

## Southwest Tool Collector's Association

### *SWTCA Newsletter* - June 2009

visit our website @ [www.swtca.org](http://www.swtca.org)



It doesn't take too many years of collecting before you are confronted with the necessity of acquiring a showcase or cabinet with which to both protect and display the best of your collection. Antique showcases are relatively hard to come by and are of course quite expensive. Procuring one of these correct for your use (typically the smaller the more expensive) will set the average collector back a price equivalent to several nice pieces for his collection. I've stumbled my way through the acquisition of at least a dozen or so of these over the years and found that biting the bullet and paying the price often goes hand in hand with a certain amount of sweat equity to get the job done. Opportunity knocked when it felt like it and didn't particularly care what baggage it brought with it.

My first defining effort was the 'partial foot in the door' approach of obtaining a slant front glass cabinet of the type that sat on top of the typical floor standing glass counter type showcase. This one had all the parts and glass.....mostly in a small stack beside the showcase. One side of the case was pulled loose at the corner and the glass panels removed. The corner moldings did not quite extend all the way to the corner joint so much had to be done to correct this along with general re fitting of the rear door, refinishing, a total cleaning and new interior base covering. The good news? ....it was nearly affordable for me at that time..

Another of the 'mashed in' variety was a similar case picked up at an antique shop South of Houston. It didn't require quite the work as the first and I was able to combine its purchase with another lovely case etched across the front with Fry's Choice Chocolates which was in perfect condition. Texas has an equal property law so my 'half' was of course, the smashed one while tiny antique china cups and saucers moved into the other case.

My enthusiasm at working on these diminished quite a bit as I spent considerable time in small enclosed spaces setting thin and very delicate glass sheets in place with tiny thin strips of molding material. If the tiny retaining brads were not properly angled and touched the glass it would crack nearly every time and old wavy replacement window glass is very hard to find. Shooting tiny glass glaziers points was even more precarious as the recoil itself was enough to break the delicate glass. I had more than a fleeting fear of slashed hands and wrists were there a major glass fracturing event. When all was constructed and firmed up, I was amazed to find that it is the glass that gives these cabinets their very strength and rigidity. Small wonder there are often signs on these saying 'please do not lean on the glass'. I swore off the 'casualty' cases after this.

An Irish vertical counter top cabinet style display case needed two side glass panes and a mirror for the back. Not a significant problem here and it turned out this one had the bonus of being strong enough to travel with both to and from shows for display purposes. I've used it for twenty years.

My favorite appeared on the scene the same day as the chocolate cabinet was purchased. I passed it up at first for it was quite small and fairly expensive. Its shape however was extraordinary....front opening, black walnut and completely hand made. Each joint was very slightly different as to the angles of its joining members. Old glass all the way around this one



this time but the back was missing and would need to be replaced. All together it just had that special look and proportion that defies description but thrills perception. I replaced the back, mirrored its interior and had a thin piece of light Italian marble cut for the base. Outstanding!

Every one of these showcases was found on a weekend excursion away from home and the next one was no exception. A Texas town known at the time for its many antique shops turned up a special opportunity which



put me directly back in the rebuilding business in a big way. As soon becomes apparent, most showcases (conveniently for the proprietor) open in the rear. For the collector this is not the ideal feature as most of these cases must be pulled away from the wall in order to access the contents. Front loading showcases are a particular plus in this game and the showcase I found this day had this feature in spades. It was the top part of an umbrella/cane display cabinet that was found only in the exclusive haberdasheries. The overall cabinet originally consisted of a wooden floor standing base cabinet and the top part was a huge full width curved glass door which pivoted back into itself. In fact, there was an arm mounted inside and to the right which could be used

to rotate the heavy door open for the customer by the proprietor while standing at the back of it. There was a single back for both pieces originally and of course no bottom for the curved upper cabinet as the canes and umbrellas mounted vertically in a rack attached to the base on the bottom of the overall cabinet. This upper cabinet piece sat by itself without a bottom or a back. It had a narrow beveled glass top, two small curved sides of glass and the magnificent 48" curved front glass door all framed in oak (I was pretty sure as it was black as coal when I bought it). Paying the price was the easy part. Convincing my significant other that this was something to be treasured was harder. Lets see....total strip down and refinishing of the oak. Fashioning a bottom, applying molding all the way around the new base and staining it to match the refinished oak, a new back consisting of a pair of spring loaded panel styled doors with mirrors to the inside and period hardware. Ok...Ok, a little makeover is required once again. Add a base cover to suit my taste and the completed cabinet was placed on a narrow side table against the wall. It is the perfect cabinet for small and medium sized pieces.

