

# SouthWest Tool Collector's Association

## Happy New Year !

**SWTCA**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
 Volume 2004, Issue 1  
 January 8, 2004

## Mighty Elevator's Strength Result of Using 3-inch Tool

Contributed by Don Hefley  
 reprinted with permission by the Baxter Springs News, Baxter Springs, Kansas

By Tony Coble

In 1960, a huge undertaking began in Baxter Springs.

The Co-op's main storage facility at the time, an old 'iron-clad' 10,000 bushel elevator, simply wasn't large enough to store area crops, so a bigger elevator was envisioned.

Tons of concrete was poured, with the forms being hoisted ever higher into the air by jacks as the 120 foot tall structure stretched slowly towards the sky.

"People came out and watched the construction every night," says Don Hefley, who was manager of the Co-op at the time. "It was really something to see."

Hefley, who just turned 75 and is now retired, worked at the Co-op for 33 years, and says the construction of the new elevator was a marvel of technology in 1960.

"There were a lot of elevators being built at that time," he says. "A company out of Salina did the job, and built the elevators in Columbus and Oswego, too."

The elevator itself is 120 feet tall, with the head house standing 36 feet higher still.

It took a special kind of man to build such a structure, and Hefley still recalls many faces from the past.

He remembers one foreman on the construction crew who was missing a finger on each hand asking where he could get his saws sharpened.

"When we told him," Hefley laughs, "he brought out 37 saws."

Still, what amazed Hefley the most, was how such a massive project's success was utterly dependent on a tiny, three inch weight known as a plumb bob.

This weight was hung from a level 120 feet high in the elevator's silo area, dangling to a four inch circle on the floor. With the assistance of gravity, this device helped construction workers keep the walls of the silo straight and level.

Hefley says the base of the elevator was originally 34 feet deep, with 17 feet

of solid limestone having to be blasted out for the project's foundation.

"When they had it square," he says, "they laid 2" X 12's on their edge and poured a concrete base over that. This squashed the boards down and gave the entire structure a little bit of play.

And yet, all the while, that tiny plumb bob dangled silently above, ensuring that the structure was sound.

Hefley says the device had to remain suspended in the elevator the first time it was filled, because if the weight of the structure's first load was not evenly distributed, the towers would have tilted to one side or the other.

"We filled it with beans the first time," Hefley says, "because there really wasn't a lot of milo forty years ago."

Hefley says the plumb bob remained hanging in the elevator for about a year, before it was moved to a place of honor on the manager's office wall.

Awhile back, as Hefley was at the Co-op looking around in the man lift area, which consists of a small elevator in the center of the structure that workers use to reach the head house, he was astounded to see that the four inch painted circle on the floor was still there.

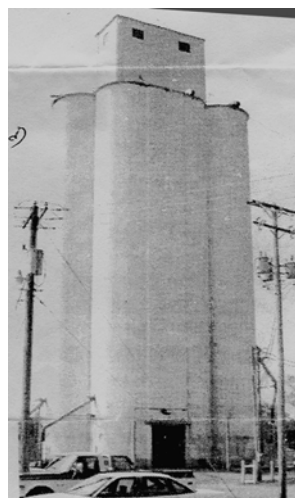
About the same time, Hefley read an article on plumb bobs.

It seems that similar devices have been retrieved from ancient Indian pueblos and are even used in the construction of dams. The man who wrote the article was wondering what other structures have gone up with the assistance of plumb bobs, and Hefley wanted to share his elevator story

"The one we used in the Co-op isn't worth anything" he says. "maybe two or three dollars today, but unfortunately it disappeared a couple of years ago."

These days, many people collect these little known items, which range in size from one ounce bobs used for clock alignment to the 20 pound weights used in bridge construction.

A plumb bob can be made of steel, iron, or brass, although bobs of aluminum, wood copper, and even rock can be found. Some even have compartments that hold lead shot or mercury for weight adjustment.



Towering over the Baxter Springs community the 150 foot tall Co-op grain elevator is visible for many miles around the countryside.

Craftsmen create bobs that look as elegant as Christmas tree ornaments, while others are more like simple fishing sinkers. Still, no matter what the appearance, they monitor any undesired motion in the structure being built and provide a central point of measurement.

And with the assistance of the simple, plain bob used at the Co-op, the economy of Baxter Springs was forever improved, with the new elevator's increased storage capacity of 250,000 bushels.

"The new elevator gave a tremendous advantage to farmers," Hefley says. "With it, they could store their crops and sell them at a better price"

Still, Hefley says these days farmers are hauling crops in with semi-trucks instead of pickups, pushing even the capacity of the 'new' concrete giant to its limits.

"You could always go bigger," he says, "but I don't know what the payoff would be."

Irregardless of that, even a larger elevator's fate would rest in the hands of a tiny device little known as the plumb bob.

### Inside this issue:

TOOL WRANGLERS RIDE INTO MUSTANG BY Theresa and Gregor Mszar, Bedford, Texas	2
FALL HOUSTON AREA MEET By JIM GOODSON	2
FROM THE MEMBERS	3
BIOGRAPHY of LEONARD BAILEY	4
TOOL MEET ADS	5
EVENTS CALENDAR	8
WANT ADS AND MORE WANT ADS	6,7 8
Hardware Houses and Hardware Men By Don Rosebrook	9

### COMING EVENTS

10th Annual Super Saturday  
 Tool Meet  
 Bedford, Texas  
 January 31, 2004  
 SWTCA/MWTCA

17th Annual Ground Hog Meet  
 Springdale, Arkansas  
 February 14, 2004  
 SWTCA/MWTCA

