

# NEWS 110



**DECEMBER 2009**

TTTG Inc. [www.tttg.org.au](http://www.tttg.org.au)

## ***Next Meeting***

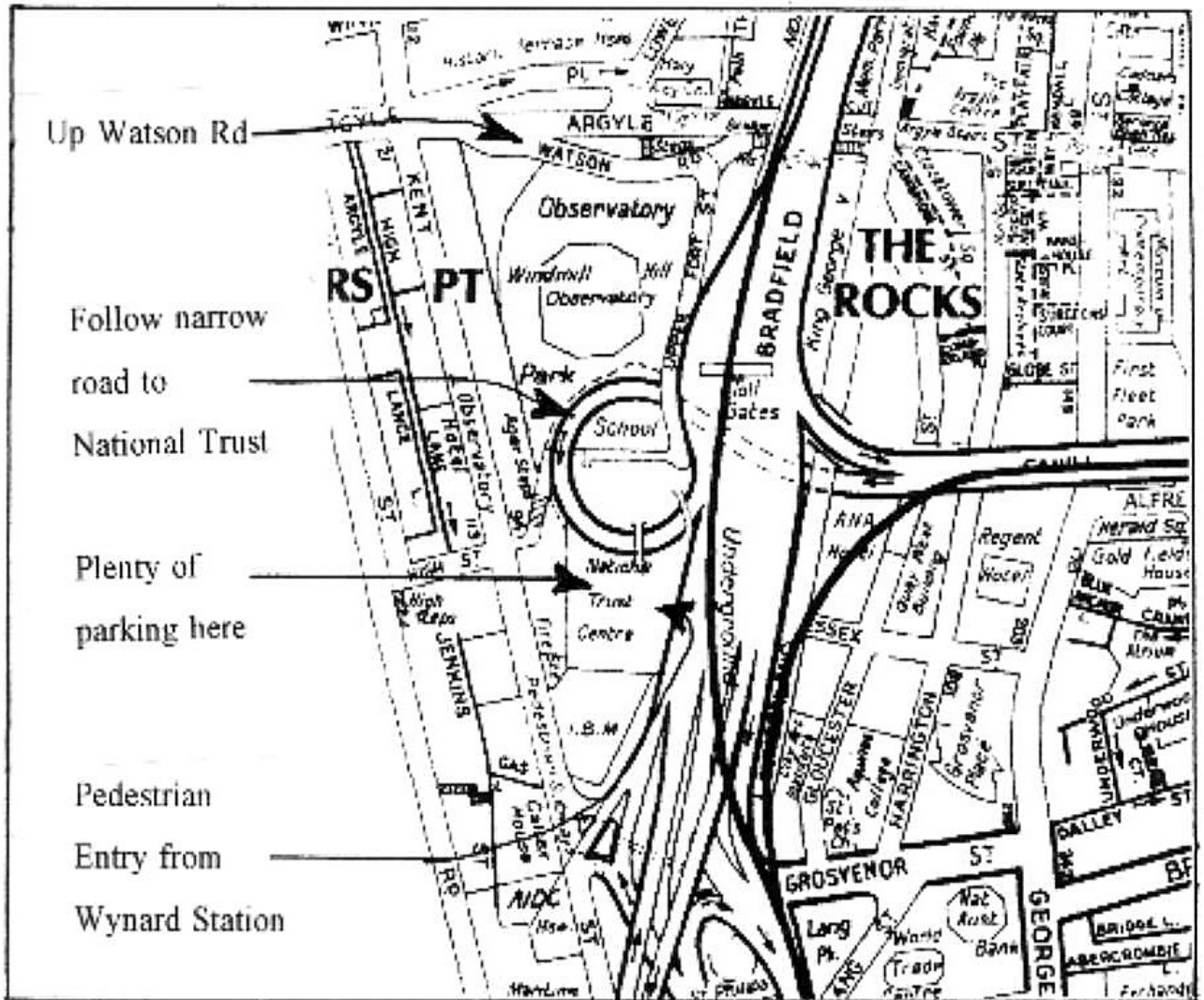
National Trust Centre  
Annie Wyatt Room

**Tuesday December 8th**

**"Doors Open" at 7pm**

**Entry \$5**

***Glass and Lead Light***



## **Postal Address**

P.O. Box N240 Grosvenor Place  
Sydney NSW 1220

## **Enquires**

Mike Williams 02 9144 6356  
Bob Crosbie [r.crosbie@bigpond.com](mailto:r.crosbie@bigpond.com)

***Membership \$30***

**[www.tttg.org.au](http://www.tttg.org.au)**

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### **Who made it?**

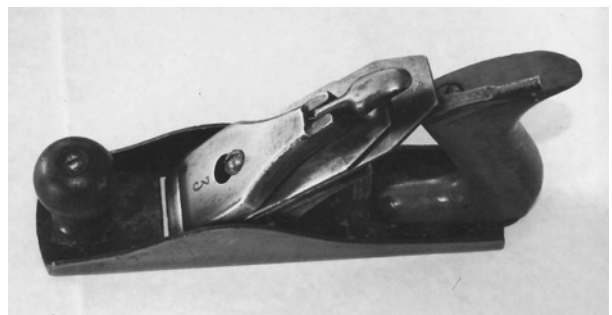
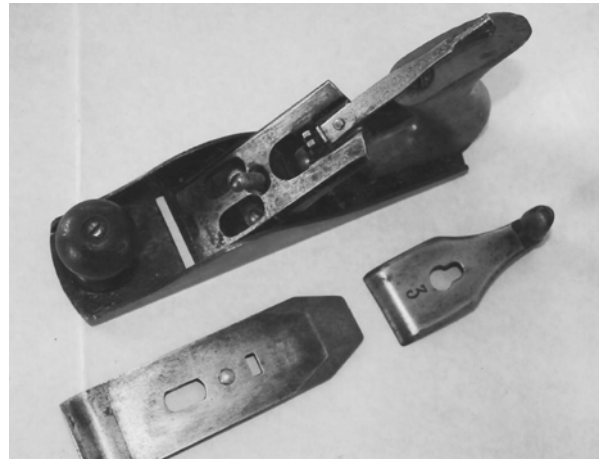
I need the help of TTTG members to identify the maker of this #3 plane.

The plane is similar to a Stanley #3 but it is made entirely from pressed steel.

The body and lever cap are both pressed metal construction and in my opinion very well made. Sadly it has no manufacturers' mark apart from a bold 3 stamped into the lever cap.

There is a B inside a square lozenge stamped on the blade.

### ***Can anyone identify this plane?***



Terry Butcher  
TTTG Southern Correspondent

Terry has sent his best wishes to the editors with the off the cuff comment ***NEWS gets better and better.***

## **Next Meeting**

***Tuesday 8 December***

### ***Glass and Lead Light***

#### **Kevin Little**

Kevin is a long-time member of TTTG and is a designer, maker and restorer of lead glass panels for churches, public buildings and period houses. He is a highly respected artisan in his field and regularly performs work for The Historic Houses Trust and The National Trust.

Kevin has given us talks on glass in the past; be it on the challenge of cutting difficult glass shapes to sharpening glass cutting tools, his talks have always been of great interest. This next talk on lead lights and the tools and techniques involved promises to be one which should not be missed.

#### **The Auction**

This will be an auction to remember.

A very large selection of quality tools.

*As usual all lots in **as found condition**.*

#### **The BARGAIN TABLE**

##### **Opens before the Auction**

All items \$1, \$2 or \$5.

Some items are presented in plastic bags.

*Prices set by the TREASURER!*

#### **Warning**

Examination of auction lots before the auction must be approved and supervised by a TTTG Committee Member.

## **Previous Meeting**

***Tuesday 13 October***

### **Combination Tools**

The concept of universal tools has a long history. For economy and for convenience the combination of several tools in one tool has appealed to inventors and users.

***Fred's presentation vindicated the words written to promote this meeting.***

The range of combination tools on display was awe inspiring, not only for the variety of the tools but also for the "world class" quality of many of the artefacts.

The audience were engaged in a very lively discussion and were enthralled by the tools on the presentation table.

### **The TTTG Tool Collection**

TTTG has amassed a large collection of old tools over the years. In a true sense this has happened almost by chance.

The tools are stored in various locations and the Committee is acutely aware of the criticism some individuals must endure for storing "other peoples junk".

*At the last committee meeting the tools in the collection were examined and a decision was made to dispose of some of the tools surplus to TTTG's needs.*

The second step of organising a meeting to cull the collection has taken time but this should become reality in early 2010

#### ***TTTG Tool Collection Action Day***

Date to be announced in News 111

Venue: Strathfield Men's Shed

***Conservation programme and Sale of unwanted TTTG tools***

## Cover Pages

### Front Page

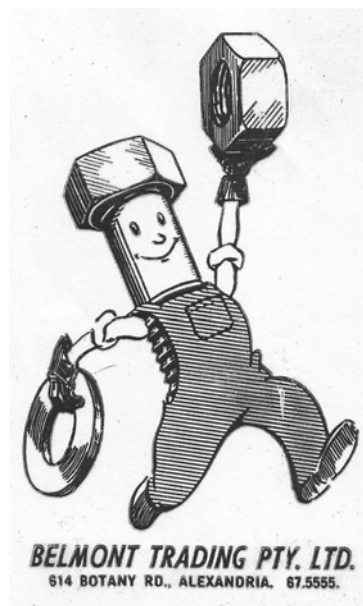
The editor might not 'have religion' but he likes to have a Christmas issue on the cover of the December issue of NEWS.

*I also wanted to write an article this time on the theme of Christmas in the 1950s U.S.A. style.*

Even the preliminary research turned up a 'Santa's bag' of irresistible images. The image on the front of News 110 is taken from a Dremel Power Tools advertisement in the December 1956 issue of the U.S.A. magazine Popular Mechanics.

For more on a very American Christmas **Tools for Christmas, 1950's U.S.A. Pages 28 to 31**

**The editor is seeking any information about this logo for Belmont Trading**



### The 2010 Hands-On Expo

Royal Hall of Industries

Moore Park Sydney  
19th to 21st March, 2010

*TTTG will be represented at this event*

## Chris Vesper Mallet



*"I design, manufacture and sell the best woodworking hand tools available anywhere. As a woodworker myself I know what it takes to produce quality workmanship, with ease. User friendly tools are a damn good start, after that, its patience and practice."*

*Chris Vesper, Toolmaker.*

Chris Vesper's email newsletter has an update on his cast mallet project.

This mallet promises to be another superb Australian made tool. It will not be cheap but quality rarely is!

Chris Vesper's email newsletter contains interesting information about the tools he makes and other items of interest.

### Subscribe at:

<https://www.vespertools.com.au>

### Next TTTG Workshop Sharpening Edge Tools

**28 February 2010**

Asquith Boys High School  
Jersey Street. Asquith.

**Registration 9am.**

## Mystery Object

An associate of TTTG in Adelaide has sent pictures of a tool for identification.



### ***Mike William's theory***

I have told him that I think that it is a sail maker's combination serving and rubbing tool. Although I have never seen such a combination, it makes sense and the tool would seem to have all the requisite characteristics to do both jobs. I imagine that the splice to be served is positioned in the curve at the front and the ball of serving hemp is held by hand in the depression on the top face. The whole front is cased in brass except where the splice would be positioned. The brass bottom and the wedge at the back of the wooden handle could be used for rubbing stitched sail seams.

### ***Fred Murrel's observations***

It certainly would work as a serving mallet but I don't see a clear purpose for the thin end which is curved on one side and flat on the other. If it was for rubbing seams it would normally be rounded with the sides parallel. The purpose of the square cut-out section of the handle is also unclear to me - a mallet used for parcelling and serving is usually round so the binding cord can be wrapped around it so leverage can be applied as the cord would be slippery and the parcel needs to be bound tightly.

### ***Editor's Comment***

Unlike Mike and Fred I offer no comments on the possible use of this tool.

***I am confident a TTTG member will know what this tool is!***

Suggested uses for this tool are sure to inundate the editor.