Lovely curved glass fountain Pen and Gum showcases followed and work well for small items. There was even a nickel plated wood, glass and cast iron based cabinet for some type of astrological laboratory instrument and a small acid etched glass and wood Norvell Shapleigh cutlery/knife cabinet which works beautifully for ivory rules. My most recent acquisition is an oddly shaped vertical (concave) glass front cabinet that will also need moderate refurbishing inside.

All of these and others were acquired out of the same necessity to protect and proudly display my collection but the experience of reconditioning and rebuilding them opened much insight into the nature of their complexities. and an opportunity to put them back into the service of showing off and looking good....something they were designed to do even standing empty. .

... J. Goodson

### Members Lost

Dear Carl & Jim,:

Doyle McCullar. Doyle had been in poor health for several months, and died on Saturday evening (March 14, 2009). Doyle was well known within the tool collecting circles and an accomplished tool collector with a significant collection. He will be missed by collectors and friends everywhere.

Our thanks to David Hargis for this information

The SWTCA recognizes the passing of Johnny Smith of Nicoma Park Oklahoma on February 8th 2009. No details available.

## SWTCA Elections for 2009

SWTCA will have the annual election of officers, to be voted on by absentee ballot, for those not attending the semi-annual Meet in Albuquerque on Labor Day.

All members are encouraged to vote online with the secretary, Carl Blair, at [blademok@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blademok@sbcglobal.net), or by mail to **Carl, at 712 S. Linden Court Lane, Mustang, Oklahoma 73064-4140**, in the primary election. The final list of candidates will be voted upon at the Albuquerque Meet, counting all mailed or emailed absentee ballots, and by those voting in attendance.

All members are encouraged to write in any willing candidate's name, and those write ins will be listed on the final ballot. You can view the final ballot on the SWTCA website at [www.swtca.org](http://www.swtca.org)

### The candidates nominated by the Executive Committee at the Tulsa Meet are:

**President, Emery Goad**  
**Vice-President, Bud Blake or  
Gregor Mszar**  
**Secretary, Carl Blair**  
**Treasurer, Jim Shipman**  
**Editor, Jim Goodson**

Gregor Mszar was recently appointed as Director from North Texas to fulfill a vacancy.

Any person with more than 6 nominations as a write in, will be listed on the final ballot in advance of the Albuquerque Meet, and posted on the website. Everyone is encouraged to attend the semi-annual Meet, which will be held in conjunction with the **Rocky Mountain Tool Collectors**.

**!!! We have an estate of antique tools to sell at the auction !!!**

.... EMERY L. GOAD

## Great News For The Houston Regional SWTCA!!!

As my up coming re-location has put the Houston regional SWTCA meeting in a state of limbo, Pat Lasswell and Adrian Rogers have volunteered to host the show so that all those who have enjoyed getting together twice a year for the past 16 years may continue to do so. I continue to hear how special this show is from so many of

its long time attendees and from newcomers as well. I am excited about the upcoming new sponsorship which will allow this function to continue and improve with new input and ideas.

I wish to thank everyone who has helped to make this show something extremely special since its inception in my back yard in the early 1990s and then on to become a regional meeting affiliated with the SWTCA.

I look forward to seeing everyone back at the 'Hickory Hollow' this Fall for even more antique tool 'infusion' and confusion (and some severe 'ribbing'!)



Hickory Hollow BBQ Restaurant  
101 Heights Blvd.  
Houston Texas

**'On the Deck' Tool sales and Bar-B-Que spill out from the inside tables onto this outside deck area on mornings with pleasant weather**

.....Jim Goodson

SWTCA 2009 Fall Meeting to be held in Albuquerque New Mexico

**THE BIGGEST TOOL SHOW WEST OF THE MID-WEST**

Presented in a joint effort by  
**The Rocky Mountain Tool Collectors,  
The Southwest Tool Collectors,  
And The Mid- West Tool Collectors area L**

