

Dr. John Kassay

THIRD THURSDAY PREVIEW —

Thursday, 3/17/83, 7:30 p.m.

We are back in the East Bay this month with Scott Page as our host. His shop is located at 1515 Sherwin in Emeryville. Phone 655-9595 (map enclosed).

First on the agenda for the evening will be part one of the lecture series presented by **Dr. John Kassay** entitled "History of American Furniture". These presentations will be offered on an irregular basis and Dr. Kassay has mentioned that they will go on as long as it takes to cover the material. He has been very gracious in offering BAWA this program and we would like to thank him on behalf of all the members. The lecture will start promptly at 8:00 and go till 8:30.

Following will be two **DEMONSTRATIONS**: The first will be on the setting and sharpening of Japanese hand-saws by Scott Page, which was postponed at an earlier meeting due to a lack of time. Next, Jim Widess, proprietor of The Cane Shop in Berkeley, will show us how to prepare the materials for, and the process involved in, caning a chair seat. Don't forget to bring your notebooks.

In the **SPOTLIGHT** will be a knock-down rosewood bed designed and constructed by Peter Benenson.

We will have a strict time schedule this time and thereafter so as to avoid meetings running too late.

— G.R.

IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF LUMBER

At one time or another all of us have needed that special piece of wood and after traversing half the state we find that the only place that has anything even close is charging \$17.00 a board foot and they are only open from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. I know I've run into the problem numerous times. Every now and then I need turning blanks that are at least 6" x 12" x 12" and the last place locally that had blanks that size was charging over \$100 each. I also like to get away from the "run of the mill" domestic woods but politically and morally I don't feel comfortable using imported woods. The solution to all this was literally in my own backyard.

For those of you willing to put forth the time and effort we are surrounded by thousands of board feet of lumber; and much of it is free for the taking. On the west coast alone there are perhaps 350 different species of trees and many of them are found in the Bay Area. Not all of these trees are suitable for much besides kindling but a little experimentation could yield some exciting new woods to work with. In our immediate area the following species are fairly common:

Black Locust	White Oak	Walnut
Willow	Red Cedar	Yellow Cedar
Magnolia	Olive	Canyon Live Oak
Laurel	Acacia	Cottonwood
Elm	Poplar	Madrone
Almond	Alder	Sycamore
Manzanita	Buckeye	Black Oak
Modesto Ash	Plum	Maple
Eucalyptus	Mulberry	Apple
Cherry	Orange	Lemon
Redwood		

Some of these trees are natives while others are cultivated or have "escaped from cultivation". If you stop and look around you'll see them all over. For example, Acacia is common in Marin and on the Peninsula. Walnut, Olive, Apple and Plum are grown locally in a number of orchards while Magnolia, Elm and Mulberry are often planted as ornamentals.

Continued on Page 3

EDITORIAL

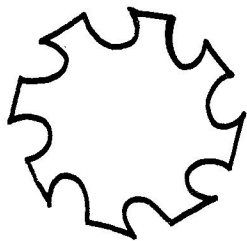
I am always amazed at the number of woodworkers I have met who have the audacity to tell me how to do my work and what can be or can't be done. In general BAWA members are pretty good, but I cannot keep track of the number of people who tell me I CAN'T glue end grain, SHOULDN'T use abrasive, MUST use only wood or brass body planes, and MUST use certain finishes. I think these people mean well, but when it comes to technique there is an awful lot of dogma, superstition, mythology, and rhetoric out there. Sometimes I feel I MUST apply my finishes with natural bristle brushes made from a pig that was grey in color, at least 25 years old, and slaughtered under a full moon.

Do what you will, but my life wasn't meant to be this complicated. Everyone is entitled to their opinion but as far as my work is concerned — whatever works! If it doesn't work, make it work! There is no doubt in my mind that many techniques have withstood the test of time and have proven themselves over and over but I think it wouldn't hurt for a lot of us to be a little bit more open-minded about experimentation and innovation. If we are going to call ourselves designers as well as craftspeople then we should recognize that a big part of design is problem solving. We are often given certain criteria and limitations. Good design is a finished project that has fulfilled those criteria or limitations aesthetically, structurally, and economically. Personally I thrive on challenge. I look at it as a learning experience and a test of my abilities. I want to take that impossible project or difficult technique and make it work. Instead of saying it CAN'T be done maybe we should say that it is beyond our abilities or that it is impractical. Instead of saying that it CAN'T be done, why not try it, and see what happens? Maybe it is possible, or better yet, maybe it is feasible! Instead of saying that this is the way it SHOULD be done, maybe we should say that this is the way that "I" do it. Perhaps then we can ask what you recommend.

