches that are hard to reach and/or activate can cost valuable time and mutilate flesh and bone as well as valuable stock. Any delay in stopping the machinery has the potential of being life threatening.

A very good switch design is one that requires a pull to start and is pushed to stop. They are available in most hardware stores and, of course, at Sears. The standard switch on a Sears table saw is available as an accessory which can be plugged into any motor cord and has its own cord for going to a power source.

Do not end your electrical safety quest with the switch. Dangling cords create a tripping hazard and can catch your work as it passes through or over power equipment. Take the time to route all cords so they are out of the way. Tape them to the floor or other supports with duct tape. You can also build protective covers for cord on the floor out of wood by routing a groove for the cord to fit into and tapering the top for minimum edges.

The ideal solution to loose cord problems is to install permanent outlets in your electrical system that are convenient to your power tools. Floor outlets are a better way to supply power to machines you walk around such as table saws and planers.

Ed Graves



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Maple: the star of autumn, the sweetness of spring.

By Jo-Ann Kaiser

The maple tree is an abundant source of both tangible and intangible gifts. Its autumn leaves color the land like a spectacular quilt, its sap is tapped from the sugar maple and used to produce maple sugar and syrup.

Its use in furniture dates back to colonial America, hence its close association with Early American-style furniture.

Maple, genus *Acer*, includes some 200 species of trees and shrubs worldwide. The American species are divided into two groups: hard and soft. The latter group is 25 percent softer than the former. Hard maple or rock maple includes sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and black maple (*Acer nigrum*). Sugar maple is the most commercially important maple and the most abundant type found in the United States.

Sugar maple takes its name from one of its prized by-products — maple sugar. One tree can produce as much as 12 gallons of maple sap a year. Approximately 40 gallons of sap are needed to produce one gallon of pure maple syrup. This process has developed into a multi-million business in Canada and the United States, especially in Vermont.

Sugar maple grows most prevalently in New England, but is also found as far north as Southern Newfoundland and as far south as Texas. Sugar maple is the state tree of Wisconsin, Vermont, New York and West Virginia.

The trees grow from 70 to 120 feet tall

and from 20 to 38 inches in diameter. They bear distinctive five-lobed, pointed leaves, which turn beautiful shades of red, orange, gold and crimson in the fall.

Sugar maple has a hard texture. It dries slowly but easily, and with considerable shrinkage. Hard maples are valued for their strength, wear resistance and beauty, making them a popular choice for flooring heavily trafficked areas like ballrooms and bowling alleys. They are also often used to make bowling pins and piano parts.

Hard maples have an average density of 45 pounds per cubic foot. They feature white sapwood and reddish-tinged heartwood. Their wood is evenly textured with a natural luster. The most distinctive feature about hard maples is their figures. While the grain is usually straight, it can also be wavy or curly. Decorative figures include bird's-eye, maple burl, leaf, and fiddle-back, so-called because it is often used for the backs of violins.

These various figures can be found scattered throughout the tree, "or in irregular strings and patches," said Larry Frye, executive director of the Fine Hardwoods/American Walnut Assn.

Maple burl, one of the most exotic of maple veneers, is made from sugar maple; its colors are like fall leaves. Bird's-eye is most commonly found in sugar maple, but is also seen in some soft maples, yellow birch and white ash, Frye said.

"Some people believe that the bird's-eye figure is formed when immature buds push outward in trying to reach the surface," Frye said. Bird's-eyes are indentations in the woodgrain. Experts can detect these indentations in the form of rounded depressions in the bark, he added.

Furniture manufacturers use hard and soft maples, Frye said. Generally speaking, though, hard maple is used more often on parts that show.

"The two hard maples, sugar and black, are difficult to tell apart," said Frye. "They are used extensively in furniture and are popular for kitchen cabinets. Most furniture manufacturers refer to either of the two as hard rock maple."

Frye said that white maple wood stains well. "It was used for gunstocks. When stained, the beautiful grain just jumped out at you, but walnut is slightly more popular because it is easier to take care of. Maple must be retouched when it is scratched, while walnut doesn't need to be repaired," he added.

Plain hard maple is available in both lumber and veneer forms. Figured maple veneers are limited in availability and thus can cost considerably more money.

Soft maples comprise the rest of the 20

North American species of maple, 13 of which are native to the United States. It is used for furniture, cabinets, flooring, millwork, gunstocks, railroad ties, wood acetate, charcoal, boxes and crates.