**COMING SEPTEMBER 5 & 6, 2009**

**AT THE**

**MCM ELEGANTE' HOTEL and EVENT CENTER**

**2020 Menaul NE ,Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107**

**1-866-650-4900 Toll free**

**More info please call Dave or Connie Fessler, (505)243-4905**

**A SEPARATE MAILING WILL BE SENT WITH ALL THE SPECIFIC  
INFORMATION NOT YET AVAILABLE!**

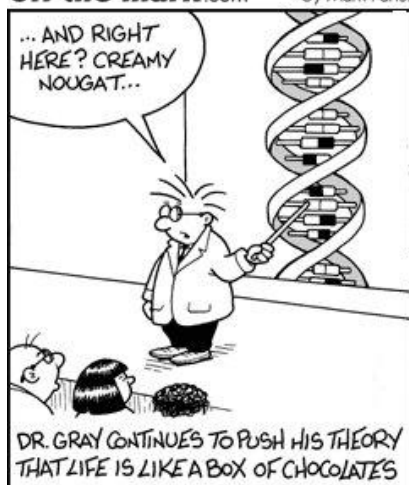
The annual Fall joint meeting of the Rocky Mountain Tool Collectors, the Southwest Tool Collectors and the Midwest Tool Collectors will be held on **September 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>** 2009. That is a Saturday and Sunday meeting venue to be held at the new **MCM Elegante'** in the heart of Albuquerque at the junction of I-25 & I-40 on Menaul just east of University. Room rates will be **\$79.00 per night** which includes a complimentary hot breakfast, 2 complimentary premium cocktails each evening and **complimentary shuttle service** to and from the airport, Historic Old Town, and nearby malls. There are many restaurants and areas of interest close to this location to take advantage of during your stay. Please make plans to attend, and enjoy the new facilities, the tool show, great weather and all there is to do.

There will be parking lot trading on Saturday morning before the doors open at 9:30. There will be an auction on Saturday evening after the banquet and on Sunday the doors will be open until noon for trading and packing up. Display tables and half tables will be free but require reservation ahead.

Registration prices (including banquet) and table rentals are to follow in a future notice. A conclusive show and event schedule will also be established by that time with all of the show details.

.....Editor

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



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LEPERS ... I HEAL LEPERS

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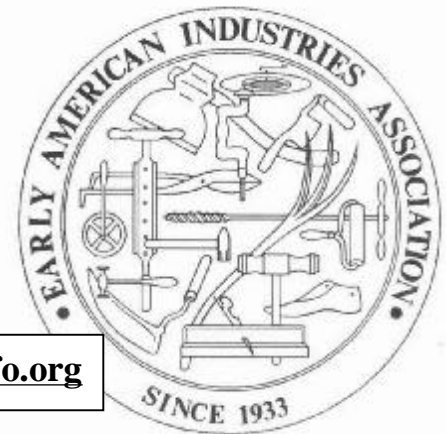


ONLY SPECIALLY TRAINED MECHANICS WERE ALLOWED TO OIL CHAIRS OF FIRE

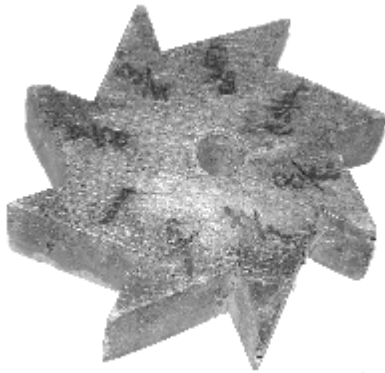
## Look into joining the MWTCA and the EAIA

As you read this issue of the SWTCA newsletter the bi annual (Spring) meetings for both the MWTCA and the EAIA will have concluded. Most but not all know that there are many many tool club meetings being held all over the country from East to West (and even here in the South!). As your preferences in collecting become ever more specific, its nice to know that there are many options still open in finding the right tools to fill your niche. Some allowances must be made however to place you in the right place at the right time to access availability. Sometimes this is over the computer or on the phone through dealer trading but the very best involves some travel and time to seek out the varied options offered by the large tool clubs. The combination of room trading, parking lot trading, trade room sales and the auction venue all provide a platform that is hard to compete with in anything near the time frame. Discussions, presentations, side trips and the social aspects of each gathering are additional benefits needing little if any extra time or cost to enjoy. If you're not finding what you really want and are not enjoying the 'adventure' as much as you would like to, make some plans to attend the event of your choice and convenience. You'll find that nothing perks up a stale hobby like a huge smile!

J.G.