***For the best replies see NEWS 111.***

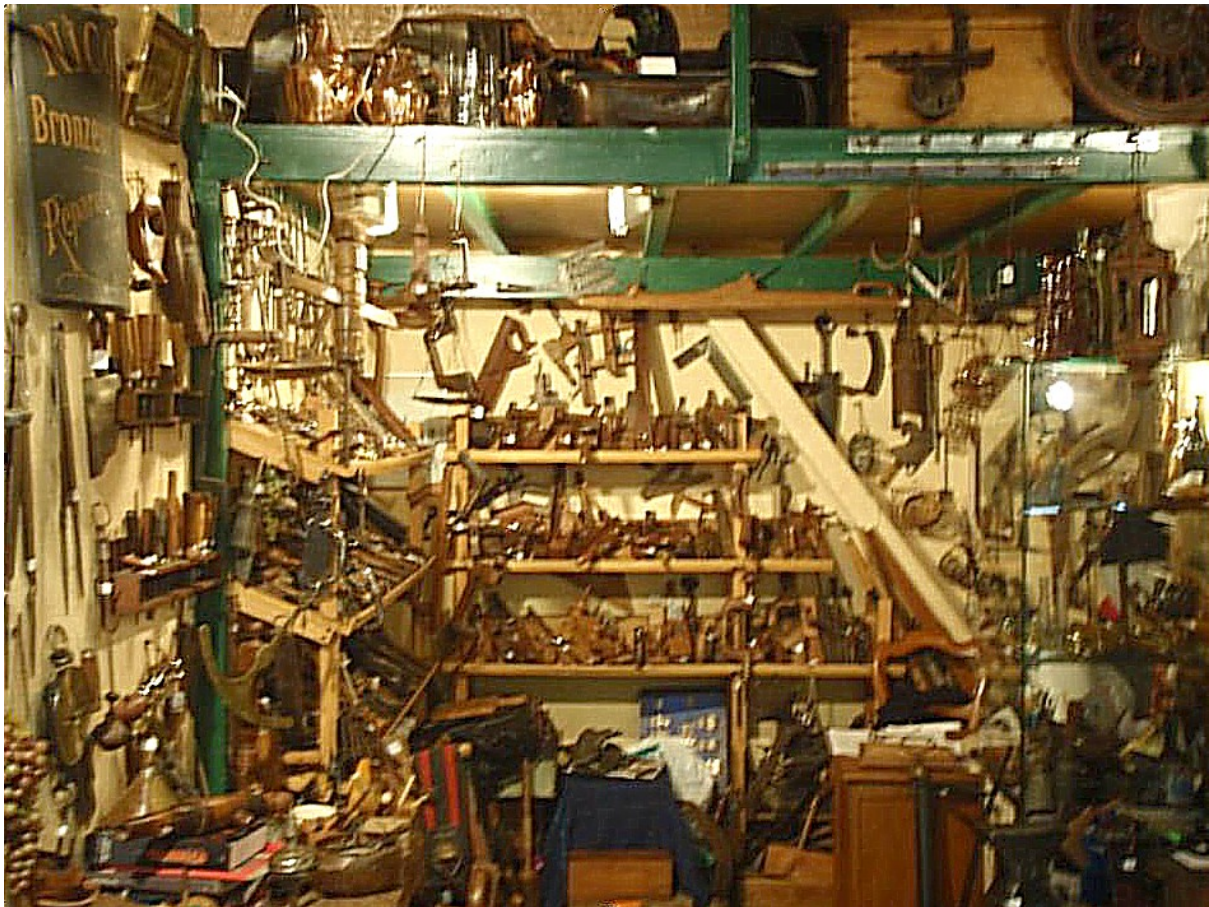
## Correspondence

Allan S Towart emailed to confirm his booking for the Saw Sharpening workshop on the 27/9/09 and attached some photos taken while travelling.

*Attached are some photos of old tools that I came across in the markets of Mon Mart in Paris. I thought they may be suitable for including in NEWS.*

Allan attended the workshop and told me that his only regret about the Paris visit was not being able to bring more tools home!

***The editor welcomes photos from members for inclusion in NEWS.***



**Colin Sullivan emailed,**

*Thanks for sending the News 109, I am thrilled to see that you had published all the things I sent over.*

*As Brian Read said you have a much more 'Hands on approach' than we do with all your teaching and demonstrating.*

*I hope the stuff on Robert Towell produces some feedback and if anyone wants my email please give it to them. I will send some pictures of the new demo room TATHS have at Amberley Museum, because that is what we are trying to foster there, although volunteers are so difficult to get!*

***A Robert Towell Plane? page 16***

## 2010 Tool Sale

**In 2010 TTTG will hold a tool sale.**



***This sale is a 100% TTTG Sale!***

*The venue of the TTTG Tool Sale will be*  
**Asquith Boys High School.**

*The date of the TTTG Tool Sale will be*  
**Sunday May 2.**

***Entry fee is only \$5.***

***Good parking and refreshments.***

*TTTG Inc. makes these commitments:*

- Sales will be held each year at set times
- Everyone trading will hire selling space
- No trading on the TTTG Table
- TTTG will demonstrate tool use
- TTTG will identify tools
- The entry fee will be fair
- All traders 'by invitation only'.

## Tool Sale Bulletin

At the last Committee meeting the TTTG Tool Sale flyer on the back was approved. This flyer has been designed and printed by Horacio Rodriques and will be used to promote the TTTG Tool Sale.

The wording opposite was also approved by the Committee for inclusion in News. *Attention is drawn to the commitments TTTG is making for all TTTG Tool Sales.*

The Committee also selected a team to organise and promote the TTTG Tool Sale.

Horacio will take responsibility for all the information disseminated to the public. This means he will approve and distribute all printed and electronic information about the 2010 TTTG Tool Sale.

Clynt will be the contact person for the TTTG Tool Sale. Any questions about the sale should be directed to Clynt.

Clynt will also take bookings for tables at the TTTG Tool Sale.

A team of TTTG members known to do a bit of buying and selling of tools will draw up an eligibility list of potential traders at the TTTG Tool Sale. Clynt will contact approved vendors and issue invoices and collect payments.

***Already interest from potential sellers for the TTTG Tool Sale is strong.***

TTTG is determined to ensure everyone has the best possible chance of buying and of selling at the TTTG Tool Sale.

The Committee looked at the possibility of providing uniform tables at the sale and several options were costed, including the group making up tables. The figures came down in favour of buying folding tables. Everyone trading will get the same space for the same price.

***TTTG Tool Sale Bulletin News 111 update on the planning of the sale.***

## **TTTG SCHOOL PRIZE**

TTTG is offering an annual prize for achievement in a wood based H. S. C. Wood based Subject at Asquith Boys High School.

TTTG has selected this school because of the association the late Les Miller had with the school and also as the school is the venue for TTTG workshops and tool sales.

The annual prize will only be awarded to a student achieving an outstanding level of quality production of the major project for Industrial Technology.

The inaugural prize will be a

**\$150 Carba -Tec Gift Voucher**

*The name of the 2009 Winner will be announced at the next meeting (December 8).*

The establishment of this prize is another way of promoting and acknowledging traditional skills by The Traditional Tools Group.

## **TTTG PRIZE TROPHY**

The names of the winners of the TTTG School Prize will be engraved on a trophy.

*The trophy will be on display at Asquith Boys High School.*

**We need a volunteer to make the trophy.**

## **TTTG Reviewer**

*Jim Bradman has accepted the task!*

Jim will read the publications of similar associations and write regular reviews for TTTG News.

The reviews will be comprehensive but not a critical critique of the content.

The reviews will provide a brief synopsis of each journal's content.

The editor will continue to publish reviews of books and magazine articles of interest to TTTG members.

The editor will continue to publish reviews of tools and similar items of interest to TTTG members.

Readers are encouraged to submit comments on or reviews of any publications of interest to readers.

*The reviewer can be anonymous!*

*However any reviews providing a critique of an article or book will be published with the reviewer's name.*

**Jim's first reviews will appear in News 111.**

## **The Insert**

**RECORD** Woodworkers' Vices, Cramps, Etc. (1939)

This complimentary TTTG reprint is the latest TTTG publication.

Additional copies can be ordered at only \$5 per copy plus postage.

A number of TTTG CDs are still available at only \$10 per copy plus postage.

## JD's Workshop Snaps

John Daniel

Initially TTTG was a little hesitant to extend our workshops from basic tool maintenance to actually them, however we 'bit the bullet'.

**Woodworking Tools 1**, proved a success with a variety of activities being covered by the eclectic skills of our team teachers.



***It is all about technique; however a sharp blade is a bonus.***

It was interesting to be part of the banter coming from the different background experiences of the 'instructors'. All the 'students' left with an air of confidence in basic plane craft and the use of marking and measuring tools.

One participant is now experienced in the technique of 'hammer veneering'.



(We were all impressed by Darryl's ability.)

***All focussed with the challenge ahead.***

***All the presenters feel it is a privilege to have the opportunity to work with such pleasant and receptive workshop participants.***



***Nice and straight and actually square.***

Woodworking Tools 1 October 25

Woodworking Tools 2 November 29

***If I remember the camera there will be some snaps of Woodworking Tools 2 in News 111.***



***A couple of 'old hands' comparing their buys from the bargain table.***

### ***Workshop themes wanted.***

The TTTG workshops are tailored around the interests of the TTTG members.

If you want a workshop on a topic of special interest to you talk to a committee member.

## **2010 TTTG Workshops**

*First Half 2010*

The TTTG Workshop programme for the first half of 2010 is comprised of three popular workshops on the theme of tool care and sharpening.

The three workshops are;

### **Sharpening Edge Tools**

**28 February 2010**

### **Plane Tuning**

**18 April 2010**

### **Saw Sharpening**

**24 May 2010**

As well as these workshops TTTG will be present at the Hands-On Expo on 19-21 March 2010 and will have the TTTG Tool Sale on 2 May.

The three workshops offered in the first half of 2010 are always well attended and provide sound basic instruction in tool care and use.

These workshops will be followed by workshops on tool use and technical skills in the second half of 2010.

TTTG welcomes comments and suggestions about the workshops. If you have a suggestion for a workshop or a request for a workshop talk to a committee member or contact the editor.

All the workshops are 'hands-on' and participants should bring the tools they already use or want to use.

***The 2010 Workshop Programme leaflet is available on request.***

## ***Sharpening Edge Tools***

**28 February 2010**

***Experience what sharp means.***

All grinding and honing methods will be demonstrated and explained.

Chisels and Gouges, Scrapers & Drawknives as well as plane irons.

## ***Plane Tuning***

**18 April 2010**

***Experience a fully fettled plane***

A refresher on sharpening plane irons.

Flattening plane soles.

Repairs and replacement parts.

Tuning all planes, metal & wood

## ***Saw Sharpening***

**24 May 2010**

***Experience how a sharp saw cuts.***

Learn how to sharpen and set saws

All basic tools are provided

Files and some old saw-sets on sale

### **Workshop commitments**

You will understand what sharp means when you leave!

You will want to come back!

The TTTG workshops are reasonably priced and real value for money.

***TTTG members get a discount.***

## **THE LEDGER**

### **New Members**

On behalf of the TTTG Executive and Members, a welcome is extended to eight new members:-

<b>Robert Douglas</b>	<b>M 560</b>
<b>Alan Flett</b>	<b>M 561</b>
<b>Denis Williams</b>	<b>M 562</b>
<b>Chris Vesper</b>	<b>M 563</b>
<b>Bob McIntyre</b>	<b>M 564</b>
<b>Abraham Lam</b>	<b>M 565</b>
<b>David Lessells</b>	<b>M 566</b>
<b>Jeremy Kriewaldt</b>	<b>M 567</b>

### **TTTG Workshops**

The 2009 TTTG Workshop programme was completed on the 29<sup>th</sup> November with the **Woodworking Tools 2 Workshop (Saws & Chisels)**. This issue of "The Ledger" was filed with TTTG Secretary, Mike Williams, prior to that Workshop but I am confident that it was enormously successful as have been all our Workshops.