Three soft maples stand out for their commercial value: red maple (*Acer rubrum*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) and box elder (*Acer negundo*). These maples grow rapidly during their first 20 to 30 years and are widely used as decorative and street trees, according to Frye. The largest supply is in Kentucky, Tennessee and nearby states where the trees thrive in damp fertile soils, in swamps or along rivers.

Even though soft maple can be up to 25 percent softer than hard maple, the characteristics of the two woods are similar. Both of their close-grained woods are easy to work with.

Red maple, with its lightly-tinged red heartwood, is the most valued of the three leading soft maples and ranks second only to sugar in popularity. Also known as swamp maple, scarlet maple, white maple and soft maple, it is the state tree of Rhode Island. It was used by early colonists for furniture, but was later replaced by imported mahogany which was deemed more "dignified." Red maple is generally less expensive than the more detail-grained sugar maple. It is useful for all types of woodwork and some furniture.

The wood can have character markings, which are often caused by impurities entering the wood through worm holes, Frye said. "Wormy soft maple has gained in popularity for both wall paneling and furniture in recent years." Bird's-eye detailing in soft maple is very rare and is believed to occur in trees grown on northern hillsides, Frye added.

Silver maple, also referred to as soft maple, white maple, river maple, water maple, swamp maple, three-leaved maple and cut-leaved maple, is very similar to red maple in its properties. It is easily identified because its leaves have light green surfaces and are silvery white on the undersides. Silver maples' leaves turn a pale yellow in the fall.

Box elder is also called the ash-leaved maple, three-leaved maple and cut-leaved maple. It is usually smaller than other family trees and is used in making small wooden products.

Other maples include Oregon maple, Rocky Mountain maple, vine maple, Florida maple, striped maple, eastern mountain or dwarf maple, and sycamore maple. Sycamore maple is imported from Europe and Asia; it is one of the few trees that thrives near seashores. ■



# Carpenters Apprentice Panel Guilty of Hiring Bias

A federal appeals court yesterday found a Northern California carpenters apprentice committee guilty of hiring discrimination against women.

Linda Eldridge, a carpenters apprentice in Alameda County, sued the Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship Committee, a labor-management group that administers apprenticeships in Northern California.

The U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco unanimously found

that the committee discriminates against women by requiring all new applicants to find a contractor that will request them by name for their first job.

The court ruled that the process, known as a "hunting license" system, resulted in a female admission rate of little more than half the first job admission rate for males.

Between 1976 and 1984, 21,066 men were admitted as indentured carpenters apprentices; only 657 women were indentured, according

to the court.

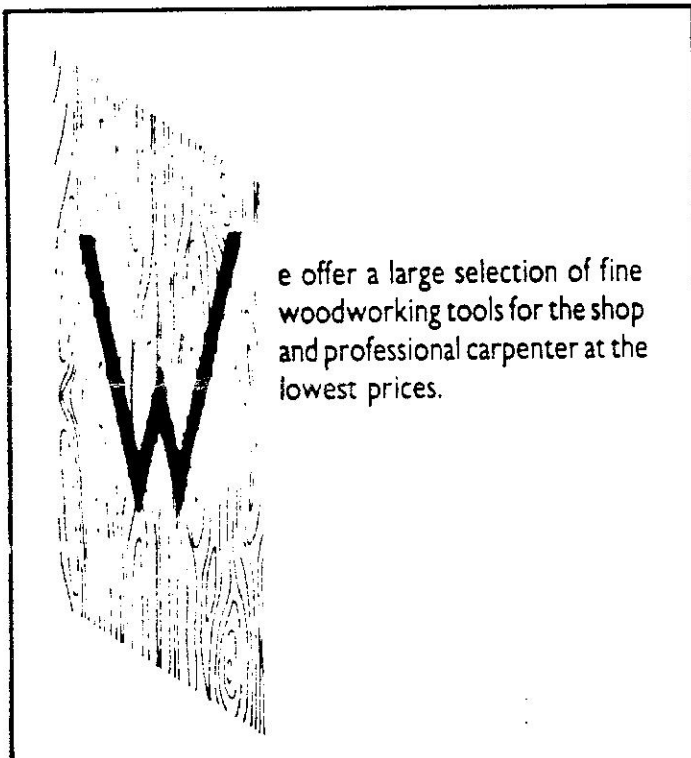
The ruling is a reversal of an earlier decision by U.S. District Judge John P. Vukasin, who sided with the committee.