[www.eaiainfo.org](http://www.eaiainfo.org)



This VERY interesting little tool showed up in one of member Jeff Gaston's various tool stashes. When you enter this particular 'depository' of relics it helps to bring standard issue climbing tackle with plenty of ropes and a light the size of a Naval signaling beacon on your head. As you work your way around the dim interior you can't help but notice a slight decline in the floor elevation towards the rear of the facility. Obviously Mother Earth can not justly offset the bounteous weight and total overload of objects there placed by said owner. Here the laws of physics bend slightly like the rays of light around an extreme mass. Matter as we know it may redefine itself. I know this to be true simply by pondering the odd shape of this little wooden 'star'

like object that on closer inspection turns out to be a very clever little marking gauge! Hand held (no beam required!), each little cog is referenced to 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch and the opposite side of the cog becomes an integral fence for scribing a line. Simple, convenient and highly effective. Correctly set the individual pins, apply the markings, a hanging hole through the middle and it couldn't be simpler! Leave it to Jeff to have an eye for the unusual and a love for simplicity.

J. Goodson

**Please send me your favorite tool stories and photos to publish for all our members to enjoy, comment about and expound on. Each of us has a stockpile of these as I hear them for hours at every meeting I attend. Share the fun and help sustain a variety of topics in our publication. The broader the nature of articles we present here the more our membership base stands to benefit. As our inquisitiveness expounds, so should our resources. We all can help make this happen.**

SWTCA editor....>springhill1@sbcglobal.net<

## SWTCA Spring Meeting 2009 – Tulsa Oklahoma

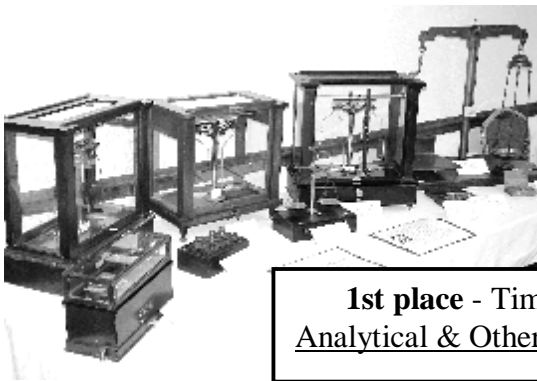
The terminology is tornado hunter and storm chaser I believe for those insane thrill seekers looking to be on hand at ground zero for one of nature's most significant atmospheric anomalies. I have a healthy respect for these people but always find myself scratching my head and asking WHY? ....

Fast forward to the SWTCA Tulsa Oklahoma show April 18<sup>th</sup> and I had my answer. The days preceding this event were filled with horrific weather including numerous tornados, flash flooding and driving wind and rain. From Houston Texas all the way to Northern Oklahoma there was no letting up on the pounding and the outlook through the following Sunday was offering no relief and in fact looked even worse. This was no ordinary storm front....and I couldn't wait to get out in the middle of it!

Friday morning early I turned off the weather report before leaving as it kept piling doom on top of gloom. Nothing to do but 'crank er up' and head 45 minutes North to Spring to pick up Pat Lasswell. So far so good as we piled his stuff on board and headed out for the remaining 425 miles prepared for the worst Mother nature could throw at us. When we reached the 'skirts' of Dallas we weren't disappointed. I'm sure I saw Noah's ark pass over our bow twice before we hit the North loop taking us to the home of Jeff Gaston who was the third member of our party. The waterworks stopped by the time we left Dallas for Tulsa and the trip up was cloudy but surprisingly uneventful.

It was Tim Hoss once again who initiated, hosted, produced, scheduled, greeted and oversaw the Spring SWTCA tool show in Tulsa Oklahoma. As a one man committee, he does it all and never complains (every woman's dream!). His summary of show details follows this article.

A HUGE salute goes to the outstanding array of displays that were prepared and presented by many of our members. These displays were the result of considerable time and effort by club members who wished to share their collections and expertise with the other members of the club. VERY Impressive..... a magnificent job!!