People will be people though, and when someone walks up to me and says that there is "only one way," I smile, nod my head in agreement, and reply, "Yes — and the Earth is flat and if God wanted us to fly he would have given us wings." I know I really shouldn't but when someone appears overly concerned about moisture and movement in one of my turnings I have been overheard to say, "Well if you are really concerned I have this interesting Tupperware piece over here . . ."

— David Dempsey

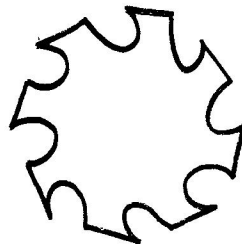
QUALITY SAW WORKS



Sales & Sharpening

CARBIDE

**Saws • Tools • Cutters
Wood • Metal • Plastic**



Planer knives & Handsaws

we service the trades

**250 BAYSHORE BLVD.
SAN FRANCISCO
(415) 282-3060**

FEBRUARY REVIEW

Last month's meeting was a good sign that there is a continuing interest in the BAWA organization. An unofficial head-count showed over sixty people in attendance. We started out the meeting with the usual new business info. and there has been an interest in developing a new logo for BAWA that represents us well. All submissions are welcomed and the final decision will be made by BAWA members.

Elliot Apatov came well-prepared with health insurance information but it seems as if there are not enough people interested to be eligible for group rates.

Association Treasurer Isaac Khelif gave a financial report which showed us in the black. A few hundred in the coffer and some still owed to us from ads. Isaac also gave us a demonstration on sharpening a scraper. He showed us his technique, modestly stating that we all know how to do it already. However, all eyes were on as he went through the steps and as the sharpened scraper was passed throughout the crowd, people were obviously impressed by the razor-edge hook he was able to obtain.

Joel Grossman, George Rezendes and Denise Slattery shared the Spotlight with Joel showing a Corina wall shelf and Koa/Cherry box of drawers and Denise and George showing their Cali fornia Table with a geographic top or copper wrapped over redwood.

Don Potts gave a slide show of his work in a chronological order. The use of wood in his sculptures has been both raw and refined at any given time and has been one of his most used materials, although there were some pieces with no wood involved at all. He spoke easily of his artistic ideas and conveyed a freedom and looseness in choosing his materials and level of craftsmanship involved in his sculptures, this being somewhat paradoxical as his later pieces are visually and structurally very precise. Unfortunately the evening got very late and little time was spent on his most recent project, the Architectural Models for the AIASF 100 show at SFMOMA in January.

CLASSIFIEDS

"Good Wood" cabinet shop is for sale. Includes a fine reputation of 8 years, an excellent work crew, lease and machinery, etc. If interested, call Joel at 863-5022.

I'm not suggesting that you load up the chainsaw and head for Golden Gate Park though. In fact, I tend to discourage the cutting of healthy trees but fortunately enough trees fall over on their own or have to be removed that there is a fairly abundant woodlot out there. Aside from cutting your own there are numerous tree services that are called upon to remove diseased or nuisance trees — trees that are about to fall, trees whose roots are clogging sewers and irrigation ditches, shade trees that have grown too large or over-mature trees. If you ask most tree services will give you the lumber; otherwise they have to haul it away. The wonderful weather that we have had lately also manages to topple quite a few trees and if those trees fall on public property the city crews or Caltrans have the job of removing them. If you haven't noticed though the road crews now leave the dismembered trees as firewood for whomever wants it. First come, first serve — and I try to save the best pieces for my turnings. Speaking of firewood every time an orchard is plowed under for another housing tract the wood is often sold off and usually as firewood. My sources tell me that if you slip the guy down at your local firewood lot some spare change he can sometimes save a few nice logs for you. Otherwise those guys will sometimes turn a beautiful piece of walnut into home heating! Over-mature trees and non-producing trees are also often cut down in many orchards. The wood is often yours for the asking and we are surrounded by walnut, almond, apple and olive orchards. I don't want to pick on contractors but some of them are pretty indiscriminate when it comes to something getting in their way. Legally you cannot cut Manzanita in California except to remove it for certain construction projects. That translates as slash and burn for most highway construction unless of course you and I manage to rescue the wood!

