



SouthWest Tool Collector's Association

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SWTCA
NEWSLETTER

Volume 2004, Issue 4

October 5, 2004

A \$1,500.00 Toaster??

Collecting Winchester Repeating Arms Company Items

By Tim Johnson from an interview with Tim Melcher

Editors Note: When I accepted the job of newsletter editor for the SWTCA, I immediately began to search for a way to obtain some new and fresh articles for the newsletter. I sent out a number of emails across the country to collectors that I thought might be able to help us in that regard. Some ignored it, some said copy what you want to, some said no, some said they would, some sent an article, and one, Tim Melcher, a Winchester collector from Grove, Oklahoma, said "I don't write articles, but if you're going to be at the SWTCA Wichita Meet, we'll sit down and talk and see if I can give you enough information so you can write an article.". Well, since Mother Johnson had always raised me to lead by example, and I was driving everyone in the SWTCA crazy for original material, I felt I had to rise to the challenge. So off I drove to Wichita, Kansas. Thanks to Tim Melcher for the inspiration, the information, and the time. Here's hoping that I do justice to you and Winchester.

The sales tables were set up, the trading had started, the gossip, story telling, and tool talk had begun when I found a few minutes and a reasonably quiet corner to sit down and visit with Winchester Collector, Tim Melcher. I never dreamed that over the next few minutes I would be overwhelmed by the amount of information I was about to receive. After all, like most people, I knew Winchester made guns and tools but that just scratched the surface. I was about to find out how diverse the company really was and how much one man could know about it.

It seems that Tim's roots in Winchester came early in life. His fraternal grandfather (I.E. "Irvin" Melcher) was an early entrepreneur in the Oklahoma Indian Territory and founded I.E. Melcher Hardware which was operated by the family until the final auction on May 17, 1972. When asked what really got him started collecting Winchester he told the following story.

"I started collecting and assembling information on Winchester items as a result of a teenage incident. Hunting in Kansas as a farm lad, I was proud of my "new" shotgun (a Model "12"). Except I couldn't figure out how to break-down the gun to clean it like I was advised to do. After much embarrassment, I later determined that the gun was a Model 25 and couldn't be taken down into 2 pieces. This started a curiosity and determination to find out more about the gun models, which led to exploration of the shells, then shotgun boxes (a form of advertising), and subsequently to all types of Winchester advertising. Not surprisingly, considering my father and grandfather's hardware entrepreneurship, this led to an interest in "The Winchester Store", "The Sportsman Headquarters", and other associated items that were handled in those stores."

Winchester had a rich and interesting history. Venture capitalist, Oliver F. Winchester, became interested in firearms, and in 1855 founded the Volcanic Arms Company which later changed its name to the New Haven Arms Company. The leading firearm produced was the Volcanic rifle. He then engaged B. Tyler Henry, an inventor, to assist in the improvement of the Volcanic rifle. This resulted in the

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A \$1,500.00 Toaster??

Collecting Winchester Repeating Arms Company Items

By Tim Johnson from an interview with Tim Melcher

production of the Henry Repeating Rifle. The business grew steadily through the Civil War, and in 1865, the Henry Repeating Arms Company was formed. That name was changed in 1866 to the Winchester Repeating Arms Company and they produced the Model '66 Winchester rifle, the first successful repeating rifle in the world. From these beginnings, the business grew steadily and by 1872 they began manufacturing cartridges. They continued to expand until Winchester became known worldwide as the pioneer and leader in arms and ammunition with a reputation for quality and service.