Houston Area  
 Tool Meet  
 Houston, Tx  
 March 20, 2004  
 SWTCA

SWTCA SPRING MEET  
 Wichita, Kansas  
 March 26-28, 2004  
 SWTCA

See the events calendar on page 8  
 for more activities

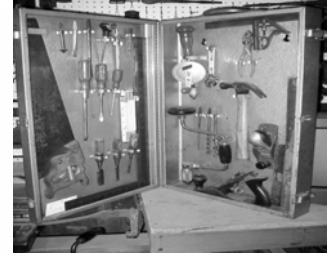
Events and Newsletter always  
 posted on our website at  
[www.swtca.org](http://www.swtca.org)

## TOOL WRANGLERS RIDE INTO MUSTANG

By Theresa and Gregor Mszar, Bedford, Texas  
Pictures courtesy of Frank Sronce

It was a cool fall morning at the Shipman Ranch as dawn broke over the plains of Mustang, Oklahoma on Saturday October 25. Trail Boss Jimmy Shipman called for the sales tables to be circled in his spacious steel barn while tool wranglers from Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas began to arrive. He knew that the tool men and women would unpack quickly, and frenzied buying would immediately follow. Everything had to be orderly or there would surely be a bust out stampede. As the tool wranglers pulled in on their mechanical steeds, more and more sales tables filled up until every square

inch was laid out with tools of all shapes and sizes. Trail Hands Carl Blair and Clint Litsey were seen wandering among the wranglers, helping unload their goods while getting first peek at the new stuff. Meanwhile, over at the chuck wagon, Joan "Cookie" Shipman rustled up a bodacious herd of soup, from Chicken Dumpling to my favorite Chicken Tortilla, which warmed our innards and took the chill from the air. By noon, most of the tool trading was done, and the tool wranglers were seen happily riding off into the sunset after another successful tool round-up at the Shipman Ranch.



## FALL HOUSTON AREA MEET

The Fall S.W.T.C.A. meeting in Houston attracted over 40 visitors from the Gulf Coast area. Attendees and dealers from Galveston, San Antonio, Austin, Victoria and Dallas were among those on hand to buy, sell, discuss, and expound upon the tools offered and displayed that morning.

A great variety of tools were on hand ranging from fine Stanley pieces and parts to 18th century planes and thread boxes. A display comprised of 18th and early 19th century carved and dated planes and braces was on hand for inspection as well. Reproduction Stanley wooden plane parts were also on

hand and available from a source in Katy Texas (near Houston) called "PLANEWOOD" BY Mike Taylor.

The weather as usual for this time of year was overcast and heavy that morning escorting in moderate showers that fell just as the meeting was packing up after lunch. One of the advantages of holding a meeting at a restaurant is of course the ready availability of good food and the opportunity to enjoy it with all of your club members.

This Houston show has just celebrated the completion of its 10th year and attendees (many here since the onset

enjoyed the opportunity to visit, exchange information, and acquire something for their collection or workbench.

Thanks to all who took the time to support this show once again, and we will look forward to seeing everyone again at the Spring 2004 get together. We are always looking for additional dealers (no matter how small) as well as new attendees. Bring a friend with you and a pocket full or table full of tools to sell or a display for show and discussion. The more everyone gets involved, the more fun we will all have.



# BRICK LAYER'S ACCIDENT REPORT

Submitted by Jim Goodman

And you just thought you had a bad day. Read on.....

## BRICKLAYER'S ACCIDENT REPORT

Possibly the funniest story in a while. This is a bricklayer's accident report, which was printed in the newsletter of the Australian equivalent of the Workers' Compensation board. This is a true story. Had this guy died, he'd have received a Darwin Award for sure....

Dear Sir:

I am writing in response to your request for additional information in Block 3 of the accident report form. I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. You asked for a fuller explanation and I trust the following details will be sufficient.

I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six story building. When I

completed my work, I found that I had some bricks left over which, when weighed later were found to be slightly in excess of 500 lbs.

Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley, which was attached to the side of the building on the sixth floor.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out and loaded the bricks into it. Then I went down and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow descent of the bricks. You will note in Block 11 of the accident report form that I weigh 175 lbs.

Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rapid rate up the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel which was now proceeding down-

ward at an equal, impressive speed. This explained the fractured skull, minor abrasions and the broken collar bone, as listed in section 3 of the accident report form. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope, in spite of beginning to experience a great deal of pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Now devoid of the weight of the bricks, that barrel weighed approximately 50 lbs. I refer you again to my weight.

As you can imagine, I began a rapid descent, down the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up.

This accounts for the two fractured ankles, broken tooth and several lacerations of my legs and lower body. Here my luck began to change slightly. The encounter with the barrel seemed to slow me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of bricks and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, as I lay there on the pile of bricks, in pain, unable to move, I again lost my composure and presence of mind and let go of the rope and I lay there watching the empty barrel begin its journey back down onto me. This explains the two broken legs. I hope this answers your inquiry.



## From The Editor

Thanks to those of you who took the time to write or email your compliments on the last newsletter. They are appreciated.

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Efforts have been made to see that no copyrighted information has been used without permission. If you find otherwise, please let me know.

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The next newsletter will go out April 8, 2004. Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2004.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks to all members that submitted items for this newsletter. If I didn't give you proper credit, let me know.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tim Johnson

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## Member Travels

By James D. Shannon

Mrs. Shannon and I just returned from a two week trip to Pennsylvania to attend a convention. The thought occurred to me that perhaps, via the newsletter, we could share the location of shops and antique malls across the country where significant qualities of tool are located. We found quite a few with some real "nuggets" and would like to hear about others. Makes for a fun trip. I'm not looking for the location of anyone's secret fishing hole, but wouldn't it be great to have an idea where tools might be found. I found several tools including some needed users for my workshop.