A full programme of TTTG Workshops will again be held during 2010 (See February TTTG NEWS No. 111 for the Schedule).

The Workshops cater for people at all skill levels from beginner to advanced artisan. No matter what your skill level, you will learn a lot at our Workshops.

These all-day Workshops are held at Asquith Boys' High School, Jersey Street North (J-12 on Gregory's/UBD Map 191), starting at 9:30 am.

TTTG workshops teach not just skills but provide a day of enjoyment and

camaraderie. Many of our members joined TTTG as a result of their attendance at our workshops.

At recent Workshops, President Bob has brought along heaps of old tools and fasteners which have been provided by their owners to be sold on consignment (TTTG gets 20% commission). At the Workshops great old tool bargains are often to be had.

Workshop entry costs \$20 for members; \$40 for non-members, (non-members may join on the day for a total of \$50 to enjoy the numerous delights of TTTG membership). Tea/Coffee and bickies provided; bring your lunch if you need to. Enter Asquith Boys' High School from Jersey Street Nth; drive 'round past the playing field to the Manual Arts Building.

### **Rise in TTTG Subscriptions**

TTTG Subscriptions have remained unchanged at \$30 p.a. since the club's inception in 1991. However, price rises have meant that your \$30 subscription no longer covers the cost of printing and posting out your copy of TTTG News and these costs have been borne partially by other income such as workshop fees.

This was brought to the attention of members at TTTG's AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 when I delivered our financial report. The members spontaneously supported (without any voiced opposition) a move to increase the annual subscription to \$35 for (and from) the 2010-11 financial year. (The subscription for CentreLink pensioners and for those members living in Australia but more than 50 km from the GPO, Sydney will rise from \$25 p.a. to \$30 p.a.)

However if you pay in advance your 2010-11 (or subsequent year) subscription prior to 30<sup>th</sup> March,

2010, the \$30 rate will continue to apply. (One of our members has paid for ten years in advance which will be covered at the \$30 rate.)

### ***Why We Need Your E-mail Address***

After each mailout of TTTG NEWS, we invariably receive a few copies back stamped "Return to Sender, Not Known at this Address". When moving house, a TTTG member has so many organisations to notify that TTTG could easily slip your memory. If we have your E-mail address, it's easy to contact you to find out where you live so that we can redirect your copy of TTTG NEWS.

Also if a venue or date for a TTTG Event has to be changed at short notice then having your E-mail address would expedite letting you know. If you don't remember having previously supplied us with your E-mail address, or if you've changed your E-mail address, please let me know at [treasurer@tttg.org.au](mailto:treasurer@tttg.org.au)

### ***Some dates to note for 2010***

Sydney Hands-on Expo

(Moore Park) 19-21 March, 2010

The Traditional Tools Group's Tool Sale  
(Asquith Boys' High School) Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
May, 2010

Sydney Timber and Working With Wood  
Show (Moore Park)

18-20 June, 2010

Sydney Tool Sale & Swap (Henry's tool  
sale)

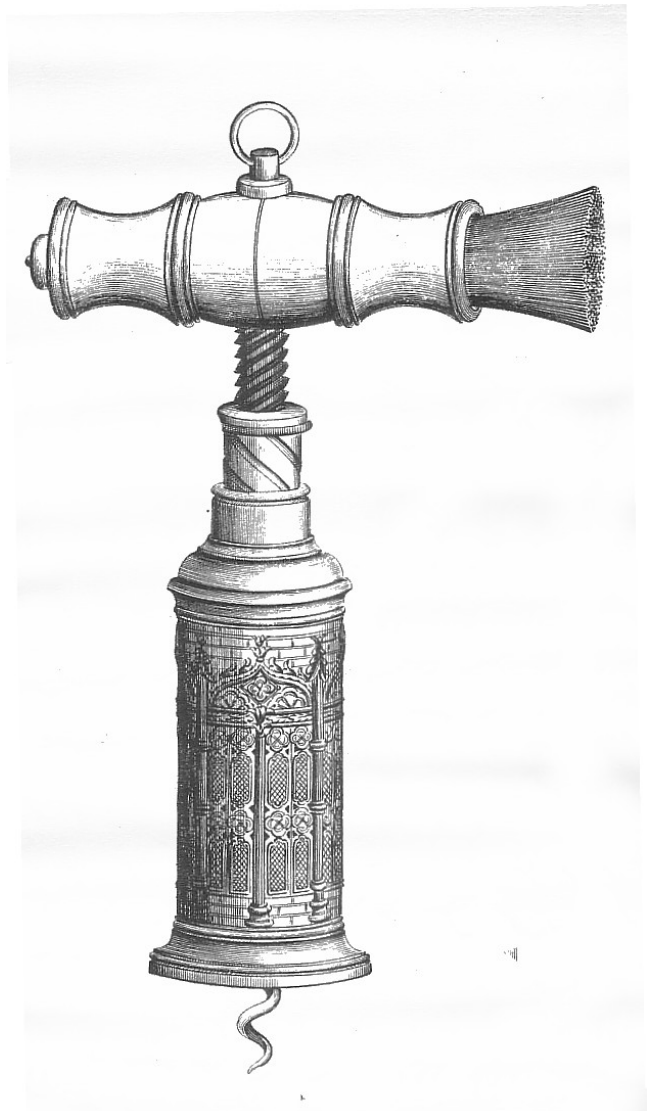
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2010

### ***Merry Christmas***

Compliments of the season; see you all at the first TTTG Meeting of 2010 on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February at the National Trust Building on Observatory Hill.

Clynt Sheehy

Treasurer



### ***Just the thing for that Christmas Cheer!***

A Victorian King's Pattern patent corkscrew in bronze, bone and steel with badger-hair dust brush.

# JD's

John Daniel

## A Moment of Reflection

I was participating in a Woodcraft event in the 'Old Kiama Fire Station'. It was early afternoon and the sun was highlighting the name and date of the old Tory Hotel diagonally across the Street.



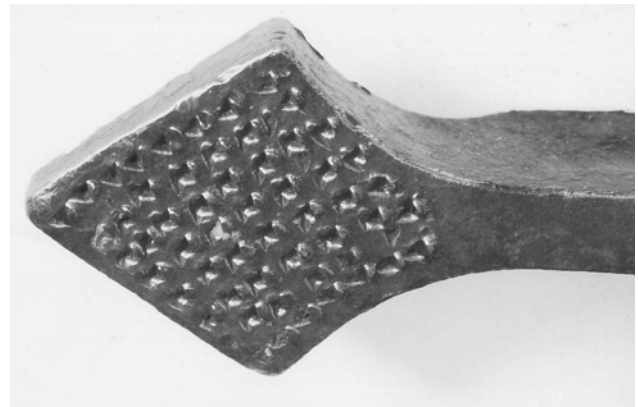
This impressive building proudly displays the date 1888.

George Tory and his family originally came from Queensland to establish this business. *This stirred my memory*; I had picked up several tools and several brass nameplates (2 1/2" x 1 1/8") at a local sale many years ago. They had belonged to a George Tory, Billiard Table maker from Brisbane. The date and style of the tools indicated that they would have belonged in a 19<sup>th</sup> Century tool box. All had either the initials or the name of the owner, could this be the same George Tory?

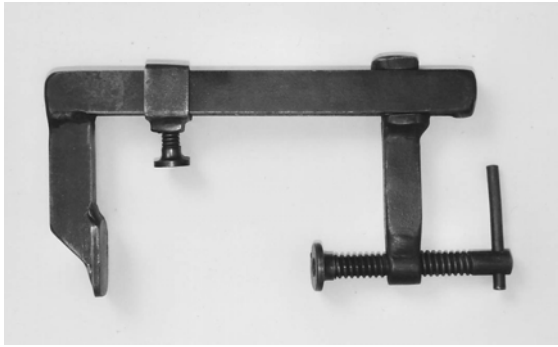


Now, reverting to the tools with renewed interest, I focused on a blacksmith made 'G' style cramp, the Smithy most likely operating in Brisbane in the same time slot as the Billiard table maker. This 'G' cramp illustrated well the wide variety of skills of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Blacksmith.

The cramp's elegant lines show an appreciation of design and understanding of the function of the tool. The cramp may have been lengthened at one time as there is evidence of a six inch (150mm) length welded into the middle of the bar. The non slip cramping face resembles that of a hand forged horse rasp, maybe the blacksmith was a deft hand in this field also. The hand punched initials of the owner, accompanied by the brass name plates not only suggests the provenance of the tools but also supports my earlier comment concerning the operational time slot of the blacksmith.



Digressing a little, however still focused on 'G' cramps, another example has just come to mind (no connection of course with the Tory tools). There is nothing elegant about this 'G' cramp, however its unique fabricated construction, with its side cramp addition is worthy of mention.



I found this cramp several weeks back at a local market, possibly a foreign order out of steel fabrication workshop in the 1950s. The fabricator gave the project a lot of thought and honed his skills along the way. Many companies were aware of these 'lunch time' projects as long as they didn't interfere with productivity.

*Two 'G' cramps made over seventy years apart, both handmade and both well made, both are basic tools designed to do a basic job.*

Basic tools over the years seldom change. Perhaps with technology the materials chosen in manufacture may alter, or a variation in application may add some modifications, however in this case , a cramp is a cramp, designed to temporarily hold pieces together- what concept could be better than a G?

We see so many attempts to re-invent the wheel and still end up with a round thing with an axle through the centre. Why change things just for the sake of change?



**Kiama**

**Woodcraft Expo**

Second weekend March 2010

John Daniel will be there!

Kiama is a great place to visit.

## A Robert Towell Plane?

*John Daniel*

Is this a plane made by Robert Towell, a copy, or a plane design common to the period when the marked Towell planes were made?

Robert Towell planes date to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

*If you have a similar plane please send a photograph to the TTTG Editor*

*The plane's details:*

Body: Length 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" Width 2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>".

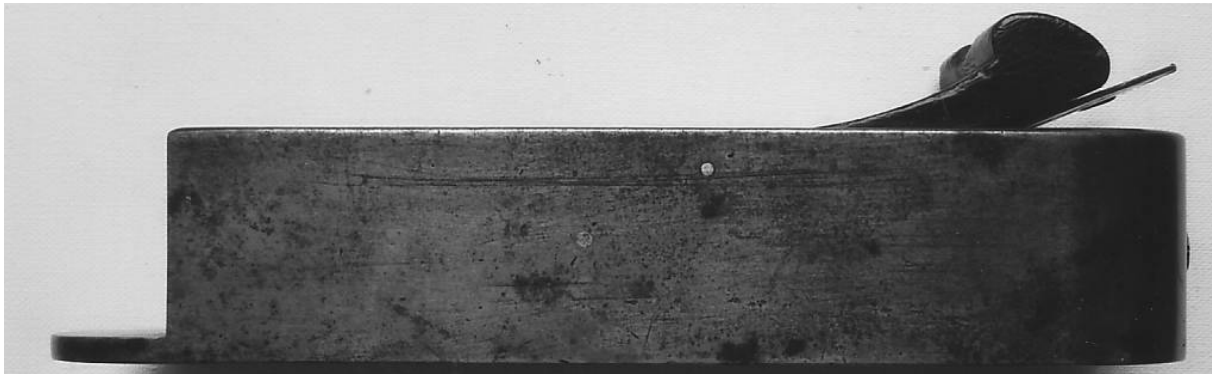
Sole: Length 10 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>".

Blade Angle: 22 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> degrees

Blade: W. Greaves & Sons  
(not original).

Blade holding: Cupid's Bow.

Infill: Rosewood held by screws.