After WWI, when Winchester manufactured most of the guns as well as many other steel related war goods for the US military, arms sales reduced. Competition from foreign imports increased. In an effort to better use all of the 80 acres of production facilities, Winchester began manufacturing tools. They were not very successful in marketing the tools until 1919, when they began to expand into housewares, hardware, and sporting goods items, putting the Winchester name on them and distributing them under the name "The Winchester Store". They launched a national marketing campaign and used the slogan "As Good As The Gun". At one time they owned 1 of 4 hardware stores in the US and had a catalog featuring over 8000 items. They began using 3 and 5 panel stand-up displays and banners in hardware store windows. They produced calendars. In 1921 they started a "tool of the month" promotion which featured a new tool each month and in 1922 they introduced an "Ice Pick and Mallet Set" as a loss leader promotion item for the year. The marketing campaign was very successful. It was still a time when Mom, Dad, and the kids sat down and took a meal together and went for walks in town on Saturday afternoon. As they wandered down the street window shopping, they passed by the local hardware store, where the displays were seen by everyone, and they offered something for everyone; toasters, sweepers, fans, vacuum bottles, baseball equipment, tools, and so on. Still company over-spending caused problems.

Having shared a long standing common history with Simmons Hardware Co., in 1922 the two companies merged their hardware related interests and formed the Winchester-Simmons Company. It was a financial disaster for both companies and in 1929 the Simmons Hardware Company announced that they were reverting to their original status and the name Winchester would no longer appear in conjunction with Simmons Hardware.

By 1931, Winchester was in bankruptcy and no longer producing tools. Subsequent mergers and partnerships changed the name and look of the Winchester logo. It was Winchester-Western for a while, starting in 1931 and today, Winchester[™] is produced and marketed by the Olin Corporation. Winchester produced tools from around 1919 until 1931.

Next we looked around at Tim's extensive display and I took some pictures, some of which you see in this article. I found that he likes the advertising pieces because his college degree relates to it, and he has an extensive collection of sporting goods which he likes to collect because not everyone knows they existed. However, his favorite is the household items such as fans, sweepers, toasters, and the like. *"They are getting harder and harder to find in good condition."* He also likes boxed items because they are difficult to find.

On Winchester collecting in general Tim still finds it fun and challenging after all the years. *"I have over 8000 items to look for and that doesn't include all the advertising pieces of which I find one or two a year that no one has ever seen before."*

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A \$1,500.00 Toaster??

Collecting Winchester Repeating Arms Company Items

By Tim Johnson from an interview with Tim Melcher

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On advice for collectors, Tim had the following to say. *"Limit your scope some. I know a lot about Winchester but very little about most of the tools you see on those trade tables. Pick an area that has enough items that you will never find them all otherwise when you collect everything you were looking for, you will lose interest."* It also easier to be knowledgeable in one area than many areas and that avoids costly mistakes. *"Watch out for fakes. There's a lot of greed out there and a lot of fakes along with it."* In that regard, Tim has a website at www.thewinchesterstore.com, a part of which is used to help the Winchester collector avoid getting stuck with a fake. "I like to help other collectors where I can, especially in educating them on Winchester and how to avoid the mistake of getting stuck with a fake. All that does is discourage people and cause them to give up collecting."

Time came for the Tim's program before the group so I moved aside so he could get started. He quickly ran through much of what you have read above and as he neared the end of his program he asked if there were any questions. He was asked how much some of the items were worth to which he gave the normal collector's answer of *"depends on the condition and the rarity"* but when pressed he replied, *"Well, a toaster like you see displayed here, in the condition it's in, is worth somewhere around \$1500.00."*

A \$1,500.00 TOASTER??? As I said in the beginning, I was overwhelmed ! That Stanley No. 1 price is looking better and better all the time.

In Defense of the Lazy Man

By John K. Walcott

Lazy men have been castigated all thru history by narrow-minded people who cannot imagine any way of gaining the necessities of life by any other means than arduous, mindless and demeaning manual labor. They speak of lazy people in the most pejorative and denigrating terms imaginable. Referring to them as lazy, good-for-nothing ne'er do wells, useless bums and countless other derogatory and insulting terms. The ambitious and hard-working men, on the other hand, are held in the highest regard by society and commended to everyone as examples of model citizens. Children are taught from birth that being lazy was a sure path to perdition and would cause them to lead a life of poverty and shame and forever be subject to censure, disgrace and disrespect. The ideal is described by Longfellow in his poem, "The Village Blacksmith" to wit: "his brow is wet with honest sweat, he earns whate'er he can

This is patently not true. Can anyone think of any truly wealthy man who became wealthy by the sweat of his brow? The really rich men get there by employing other people to do their work for them and then filching a part of their earnings; by getting an MBA degree and getting rich by diddling the public out of tons of nickels and dimes; by getting a law degree and defending the really rich who got caught getting really rich or some other such nefarious actions.