A cross section of the locations we found; Blue Suede Shoes Antique Mall, Bryant, AR - A display case full of some of the

widest range of Keen Kutter tools I have seen. Fayetteville Antique Mall, Fayetteville, PA - Two buildings with a large selection in each. One mostly good quality common users with a few nuggets. A second building with high end, hard to find tools. A Shop in Bardstown, KY near the square - High end tools with a terrific selection available. Beware, he is only open Thursday—Saturday. Twin Cities Antique Mall, North Little Rock, AR - Some junk but a display case with some very excellent tools. A Central Kentucky Antique Mall, Georgetown, KY - The musty basement held a surprising selection of tools. I was able to find a 9" adjustable square that I had been looking for. Heart of Ohio Antique Mall, Springfield, OH - Two

Dealers - one with a large display case filled with excellent tools and a second dealer with a huge quantity of common tools. However the booth was such a mess it was hard to tell. Maybe a nugget was buried there somewhere.

These are just some of the shops we visited. Perhaps other members would be willing to send in a listing of their favorite shops so we could start our own SWTCS compilation of places to visit on our travels.

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James, thanks for sharing. Maybe you'll get a good thing started !

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## Biography of a Tool Maker Leonard Bailey

Leonard Bailey was a tool designer in the 19th century, who, working on his own and later for Stanley Rule and Level Co. (now Stanley Tools), designed Bailey, Victor, and Defiant bench planes, or tools used to smooth the surface of wood. His designs became models for most planes made after mid-1800s.

Bailey started out as a cabinetmaker before becoming a toolmaker in Boston, where he produced innovative bench and block planes, scrapers, and spoke shaves during the 1850s. Bailey's first patent, in 1855, describes a scraper plane with an adjustable cutter. The blade was mounted on a plate that pivoted near the sole of the tool. As the angle changed, the depth of cut changed.

Soon after, Bailey adapted the principle to metal bench planes. He mounted the cutter on a pivoting casting installed between the sides of the metal body. Angling the blade forward simultaneously increased the depth of cut and the mouth opening. Shifting it backward decreased the opening and depth of cut for fine work. Bailey also patented the lever cap that held the blade in place.

Bailey's 1867 patent shows the plane design we are most familiar with today. The plane's cutter moves along a 45 degree bed by means of a forked lever that's activated by a knob. This mechanism was used on both wooden and cast-iron planes. Bailey is also credited with the adjustable frog - the bed on which the cutter rests - and the cap iron, a thin piece of metal with a curved edge that's fastened to the cutter to keep it stiff.

Until May, 1869, Bailey ran his own factory - Bailey, Chaney & Co., which he sold to Stanley Rule and Level Co., giving them the right to manufacture tools under his patents. However, in 1875, after inventor Justus Traut patented the No. 110 block plane Stanley had in production for several months, Bailey terminated his contract with Stanley, claiming that sales of the plane cut into his royalties.

Shortly thereafter, he developed the 'Victor' plane line to compete with the Stanley/Bailey planes still in production by Stanley. He fought several unsuccessful patent infringement fights with Stanley and lost a significant battle in 1878 when the Stanley company won a

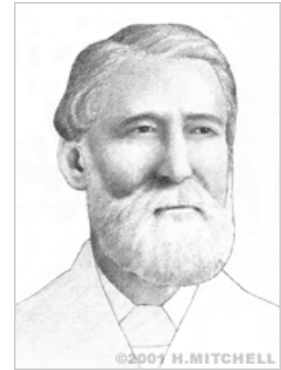
decision against Bailey and the Victor line of planes. The decision resulted in Bailey's sale of the Victor business to the Bailey Wringing Machine Co. of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. He moved there to produce Victor and Defiance planes and tools.

However, in 1880, Stanley took over as the sole agent for Bailey's Victor planes. After a series of patent-infringement suits and charges of industrial espionage, Stanley bought the entire Victor production facility in 1884 and then discontinued the line. (In 1936, Stanley resurrected the Victor name for a few years and applied it to a series of inexpensive home-owner-grade tools.) Bailey, meanwhile, stopped inventing nearly altogether and became a manufacturer of copy presses. Though his ideas are often taken credit for by the Stanley Co., his genius as an innovator is indiminishable.

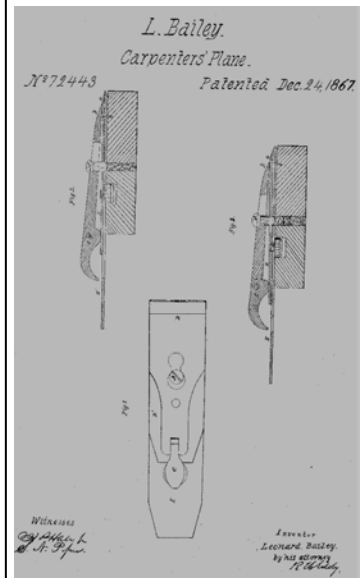
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This article is a part of the Lemelson-MIT "Inventor of the Week" Program Archives and can be viewed at <http://web.mit.edu/invent/iow/bailey.html>.