Not only are we surrounded by the wood growing around us but for those of you interested in saving a few pennies consider recycling or scavenging lumber. Not only is the lumber cheaper if not free but when I scavenge I am often surprised by what I find. Besides used lumber the most obvious source of scrap and mill ends would be the local lumber yard. Depending on who you talk to most lumber yards have scrap in the following categories: mill ends, shorts, rippings, culls and flitches or dogs. The first three categories are pretty obvious especially in a yard that does much milling but I am often surprised at what some people consider rippings. I once bought a truckload of walnut rippings only to find that many were 6" and 8" in width. The entire truckload was \$50. Culls and flitches can be a real surprise also. Culls are

those boards that don't make grade or have been returned by a customer because of some defect. This can be very misleading. For example, if a customer orders FAS she might return a few pieces that are #1 common. Many lumber yards will not resort to the returned material and it ends up on a cull pile. Green lumber or lumber that has been left out in the rain also ends up on the cull pile. Usually culls are sold on an "as is" basis but don't let that scare you. It is usually just a matter of stacking and stickered the lumber until it is dry or cutting around the defects. Flitches can also be a good buy. I am not sure of the correct terminology but I've always heard flitch used interchangeably with dog board and backing board. These are the remainders of a log that veneer has been sliced from. While most flitches run 3/8" to 5/8" I have had some clear at a full 4/4" with careful cutting.

Back before the days of containerized freight the packing crates and dunnage were often made of exotic woods from the country of origin and upon unloading most of the packing materials would be thrown out. When I was a wee lad we were able to go down to San Pedro and pick these up — usually for free. Mixed in with the inevitable luan and philippine mahogany would be a few pieces of paduak, vermillion, and for some reason lots of spalted and water stained beech. Although most everything is containerized nowadays you can still find some dunnage around but be careful of bugs! One occasional source is warehouses that handle heavy pipes and fittings. Rather than packing those heavy pieces on pallets they are loaded individually and stickered. I have picked up these stickers as firewood only to find out they were oak,

Continued on Page 7

SHOP TIPS

- Wax canvas band clamps to prevent them from adhering to the workpiece. Use a bit of discretion as the wax may interfere with the finish.

from David Dempsey

- Most motors can be protected from overload by adding an edison socket and a dual element or time delay fuse to existing wiring. Use the time delay or dual element type of fuse to allow for the initial start-up surge of your motor. Also the closer the fuse is to the motor the better the protection.

from O. Mutaka

- Files and rasps can be given a new lease on life by cleaning with muriatic acid. Not only does this clean them but the acid gives them a "new edge" or "tooth". Wear gloves and handle with care!

from David Moore

- Do your hands turn black after working with certain woods? Lemon or lemon juice concentrate will remove many of those stains that soap won't remove.