In point of fact, of course, using wealth as a measure of a man's worth is completely wrong. Men should be judged by their contributions to the welfare of all people-not just the accumulation of money and property by an individual. By this measure, the lazy man is far and away ahead of every other class of people. The ambitious men, on the other hand, are the cause of almost all of the troubles in the world. It is they who work very hard to gain worldly goods at the expense of other people, and, even worse, to gain power over other people that they can use to further their own ulterior aims, even if it entails the deaths of thousands of innocent people.

In contrast, every advance of civilization has come from the minds and efforts

of a lazy man who was desperately searching for a way to acquire a plentiful supply of beer while avoiding any hint of hard work. If not for the lazy man, we would still be hunters and gatherers living a hand to mouth existence in nomadic bands wandering in the wilds.

Sometime in the distant past, it occurred to some intelligent, thoughtful and compassionate forbear of modern man that chasing game, digging for roots, searching for berries and fruit was just too much trouble and entailed a lot of hard work so he found a comfortable spot and sat down and thought deep thoughts about this and came up with a solution. The answer was tools! He found that he could shape rocks, bits of wood and pieces of leather into forms that could make life much more comfortable and give him much more time to rest and think deep thoughts. He even invented a plow for his wife to pull so he could raise crops near at hand that his kids could gather and bring to him. This worked well for awhile but eventually the wives got a bit contentious about it so he had to go back to sitting and thinking deep thoughts again and again devised a plan. He reasoned that oxen were not quite as intelligent as wives, (a theory that men have been trying to disprove ever since), and that it would be possible to harness an ox to the plow so his wife could simply guide the ox while she steered the plow. This worked so well that it encouraged him to sit and think deep thoughts again and again a solution was forthcoming! He had his wife train horses to pull the plow. She could then plow more land and plant more crops. This created a surplus of grain so he could use it to brew plenty of beer. This enabled him to drink beer while he pondered such things as the meaning of life and devise more ways of avoiding hard work. When the other lazy men discovered what he had done, they came to him and, from him, learned to sit and think deep thoughts about ways to avoid hard work and brew beer.

Teaching other lazy men how to avoid hard work and brew beer became just too much hard work so he again sat and thought deep thoughts and again the

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WANT ADS

WANTED: A No.3 size smoothing plane with the name 'ILANOY' on the cutter. Contact: Charley Koll, 5538 Gleason Dr, San Antonio, Texas, 78240, 210-684-2767, chkoll@aol.com

TOOL SWAP MEET INFORMATION: TOOLSWAP/USA is the Voice of the Independent Tool Collector, Dealer, and User. The Web Site (www.toolswapusa.com) links to Old Tool Dealers and Tool Events across the country. We also put on nine Old Tool Swap Meets in Southern CA (2 in San Diego, 4 in LA and 3 in Orange County). If you want to be on an Email Reminder List, send your name and email to laura@toolswapusa.com. Plan your next visit to CA around an Old Tool Swap Meet. Check the Web Site for swap meet schedules. Laura Pitney

WANTED: - Habitat for Humanity of Taos, New Mexico uses draw knives to peel logs for roof beams (vigas) for affordable adobe houses they build. Donations of usable draw knives would be appreciated or I will buy user knives at a reasonable price. Also seeking information on repairing handles. Individuals or groups are welcome to volunteer to help build these houses. For volunteer opportunities contact the Taos Habitat office at 505 758-7827. For draw knife information contact Mike at 303 321-0578 or mike-joanie@msn.com.