**1st place** - Tim Hoss  
Analytical & Other Balances

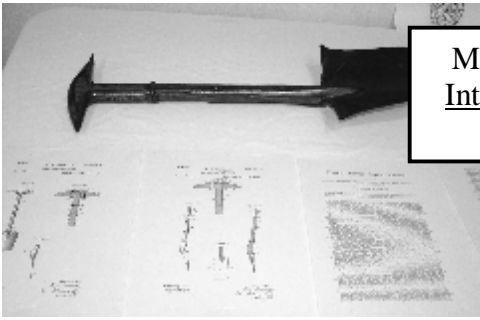


**2nd place** - Jeff Gaston  
Gotcha' Cornered

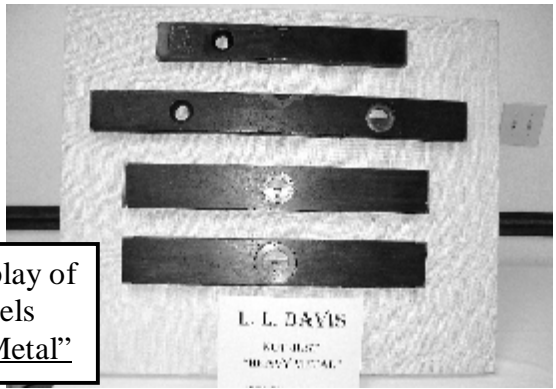


**3<sup>rd</sup> place** Rod Scheffler  
Trim Hammers 5,7,8 oz Claw

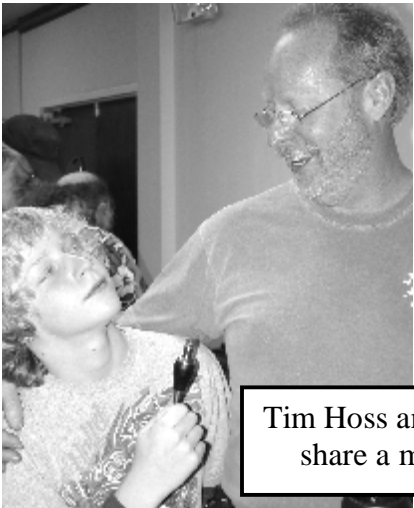
Tulsa often throws its worst at you as you pass through but the hearth inside is always warm! What a pleasure to arrive to the enthusiasm and smiles of those 'fellows of the trades' awaiting the opening of the doors in the early hours of the morning following. The Tulsa show has no sequential allowances for setting up so the unloading and setting up of trade tables, the setting up of displays on tables, greeting friends and the actual 'making of the rounds' all commence at the same moment (add registration if you are not pre registered). There is a lot to do from the get go and that which occurs next is the defining magic of the collector's passion.



Mike 'Rat' Urness display of Intrenching Implement and its U.S. patent papers.



Gregor Mszar display of Fine Davis Levels Not just "Heavy Metal"