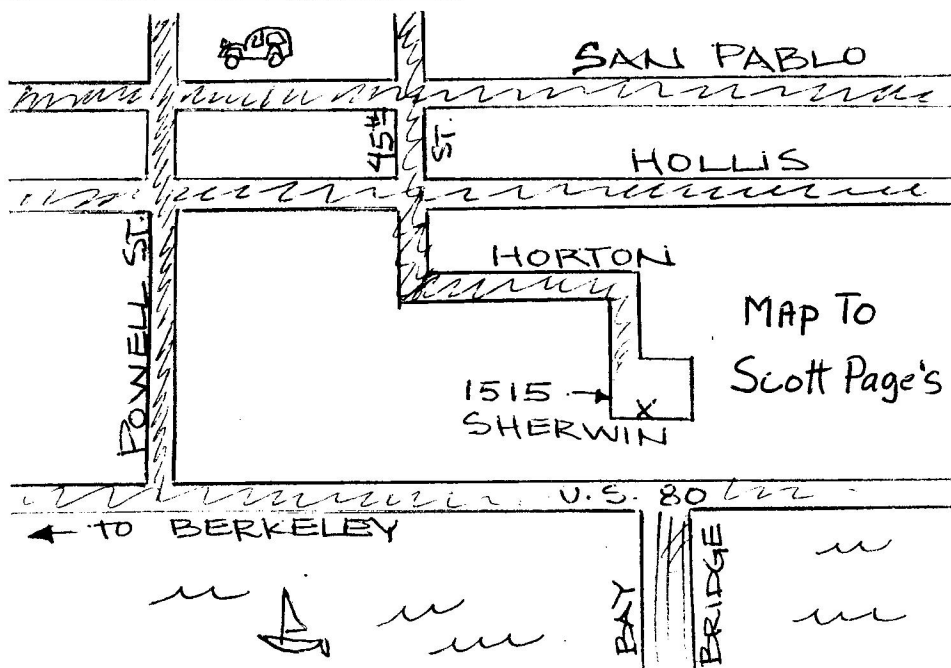
from Nancy Krompatich

- Old engine valves make excellent burnishers. I know we all have a few lying around the shop — otherwise check with your favorite mechanic.

from Chip Galusha

- Save your used sanding belts for sanding work on the lathe. The belts hold up better under heat and friction — especially the resin-coated ones; and the abrasive particles have less of a tendency to fracture or break loose.

from Lewis Buchner



CONSIDER THIS

Too often it seems a manufacturer bursts upon the scene with the most incredible product since the invention of the wheel. "It sands, shapes, glues and bottle feeds small rodents all in one easy operation — and only at a cost of \$14,000.00!" their ads boast. "Only needs to be sharpened once every fifteen years and will outlast any other blade on the market", they shout. Okay! I'm into progress and labor-saving devices but somehow I find a lot of these incredible claims hard to swallow. I don't want to miss out so I suggest the following: How about manufacturers and the various retailers backing up their claims? Maybe some of our suppliers could do some workshops that would showcase a particular tool or product — and really give it a workout! None of this ripping basswood or pine on that new saw with that incredible selenium tipped blade — let's rip some 8/4 red oak and then see what happens. More importantly, are these products cost effective? Let's go a step further — which ones will withstand the test of time? How about some brave soul renting better quality tools and/or new products so we craftspeople can try them out in our shops for awhile? It might even be profitable ... I know I would pay more to rent a tool that offered some special features and wasn't beat to death. There is nothing quite like renting a chainsaw for example only to find the last customer had been slabbing up his driveway.

Anybody interested?

Odo Mutaka

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Chair & Co-Chair
Mike Laine / John Grew-Sheridan

Secretary & Assistant
Joel Grossman / Chip Galusha

Treasurer & Assistant
Isaac Khelif / Brian McLachlan

Newsletter Editor & Assistants
Dave Dempsey / George Rezendes / Tim Kennedy

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor	Dave Dempsey
Asst. Editor	George Rezendes
Asst. Editor	Tim Kennedy
Tech. Asst.	Amanda J. Smith
Photog.	Ross Andelman
	Dave Dempsey

We, at MacMurray Pacific wish the Bay Area Woodworkers Association and its members continued success.

GRANT

STANLEY

Bosch

EM
COMPANY

"Jorgensen"

Franklin

GRASS
Hitachi

Accuride

HAFELE

MACMURRAY PACIFIC

(415) 552-5500

568 Seventh St. San Francisco, CA 94103

**CAN'T FIND IT?
TRY MACMURRAY PACIFIC!**

MacMurray Pacific carries an extensive line of woodworkers hardware, tools and shop supplies.

DEALERS IN & PURVEYORS OF
**FINE
HARDWOOD LUMBER
AND
PLYWOOD**



WHITE BROTHERS

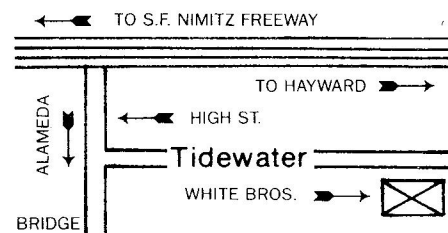
Forest Products Since 1872

**EXOTIC HARDWOODS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

- Architectural Matched Plywoods
- Specialty Millwork
- Laminated Maple Tops
- Truck Bed Decking
- Specialty Forest Products
- Hardwood Dowels
- Station Products

261-1600

**4801 Tidewater Ave.
OAKLAND**



SARTOR & CO.