SEEKING INFORMATION: IMPERIAL AXE, HARDSOCG CO., Pittsburgh, PA & Ottumwa, IA: They made a number of forged products including axes. I am trying to determine what the center portion of IMPERIAL axe embossings looked like. (photo, rubbing, scan) I would also like to determine if they also used the brand PREMIER on axes. Contributor credit will be provided when project is published. Tom Lamond, 30 Kelsey Pl., Lynbrook, NY 11563-1516, or TomLamond@aol.com

WANTED: It's not too late ... 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, or TomLamond@aol.com

FOR TRADE OR SALE: Good cutout DUANE H. NASH cast iron seat: \$150.00 or trade for wrench/wrenches. Some of you Texans should be able to let me wrenches marked DALTEX, BROWN, KELLY, or other Texas wrenches. I would also really like to have a TRIMO wrench, SCHULZ book #637 complete with tip cleaner blade. Thanks. Roy Huntley (870) 365-0053.

WANTED: Broken/damaged L.L.Davis/Davis Level and Tool levels - for parts. gregormszar@comcast.net.

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

WANTED: Breast drills, hand drills, push drills, bow drills, pump drills and Archimedeian 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 or by snail mail to PO Box 6022, Chesterfield, MO 63006-6022.

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

WANTED: Old and unusual saw sets or saw related items. Prefer "as is" versus "cleaned". Ron White, wwhite1557@earthlink.net

WANTED: 6 inch cast iron Davis and Cook "L" shaped corner level. No cast breakage. Keith at 2lman@cablone.net

WANTED: Antique Pencil Sharpeners, prefer cast iron, pre-1900. Gregor Mszar, (817) 937-5475, gregorm-

szar@comcast.net

WANTED: Patented Plow Planes, any and all condition. No Stanley please, except for Miller Patent. Gregor Mszar, (817) 937-5475, 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 and at 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, kis-inc@swbell.net

WANTED: Still looking for Davis, and other interesting levels, and patented planes. Also interested in old wood and metal working machinery, and farm engines (the hit & miss type). Mel Miller melmiller@adelphia.net

WANTED: Early and/or unusual patented braces or brace tools. Send photo and price, if possible, and we'll see what develops. Bob Finch, rffinch@aol.com 303-232-1932

TOOL CATALOG #49 AVAILABLE: Two Chisellers is now offering Catalog #49 - April 2004. Subscription rate is \$20 for 4 issues (however long four issues takes). We publish when we get around to it, or when the shed gets full, whichever comes first. There is not much basis for you to guess when the next issue will be out. WE SELL TOOLS, NOT CATALOGS!! "\$10 or 10% Factory Rebate with order. Two Chisellers, 1864 Glen Moor Drive, Lakewood, Colorado. 303-232-1932.

PLEASE HELP: establish the online Catalogue of American Patented Antique Tools! Visit <http://www.finetools.com> for details. Steve Johnson

WANT ADS

WANTED: Lever caps for No 2 size metallic planes. Contact: Charley Koll, 5538 Gleason Dr, San Antonio, Texas, 78240, 210-684-2767, chkoll@aol.com

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

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

WANTED: Private car/tool collector is looking for automotive script tools (non-Ford). Contact Roy Judd 2416 Hermosa Ave. Hermosa Beach, Ca 90254. royajudd@aol.com

FREE: ADS for the SWTCA E-M@RT monthly classified newsletter. All TOOL COLLECTORS from all 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. **WHY HAVEN'T YOU USED YOUR ADS FOR THIS ISSUE?? IF NOT, TOO BAD%^+@#\$\$ YOUR COMPETITOR DID!!**

WANTED: Wood planes marked: H.G. Stillely maker. Planes are usually rosewood with Oakland or S.F. also stamped under the makers name. Tim Daniels, contact at tdaniels@danielsandhouse.com

INFORMATION: Sign of the Jointer, a quarterly journal on wooden planes, has started the 5th year of publication. The journal contains articles covering wooden planes and planemakers as well as unpublished marks and new information. New information is solicited from

all those interested in wooden planes by American, English and Canadian makers. Subscriptions are \$16 per year. Please contact Pat Lasswell, 6211 Elmgrove Rd, Spring, Texas, 77389, 281-251-3121, or by email at pmlasswell@ev1.net.