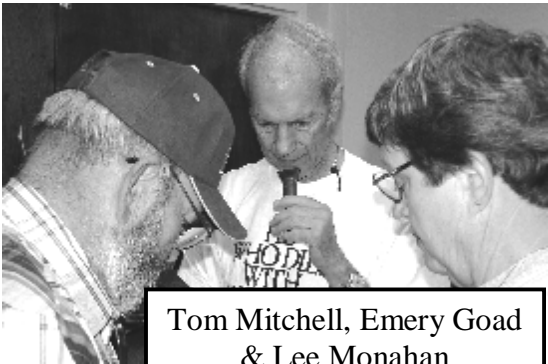


Jim Davis Masterpiece

Tim Hoss and son Eli share a moment

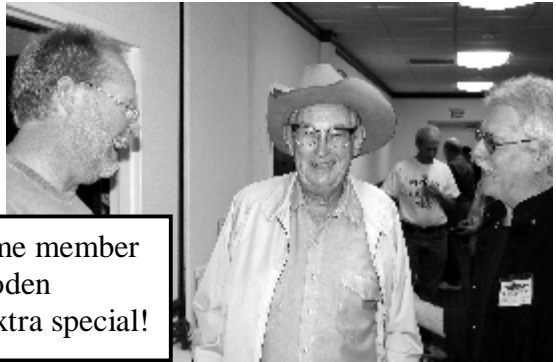


Tool Room Trading



Tom Mitchell, Emery Goad & Lee Monahan

Photos by J.Goodson

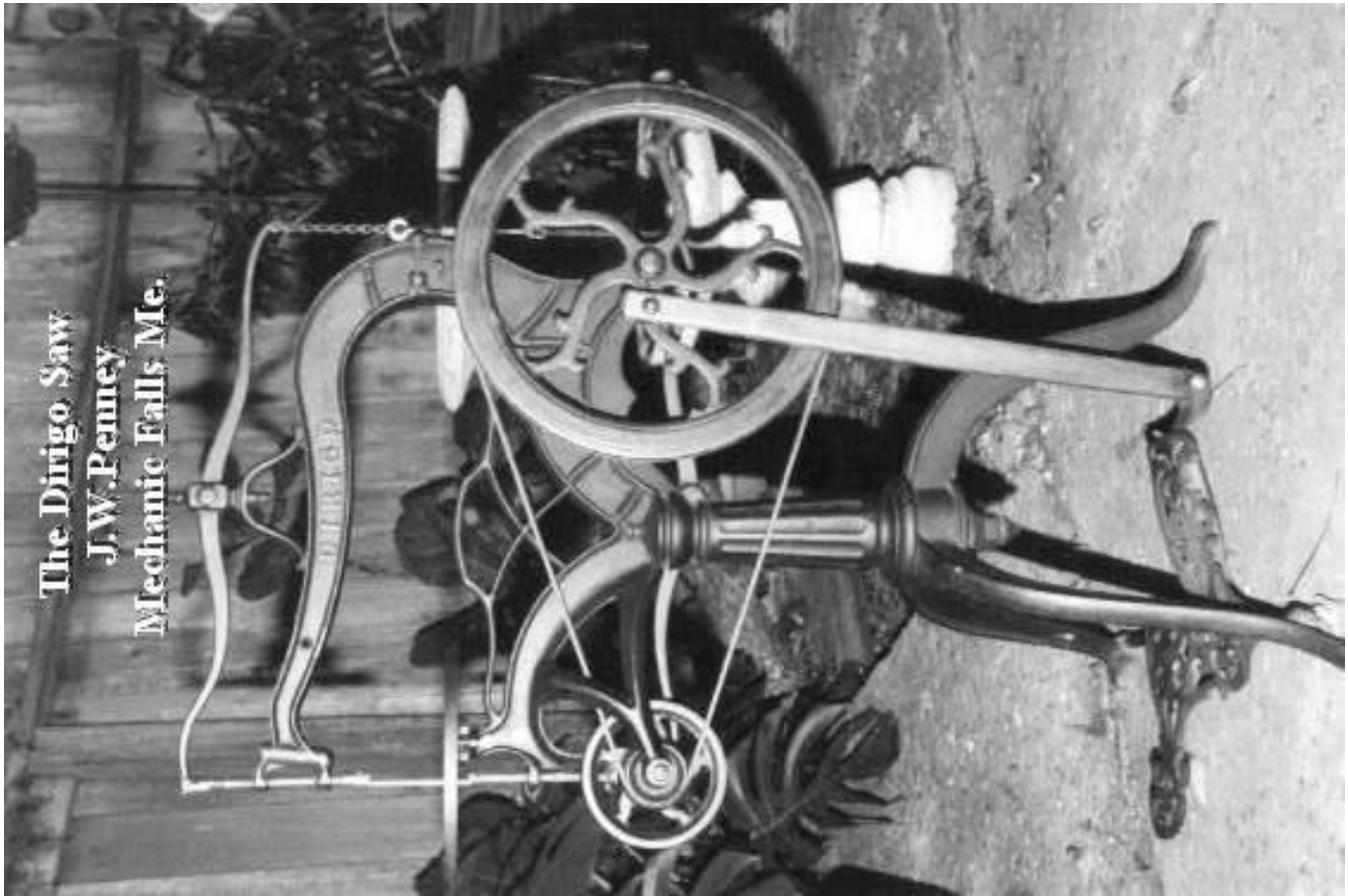


Honorary lifetime member Bill Wooden makes the day extra special!

Our return was right through the same event we arrived in and soon out of Tulsa we hit a monster gale and wash for about 10 minutes. Absolutely blinding, but we slowed and endured. Thankfully it ended rather quickly sprinkling most of the way to Dallas and then unexpectedly, sunshine most of the way home! We had lucked out this trip and somehow squeezed our way through most of the really severe weather. Arriving home I heard that one part of Houston very near to my home had 11 inches of rain in less than an hour! And so it was that I realized that storm chasing isn't worth such an incredible risk but I would easily navigate those same dangers for the opportunity to enjoy a SWTCA tool show and all the friends and excitement that go along with it.

J. Goodson

On Saturday, April 18th, the smell of rust once again hung heavy in the air, as dealers and collectors from Oklahoma , Missouri , Kansas , Texas and Arkansas descended on Tulsa for the SWTCA Spring Meet. The doors opened at 8:00 with around 30 tables heaped full of quality tools. As usual, initial trading quickly rose to a fever pitch, but once that first "feeding frenzy" was over the room settled down to a nice even pace that lasted throughout the remainder of the day. The show was well attended by club members and the public alike, with approximately 70 people coming through the doors. Bill and Ruth Wooden even stopped by for a visit with many long time friends. All in all it was a great day of tool trading and camaraderie. ....Tim Hoss (The SWTCA treasury broke exactly even on the registration receipts from this show).



Please return to:  
Carl Blair  
712 So. Linden Ln. Ct.  
Mustang Oklahoma 73064-4140  
Address correction requested