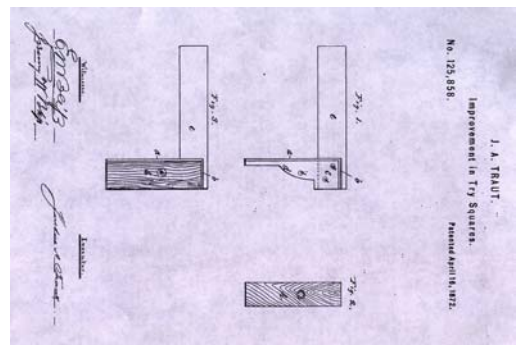
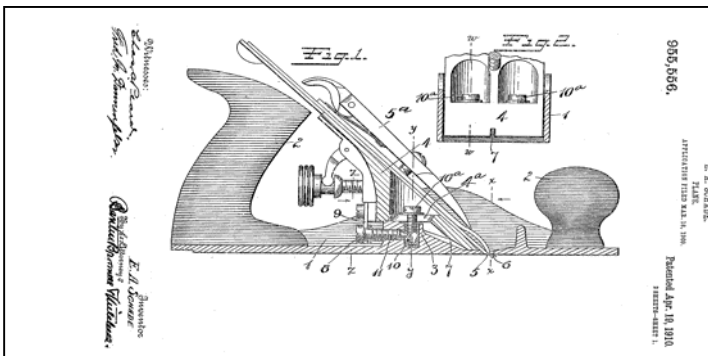
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Leonard Bailey



### \*\*\*\*\* Old Patent Drawings \*\*\*\*\*





# 10TH ANNUAL SUPER SATURDAY TOOL MEET

**THIS SHOW WAS THE LARGEST SINGLE DAY TOOL MEET IN THE SOUTHWEST IN 2001, 2002, and 2003.  
THE BEST ONLY GETTING BETTER**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2004  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL  
1319 BROWN TRAIL, BEDFORD, TEXAS**  
(BEDFORD IS 6 MILES WEST OF THE SOUTH ENTRANCE OF DFW AIRPORT, MIDWAY BETWEEN DALLAS AND FT WORTH)

**9:00 am - Guest Lecturer  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Trade Room Open**

**\$10 Entry Fee for Members and Guests      Spouses Free      \$12 Trade Tables  
Complimentary Community Sales Table - Max of 3 Items Per Member**

**BEVERAGES AND LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM THE K of C KITCHEN - THE BAR WILL BE OPEN**

**ALWAYS NEEDED—EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS**

**FOR INFORMATION CALL GREGOR MSZAR AT (817) 937—5475 OR EMAIL [gregormszar@comcast.com](mailto:gregormszar@comcast.com) .**

**REGISTER EARLY BY MAILING YOUR REGISTRATION FORM TO 1409 CIRCLE LANE, BEDFORD, TEXAS 76022-6743**

**PRESENTED BY SWTCA AND MWTCA - AREA I**

**DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN. ATTEND EVERY MEET YOU CAN.**

## SWTCA Houston Area Meet

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2004  
HICKORY HOLLOW BARBECUE RESTAURANT  
101 HEIGHTS BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TX  
STARTS AT 9:00AM - NO CHARGE FOR TRADE TABLES  
FOOD AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR A CHARGE BY THE RESTAURANT  
  
HOUSTON AREA MEMBERS COME ON OUT FOR THE FOOD, FELLOWSHIP,  
BUYING, SELLING, AND TRADING  
  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CHARLIE KOLL AT  
(210) 684 - 2767 or Email to [CHKOLL@aol.com](mailto:CHKOLL@aol.com).**

## 17th Annual Ground Hog Meet

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2004  
HOLIDAY INN CONVENTION CENTER  
1500 S 48TH, SPRINGDALE, AR  
10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM  
ADMISSION \$6.00 — TRADE TABLES \$3.00  
NO CHARGE FOR SPOUSES  
  
FOR MORE INFO SEE REGISTRATION FORM IN THIS NEWSLETTER  
  
PRESENTED BY SWTCA & MWTCA AREA I**

## Spring SWTCA Semi-annual Meet

**Friday, March 26 - Sunday, March 28, 2004**

**Holiday Inn Select**

**549 S. Rock Road, Wichita, KS 67207.**

*(At the corner of East Hwy 54 and Rock Road in East Wichita.)*

**Informal show and tell on Friday night at 6:00 PM - Banquet Saturday, 6PM—Followed by Member Auction**

**. The meet will be Saturday, 7AM - 5PM and Sunday, 8am - 12AM**

**For registration or more information, contact Emery Goad at (888) 889 - 3340 or Email to [kisinc@swbell.net](mailto:kisinc@swbell.net)**

**\*\*The room rates are \$65.00 at the Holiday Inn - (316) 686 - 7131\*\***



# Want Ads

**WANTED:** Member written articles or tool tips, with or without illustrations, for all issues of the SWTCA Newsletter. Come on guys!!! Put some of those stories, tips, and advice we all hear at the tool meets in writing and email them to [tmjtx@cox-internet.com](mailto:tmjtx@cox-internet.com)

**FOR SALE:** 2 Ft – 4 Fold English Architects Rule-Ivory. Late 1800's—great condition. \$375. Stanley #45/#55 Cutters – Most numbers available; email request for availability. \$4 each or 6 for \$20, plus shipping. Stanley #55 "SPECIAL" Cutters #2, 29, 42, 46, 52, 56, 61, 63, 65, 66, 72, 74, 76, 81, 83, 91, 92, 94, 96, 101, 103, 105, 111, 112, 114, 116; \$15 each, plus shipping. Gregor Mszar, 817.937.5475, [gregormszar@comcast.net](mailto:gregormszar@comcast.net).

**FOR SALE:** A local Ft. Worth resident has contacted the club concerning tools for sale. He stated that these tools came off the family farm and has just about anything you could want. Hand tools, wrenches, farm tools, boring machines, axes, whats-its. Please contact Ivan Harris, 817-927-5686. Call day or evening.