FOR SALE: Hundreds of top quality unusual hand tools, patented levels, patented planes, treadle equipment, braces, machinist tools, marking gauges, etc. Stanley, Sargent, Ohio, Union, and many more obscure makers. Not many hammers or wrenches. Almost everything is in excellent condition and will be upgrades for many. No junk. No fire sale prices either, please expect reasonable close to market prices. Example - Sargent Shaw's patent #14 (Stanley 5 size) in Fine condition for \$140 (book says \$100-\$200). Contact me with your want list. Steve Johnson 425-868-1532 or email (preferred) at tooltimer@msn.com.

WANTED: Winchester items, tools, sporting goods or advertising. No firearms. Collections or pieces OK. Please advise price and condition. David McDonauld, 14211 Kellywood Lane, Houston, Texas, 77079. (281) 558-5236, undermc@ev1.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

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

TIRED OF THE SAME OL' ADS??? Then why don't you send in a new one. It's FREE, EASY, and a way to round up new business or tools or whatever. You know the address - it's in this email about a gazillion times!

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

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

Wanted: I am looking for a No 3 size Smooth hand plane with the name "Journeyman" on the cutter and possibly on the body of the plane. Plane was made in the 1940-50's for the Spiegels Co, in Chicago, IL. Believe the plane was made by either Stanley or Shelton. Please contact Charlie Koll 210 684 2767 or chkoll@aol.com

NEW BOOK FOR SALE: This new set, *A Source Book for Rule Collectors & A Rule Concordance and Value Guide*, by Phillip Stanley from Astragal Press makes a great reference for both the longtime collector as well as individuals just starting their collection of measuring instruments. He set has its origins with a slim booklet entitled *Introduction to Rule Collecting* by Ken Roberts published in 1982. The books are full of reprints and arranged in tabular format showing the comparison of rule numbers and patterns available during the time span and an estimate of the price for which the rule might sell for on the open market for a rule in good to excellent condition. A must for any serious Rule Collector. The books are available from Astragal Press, 5 Cold Hill Road Suite 12 PO Box 239, Mendham, NJ 07945-0239. (973) 543-3045 email info@astragalpress.com Website www.astragalpress.com.

FREE: ADS for the SWTCA E-M@RT monthly classified newsletter. All TOOL COLLECTORS from all 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.



In Defense of the Lazy Man

By John K. Walcott

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solution arrived. He invented writing so that he could simply let the other men read what he had to say. Once this was done, of course, then the other lazy men could sit and think deep thoughts and devise other ways of avoiding hard work and civilization was on its way! By teaching his wife to read she was then able to take over his teaching chores and further extend his free time to cogitate on more important things and drink more beer.

As time passed and his thinking ability improved thru exercising and extending the limits of his mental faculties he found he was able to think really deep thoughts of a truly revolutionary nature! It occurred to him that there were a lot of ambitious men scurrying around, expending all their energy in fighting each other, stealing other mens wives, raiding other mens crops and livestock and generally making life miserable for everyone. The problem then was one of creating an alternative activity for the ambitious men that could be made to serve the best interests of the lazy men. The answer came to him in a blaze of mental lightning! Money!! Ambitious men also liked to drink beer. The more beer they drank, the more they fought, the more wives were stolen and the more raiding was done. The problem was that there was no way to convert stolen goods into a convenient form of exchange that could be stored until needed for conversion to those items benefitting the lazy man. Just like that, banking was born! The lazy man started stamping pieces of clay with words denoting a specific value promising the holder a fixed amount of beer for each piece of clay. Stolen goods could be traded for these pieces of clay which could then be exchanged for beer at any time. By carefully managing the rate of exchange, the lazy man was able to operate very profitably, even enabling him to hire ambitious men to do other kinds of work for him and a system of business was created.