**All Saws Sharpened or Repaired • Pick-up/delivery
Sales & Prompt Service**

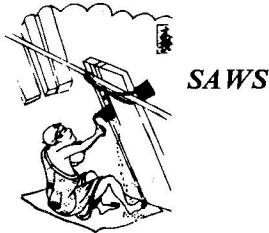
Carbide Saws and Router Bits Our Specialty

**289 Bayshore Blvd., San Francisco
Phone: (415) 282-6093**

WOODLINE THE JAPAN WOODWORKER

1731 Clement Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

(415) 521-1810

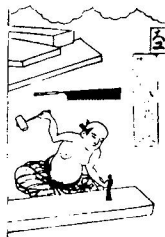


SAWS



CHISELS

LUMBER



BOOKS

LAYOUT TOOLS



The Japan Woodworker carries only the highest quality tools. **WE GUARANTEE IT!**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOTES

The February meeting of the Executive Board opened with Mike Laine's announcement of the formation of the "Northern California Woodworking Association". This is a coalition of separate local associations. The immediate purpose of this coalition is to coordinate the "Working With Wood" show. Heading up the organizing duties is STUART WELCH of the West Marin Woodworkers. We look forward to the NCWA expanding into a solid trade organization.

Joel Grossman and Chip Galucha will take on the task of membership. They hope to update the rolls so that no one is left out. If you're not getting your newsletter or need other info. contact Chip or Joel at the meetings or write: % BAWA, P.O. Box 421195, S.F., CA 94142

A discussion of excessive meeting length ended with Mike Laine taking responsibility for agenda and format of meetings, scheduling speakers and briefing them on time allowed for presentations.

Refreshment concession available — make big bucks providing beer, wine, cookies and coffee at BAWA meetings.

Rambling on about the BAWA show in April — A questionnaire was developed for a phone campaign about the show. If you're in the show and didn't get called see Chip Galusha at the meeting.

Coming Up:

- Tour of Thorsen House in Berkeley April 2. This is a magnificent example of Green & Green Architecture. Details at the meeting.
- Bob Stocksdales is interested in doing a presentation for BAWA members.
- Intro to Japanese Tools.
- Bob Daar from the Center for Wood Arts.
- JoAnne Day — Hand painted finishes — a presentation.
- BAWA Spring Picnic and Barbeque — will it ever stop raining?
- Field trips (tentative) to Chico and points further north — ever see the inside of a large mill?
- There are some bugs to be worked out though, and we always appreciate additional input and help. To that end we are making a point of letting all BAWA members know that the Executive Committee meetings are open to the public. Next meeting is on March 23rd at Mike Laine's house, 4132 Shafter, Oakland. Call Mike at his shop for directions (839-8508).

Bring or send your contribution to the meeting.

Chip Galusha & D. Dempsey

Simon Watts will be doing a 6-day boatbuilding workshop at The Mendocino Art Center April 11-16. The emphasis will be lapstrake techniques and hand tools with lots of hands-on experience. Enrollment is limited and it will cost non-members \$210. Contact the Mendocino Art Center for more information at 45200 Little Lake St., P.O. Box 765, Mendocino, CA 95460, (707) 937-5818.

*** **

The Grew-Sheridans have volunteered their studio for a photo session Sunday, March 20 at 12:30. They will have lights and seamless background paper available. John suggests Tri-X for black and white shots and Ektachrome ASA 64 for color slides. Twenty exposures should be adequate. Call well in advance for appointments or more information. They are also asking a small donation to help pay for the lights. Grew/Sheridan, 500 Treat St. near 18th and Folsom, 824-6161.

*** **

The Grew-Sheridans will also be doing a two-day chairmaking workshop March 26 and 27. It's a comprehensive look at design and construction. They'll discuss techniques as well as the "fit" of a chair and critical angles. \$50 for both days — contact them at 500 Treat St., 824-6161 for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget the Working With Wood show. Even if you're not participating, help us promote the show by telling both friends and clients. The show will be April 22-24 at Fort Mason. \$3.75 for adults — children and seniors are free. Contact Jan Cadawallader at 3212 Jefferson Ave., Redwood City, CA, 366-5033, for more information or see one of the members of our own show committee.

*** **

The California Crafts XIII Exhibit will open by the time you receive this issue. Rumour has it that this is one of the "better" shows. It runs March 12 through April 17 at the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sacramento.

*** **

Another show just opening will be "Nine East Bay Furniture Makers" at the Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. The show runs through April 17 and includes Sas Quinn's work as well as Phillipe Bailey, Gary Bennett, Don Braden, Sara Jaffe, Gail Fredell Smith, Kenneth Smythe, Jim Sweeney, and John Weishel. Call the Art Center at 644-6893 for hours and/or information.