He ruled that the requirement that applicants find a receptive contractor to hire them was permissible even if discriminatory, because it was someone else, the contractors, doing the discriminating.

The appeals court rejected the decision.

The committee "cannot avoid liability for the effects of its own admission procedures by pointing to the discriminatory practices of those to whom it has delegated the power to select apprentices," wrote Judge Betty Fletcher.

*San Francisco Chronicle*



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## Glue Technology

Bob Snyder, a representative of Franklin International, gave a well organized slide show to a large turnout at Clague School. Franklin manufactures Titebond glue, the choice of many woodworkers. Bob presented the advantages and disadvantages of all the water soluble glues.

**Liquid hide** glue is useful when a long assembly time is needed. The limited shelf life might be a disadvantage.

**Dry hide** glue powder can be stored indefinitely with fresh batches being mixed daily as needed. The assembly time is flexible depending on the ratio of dry glue to water and the temperature of the mixture.

**Casein** glue, made from milk, has the advantage of being usable in temperatures down to freezing. It comes in powder form and is mixed with water.

**Urea formaldehyde resin** glue is the most used being the bonding agent for plywood and particle board. It must be used at temperatures of 70 degrees or above but has a long pot life after mixing the powdered glue with water. It may emit enough formaldehyde over time to cause some health concerns.

**Resorcinol** formaldehyde resin is an excellent choice for exterior work being waterproof and heat resistant.

**Polyvinyl** glue with its familiar white color is very common because it's easy to use and fast setting. It has limited heat, solvent and cold creep resistance.

**Aliphatic resin** (yellow) glues such as Franklin's Titebond are an improvement over white glues. They have good heat

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resistance so abrasives don't load up. Solvents in finishes won't weaken the glue bond. Good cold creep resistance keeps joined parts in place over time.

**Hot melt** glues come in stick form and are melted in place with a gun. They set fast and are handy for parts not under a great deal of stress.

**Contact cement** is used mainly to glue plastic laminate or wood veneer to a substrate. The flammable and non-flammable types are stronger but more noxious than the water soluble type.

One must be concerned with the moisture content of wood for a long lasting glue joint. Unfinished wood can vary from 4% to 12% moisture content with the changing seasons. A lacquer or varnish finish lessens the seasonal variations. A 30 inch wide beech table top can change almost 1/2-inch in width with the seasons. More stable woods such as mahogany move less. Not allowing for expansion and contraction in the design and construction causes most glue failures. Each piece of wood in a project should be at the same moisture content.

The moisture content of kiln dried hardwood in this area is 7% in winter and 11% in summer. The average is 8%. Desert areas average 6% and humid areas such as Florida average 11%. This should be taken into account if a piece built in Michigan has a final destination elsewhere.

After gluing let the work stand 2 days to a week before machining. Water based glues swell the area near the joint and a sunken glue line will result if machining follows gluing too soon.

Surfaces to be joined should be prepared cleanly. Cutting tools should be sharp and abrasives should be a medium or finer grit. Joints should be clamped tightly with even pressure. If the room and wood temperatures are too low during assembly the glue will turn chalky and have little strength.

Bob presented much information that everyone found useful and we thank him for his efforts. Bob stuck around for awhile after his slide show to give "high-tack" solutions to our sticky problems. Thanks for the free samples, too!

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Arizona Cabinet Wood  
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 by: Paul L. McClure

Arizona produces some of the most beautiful woods in the world. That's right, even though we are a desert region we have the honor of having the largest Ponderosa Pine forest in the world. We also have the wood that is the rage of barbecuing chefs around the U.S., Mesquite (*Prosopis Velutina*). This wood adds a smoky flavor to such culinary delights as burnt hamburgers, charcoaled chicken, and crunchy hot dogs. There is a better use for this rare wood, and that is for making beautiful furniture. "Oh Bull Pucky" you say? It is true. Mesquite works like Walnut, has the elasticity of Ash, and the stability of Poplar, though it does smell like a dog raised its leg on it while you work it. It is kind of an ugly grey/brown when it is freshly worked, but upon exposure to ultra-violet light it turns a rich reddish brown similar to Cherry.