This operation was quite successful for some time but was limited by the amount of goods that could be obtained by thievery. It soon became obvious to the lazy man that, if he was to be able to expand, he would have to create new ways for the ambitious men to be able to afford his pieces of clay. Again he sat and drank beer and thought long and hard and drank more beer and, after prodigious thinking of very deep thoughts, he again received a sudden inspiration! He

could hire men to make things for him to sell.

The ambitious men were spending all their time fighting other men and stealing their wives, their crops and their livestock and there was a great opportunity for the lazy man to hire some of the ambitious men to make swords, spears, knives and many other kinds of weapons for which the ambitious men would pay handsomely. The benefits accruing to the lazy man were two-fold. He could sell the weapons to the ambitious men at a substantial profit and, since well-armed men could steal more goods, they could buy more beer which the lazy man could also sell to them most profitably. Best of all, the lazy man could hire ambitious men to make the beer and the weapons and also handle the business which would leave him free to do more thinking! The discovery that adding some tin to copper and melting it together made a very much improved class of weaponry. Not only weapons could be made of the stuff but also tools of all kinds. Also, by this time, the women had begun to form some women's liberation societies and were demanding all kinds of improvements in their living arrangements. They wanted houses to live in, pottery goods, cooking utensils, beds, tables, chairs and a whole host of other extravagant and fanciful fripperies and were becoming militant in presenting their demands. The lazy man's wife was also a part of this movement but instead of panicking, he wisely retreated to his thinking cave where he could drink his beer and think deep thoughts. After several days of excruciating mental torture searching for an answer to the dilemma of satisfying his wife, he concluded that it was beyond the abilities of any man to satisfy their wives. However, he refused to give up and turned his thoughts to making use of this problem and turning it to his advantage. He then returned to his beer and thinking deep thoughts and again the answer came to him like an epiphany!

He could hire a whole host of ambitious men to make the goods the women were demanding and distribute catalogs depicting all the goods available to all the women. They would then make the lives of their men miserable until their demands were met. The lazy man could make a fortune in providing the goods and could make another fortune in selling the tools to make the goods to the ambitious men who were making the goods. As time went by, many advances were made possible through the arduous thinking of many lazy men resulting in vast improvements in metallurgy, power generating, transportation and all the other attributes of modern society. They created the tools, the materials and the efficient means of manufacturing and

distributing all the things that the wives wanted. Peace should have become universal, but it didn't. One problem remained and thus far, all the deep thinking of all the lazy men has not resulted in a solution. The problem is one that has been with us since the beginning of time; i.e. The anti-social nature of the ambitious men. These are the men who prefer to rob, raid and pillage from the peaceful members of society instead of working for the lazy men in more useful and honorable pursuits.

History is full of these ambitious men who have created a whole litany of wrongdoings to add to the suffering people of the world. They start wars, enslave whole populations, murder, rob and rape without any sign of conscience. Men such as Attila the Hun, the Vandals, the Goths, Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Saddam Hussein, and a host of other such people have been the scourge of peace-loving lazy men since time immemorial and all have been impelled by their ambition. No lazy man would be guilty of such horrible deeds. It would just be too much work!

There is hope for the future, though. We still have many supremely lazy men available to ponder any problem that might arise and, given enough time and enough beer, we can foresee a time when peace and tranquility will reign over the earth and we only need to await the genius of the lazy men to arrive at a solution and put into play after a suitable rest period with pitcher of beer served to him by his wife.

From the Editor,

The Newsletter Article coffers are nearly empty again. Please send in an article, a meet announcement, some prices from an auction you attend, a joke, or a story. They are all welcome.

Your next newsletter will be mailed on or about January 4, 2005 and the deadline for submissions is December 30, 2004

Meet Hosts, please make sure someone sends in pictures and a report on your meet.

hanks to all,

Tim Johnson

OKLAHOMA CITY MEET

BY JIM GOODSON

Labor Day weekend in O.K.City brought a welcome reminder that Fall is quickly approaching. Especially to those of us located in the southern gulf coast areas. Mild clear weather and a lack of humidity is how I always remember my visits to this city. A pleasant days travel with good company and special stops along the way is the perfect beginning for an intensive and exciting "tool weekend".

