

SPLINTERS

Tennessee Valley Woodworkers

Vol. 13/ Issue 7

July 1999

Editor: Tom Gillard

Meeting Notice:

The next meeting of the TN Valley Woodworkers
Will be held, July 20, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. in the
Duck River Electric Building, Dechard, TN
All interested woodworkers are invited!

GETTING IT RIGHT:

Jim Roy is the chairman of the year 2000 show.

A hardy CONGRATULATIONS goes out to Richard Gully, who, after many years of hard work and dedication, graduated from Motlow recently.



Doyle and Juel's trip:

This is a Vase that Ray Allen had made. He had it with him at the Provo, Utah turning thing. It is 43 1/2" in diameter, 30 some inches deep, 5257 pieces of eight different woods. Took 1000 hours to make and it will be priced at \$40,000.00 in a gallery in California. Some piece of work.



Juel next to the bowl.

June 15, 1999 TVWW Minutes

The meeting was called to order by president Loyd Ackerman.

Welcome guests were - Doris Walker, Julie Roan, Henry Smith, Ron Baslock, Dr. Brad Beard, Gary Rigsby and Tina Rigsby.

Announcements - Jim Roy is EXPO 2000 chairman.

Old business - The club picnic, which was held at the Belvidere Community Center, raised \$216.00 for the club treasury. Loyd and chairman Tom Church thanked everyone who participated. Lynchburg Frontier Days will be held on July 2nd and 3rd, 1999.

New business - The Coffee County Fair will be held the week of September 20 to 26th. The club will attempt to maintain a presence for the week and have a full day of demonstrations on Friday and Saturday, September 24th and 25th.

Show and Tell -

Tom Church brought a wrecked apple bowl, a cherry bowl and a dogwood bowl.

Matt Brothers - a cherry night stand with natural finish. This was one of three that he made.

Jim Van Cleave - three relief carvings, one each in spruce, cherry and walnut. Jim also brought an osage orange maul that he uses in his carving work.

Manuel Brown - samples of a wooden truck and car and two segmented bowls.

Ted Baldwin - four wooden cars which his talent in making wooden toys. It was good to see Ted back. Thanks to Ross Roepke for bringing Ted to the meeting.

Billy May - two carved basswood gnomes and a basswood Santa that was painted.

Doyle McConnell - a picture of a large segmented bowl and a maple bowl that he is experimenting with dying the wood different colors. Doyle also had a talc turning.

Tim Halbeck - a dogwood flower relief carving and a rocking horse.

Gary Runyon - a quill wheel used in spinning and four cherry turnings including a darning tool and a miniature covered box.

After a short break Larry and Tim Halbeck presented an entertaining and informative program.

A total of 50 were in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted, John Green, secretary.

Tom's trip:

We just returned from Northern California. It is a wonderful place. We went to see the Big and Tall Trees.

Here is the first installment of some of the things we learned and saw on this trip.

We first went to San Jose. I thought of Ray Cole and his latest building project. The Winchester House is a strange but beautiful house.

Sarah Winchester, the eccentric heiress to the Winchester Arms fortune, built this Victorian mansion with the intent of baffling the evil spirits that haunted her. Construction lasted throughout her lifetime, only ceasing with her death, , at an estimated cost of five million dollars.

Located in San Jose, California this 160-room Victorian mansion is filled with opulent stained glass windows, ornate parquet floors, rich lincrusta wall coverings, and stairs that go nowhere! Built to confuse the spirits of those killed by the Winchester rifle, Mrs. Winchester kept carpenters busy round the clock for 38 years (1884-1922).

Amazing Facts

- ? Number of rooms: 160
- ? Cost: \$5,500,000
- ? Date of Construction: 1884 - September 5, 1922 (38 Continuous years!)
- ? Number of stories: prior to 1906 Earthquake - 7; presently 4
- ? Number of acres: originally 161.919; presently 4
- ? Number of basements: 2
- ? Heating: Steam, forced air, fireplaces
- ? Number of windows: frames 1,257, approx. 10,000
- ? Number of doors: doorways 467 approx., 950 doors not including cabinet doors.
- ? Number of fireplaces: 47 (gas, wood, or coal burning)
- ? Number of chimneys: presently 17 with evidence of 2 others
- ? Number of cars at her death: 2 (1 1917 Pierce Arrow Limousine & 1 1916 4 cyl. Buick truck)

- ? Number of bedrooms: approx. 40
- ? Number of kitchens: 5 or 6
- ? Number of staircases: 40, total of stair steps - 367
- ? Number of skylights: approx. 52
- ? Number of gallons of paint required to paint entire home: over 20,000
- ? Number of ballrooms: 2 (1 nearly complete and 1 under construction)
- ? Blueprints available: No, Mrs. Winchester never had a master set of blueprints, but did sketch out individual rooms on paper and even tablecloths!