The projects that I have made out of this wood are becoming family heirlooms because this wood is so unusual.

Mesquite is available in widths from 3" to 14" and lengths from 3' to 12'. Thicknesses are from 1/2" to 6". Bigger than you thought, HUH! All that small kindling stuff for barbecues comes from Texas, lumber comes from Arizona. Next time you go to light that log of Mesquite in your fireplace or barbecue, hesitate a minute and think of the heirloom project that you can make out of it. Burn some Ponderosa Pine. We have a lot of it.

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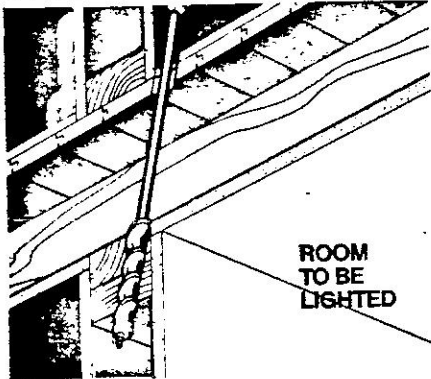
# GONE FISHIN'

It's easy to run power cable in new construction because wall, floor and ceiling cavities are exposed. But in a finished home the cable must be fished from an existing power source to switch and fixture locations. If there's a basement

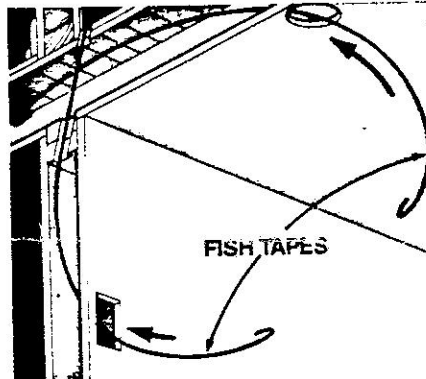
below, the amount of fishing is reduced to pulling wire (from a hole in the bottom of the wall to an opening for the switch box) using fish tapes—flat lengths of wire with hooked ends. The tape (available from home centers and electrical supply

houses) is stiff yet flexible enough to make its way into and through wall cavities. You'll need one 12-ft. and one 20-ft. (or longer) tape, a brace and an 18-in. bit (which can be rented or purchased).

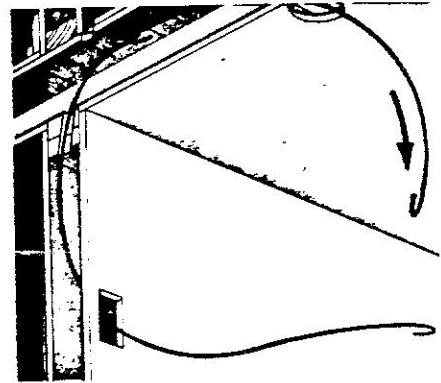
## FISHING WIRES FROM WALL TO CEILING WITH ACCESS TO ROOM ABOVE:



Remove the baseboard in the room above to bore a hole through the wall's top plate. Bore diagonally, as shown, using a brace and a 3/4-in.-dia. x 18-in.-long bit.

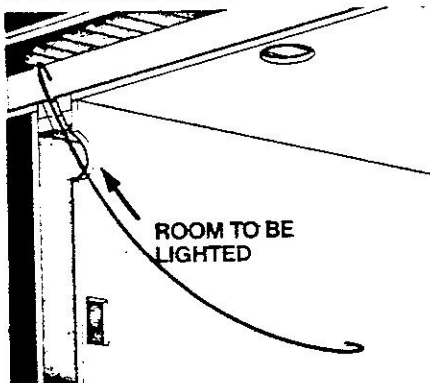


Feed a fish tape down through that hole and out the electrical box in the wall below. Feed a second tape into the ceiling hole, maneuvering it until the two tapes hook.

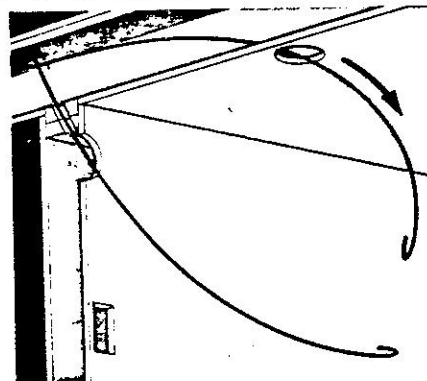


Withdraw the ceiling-hole tape until the hooked end of the electrical box tape is in hand. Attach cable to the other end of tape and pull it through to the ceiling hole.