Your incredibly dedicated newsletter staff needs volunteers for both articles and secretarial services. We hope to do tool reviews as a regular feature and we would like to include an expanded current events/calendar. We need bodies (still warm) to research the info and we need some assistance with our typing and paste-ups etc., etc. Contact David at 771-1894 or George at 864-2701.



THE CUTTING EDGE

The Cutting Edge is now featuring the new Freud 'whisper' saw blades at close to 1/2 the list price.

During the cutting stage, these new blades run at 95 decibels, compared with the average of regular standard blades, which run at 110-120 decibels.



Come in and see the new Hegner Lathe with duplicating attachment. A nice heavy lathe designed to meet your production needs.



The Cutting Edge is running a special on the Makita wet-grinder. Bring in a dull chisel or planer knife, and give our demo-machine a workout. This \$224 machine is now on sale at \$190.

5% discount to B.A.W.A. members.

1836 Fourth Street
Berkeley, CA 94710

415/548-6011

HANDLOGGERS QUALITY HARDWOOD LUMBER

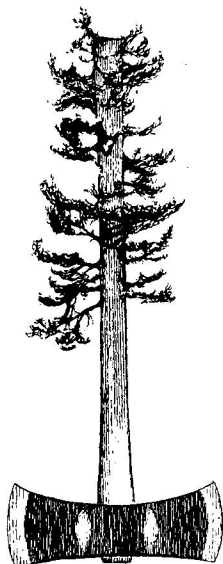
LARGEST SUPPLIER IN MARIN

30 SPECIES
OF HARDWOOD
COUNTERTOPS
FLOORING-
MOULDING

MILLWORK
10% DISCOUNT
100 + BOARD FEET

Call For Quote
On Your Next Job

SAW SHARPENING



SPECIALS

PADOUK ^{New Stock}
SEDUA
PURPLE HEART

—COMING SOON—
HONDURAN
ROSEWOOD,
GONSALO ALVEZ
GRANDILLO

With the recent increase of softwood prices, hardwoods are now a better deal than ever before. Check our prices.

M.-F. 9-5 SAT. 10-3

332-0506

Foot of Spring St., Sausalito

hickory, ash and cherry. More often than not they are green and not the best grade but for the price I can afford to take the time to dry them and cut around the defects.

Driftwood is also another surprising source of some interesting woods. The Japanese current sweeps into northern California and certain westfacing beaches are littered with all sorts of driftwood. Some of the wood is local while there is no telling how long other pieces have been in the water. Some of these pieces have drifted down from as far away as Oregon and Washington or maybe even further . . . One big advantage of driftwood is that stormy seas often wash the dirt and rock off of root burls. The remaining sand can be easily hosed off. Don't worry about the water either. Salt water prevents certain types of rot (as long as marine borers don't get to it) and the wood sure won't dry prematurely!

In all honesty though, the biggest problem is not where to find lumber but what to do with it when you do find it. I won't go into detail here but drying is the most important part of the procedure. It is relatively easy to air dry the material provided you have the room and the time. Stack and sticker the wood so air can circulate and keep it covered. You also have to end coat the boards to minimize checking. Buyer beware though! There is a lot of misinformation out there when it comes to drying so it would be worth your time to invest in a couple of good books on the subject. If you don't care to tackle drying your own, Brian Burns at Palo Alto Woodworking will be offering custom drying services sometime in the near future.

Milling is another big part of finding your own lumber. The Hitachi and Makita bandsaws will resaw some hefty boards but I don't think they are quite up to cutting that 36" walnut log that you found at the arboretum. One option is to buy or borrow a chainsaw mill. The advantage of the chainsaw mill is its portability — rather than drag those massive logs to a mill you bring the mill to the logs! However, besides being noisy and breaking down when you most expect it the chainsaw also has a very wide kerf. I don't know of any small or "jeep" mills in this area but Brian Burns also has a bandsaw mill. If you can get the logs down to Palo Alto the bandsaw mill will give you a much more accurate cut with less waste. For those of you who didn't know -- Brian will do custom sawing. If his shop is out of the way or if you need to cut your lumber into a more manageable size — find a friend with a chainsaw! In the East Bay Kim Reynolds comes highly recommended but offers his services to BAWA members only. Bob Darr at the Center for Wood Arts in San