Thursday evening arrivals were greeted not only by munchies and drinks in the hospitality room, but also by a free hotel sponsored mini buffet and bar.....life is good!! The following morning, some 65 dealer tables were set up in the sales room filling it from corner to corner. A huge variety of tools was exhibited from all occupations imaginable and some that weren't (these ended up at the "whatsis" table). Ten themed displays were presented during the show each of which showcased small groups of tools and provided specific information relevant to each. This voluntary courtesy is an informative presentation encouraged by club sponsors to help provide a more specific understanding of certain types of tools as well as to exemplify some of the many different types of tools available.

At the close of the evening, 79 members gathered together for the banquet and quite a feast was on hand. Today's buffet is a far cry from what was available 20 years ago at these functions! A hungry crowd enjoyed an excellent buffet and the twin line service dispatched all back to their tables in reasonably quick order. No speeches, no meeting minutes, only some brief thank yous and a few meeting summary notes were availed. Awards for the top tool display for women was awarded to Freda Blair for her display of sad irons collected over the years. Best display for men was given to Jim Goodson with several tables presenting decorated, carved and dated tools of the 18th and early 19th centuries. Second place men's display was awarded to Keith Mansfield for his display of beautiful and fine levels. Door prizes were then awarded before adjourning to the sales room to commence with the notorious "late night" club tool auction. This event needs little explanation as it is always a no holds barred auction, club donation and member feeding frenzy. Lots of bargains and some items where a buyer needs to actually be coaxed or bribed. Some very good pieces change hands some at a bargain price

and some for more than they were asking for at their sales tables! A lot of fun and always a whole lot of spontaneous club member interaction!

Sunday morning brought spontaneous last minute trades and sales followed by the "whatsis" table. Here lands all that is unusual and strange but vaguely resembles a tool in form. After the evaluation of several "tools of undetermined function" took place, the consensus of our experts, allowing for much interactive and comprehensive consultation, was at last unanimous and decisive in its indecision!

Craig Guy opened his incredible....REALLY INCREDIBLE! tool shop for Friday's open house venue. It is a specially built structure he designed and had built to house his expansive collection of blacksmith related tools and equipment of every conceivable type. Here Craig has gone to incredible ends to display all items in a manner in which they would have been used or temporarily laid down. Thousands of items are arranged perfectly on the walls, in period cabinets and free standing displays beside corresponding pieces of blacksmith equipment. It is a sight to see, a true labor of love and shows just how much Craig pampers his passion as all is spotlessly clean and dust free.

Saturday's open house was sponsored by John Ballintine and brings the same response from visitors as does Craig's magnificent shop. John is a premier collector of Stanley tools and several rooms of his home are devoted to the thousands of fine examples he has collected over many years. There are many many rare pieces here and of course virtually every tool made by Stanley over the years. There are fixtures, cabinets, original boxes and many unusual and odd pieces relating to this and even other tool manufacturers. Top to bottom, everywhere you look (even throughout the hallway) there is an endless array of tools covering all available surfaces and all floor space in each room. I wish I had some pictures of the expressions on peoples' faces when they first see this incredible collection! John also hosts a very special buffet for his guests as they prepare to depart on their journey back home. His hospitality is greatly appreciated after a long weekend and before a tiring trip home.

It was exciting to see so many members and old friends together again in one place and to have the opportunity to spend some time together,

have a meal or two together, visit the open houses together, and just spend quality time together.