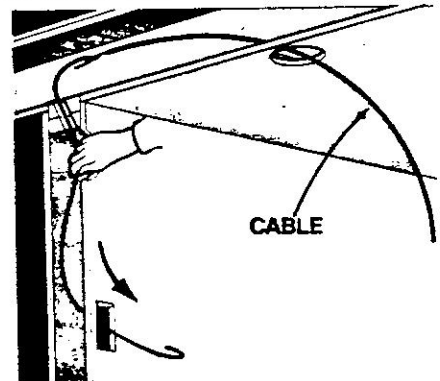
## FISHING WIRES FROM WALL TO CEILING WITHOUT ACCESS ABOVE:



Cut an access hole in wall about 6 in. below ceiling (save cutout for following repair). Bore hole in top plate. Insert fish tape.

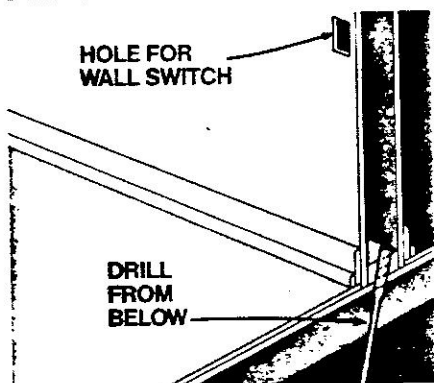


Feed a second tape through the ceiling hole and maneuver both until you are able to hook the two tape ends together as shown.

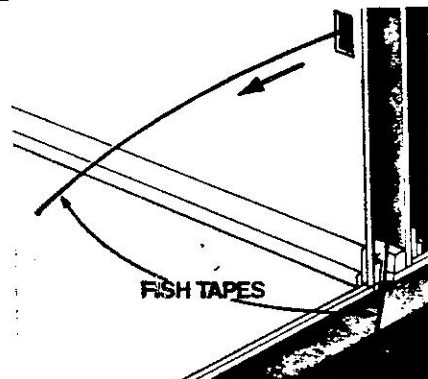


Attach the cable to the ceiling tape this time and pull it through the top plate to the cutout, and from there to the box hole.

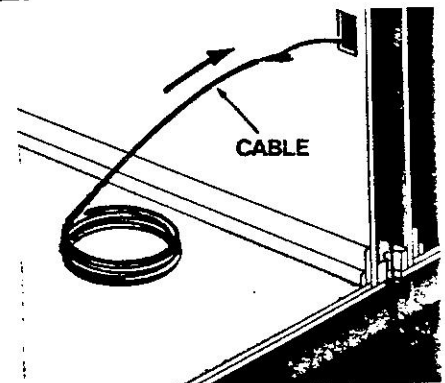
## FISHING WIRES FROM BASEMENT TO A WALL ABOVE:\*



Working from below, bore a hole through the bottom plate of the wall into the wall cavity where wall switch is to be located.



Feed 6 ft. of fish tape into the bored hole; have helper above who can hook it with a second tape through hole for electrical box.



Attach cable to hooked end of the fish tape. Wrap connection with electrical tape and pull it through wall opening into basement.

\* The procedure for fishing from an attic junction box to a wall below is the same except the hole is bored in the top plate of the wall

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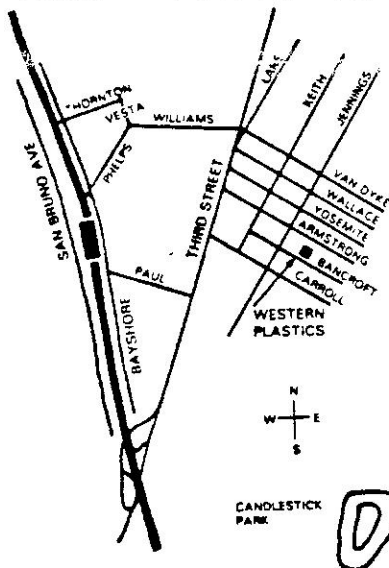


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\* Items to be included in the newsletter must be received by the first Tuesday of each month. To insure their inclusion in the newsletter they may be sent directly to Norma Brooks, 4973 Elrod Dr., Castro Valley, 94546.

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