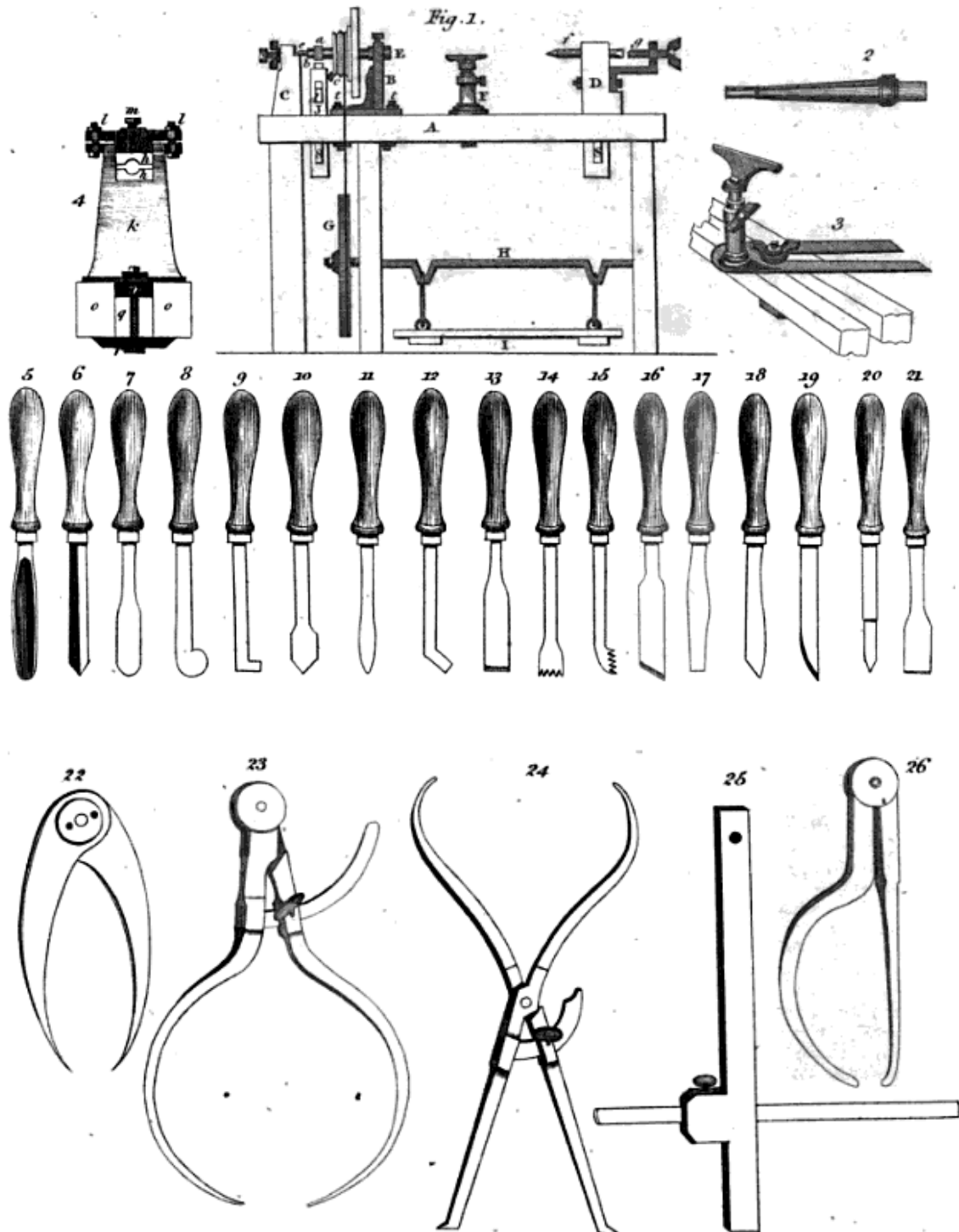
### **Editor's Comment**

This plane has all the features of a early 19<sup>th</sup> Century plane and has details consistent with other planes marked Robert Towell.

# Turning Tools in 1813

T U R N I N G .

Plate. 1.



Thomas Martin's The Circle of the Mechanical Arts. London 1813

## Veritas Tote Cutter

Jim Davey

### ***This is terrific.***

The first picture shows a tote from my last batch machined by the previous method.

I have discussed this method, using a round over cutter, at the *Turning and Pattern Routing Workshops*. As you can see in the picture the machined handle is burnt and has torn fibre.



The second picture shows my setup for the *Veritas Tote Cutter* as is used. There are 2 brass pins from the Pattern down into the Wood Blank.



The Pattern is screwed to the Top Plate and Handles attached to the Top Plate.

The Top Plate is cut out a little larger than the Pattern to allow for the nut of the Bit which sticks quite high. This doesn't compromise the strength of the 10mm thick Top Plate.



I have another Template which was drawn off the Pattern, used to mark out the shape on the Wood Blank and to mark position of the Locating Pin holes and the other two large holes. I used a larger hole than the drawing suggested in the bottom curve - 1". I cut the Blank 1-2mm oversize.



## How it performs

This set up is very easy to use and lot safer than my previous method. I did a light cut and then a finishing cut. The router speed is slow – maybe less than 10,000 rpm

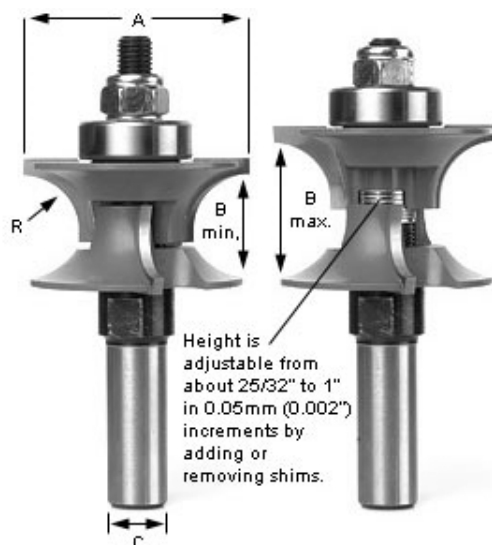
***No tear out and only one spot of burn where I lingered.***



## A couple of tips

I started by thickening the wood to about 0.94" (about 15/16")

There is a very small step on one side which I can take out by either raising the Cutter or adding a thin Shim.



## Jim Davey's Web Page

Jim has a web page full of useful stuff about sharpening and tools.

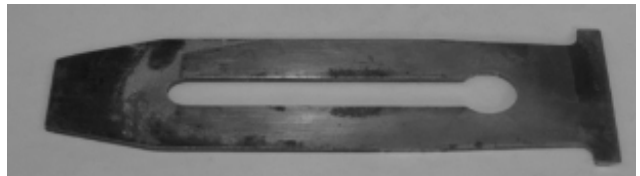
The address is:

[www.jimdavey-planes-sharpening.com](http://www.jimdavey-planes-sharpening.com)

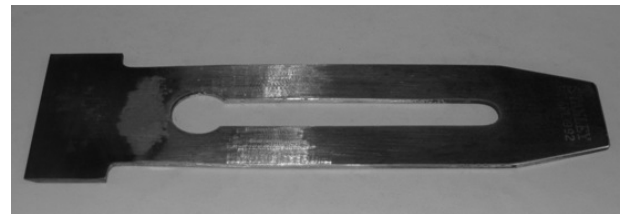
Jim's Web Page is well designed and very user friendly.

Jim is well known for his skill at welding cast iron. The account of his repair of a very worn early Bailey plane iron further demonstrates Jim's metal working skills.

## ***A well worn Carriage Rebate blade***



## ***The same blade after a bit of work***



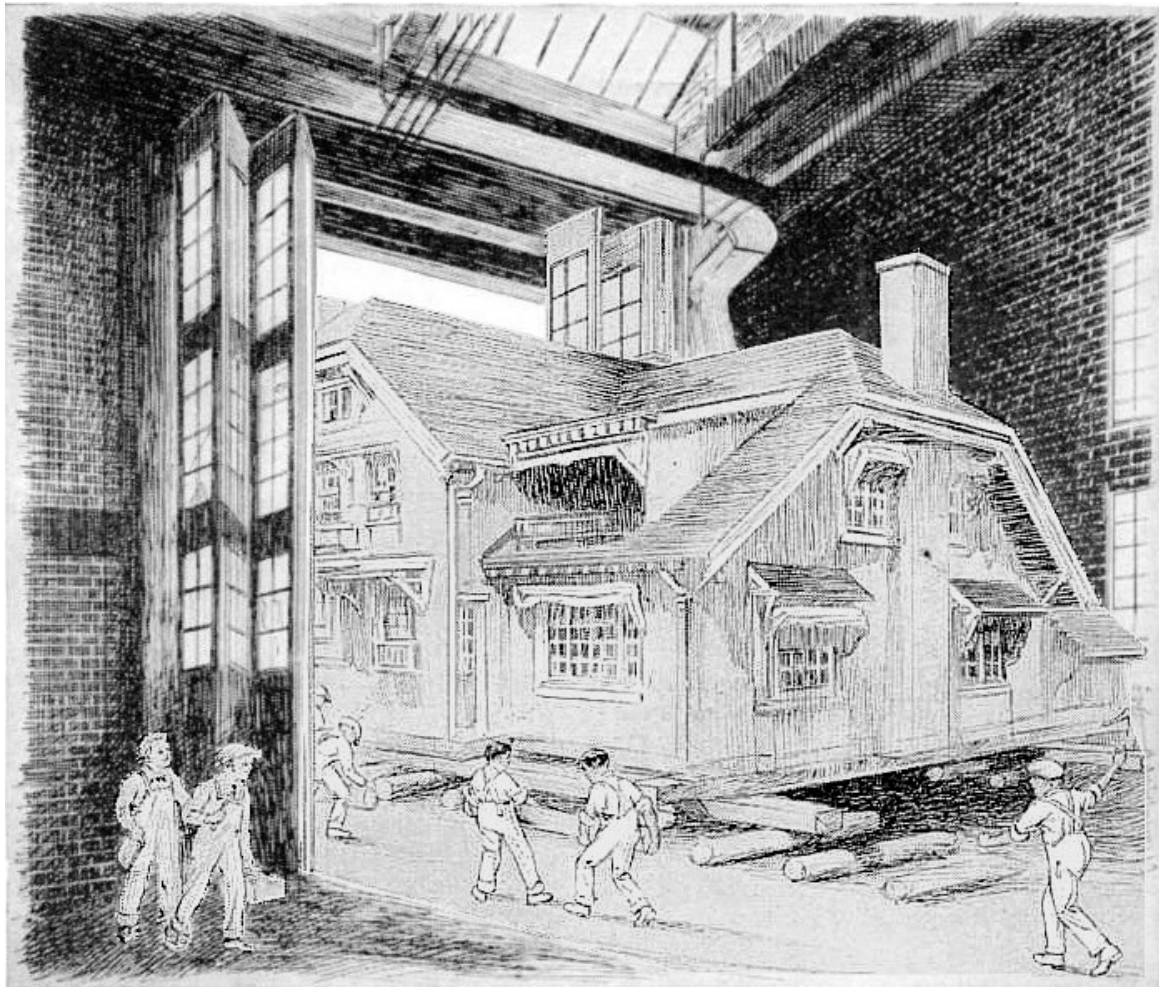
See Jim's web site

[www.jimdavey-planes-sharpening.com](http://www.jimdavey-planes-sharpening.com)

The Veritas Variable Round over Bit

[www.leevalley.com](http://www.leevalley.com)

## High School 'Shop' 1923



### PUPILS BUILD BUNGALOW WITHIN SCHOOL

**I**N the new Technical High School at Omaha, Neb., the pupils will be given the unique experience of building a complete bungalow, "life-sized" and ready for occupancy, the entire construction taking place within the high-school building itself. The task will be undertaken as much to demonstrate the high-grade equipment of the school as to teach the young carpenters their work.

Doors large enough to permit the pupils' structure to be moved out of the building on rollers and disposed of for a real home have been provided. Those who are authorities on the teaching of children declare that this method of instructing them arouses their interest a hundredfold as compared with that they display in building miniature houses and other articles.

The school is planned throughout on this life-sized idea. In the automobile department, a 3-ton crane has been installed to enable the students to work on real automobiles. In these shops all the tools used by mechanics in garages, and many of the new inventions, are available, so that the pupil will in reality have a thorough grounding in these trades when he finishes the course.