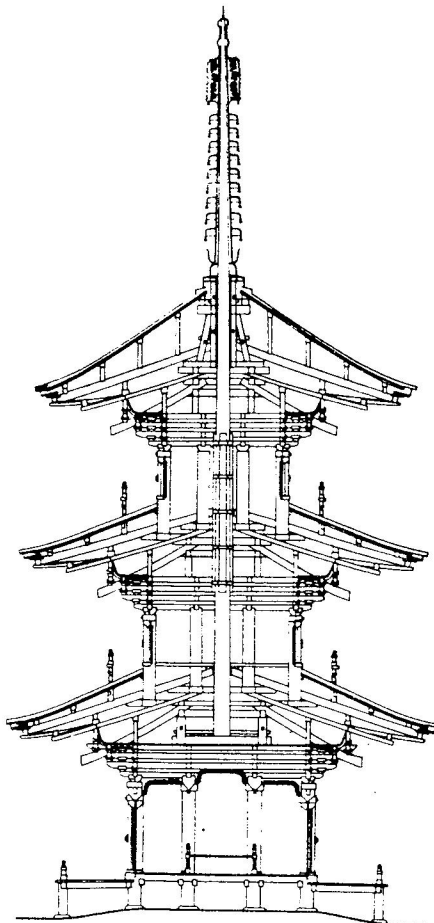
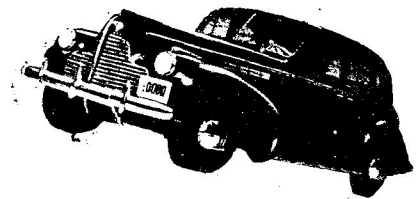
Rafael also has a lot of information about milling and drying your own lumber. Both Bob and Kim are very knowledgeable about local woods and their working characteristics. My experience with dunnage and used lumber suggests that you invest in a "trash cutter" if you plan on working with them. "Trash cutter" is my name for an inexpensive 10" 12-tooth carbide blade made by Sears. The 12-tooth pattern cuts fast, doesn't tend to bind or load up, and if you hit a nail or staple you are not out as much money. Another option besides milling is to work the material in log form. I am experimenting with green turnings where I turn the piece with the pith on center. So far so good!

Finding and milling your own lumber is basically a lot of work. I can't recommend it unless you do have a plentiful supply of raw material or you really do need a special size or piece such as book matched. Why waste your time if you just need a couple of pine 1" x 12"s? The payoff for me has been some of the unusual and beautiful woods that I have found. I finally found those large blanks I needed in a friends backyard — an acacia tree that had blown over and I have found countless others since. My favorites include some spectacular crotch figure Mulberry, Hemlock burl, Laurel burl and a num-

ber of pieces of rotted and spalted woods. A last word — double check the rules and regulations before you grab that piece of wood. Often the state parks limit the amount of driftwood you can have; and fallen wood is left for mulch in other places. Cutting of any lumber is not allowed on public lands without permits and you better make sure you're not trespassing on private land. In other words, ask first!

— David Dempsey

Many thanks to both Bob Darr and Kim Reynolds for their help in writing this article.