Hotter 'n Hell Meet Bedford, Texas

By Jim Goodson

July in Bedford Texas is always "hotter 'n hell". If not the 114 degrees it was a few years ago at this event, it still felt about the same. It's never too hot to have fun and this annual event gives a little spice to an otherwise near unbearable month here. This (regional) meeting involves a great deal of activity in a small amount of time. Some 25 tables were set up for sales and a few separate display tables were active as well. The gun went off at 10:00 A.M. sharp and set up and sales quickly began to take place. There is a lot of initial concentrated browsing at first before the coffee and donuts are discovered. A bit into the meeting the pace begins to slacken enough to stop and greet old friends and to consider any purchases still under consideration. Always a lot of fun to attend, these regional meetings are a great shot in the arm to all those who can attend. Lunch on site is always very welcome as the morning and early afternoon are compacted considerably with travel, set up and the show itself all competing for a four hour time slot.



Thanks to host, Gregor Mszar for another good SWTCA and M-WTCA Area 1 Meet.

Southwest Tool Collectors Association Houston Area Regional Meeting

Saturday, October 23, 2004, 9:30 AM 'til ??????

HICKORY HOLLOW BARBECUE RESTAURANT

101 Heights Blvd, Houston, Texas

For info contact

San Antonio- Charlie Koll 210 684 2767 or chkoll@aol.com

Houston-Jim Goodson 713 869 1435 or springhill@SBCGlobal.net



Prices From The Guthery Auction in Springfield, MO

6-12-04 and 6-13-04

By Dan Kimpton

Pedal powered router	\$850	Lie Nielson #1	\$325
Chute Board and plane	\$1,900	Stanley 10 ½ Type 1	\$650
Stanley # 62, no chips	\$175	Barnes pedal scroll w/ boring att.	\$1,600
Stanley # 40, ivory rule	\$250	Stanley #45 H&R set	\$260
Stanley # 1, w/damage	\$725	Stanley Core box	\$250
Stanley #96, blind nailer	\$100	Stanley Dowel maker w/ all Cutters NIB	\$960
Stanley 444 NIB	\$1,725	Stanley 2C	\$220
Stanley 144 3/8	\$175	Stanley #2	\$200
Victor # 12	\$630	Stanley A-4	\$90

HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE NEWSLETTER THIS YEAR ?????

SWTCA Oklahoma City Area Local Meet

Saturday, October 30, 2004

7:00 a.m. until ???

At Jim and Joan Shipman's Place

10609 Payne Road, Mustang, Oklahoma

For more info contact

Jim Shipman 405-376-4301 or email to jshipmanx2@wmconnect.com

Don't Miss This Great Local Meet — Come And Enjoy The Festivities

REMINDER: 2005 ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE BY 12/31/04. STILL JUST \$12.00 PER YEAR. WHY WAIT.?? SEND YOUR \$12.00 CHECK TO SWTCA, C/O CLINT LITSEY , SECRETARY, 9729 S. SPENCER, SEDGWICK, KS 67135.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 8-9 LIVE FREE OR DIE TOOL AUCTION, SHERATON FOUR POINTS HOTEL, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA MARTIN DONNELLY , 800-869-0695 www.mjdtools.com

OCT 22-23 25th INTERNATIONAL SHOW/AUCTION - BROWN AUCTION SERVICES, SHERATON INN, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA CLARENCE BLANCHARD, 800-248-8114
ceb@finetoolj.com

OCT 23 SWTCA HOUSTON AREA MEET HICKORY HOLLOW BARBEQUE RESTAURANT, HOUSTON, TEXAS CHARLEY KOLL , 210-684-2767 chkoll@aol.com

OCT 30 SWTCA OKLAHOMA CITY AREA MEET HOME OF JIMMY SHIPMAN, MUSTANG, OKLAHOMA JIMMY SHIPMAN , 405-376-4301 jshipmanx2@wmconnect.com

NOV 5 OUTSTANDING KEEN KUTTER AUCTION, RAY COUNTY VETERNS BUILDING, RICHMOND, MO SIMMONS AUCTIONEERS , 816-776-2936 www.simmonsauktion.com

NOV 13 ANTIQUE TOOL AUCTION, BY NEW BOSTON TOOL ROOM, BAXTER AUCTION GALLERY, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA PHIL WHITBY , 603-642-4054 www.newbtr.com

SWTCA Newsletter
October ,2004

c/o Tim Johnson, Editor
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