Other features of the building include classes in salesmanship, where all the working parts of a department store are in use, even to the cash-carrier system of overhead wires and cages.

In the auditorium, which will seat 2,000 persons, an arrangement of the moving-picture machine and screen has been made whereby there will be no distortion of the pictures shown. A cafeteria, a kitchen, an orchestra room for concerts, a library—in short nearly everything found in the lives of grown-ups—is provided in this remarkable institution.

The opposite page is from the May 1923 issue of Popular Mechanics. The accompanying text had the heading *Pupils Build Bungalow Within School*

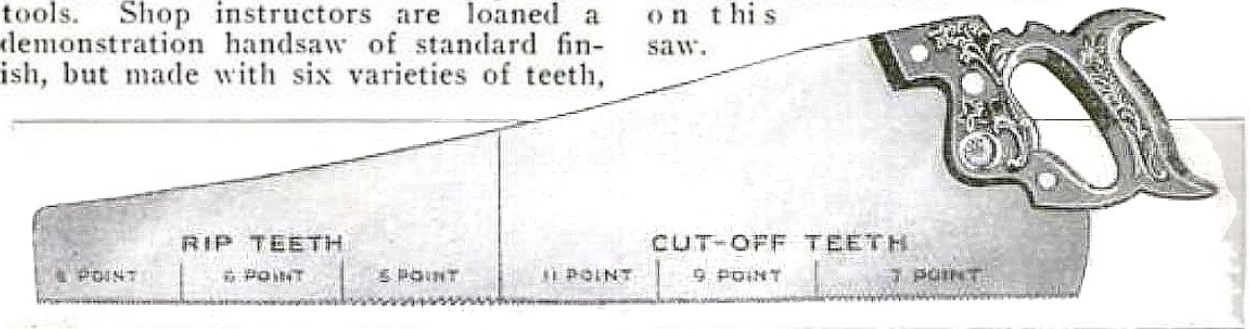
In this issue of Popular Mechanics the extract below was also published.

These saws were distributed by the leading saw makers such as Disston and Simmonds in the years between the two world wars. The extracts reflect the amount of capital invested in public education in the USA in the 1920s.

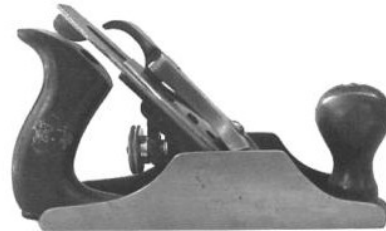
## STUDENTS' HANDSAW HAS TWELVE SETS OF TEETH

Unusual means for bringing home to manual-training students and carpenter apprentices the proper index of a saw's qualities has been adopted by a large manufacturer of saws and other carpenters' tools. Shop instructors are loaned a demonstration handsaw of standard finish, but made with six varieties of teeth,

each variety illustrating, with two sets, correct and incorrect tooth filing, setting, and beveling, as well as defects in the blade caused by poor "smithing." Rip teeth and crosscut teeth are shown on this saw.



**PLANES FULLY FETTLED  
TUNED AND SHARP**



**REPAIRS & TRADE PRICES ON**



**ALSO: M2 HSS ACADEMY BLADES  
LEATHER CHISEL ROLLS &  
G15 RUST PREVENTATIVE**

**Ring Jim Davey on 02 4447 8822**

## The Artist Blacksmiths Association NSW Inc.

In late 1993 a small group of people with an interest in blacksmithing got together on the Mid North Coast of NSW, to form a blacksmithing Association. In 2009 that Association has grown to approximately 100 members, with a diverse range of skills and interests.

Those interests range from the maintenance of traditional blacksmithing skills and techniques, through to contemporary design and modern metalworking practices that include forged elements. We also have an increasing number of members with an interest in knife making and Damascus, or pattern welded blades.



Lindsay Cole, blacksmithing TAFE teacher working under the hammer at *Forging in July*

We meet on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at Timbertown, a 1880s theme village in Wauchope, approximately 15 kilometres west of Port Macquarie. There we have a smithy set up with seven permanent forges and anvils for members to use. Experienced blacksmiths and those new to blacksmithing are encouraged to work side by side, and assistance is readily available for the new members who want it. These days are both a social occasion and a work day, with members from as far north as Bellingen and as far south as Newcastle and Raymond Terrace attending.

Over the years we have put on numerous forging events at Timbertown, and members have demonstrated blacksmithing at local events and participated in exhibitions. We put on one major event in July each year, which is designed to attract as many members as possible to Timbertown. *Forging in July* this year was a huge success, and our most ambitious project to date. Arrangements began early in the year to bring to Australia, Heiner Zimmerman, one of Germany's better known contemporary blacksmiths.

With two days of forging demonstrations, by five different blacksmiths, all demonstrating different aspects of the craft, an evening meal with key note address and presentation by Heiner Zimmermann, the weekend was enjoyed by the 50 people who attended. The weekend was followed by a week long course in contemporary forging and design, led by Heiner, with the 11 participants producing an impressive body of work. I'm not sure what we're going to do for next year, but it will be difficult to top the 2009 event.

I know we have several members who are also members of the TTTG. It's not surprising really, as most blacksmiths seem to have an affinity for old tools, especially anvils, anvil tools and hammers.

For anyone who might be interested in joining the ABA NSW, we offer a full membership subscription for \$40.00 per year, and a Retired member, or Associate membership option for \$30.00 per year. All subscriptions include three issues of *Solid Wrought*, the Association magazine, which contains roundups of events, feature articles, book reviews and how to articles.

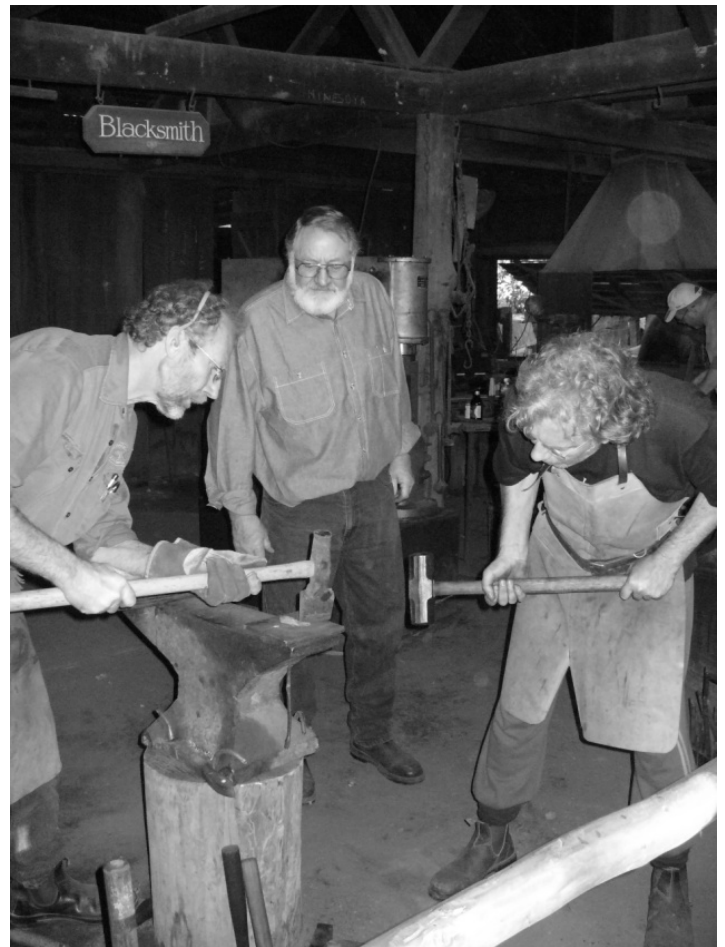
For more information, and to get a membership form, contact Colin Dray on 02 66551826, or by email at, [snowy80@westnet.com.au](mailto:snowy80@westnet.com.au)

Graham Moyses (Editor *Solid Wrought*)

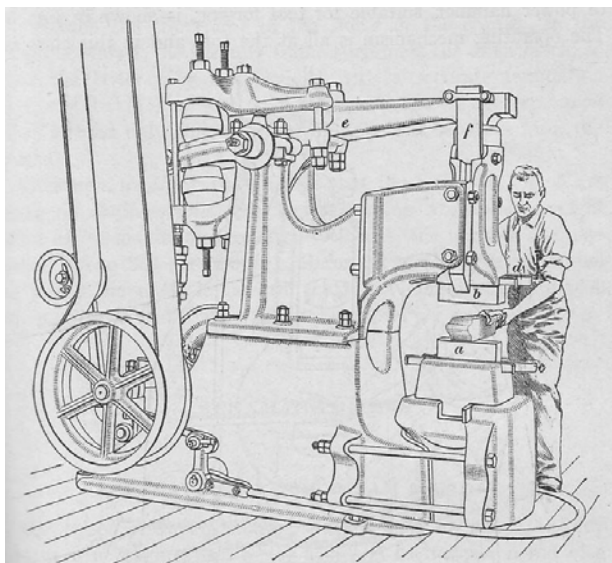
### **Solid Wrought**

At the last TTTG meeting the editor was given a copy of *Solid Wrought*. It is a very impressive publication.

Anyone with an interest in blacksmithing should sign up to The Artist Blacksmiths Association NSW Inc.



Colin Dray, Ron Poulton and Willie Rennison at work at *Forging* in July.



### **Blacksmithing Workshop 2010**

Maritime Museum Rozelle

This workshop will be offered in the second half of 2010.

The new venue will provide more space and equipment.

**Blacksmithing** is a regular feature in News and will encourage members to attend the Blacksmithing Workshop.

## Blacksmithing

74. **Forging a Strap Hinge.**—In the strap hinge shown in Fig. 39 (a) the flaps *a* and *b* are made from 2" ×  $\frac{1}{4}$ " flat iron. A piece to form the flap *a* is heated at one end and a rectangular slot is punched through as shown at *c* in (b); the width of this slot is one-third the width of the bar, and the length will depend on the diameter of the pin that is to be fitted in the hinge.

The end is scarfed down, as at *d*, and the plate is then bent over a bar of the same size as the pin, as shown at *e* in (c), and welded down. To make the plate *b* a similar piece of iron is heated at the end and cut away at the sides, as shown at *f* in (d), one-third the width of the plate being cut from each side. This end is also scarfed, as at *g*, and is then bent over a bar or pin, as at *h* in (e), and welded. The two flaps are then ready for fitting together, but this work is not usually done by the blacksmith.

When strap hinges are made in quantities, and in stock sizes,

a considerable amount of time and labour is saved by using special punches and dies. A set of tools of this description is illustrated in Fig. 40, the punch *a* and die *b* being used for the slot shown at *c* in Fig. 39 (b), while the sides are cut away as at *f* by means of the double punch *c* and the die *d* in Fig. 40. The punches may have holes through them to receive a wooden handle, or they may be necked on the corners for an iron rod, as preferred.