After this we started toward the Park. There were a number of things that were bothering me as we drove. We were driving in brown grass plains and there were no trees in sight, just small bushes. This didn't seem to be the land of giants. We got the foothills of the Sierras and started up. The forest began to appear, but still no trees much larger than around here. As we climbed in altitude the trees started getting larger. As we entered the NP and couldn't believe our eyes. These were the largest trees I had ever seen. It is very humbling to stand in a forest of trees that are so large, old, and beautiful. It is so peaceful deep inside these forests. Most of the undergrowth in the forest is ferns. Very large ferns. The moisture in the air is squeezed out as the air is pushed up the slopes of the mountains. The trees and ferns like the extra moisture. It is a remarkable place.

Sequoia National Park: Just southeast of Fresno, CA. Also includes Kings Canyon NP.

This is America's second oldest National Park. Sequoia was created on September 25, 1890.

The world's 75 giant sequoia (*Sequoia-dendron giganteum*) groves grow on moist, un-glaciated ridges on the Sierra's west slope, between 5,000 and 7,000 feet of elevation. Only 8 groves lie north of Kings River scattered over nearly 200 miles. The rest occur south of the river at intervals of 4.5 miles or less in a 60-mile long belt. This Big Tree's range had shrunk to this area by about 2.5 million years ago when climates became drier.

Some 60 million years ago its ancestral species ranged more widely. Visually dominant in their groves, sequoias are part of the mixed-conifer forest that includes white fir, sugar pine, yellow pine, and incense cedar. The largest remaining sequoia groves are at Redwood Mountain in Kings Canyon NP and at Grant Forest in Sequoia NP.

Redwood Mountain grove covers 3,100 acres and has 15,800 sequoia trees more than one foot in diameter at their bases. Giant Forest is 1,800 acres and has 8,400 such trees. About 36,500 acres of sequoia groves remain in the Sierra, mostly under federal or state protection.

Sequoias don't die of old age and are resistant to fire and insect damage. Most die by falling over. These huge trees sprout from seeds as small and light as oat flakes. Mature trees may yearly produce 2,000 egg-sized cones bearing 500,000 seeds dispersed only as cones open. Cones hang on trees, green and closed, up to 20 years. Douglas squirrels or larvae of a cone-boring beetle may make a few cones open, but fire, usually caused by lightning, is the key to seed dispersal and seedbed fertility. It makes cones dry, open, and drop seeds. It lets sunlight in and burns logs and branches on the forest floor to ashes as fertilizer.

Earth's Largest Living Thing

In volume of total wood, the giant sequoia stands alone as the largest living thing on Earth. Its nearly conical trunk-like a club, not a walking stick-shows why. At least one tree species lives longer, one has a greater diameter, three grow taller, but none is larger. In all the world, sequoias grow naturally only on the west slope on the Sierra Nevada, most often between 5,000 and 7,000 feet. The General Sherman tree is between 2,300 and 2,700 years old. It stands 275 feet tall and has a circumference at the ground of nearly 103 feet. Its trunk weighs an estimated 1,385 tons. The estimated volume of this spectacular tree is approximately 52,500 cubic feet, or more bluntly 630,000 board feet. Its largest branch is almost seven feet in diameter. Each year the General Sherman adds enough wood growth to make a 60 foot tall tree of usual proportions. These trees have no taproot. The webbed roots of the large trees can cover as much as an acre. That is one of the reasons they can be toppled by high wind or heavy snow.

Before the protection of the Government, one of the only things that save these trees from the saw was the fact that, when sawed, the tree would break into pieces when it hit the forest floor. Like breaking a pencil into smaller sections.

(Official NP map and guide)

...more in upcoming additions.

It matters not if you try and fail, and fail, and try again.

But it matters much if you try and fail and fail to try again.

Rulan B. Stafield