**HELP:** I need your help in finding someone that can sell me a couple new Starrett tools at discounted prices. There are two pieces I want but they are quite pricey. Can anyone get me in touch with someone who can help???? Thanks in advance. Gregor Mszar, 817.937.5475, [gregormszar@comcast.net](mailto:gregormszar@comcast.net).

**FOR SALE:** Now you can visit us (and our tools) as often as you like. If you're looking for something special, need parts, or just want to see what "new" old tools Lynn has brought home this week, just give us a call at (972) 271-TOOL (8665) and we'll set up a time that's convenient for you. We can be available most days, including evenings or weekends, if we know you're coming. If you haven't

made it to one of our tool sales lately, come on over and see the changes we've made. We'll give you the grand tour and odds are we can help you find some unusual holiday gifts for someone on your list, or a little something special for your own Christmas stocking. We can make your shopping even easier with lay-away or gift certificates. We look forward to seeing you soon. Lynn & Tracy Dowd, Dowd's Vintage and Antique Tools.

**WANTED:** Cash for antique tool collections, big or small. Also cigar box openers, call or E mail Larry Creedon 817-354-4612 [larryoldtools@aol.com](mailto:larryoldtools@aol.com)

**WANTED:** Fancy old levels by Davis, etc. Also any literature, etc., on the Davis Level & Tool Co. that would help with my Davis study. Thanks, Mel Miller, 360-274-4973 or [melmiller@adelphia.net](mailto:melmiller@adelphia.net)

**WANTED:** Early patented planes - all the odd, strange looking ones. Will buy complete planes or just parts. Thanks, Mel Miller, 360-274-4973 or [melmiller@adelphia.net](mailto:melmiller@adelphia.net)

**SEEKING INFORMATION:** I am looking for information on the BENTON MFG. CO. or the BENTON COUNTY MFG. CO. They made axes and maybe other tools. They used at least three different triangular shaped logos on axes with the brand name OUR OWN, along with either of the two company names mentioned. Where were they? Possibly Arkansas or Ohio, maybe Pennsylvania. When did they operate? Contributor credit will be provided when project is published. Tom Lamond, 30 Kelsey Pl., Lynbrook, NY 11563-1516, or [TomLamond@aol.com](mailto:TomLamond@aol.com)

**WANTED:** Hard to find No 2 size metallic planes, ie, Foss Patent, Hahn, Munks Patent, Orr & Lockett, Standard Rule, etc. Charley Koll, 5538 Gleason Dr, San Antonio, TX 78240 Ph 210-684-2767, [chkoll@aol.com](mailto:chkoll@aol.com)

**WANTED:** Old and unusual saw sets or saw related items. Prefer "as is" versus "cleaned". Ron White.

[vwhite1557@earthlink.net](mailto:vwhite1557@earthlink.net)

**WANTED:** 6 inch cast iron Davis and Cook " L " shaped corner level. No cast breakage. Keith at [2lman@cableone.net](mailto:2lman@cableone.net)

**WANTED:** Antique Pencil Sharpeners, prefer cast iron, pre-1900. Gregor Mszar, (817) 937-5475, [gregormszar@comcast.net](mailto:gregormszar@comcast.net)

**WANTED:** I'm looking for the following planes; Stanley Four Square 1104, Stanley Victor 1103(Late), Stanley Aluminum A4 , Stanley Gage G3, Stanley Two-Tone OH4, and a Stanley Steel S4. Complete with no pitting. If you have one to sell contact Tim Johnson at

(903) 509-2563 or

[tmjtx@cox-internet.com](mailto:tmjtx@cox-internet.com)

**WANTED:** Patented Plow Planes, any and all condition. No Stanley please, except for Miller Patent. Gregor Mszar, (817) 937-5475, [gregormszar@comcast.net](mailto:gregormszar@comcast.net)

**WANTED:** Seeking material for book. All items marked "The Winchester Store" and all pre-1943 advertising, sports items and paper. Also ARMAX, BARNEY & BERRY, CRUSADER, and HENDRYX items. Tim Melcher, (918) 786-8500. [tmelcher@greencis.net](mailto:tmelcher@greencis.net) and at [www.thewinchesterstore.com](http://www.thewinchesterstore.com)

**WANTED:** 4" Crescent-Style Wrenches: I pay \$70 for J.C. Penny, \$200 for Keen Kutter-Simmons. Emery Goad, (888) 889-3340, [kisinc@swbell.net](mailto:kisinc@swbell.net)

**WANTED:** Stanley #2 type 18 (I'm betting that no one has seen one, but I keep looking). Filletster bed for Miller's Patent #41, type 4 (japanned) or type 9 (nickel plated). Buy or trade. John Steele 6615 W 147 Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66223 913-897-9064, [jsteele490@aol.com](mailto:jsteele490@aol.com)

**WANTED:** Axe and/or Hatchet labels or markings; copies or photos; B/W or color; hard copy or downloads. I'll redraw them. Also axe manufacturer and/or wholesaler basic information. Contributor credit will be provided when project is published. Tom Lamond, 30 Kelsey Pl., Lynbrook, NY 11563-1516, [TomLamond@aol.com](mailto:TomLamond@aol.com)

**WANTED:** I have an interest in Stanley Everlasting Chisels. I am looking for a "salesman split chisel" that was used to show the inner workings. About 2 years ago I started a "Type Study" that I would like to finish. I would like to contact anybody else who has collected info on same. The last type with "simulated rosewood" composition handle I do not have yet either. My web site hasn't changed in a long time and I have more chisels now with better markings. I have been slowly approaching a full set of #20's, #40's and #50 over the last 4 years but still lack a few. Over the holidays I started a Chisel Cabinet with hand-cut dovetails (using Disston backsaw and Everlasting Chisels) Take a look. Find Everlasting Chisels page and then go to Number #20 or #50 and you will see the types I have found so far. Any thoughts on finding others with interest in Everlasting Chisels would be appreciated. Gordon Muster, <http://users.ev1.net/~gmuster> or [oldtooluser@cswebmail.com](mailto:oldtooluser@cswebmail.com)

**WANTED:** Siegly Plow Planes #2, All Types and condition. Parts welcome. Jim Gatlin, 150 Longhorn Drive, Bastrop, TX, 78602-5053, (512) 321-2142, [jimpeggat@msn.com](mailto:jimpeggat@msn.com).