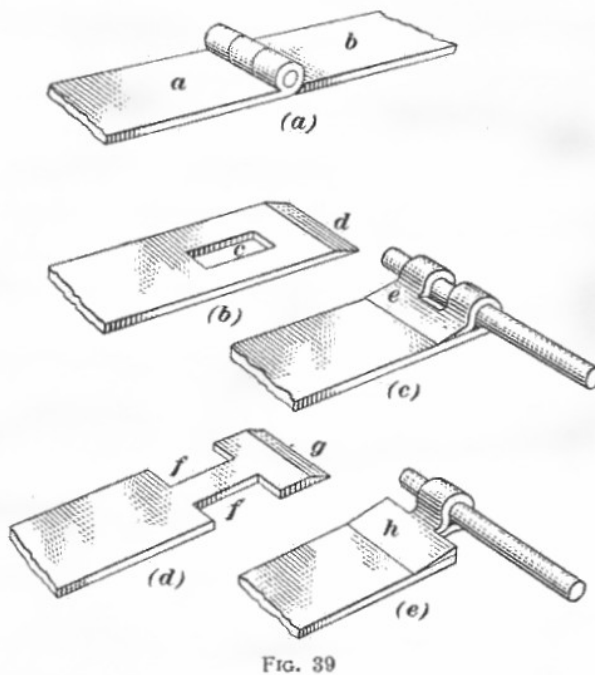


FIG. 39

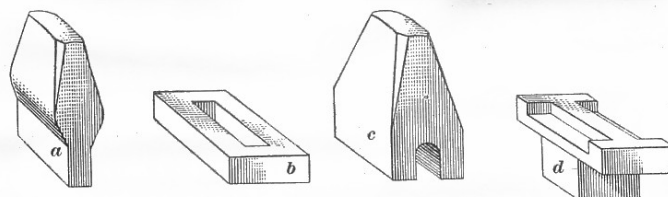


FIG. 40

From: **Forging** International Correspondence School. London. Undated. pp 42 & 43

78. **Making a Pair of Tongs.**—To make the tongs shown in Fig. 44 (a), a length of  $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$  bar is heated at one end, for a length of about 5 inches, to a good white heat, and is then fullered down as shown

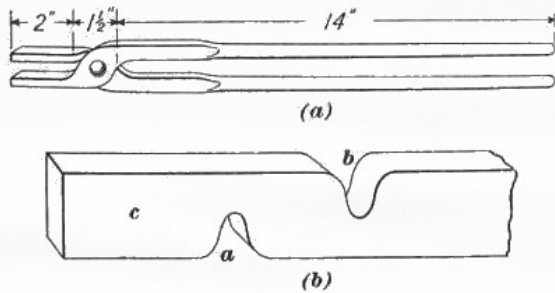


FIG. 44

down as shown at *a* and *b* in (b). The subsequent stages of forging are illustrated in Fig. 45, commencing by placing the end *c* on the front of the anvil and drawing it down to form one

of the jaws. The first blows should be delivered sidewise, so as to turn the metal down to the left, as shown. Next, the bar is turned over and the part *d* is drawn down on the back of the anvil, as in (b), and then the part *e* is dressed off with the bar held as shown in (c).

An experienced blacksmith will complete the foregoing operations in one heat. The forged

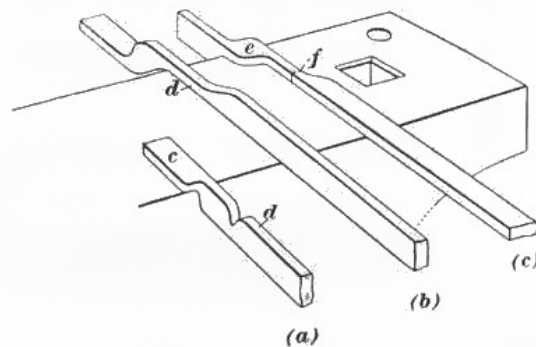


FIG. 45

portion is now cut off the bar at *f*, where it is drawn to about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch round and scarfed ready for welding to the handle; when the other jaw has been made, in exactly the same way as the first one, handles of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch round iron of the required length are welded on. The two parts are now heated at the working joint and a full  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch hole is punched through one of them, as at *a* in Fig. 46. Both parts are now laid on the anvil, as they are to be fitted together, and with the punched half on top; the bottom half can thus be marked for punching by putting the punch



FIG. 46

through the first hole and giving the punch a light blow with a sledge hammer. The top half is then laid aside while the second hole is punched through, and then the parts are riveted together with a heated rivet cut from a piece of  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch round iron. Care must be taken to avoid bending the rivet, and should this occur the rivet should be punched out and a new one substituted.

## My 'new' routers

Over the years I have purchased two 'brand new' electric routers. The most recent is a Makita trimmer while the previous one was an Elu. A few years ago when the Elu could no longer be repaired, due to 'we cannot get the parts', I replaced it with a second hand Makita which is well over ten years old. I chose Makita as replacement parts are readily available.

When I demonstrate hand tools I often get the comment '*a router could do that*'. As I only do simple processes in public this will be answered by '*yes but a lot slower and not as well*.' If the observer is willing to listen I will explain why a router is a very limited tool for most wood working.

For cutting straight grooves or mouldings hand planes will produce far better work than a router and in less time without the noise. Routers only excel for some curved work and for multiple components. Even then it is often the jigs harassed to the router that make repetitive tasks possible.

I don't often use my trimmer and router because I keep these as standalone tools, but I do use my other routers a lot with various jigs and devices. You will ask me '*What other routers?*' My reply will then be; '*the various old routers I have acquired for very little cash*'.

Yes not only do I use routers but also I use very old routers. This started when I found a Towa router in the back of a cupboard in a high school. As soon as I exposed it to daylight I heard the '*that's one for the bin*'. I ignored the comment and plugged it in and turned it on. So the bearings needed replacing but at the price what did that matter?

With new bearings my 'new' Towa Handy Router soon found a permanent location mounted under a homemade router table. It is fitted with a small flush trim bit and gets lots of use. I'll explain why later.

About a year ago I purchased another Towa Handy Router. This one was in the original metal box and complete with all attachments. In many ways it is superior to the modern Makita trimmer. The Towa Handy Router was made in Nagoya Japan in the early 1970s. The tools' design and the manufacturing quality are superb.

I have used a twenty something years old Hitachi router, again out of a high school storeroom, to make a horizontal mortising machine. The old compound table I used with the router to build the machine came from a TTTG auction. This machine cuts very clean mortises using modern carbide 'up cutting' or 'down cutting' cutters.

Another Hitachi router found in the same high school storeroom has been mounted on a long base. This jig is used to dress circular shapes built up brick fashion. The jig pivots from a pin and a succession of light 'plunge' cuts soon results in clean and accurate work.

This router was also written off because the base plate could not be repaired due to '*we cannot get the parts*'. A third Hitachi, from the same source, has a new square base made of acrylic and is often used in a simple trenching jig to machine through or stopped housing joints.

Bearing cutters allow the cutter to follow a pattern. If you attended the last TTTG Spindle Turning and Pattern Routing Workshop you will have seen how I use patterns and bearing cutters to shape saw and plane handles.

I start by making a template from thin ply or tempered hardboard. The shape to be copied is drawn or traced, sawn to shape and finished with a spoke-shave and file. Next I glue laminate to one face. When the glue, AV 180 PVA, has set I use the Towa with the flush trim bit in the router table to trim the laminate. This gives a hard wearing edge to the template. Thick ply is similarly processed to make a pattern.

My new second hand Makita is likely to be used with a bottom bearing flush trim bit to machine the components. The skill is in designing the pattern so that the job can be fixed on the pattern for routing. There are many ways but old routers can speed up the work if several old routers are set up with different bearing cutters.

It all comes down to the numbers. Making more than ten identical components is probably the point where using routers is time saving. Once the machining jigs are made and the router, or routers, set up the machining is monkey work. I will also admit that having more than a few old routers is the reason I can justify this method of working. If I wanted to make quantities of simple components like plane handles, and make money, I would be investing in an inverted router.

All that technical stuff aside, I do have a bit of a weakness for old power tools. The price is only part of the explanation. Some of these older electric tools are real work horses. Of course I should point out all the OH&S considerations but quality old machines can usually be repaired and used safely by a competent operator.

Quality is the key word; the best of the older electric tools were made to very high manufacturing standards. It may involve some searching but it is possible to repair these veteran machines. Just be careful that Work Cover doesn't catch you using your favourite forty year old power tool!

*The real danger with using any old tools or veteran machines is the risk of developing an addiction to collecting old stuff.*

I'm still in control of my actions but I'm finding it difficult to justify acquiring the latest 'new' router. This router has had a really hard working life but it is all there! It took me a few minutes to plug it in and push the Bakelite switch but to my great surprise it started. All this router needs is a good cleanup and trivial repairs.

This 1960s router was manufactured by **Bridges of London**  
**Portable Precision Tools.**

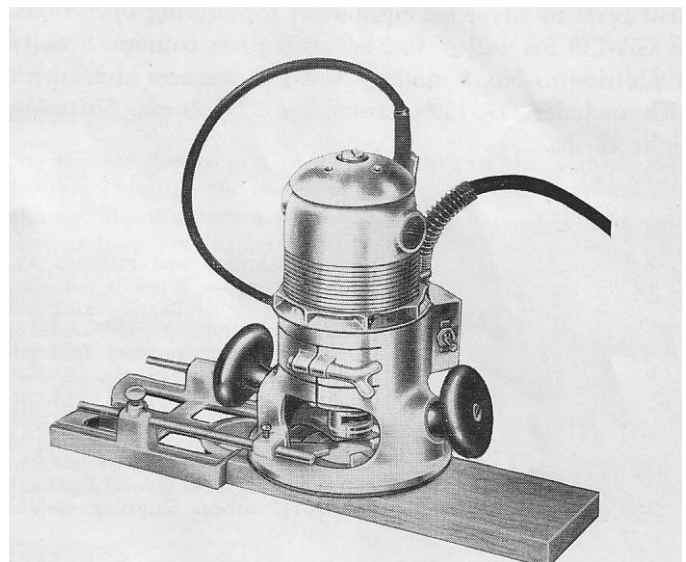
I do have some minor concerns regarding this router. What with all the other old routers it is hard to think of dedicated use for the latest router. In the router's favour is the  $\frac{3}{4}$  HP rating but against that is the fact that it is not a plunge router.

True the Towa Handy Routers are also not plunge routers. One of these finds regular work as a fixture in a router table while the other Towa is out of harm's way in its blue metal box and does sometimes get used for a task too heavy for the trimmer.

*Anyway I will clean up the Bridges and no doubt I will rationalise keeping it!*

I haven't been able to find any information about Bridges portable electric machines. No doubt they made other power tools.

The Bridges router is similar to the early Stanley router below.



A few years ago I was tempted to buy one of these early Stanley routers. Any offer would have secured the router. I confess that I was tempted but I resisted and I walked away. *Next time will I be so strong?*

**Tools for Christmas,  
1950's U.S.A.**



**Disston tools make fine gifts  
for the whole family!**

DISSTON CARLSON steel tape rules are sturdy, easy to read, famous for high quality. The #3310 has a 10-foot reach; is 3/4" wide; has patented swing tip and 10-second blade change features.



**A tip for FATHERS**

If your youngster has his eye (and his hands) on your tools, you can make his Christmas merrier with a grown-up gift of a Disston D-23 Hand Saw and a Disston Carlson Rule. He'll get a lifetime of satisfaction from these fine tools. And both you and your son will find you have more family fun when you join forces and "do-it-together."



**A hint for SONS**

Wondering what to get Dad for Christmas? How about a Disston D-23 Hand Saw and a Disston Carlson Rule? Dad will really appreciate these

fine gifts—and be proud of you for being smart enough to buy Disston. Disston, you know, is the saw carpenters use. If Dad already has a 5 1/2-pt. or 8-pt. Disston, get him a 10-, 11-, or 12-pt. for fine finishing work.



**AND a word for MOM!**

You can keep *all* the men in your family happy, Mom, with Disston tools for Christmas. (It's a good way to get some work done around the house, too.)

*Prices vary slightly in some localities.*

**SEE . . . TOUCH . . . and TEST**  
these and other fine Disston Tools  
at your favorite hardware or tool store.  
Stop in tomorrow . . .

**DISSTON-HKP**  
Henry DISSTON DIVISION  
H. K. PORTER COMPANY, INC.  
Philadelphia 35, Pa.



Atkins' advert from 1953 was a bit naive compared to Disston's 1956 full page effort but perhaps it was more effective. Was it aimed at the wife or at anyone looking for a present or hoping to get something useful? By 1956 it may have been old fashioned and Disston's use of advertising hype may have set the pace.

*Popular Mechanics December 1953*

Bonney Tools' 1953 promotion had Santa, dad and the boy pressing the buy button.

## "...and bring Daddy some Bonney wrenches"

Daddy's been prompting *this* lad. Not a bad idea, either. A word to the right person *now* will pay off at Christmas.\*

Any man wants wrenches he can be proud of. That means Bonney wrenches—mechanics themselves call them America's finest.