**Quality Work
requires
Quality Tools**

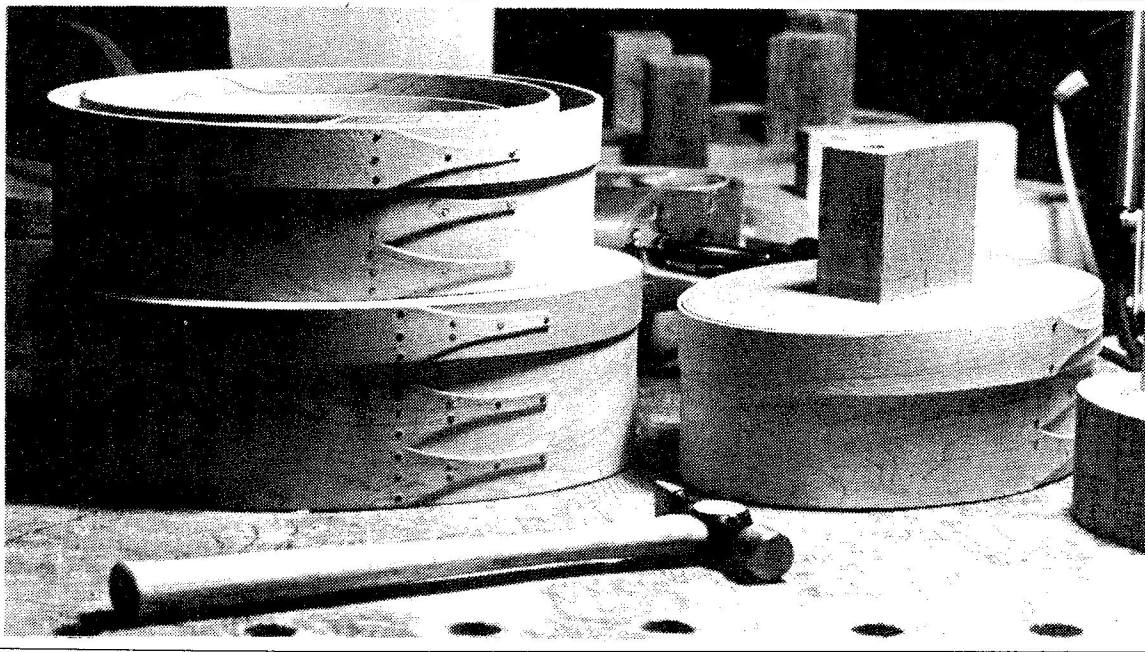
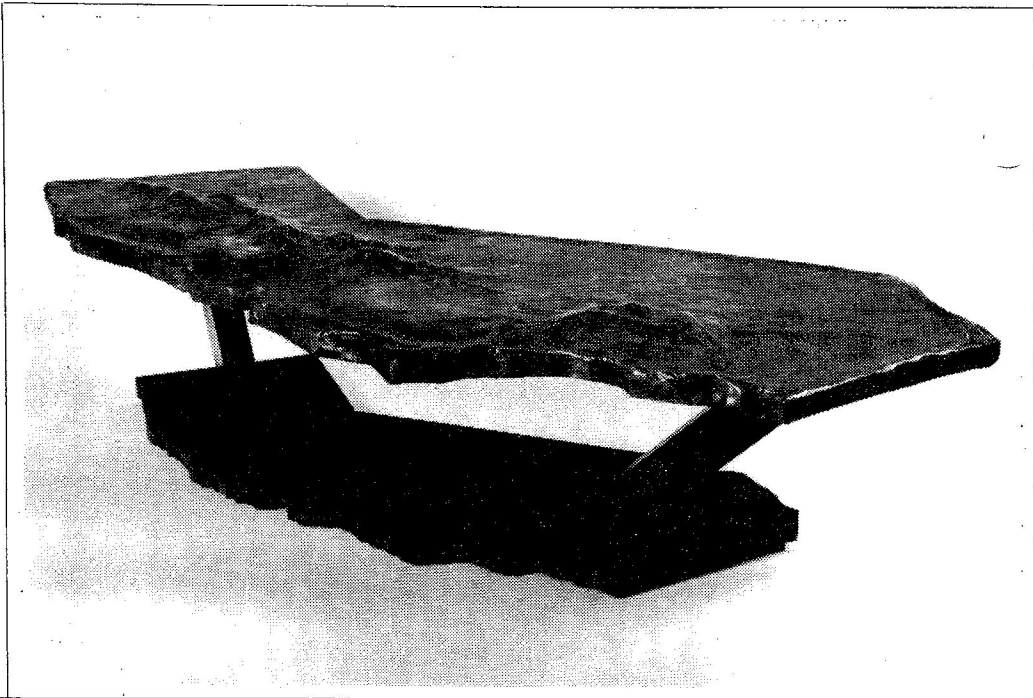
**Teahouse & Temple
Builder Mokoto Imoi's**

HIDA Japanese Tool Co.

**3250 Kerner, San Rafael,
Ca. 94901 415-456-3399**

*"California Table" in wood and copper
by
George Rezendes and Denise Slattery.*

Photo by Ross Andelman



Shaker Boxes by Dr. John Kassay

Photo by Dave Dempsey

Membership Application

Bay Area Woodworkers' Association

P.O. Box 421195, San Francisco, CA 94142.

Name _____ Home Address _____

Home Telephone () _____ Work Telephone () _____ (zip) _____

How did you hear about the Association? _____

_____ Check here if you do not want to have your name given to other Associations or businesses.

Enclosed is a check or money order for \$20., my membership dues for a one-year period in this Association.

Signed _____

Date _____