**WANTED:** Lever caps for No 2 size metallic planes. Contact: Charley Koll, 5538 Gleason Dr, San Antonio, Tx 78240 Ph 210-684-2767, [chkoll@aol.com](mailto:chkoll@aol.com)

continued on page 7



# Want Ads

## FOR SALE: HOLLOW AND ROUNDS AND BEAD SETS.

Set A - condition good. Mathieson 2 to 18 set of 18 planes. No #4 Mathiesons but has two #4 Mosley hollows instead (easy to make a round out of one of these) and is missing a #12 round (has a #11 hollow in place of it). you can look for the missing Mathieson planes which should be fairly easy to find to make it perfect. List price for this set is \$300 and will sell for \$250. Set B - condition good. Mathieson- 2 to 18 set of 18 planes Has a #2 Mosley hollow instead of Mathieson. No #10 round and has a #10 Mosley hollow to replace it. List price is \$300 and will sell for \$250. Set C - condition very good to fine. Nelson - Edgeware Road - 1 to 17 odd set of 18 planes. This set is perfect and a rare odd number set. List price is \$700 and will sell for \$600. Set D - Condition very good. Nurse - 7 Mill Street - 2 to 18 set of 18 planes plus 5 matching beads and 1 bench plane. Total of 24 matching planes for the same tool box! List price \$895 and will sell for \$700. Set E - Condition good. Wilcox - Manchester - 2 to 18 set of 18 planes has several replacement planes that include #2 Lunt, #4 Varrville hollow, #10 & #12 Davis hollows, #14 Varville round. List price \$275 will sell for \$200. I have the matching set of Wilcox beads - 8 planes that I will sell for \$200, list is \$240. Contact Troy Marshall - [tmarshallj@aol.com](mailto:tmarshallj@aol.com)

**INFORMATION:** I have started an independent newsletter for the SoCal Old Tool Swap Meets. The publication will be called TOOLSWAP/usa, will come out 4 times per year and its focus will be on the Southern CA events, but the web site will link to all the other old tool sites and be called TOOLSWAPUSA. I'll be able to continue my creative work and I have lots of ideas for articles that will be interesting to anyone who loves old

tools and the stories behind them. The first publication came out in October. It is one page, two sided with all the superfluous club stuff cut out. It is donation driven but the costs will stay low because there will be limited mailing (to subscribe to the newsletter will cost \$10 per year in order to cover printing, mailing, and handling). TOOLSWAP/usa will be handed out at all the SoCal Old Tool Swap Meets and at the San Diego Show in January. The email is [laura@toolswapusa.com](mailto:laura@toolswapusa.com). And my web address is [www.toolswapusa.com](http://www.toolswapusa.com) Hope to see you in San Diego in January. Laura Pitney

**ATTENTION USERS AND COLLECTORS!** They DO make them like they used to!! THE EXQUISIT TILL has become the only distributor of Adria Toolworks saws in the Southwest. Check them out at [www.adriatools.com](http://www.adriatools.com) For a limited time I am offering a special discount to SWTCA members only. These are absolutely stunning hand crafted saws. Most people who try them say the handles are much more comfortable than the mass made and marketed Lie-Nielsen saws. 8" Dovetail..\$105 plus shipping. Small Tenon (crosscut or rip)..\$115 plus shipping. Large Tenon (crosscut or rip)..\$125 plus shipping. Shipping is typically around \$5 for the 1st saw. I don't charge any handling fees, only the cost of shipping. Because they are hand crafted by a single talented craftsman (Eddie Sirotich) at this time, these saws are in short supply and there is no guarantee that they will be available in the future. If you are a collector, now is the time to put some back as an investment. If you are a user, you know the difference an investment in quality tools can make. Ron Huebner, [lonelobo@highstream.net](mailto:lonelobo@highstream.net), 214-707-8102, Fax: 817-854-0101.

**FOUND:** In my box upon return from Albuquerque: A round, tapered, reddish-brown wooden pin, 7/16"± x 3"± long, tapering to a point, with a small steel point inserted. At about the third point, there is a semi-circular notch about 1/4" deep. What the hell is this thing? Somebody must need this bad. Bob Finch 303-232-1932. [rffinch@aol.com](mailto:rffinch@aol.com)

**FOR SALE:** 9" Wood chisel with fluted handle, marked CRESCENT TOOL CO JAMESTOWN NY No. 175 - 1 1/4 USA \$30.00 pp. 10" TRUSTWORTHY PLANE \$30.00 pp. Wrenches: CHATTANOOGA #4 \$200.00 pp; CHATTANOOGA #3 \$30.00 pp; DREIS & KRUMP 12" IMP.\$32.00 pp; SYRACUSE Z2 excellent repair \$35.00 pp. Can trade for 4" crescent type wrenches with rare names. I buy 4" crescent wrenches. Roy Huntley (870) 365-0053.