Your Santa Claus can buy Bonney wrenches wherever fine tools are sold—in open stock or complete sets.

By 1956 Disston Saws included Mom. These first two examples are possibly among the best Christmas adverts from the fifties but there are numerous others. They all share brilliant graphics and the all American love affair with consumption.





Atkins and Stanley Tools adverts  
*Popular Mechanics*  
 December 1953

Stanley Tools were old masters at advertising as is shown by the advert below.

Real humour combined a direct sales pitch 'tell them you want'.

***Tastes differ but if I had to pick my favourite I would choose the Millers Falls advert on the opposite page.***

From the point of view of the graphic designer who came up with this concept there may not have been any other way to sell a product based on a portable electric drill with attachments.

Dyno-mite Power Workshop sounds good but it needed something else to grab the attention of potential buyers.

*The advert is sexy and clever, aimed at both moms and pops. Real wholesome U S of A!*



**Tell them  
 you want**

**STANLEY  
 TOOLS**

**for Christmas**

Help her to "Surprise" you with

# MILLERS FALLS TOOLS

for Christmas



Check the tools you want most and leave this page where "Santa" will see it

**"DYNQ-MITE" POWER WORKSHOP**

No. "888" POWER TOOL — 3 tools in 1: 7/8" Drill, 6" disc Sander, and 6" Polisher. 3200 rpm, 4 amp. rating, \$44.95



**RUGGED ATTACHMENTS LIKE THESE**

turn the "888" into a complete 16-tool power workshop

No. 8811  
6" Portable Saw Attachment  
\$18.95



No. 882  
Orbital Sander Attachment  
\$17.45



No. 8818  
2" Plane Attachment  
\$22.95



**NEW**  
No. 1220



**PLANE-OR-FILE.** Reversible handle . . . double-sided blade . . . cuts wood, plastic, even steel. Two tools in one — a plane and a file — all for only . . . \$3.49

**HANDY ATTACHMENTS FOR 1/4" ELECTRIC DRILLS**

- Buffing & Sanding attachment — 2 speeds; easy to use. No. 2120 . . . . . \$9.30
- Jig Saw attachment — cuts wood, metal; smooth, speedy. No. 2140 . . . . . \$11.95
- Orbital Sander attachment — for fine finish sanding. No. 2160 . . . . . \$15.95

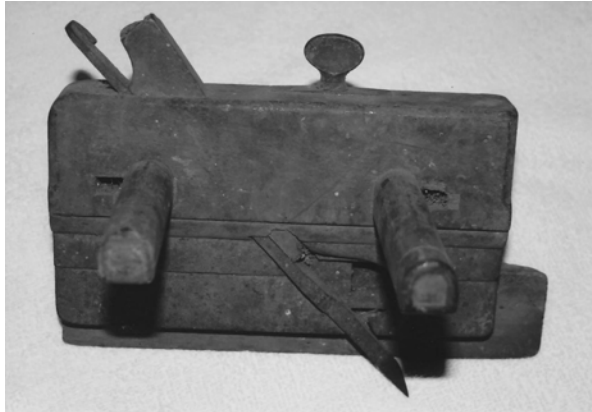


For free folders or name of nearest dealer, write  
MILLERS FALLS CO., Dept. PM-22, Greenfield, Mass.

## To restore or not to restore

Terry Butcher

I brought a mixed bag of what looked like a pile of Garage Sale rejects, but because there was one item I wanted I had to take the lot! When I got the lot home I noticed I had scored an old plough plane.



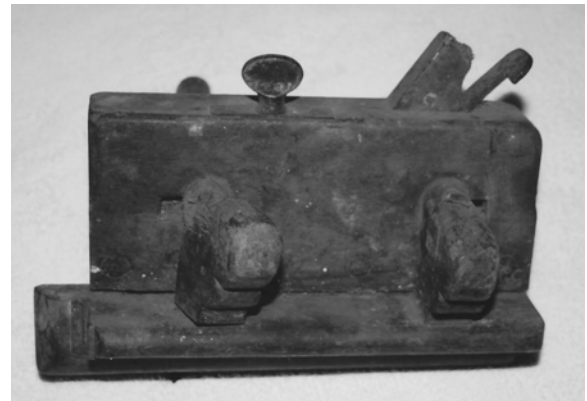
**Well it didn't look much; in fact it looked pretty terrible.** I decided then and there that it might be a source of spare parts.

But I just had to know who made the plane as you never can tell. It might be a Gabriel or Green but in fact it turned out to be a Mutter. **Anything two hundred plus years old is worth restoring.**

But then a closer look at the planes' toe revealed another name, perhaps an owners' name. R Webb is listed as a plane maker in British Plane makers, to quote from the book 'presumably a successor to Hawking & Webb late 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Century. **How could this be?**

The quote says presumably so it is not certain and there may be a connection between the two names. I've written to Jane Rees for her opinion.

**So I decided to repair and restore the Mutter plough plane!**



The blade was in backwards and the wedge was broken. One stem arm was broken at the fence. I surmise that many years back someone thought they would use this plane and not knowing the finer points of assembling a plough got it all wrong, found it wouldn't work and tossed it severely somewhere breaking the stem and leaving it to rust and to accumulate a thick coat of dust, dirt and grime.

**No matter it was nearly all there.**

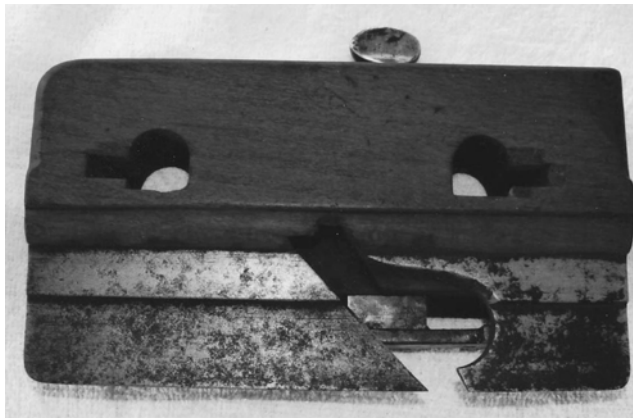
The plane is over two hundred years' old and came out here no doubt with an early settler and established itself in pioneering work in Tasmania.



Disassembly took some time as the two arms were frozen in the body of the plane. **With a little help from WD40 and some gentle tapping with a rubber hammer the arms came free.**

Getting the broken wedge out took a lot longer as the blade had rusted and bound itself in the slot as well as to the wedge. The screws holding the adjustable depth stop were beyond removal so I decided that it would stay put. I was able to screw out the shoe and clean and replace it.

I then set out to clean the body of the plane and de-rust the skate which had a lot of rust. So I made a weak mixture for the tank where I removed the rust by the electrolysis process and cleaned the body at the same time. After washing down in a neutraliser and thoroughly drying I applied two coats of shellac and a good deal of rubbing down with linseed oil.



***The next task was the broken arm.***



The brass washer on the rivet holding the fence to the arms was long gone.

By filing off the burr on the end of the rivet I was able to remove the rivet.



*The broken stem and rivet.*

The break came together with epoxy to hold it and then I filled the missing part with Plasti-bond, made a new brass washer and using the old rivet fixed the arm to the fence.



*The complete fence and arm before the fixing of the repaired arm.*

I had to make two new keys for the arms. With these I reassembled the fence and arms to the plane body.

The blade though very rusty cleaned up well and after regrinding the bevel and a long session with an oilstone managed to clean up the underside of the cutting edge and a few laps on the bevel produced a clean sharp edge.

All that remained was to make and fit a new wedge, set the blade and test the whole thing on a piece of Tasmanian oak.



***Well it did cut clean and true and it was so rewarding to hold and use this plane that had remained idle and unwanted for so long.***

## To restore or not to restore

### *The ethical issues*



*The plane as found and below what it has become after restoration.*



Terry started with an old plough plane in very poor condition. On close inspection it was revealed to be made by Mutter.

Mutter planes, though very old, are not very rare. However the plane may have found its way to Tasmania in the early nineteenth century.

#### **What should be done with the plane?**

Plough planes in good condition are very common so why try and bring this plane back into working order?

After the restoration is it indeed the same plane. As the plane is now it is not even a complete tool. Three ferrules are missing and there is only one blade. The repair to the arm will probably fail if the plane is used for more than a test run.

Is the restored plane true to the original appearance of a Mutter plough? The arms are incomplete, the keys and the wedge profiles incorrect and the surface has no evidence of age (patina).

If the plane were a piece of furniture or a painting ethical issues would be crucial. Suppose we had a very early Tasmanian chair in similar condition. I could enhance the value by replacing missing parts. If I were skilled enough no one would know. But if my work were ham fisted I would have considerably decreased the value of the chair. Even if my expert faking went undetected I would have destroyed the integrity of the chair. If I got caught out I would be seen as a fraudster.

There are other questions concerning the use of epoxy, plasti-bond and linseed oil. The distinction between restoration and conservation needs to be discussed and tool collectors should not rush in to over restore old tools.

In my opinion this plane should have been left as it was when found. Some simple conservation measures could have prevented further deterioration.

The plane's inherent interest lies in the double stamping and its colonial history.

*Ray Gurney always gets agitated when he sees these over restored old tools and tries to argue against such value adding.*

I'm the first to confess to having done my share of unethical value adding and it can often be very hard deciding what to do.

***Early next year we will have a meeting where these issues will be debated.***

Bob Crosbie

## Bargain Tools

I suppose everyone reading this has now and then purchased some tools at bargain prices. Most often such bargains happen when buying old tools. It is only natural to relate the bargain price of the tool to 'shop' price of a similar tool.

However is the bargain price the ultimate price we pay for a bargain tool? I will look at this question by discussing two bargain tools I recently acquired. Both are planes a number 4 and a number 7. By anyone's standard they were both cheap as far as the amount of cash changing hands goes.

The number 7 is a Pope Falcon and cost me \$30. This isn't the lowest price I have paid for a number 7 plane. A few months ago I got a Carter 7 for \$10. I only paid that much because the plane was clean and complete. Being a Carter it may not have been worth \$10. As it turns out it is a very good plane and a real bargain.

In contrast the Pope Falcon is rusty but complete. For \$30 there wasn't much risk as these planes are well made. The rust is light but the casting is thick so serious flattening will not result in a thin bodied plane. The knob and handle are in perfect condition, the blade unused but with surface rust but the lever cap has lost most of the nickel plating.

In contrast the number 5 was cheap but not a bargain. I only paid \$5 for this plane because the vendor was talkative and may have given it to me anyway! I didn't even look closely at the number 4, only seeing the big chunk out of one side and USA in the casting. For \$5 the parts would have some use in the future for repairs?

When I examined both planes my opinion of the Pope Falcon was confirmed. This would be a good user plane. But my gut feeling for the number 4 was well off. The USA had tricked me into assuming the plane was a Stanley, *it is a Mohawk*.

My plan for the number 4 had been to keep the parts and give the broken body and handle to Jim Davey. As it is I will give him the complete plane if he wants it!

So I'm now seeing the number 7 as a \$35 bargain which is still pretty good. But is money the only price I will end up paying for the plane? The plane as purchased is useless, all it has is potential. To turn it into a user tool I will have to spend a few more dollars and some serious time.

Just removing the lever cap, blade and frog and cleaning them will take about half an hour. I will also need to use some G15, maybe up to a dollars' worth. The rust will need removing from the blade and cap iron. To do this I will use emery sticks and oil as I what to preserve as much of the original surface. I will also use the emery sticks to remove the plating from the lever cap. So there goes another couple of dollars and more time. If I were a real obsessive I could get the lever cap replated and spend some real money.

The body and sides of the number 7 will need flattening. I will do this truing up on a flat 'plate' faced with abrasive paper. So I will need to spend a bit more on abrasive paper and glue to stick it to the plate. As well flattening may take a couple of hours. In calculating the real cost of the plane should I include my labour time?