**WANTED:** Antique dental and medical instrument. Prompt payment in American dollars. Bill McDougall, 4020 Grande Dr. NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107-2724. (505) 344-9272, [jandbmcd@aol.com](mailto:jandbmcd@aol.com)

**WANTED:** A Type 20 Stanley No 2 plane. This is an 8" No 2 plane with blue japanning. Plane has a larger brass adjustment wheel and a Kidney shaped hole in the lever cap. Contact Charley Koll, 5538 Gleason Dr, San Antonio, Texas, 78240, (210) 684 2767, [chkoll@aol.com](mailto:chkoll@aol.com)

**WANTED:** Winchester items, tools, sporting goods or advertising. No firearms. Collections or pieces OK. Please advise price and condition. David McDonald, 14211 Kellywood Lane, Houston, Texas, 77079. (281) 558-5236, [un-dermc@evl.net](mailto:un-dermc@evl.net).

**WANTED:** Cast Iron Levels in G++ Condition. Should be complete and intact. Also broken levels for vials, inclinometers.

Please, no Stanley or Starrett. Gregor Mszar, (817) 937-5475, [gregormszar@comcast.net](mailto:gregormszar@comcast.net)

**WANTED:** Breast drills, hand drills, push drills, bow drills, pump drills and archimedian drills. Seeking the more obscure made in U.S.A. models for a research project. Even if you are not interested in selling, I'd like to hear about different drills in your collection. If possible send details & digital photos to Mike Urness at [PLNCRZY@aol.com](mailto:PLNCRZY@aol.com) or by snail mail to PO Box 6022, Chesterfield, MO 63006-6022.

**DON'T FORGET:** When you change your email address, please make sure I get your new address. Just send it to me with the Subject: New Email Address, and I'll use the return address. Thanks. Gregor. [gregormszar@comcast.net](mailto:gregormszar@comcast.net)

**FREE:** ADS for the SWTCA E-M@RT monthly classified newsletter. All SWTCA members in good standing (or members of all recognized clubs), can place a reasonable number of ads each month. All ads should be received by the 1st day of the month for publication that month. EM@RT will be published during the first week of each month at a random time and date (whenever Gregor can get to it). Send all ads to [gregormszar@comcast.net](mailto:gregormszar@comcast.net)

**NEW BOOK FOR SALE:** I don't know if you were aware of it, but for the last two years I have been working on a new book entitled A Source Book for Rule Collectors. Well I was/am, and it (actually two books) is now almost complete (at long last). I turned the larger part, the Source Book, over to The Astragal Press in August, and am just now finishing up the accompanying volume A Rule Concor-

**Continued on page 8**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 24-25, 2004**, MWTCA Area P Meet, York, PA, William Warner, 717-8434-8105, [wmwyork@aol.com](mailto:wmwyork@aol.com)

**January 31, 2004**, 10th Annual Super Saturday Meet, Bedford, TX, Gregor Mszar, 817-937-5475, [gregormszar@comcast.net](mailto:gregormszar@comcast.net)

**February 5-7, 2004**, 10th Annual MWTCA Peach Meet, Madison, GA, Phil Baker, 941-485-6981

**February 14, 2004**, 17th Annual Ground Hog Meet, Springdale, AR, Emery Goad, 888-889-3340, [kisinc@swbell.net](mailto:kisinc@swbell.net)

**March 20, 2004**, Houston Area Regional Meet, Houston, TX, Charley Koll, 210-684-2767, [chkoll@aol.com](mailto:chkoll@aol.com)

**March 26-27, 2004**, Live Free or Die Tool Auction, Indianapolis, IN, Martin Donnelly, 800-869-0695, [www.mjdtools.com](http://www.mjdtools.com)

**March 26-28, 2004**, SWTCA Spring Meet, Wichita, KS, Emery Goad, 888-889-3340, [kisinc@swbell.net](mailto:kisinc@swbell.net)

**March 27, 2004**, 43rd David Stanley International Auction, Leicestershire, England, David Stanley, 717-843-8105, [tools@davidstanley.com](mailto:tools@davidstanley.com)

**April 2-3, 2004**, 24th International Antique Tool Auction, Brown Auction Services, Clarence Blanchard, 800-248-8114, [ceb@finetoolj.com](mailto:ceb@finetoolj.com)

**April 17, 2004**, CRAFTS Spring Tool Auction, Flemington, NJ, Greg Welsh, 908-439-3266, [glwelsh@earthlink.net](mailto:glwelsh@earthlink.net)

**April 23-24, 2004**, Live Free or Die Tool Auction, Nashua, NH, Martin Donnelly, 800-869-0695, [www.mjdtools.com](http://www.mjdtools.com)

## Want Ads, Continued from page 7

### eBay's Latest

*Just for Laughs*

Don't miss the  
limited time  
opportunity to  
bid on this

"Rare Dunlap &  
Union Wood &  
Metal Transitional  
Plane"

Definitely a one-of-  
a-kind tool !!



dance and Value Guide. They should be available some time this winter. This is what these two books consist of;

The Source Book is 8-1/2" x 11", 300+ pages, paperbound (to keep the cost down) and has the following chapters: A reprint of Ken Roberts 1983 Introduction to Rule Collecting; Seven reprints of 19th century rule manufacturers price lists; Reprints of more than 20 articles of special interest to rule collectors; Reprints of the first three issues of the short-lived rule collectors journal MENSURATION which was published in the late 80s; A chapter on materials, construction, and the rule-making process; A chapter on graduations and markings; A large chapter on special rule types and applications; A chapter on European measures before the metric system; A chapter on rule accessories; and, A bibliography of all known books, catalogues, articles, &c. dealing with rules and linear measures:

The Value Guide is 6" x 9", 64 pages, paperbound. It is an extension of the my Concordance,

which Ken Roberts & I published 5 years ago, consisting of a number of tables in which the columns represent different makers and periods of manufacture, and the rows different types of rules and rule materials and construction. If a given maker has made a rule of a given type/construction, then the box in this column & row which represents this combination will have that maker's number for that rule and a two-amount value range (GOOD to NEW) for it. Thus it is both a concordance and a price guide for the nine most important American rulemakers.

The purpose of these two books, which will be sold as a pair, is to gather together in one place as much as possible of the information of value and/or interest to rule collectors. The price for the two books will be \$45.00, give or take a dollar or two. If any SWTCA member would like to preorder this pair of books, I am now accepting advance orders. To place an order all you have to do is let me know via email (include your mailing address) at [\[stan@rcn.com\]\(mailto:stan@rcn.com\). When they are printed I will ship you a copy of both with an invoice for the list price of the pair \(as I said, probably \\$45.00\) plus \\$5.00 for shipping. Hoping to hear from you soon, Phil Stanley](mailto:phil-</a></p>
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**WANTED:** Member written articles or tool tips, with or without illustrations, for all issues of the SWTCA Newsletter. Come on guys!!! Put some of those stories, tips, and advice we all hear at the tool meets in writing and email them to [tmjtx@cox-internet.com](mailto:tmjtx@cox-internet.com)

**INFORMATION:** The newsletter is now posted to the website each month. If you would prefer to receive it in Adobe File Format by email, please send an email request to Tim Johnson at [tmjtx@cox-internet.com](mailto:tmjtx@cox-internet.com).

**FREE:** ADS for the SWTCA E-M@RT classified newsletter. All SWTCA members in good standing can place a reasonable number of ads each month. All ads should be received by the 1st day of the month for publication that month. Send all ads to [gregormszar@comcast.net](mailto:gregormszar@comcast.net)



# Hardware Houses and Hardware Men

By Don Rosebrook

*This is the first in what will turn out to be an occasional series of short articles about successful houses and the men who established them. It will be primarily concerned with the early years of their existence. Many of the brands from these houses are considered to be very collectible and have dedicated following. The first of these is the Blue Grass brand of Belknap Hardware.*



## W.B. Belknap & Co. 1840 - 1985



W. B. Belknap & Co. was established in 1840 and incorporated in 1880. In the beginning, it was an iron nail and boiler plate business. The company was founded

by Mr. William Burke Belknap who moved from Pittsburg, Pa. to Louisville, KY in 1839. About 1849, along with his brother Morris, he started the general hardware business. Its territory was the area surrounding Louisville, KY and south to the Gulf. The company handled general hardware, heavy hardware, saddlery and carriage hardware, iron, steel, cutlery, guns, farming implements, belting, hose, and of course, tools which could be considered a part of general hardware. Mr. Belknap continued to lead his company, at least, until 1880 when the presidency passed to his son W. R. Belknap and he died in 1889. In 1903, the company changed its name to Belknap Hardware and Manufacturing Co. Inc., and at that time the company began manufacturing horse collars.



The Belknap family came from a professional background. W. B. Belknap's father was a mill engineer and his wife's father was a bank president. With this background, W. B. found it easy to make connections with factories up river and to become their agent.

In the mid 1800's, Louisville had a number of rolling mills and that was what, not only attracted W. B. Belknap to the area, but influenced the kind of business and kind of stock the company carried. When the business first began, stock consisted of bar iron, wagon material, blacksmith supplies and some hollow ware. By the turn of the century, its catalog consisted of over 1500 pages.



The business was started on Main Street near 3<sup>rd</sup> and soon moved to the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Main where it remained for 30 years. After a move to larger quarters in 1870 (about 2x the size) it remained there for 15 years when it moved to more than double its size again. By 1904, the company owned 8 warehouses and a main office which also house finer hardware. The largest of the warehouses was built in 1901 and was 80' x 195' and seven stories tall. These were situated on about 3 acres in downtown Louisville which had rail and river access. Louisville at that time had 10 railroads radiating from it.

They eventually expanded to 42 acres of warehouse and display space in 14 buildings. By 1960, Belknap was the largest hardware wholesaler in the world, in terms of sales, net worth, and floor space. It changed its name to Belknap Inc. in 1968.



It had union troubles and in 1947 and eliminated the catalog printing operation, claiming that the union refused to negotiate. It sold its trucks after employees in that department unionized in 1974. Warehouse and maintenance workers unionized and struck in 1978. The company replaced the workers but complaints led to rehiring and laying off replacement workers who then sued (settled for \$625,000.)

The company was still profitable in 1983 and in 1984, David A Jones, Chairman & CEO of Humana bought the company for \$35,000,000 in a leveraged buyout. The company went bankrupt in Dec. 1984 and closed February 1985

*Editors Note: Photos taken from the Belknap Hardware and Manufacturing Co.. Catalog, Belknap Bluegrass Catalog Reprints, THCKK Website Archives, and Simmons and Co. Auction Archives.*

## VOLUME FOUR, 1872

[illegible]

It is claimed for this improved scroll-sawing apparatus, that it can be run at a speed of from eight hundred to twelve hundred revolutions per minute; it handles about 350 pounds—the frame being of iron, for the purpose of securing stability; and that it will saw the lightest veneered work, such as piano and cabinet work, mastic racks and fret-work, as well as the heaviest carpentry and wagon work, and it is

We have seen this saw in operation at Deputy Colley's 10 Mulberry street, and at Marvin J. McClellan's, 78 East Water street, Syracuse, N. Y., and must confess that it is every thing which is claimed for it. And this is not to be wondered at, as the inventor had a lifelong experience in making all the branches of scroll-sawing, and therefore could know perfectly well what was required to meet any contingency.



January 8, 2004