Most likely this plane will be used in the school by my select students. The original Pope Falcon blade will give good service but it will need lapping and grinding. This takes a bit of time and adds further to the real cost. If I were to use the plane as one of my bench tools I would consider buying a superior blade, adding considerably to the cost of this bargain plane.

You learn a lot by fettling bargain tools and may even get some satisfaction from a job well done. But if you just want a top quality plane ready to go then maybe it is cheaper to buy one from Jim Davey.

## Classic Tools

### The Pencil Sharpener

No doubt everyone reading this has used a pencil sharpener. Variations on this basic design are numerous. Good quality pencil sharpeners with aluminium bodies will sharpen hundreds of pencils before failing to remove continuous shavings. Cheap plastic versions will sharpen a few pencils before failing to shave wood.

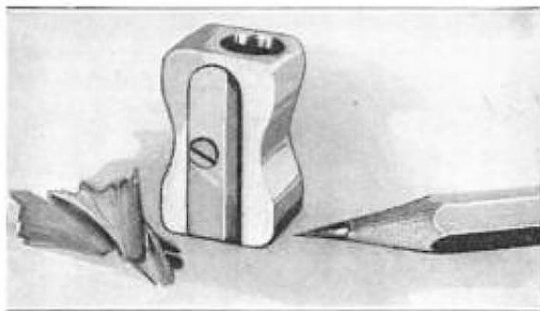
The pencil sharpener is so common place that it comes as a surprise to learn that it has only been around since 1922.

Some people, myself included, prefer to sharpen pencils with a knife.

*What type of knife?* Like most knife users my favourite is the Stanley knife. Again a tool that hasn't been around for such a long time. The Stanley knife only dates back to the 1930s.

I must admit that I'm more likely to use a chisel to sharpen my pencils even when sharpening round pencils.

Simplicity of design and practical arrangement for being kept in good condition, are the chief merits of a pencil



Pencil Sharpener with Tool-Steel Blade: The Shavings and the Sharpened Pencil Are Evidences of the Keen-Cutting Edge

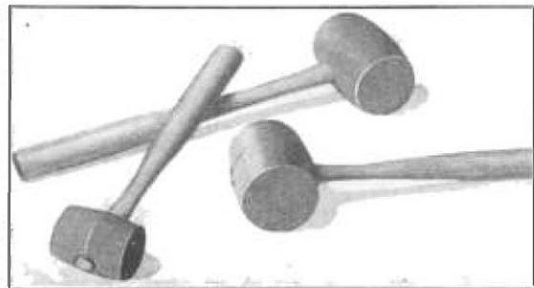
sharpener made in Germany. The appliance is 1 by  $\frac{1}{2}$  by  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. in size, easily fitting into a vest pocket or handbag, and has a renewable, tool-steel cutting blade.

*Popular Mechanics July 1922*

### The Rubber Mallet

#### RUBBER MALLET FOR AUTO USE SAVES TIRE AND RIM

A large manufacturer of rubber goods is introducing a mallet with a rubber head, intended to eliminate the injuries to tires and rims that result from careless or misdirected blows from a metal hammer, when changing tires. The tool ought to save many bruised fingers, and will undoubtedly be appreciated by car owners and repairmen.



These Rubber-Headed Mallets, for Use in Changing Automobile Tires, do Not Injure Tires or Rims

*Popular Mechanics November 1922*

*The rubber mallet was designed for fitting rubber tyres to automobile rims.*

The rubber mallet originated as a specific specialised tool but soon became a tool with numerous generalised uses.

*Strangely the rubber mallet rarely gets a mention in text books despite numerous uses in many trades.*

To take one example, a rubber mallet is very useful when disassembling furniture or when 'knocking together' joinery. It will not mark the work piece and used with skill delivers a force where it is wanted.

Perhaps best of all rubber mallets are not expensive. Excellent ones can be found in discount shops at very low prices.

*Because rubber mallets are cheap they can be used as workhorses and they can take lots of punishment.*

## **Please Santa**

### **If Santa collected tools**

*Let's get something straight, I'm not a tool collector and I don't want any tools for Christmas. In fact I've got too many tools and want to get rid of some. In my opinion tool collecting can even be psychologically threatening to the collectors' mental health.*

While I'm making confessions I may as well put on the record that I don't believe in Santa and have never liked Christmas. That said I realise that I'm probably in the minority and may even be seen as one version of a 'miserable old bastard'.

### **What if there was a Santa and what if Santa was a tool collector?**

Naturally he would belong to TTTG and we could have annual visits to Santa's workshop, provided of course he laid on a few free sleigh rides there and back. We would probably get a surprise when we got down from the sleigh at Santa's. No doubt we would find a modern production facility to cater for global demand. All the machinery would be CNC and the number of elves would have been rationalised.

Perhaps over a few drinks Santa would confess that he doesn't really make any toys nowadays but sources his gifts from competitive third world countries. If he has a few too many ales Santa might even allude to the prolonged dispute with the *Elves Union* and the *Friends of Reindeer*.

We might even speculate that Santa got into tool collecting when he closed down the old machine shop. Mrs Santa tells another story about Santa's grand dad starting collecting after a young boy sat on his knee in Glasgow and asked for the best tools. When Santa asked 'what are the best tools?' the boy shock his head and slowly said '*Mathieson*'.

*Or is this just another Artic Circle myth?*

### **The temptation of Santa**

Once Santa started collecting he would have been constantly tempted. Having a trade background from the days when he made toys in his workshop it would be only a matter of time before he strayed on his nocturnal Christmas visits from the hearth to the shed. The sight of a dusty unused Spiers plane in a remote country workshop may have been his first fight with temptation. Perhaps to rationalise his actions he left a few coins in the space the plane had occupied. Who knows?

### **Santa's second sack**

Rumour has it that Mrs Santa confided in one of the elves about Santa's grievance at not getting any presents himself. She had confronted him about the full sack he had brought back after one Christmas trip. The story goes that one of the elves had been having a go at Santa by repeatedly asking 'what's in the big bag Santa?' A few days later Santa was seen cataloguing his growing collection of *Mathieson* tools.

Some say that this elf was the same elf who unionised Santa's' elves and then negotiated redundancy settlements before running off to Finland with Mrs Santa. If this is true is it any wonder that Santa descended further into tool collecting?

### **Santa confronts his issues**

The North Pole must be a lonely place with only a few elves for company and a team of hungry reindeer. No doubt Santa keeps his hand in by maintaining the sleigh and rumour has it by knocking out a few limited edition toys for discerning clients. After being tasered one Christmas in a shed in Vermont Santa is supposed to have undergone counselling.

*With Christmas only weeks away will Santa be able to control his urges and are our tools safe?*

## Other Newsletters

In future issues of NEWS the newsletters and journals published by similar groups to TTTG Inc. will be reviewed.

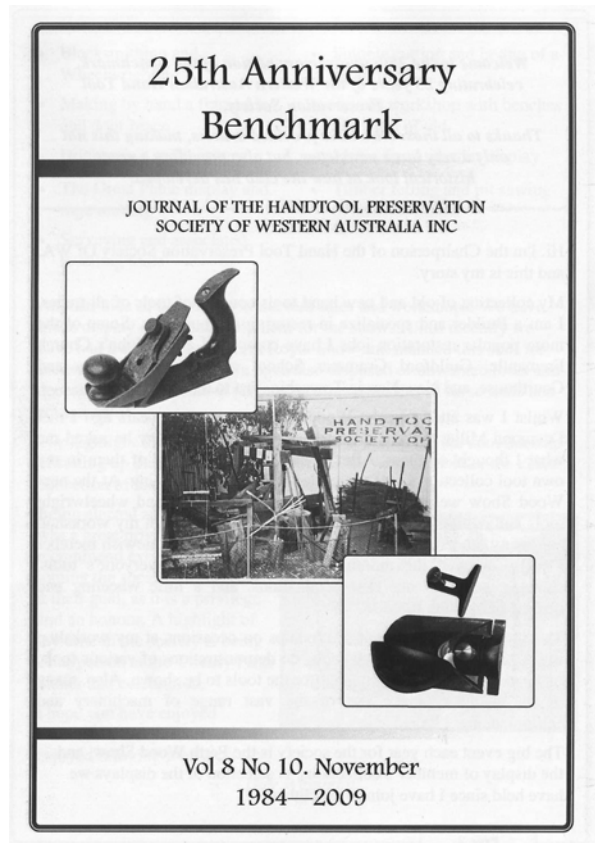
**Benchmark** the journal of the *Hand Tool Preservation Society of Western Australia Inc.* is usually a four page black and white publication.

**Benchmark** Vol 8 No.10 November is a special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition.

The twenty four colour pages of the special edition provide a wealth of reading, naturally with a Western Australian emphasis.

The Chairperson's narration of how he became involved with the HTPSWA gives a succinct synopsis of the group's history.

The description of the HTPSWA Catalogue Collection gives an indication of their achievements over twenty five years. This impression is reinforced by the account of the group's Tool Sales and Selling over the previous eighteen years.



Many TTTG and HTPSWA members will be familiar with the brand name TOUGH. This Western Australian manufacturer made a range of hand tools and machines over a long period. TOUGH was known as a maker of quality tools and machines.

*The TTTG Logo was taken from a coloured advertisement for TOUGH' braces.*

The Major and Minor braces are excellent quality tools and arguably equal to any brace manufactured in any other country.

TOUGH moved from hand tool production to machinery manufacture. Perhaps the best known TOUGH machine is the Pedestal Drill with Hollow Chisel holder and Knuckle Vice. TOUGH also made a Chain Mortiser and Aluminium Milling Machine. The TOUGH Wood Turning Lathe was the equal of any other lathe.

*A history of TOUGH is included in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary HTPSWA Journal.*



## Book Review

*Early Plane Makers of London*

Don & Anne Wing. 2005

The Mechanick's Workbench. USA

*Four centuries of Dutch Planes and planemakers*

Gerrit van der Sterre. 2001

ISBN 90-74310-62-1

Anyone with more than a passing interest in old planes should have a copy of both books. The books may be difficult to find locally but while the Australian dollar is strong it is worthwhile going online and buying them from overseas.

The quantity of old planes, even very old planes appearing at tool sales, garage sales and in land fill never ceases to be a subject of amazement. My first old plane, found on a council dump, turned out to be about two hundred years old.

Some months ago a student gave me a couple of old moulding planes his father was about to throw out. One plane was around 1820 but the other plane was a bit longer and marked I \* Davis and probably can be dated to about 1790.

I dated the moulding planes by consulting W L Goodman's *British Planemakers from 1700* revised by J & M Rees 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Astragal Press 1993. This is one of the other books anyone with an interest in old planes should own.

Even if you have no interest in the history of Dutch planes you need to read Gerrit's book to gain an understanding of the influences on early British planemakers. Don & Anne Wing discuss this pivotal Dutch contribution in depth. The book is well illustrated and well worth the effort involved in finding a copy.

To return to *Early Plane Makers of London* the photographs in the book are simply superb as is the overall printing quality.

*Early Plane Makers of London* has added significantly to the biographical facts on early British planemakers.

This is a result of the authors deciding to research the records of apprentices in London Guilds other than the obvious wood based Guilds.

Goodman's earlier research concentrated largely on the apprentice records of the Joiner's Company. These records have been re-examined by the authors and have yielded additional information.

*Early Plane Makers of London* presents the findings of research into the records of the Tallow Chandlers Guild. It is the belief of the authors that research into other Guild records will reveal more information about early London planemakers. For example research into the Blacksmiths Guild has provided information on the makers of plane irons and prompted the authors to speculate on the scope of planemakers.

The authors have established that the members of the various guilds were not necessarily working in trades that had an obvious affiliation with the guild. The old system of 'binding' and the practice of 'transferring' are examined to explain this, to us, unexpected flexibility.

This research is of course the core of the book but the authors use this material to reconstruct the commercial practices of the early planemakers and to analyse the stylistic trends in planes and the gradual emergence of standardised sizes.

Everything is placed in the context of London after the 'Great Fire', a time of rapid growth when the "Freedom of the City" allowed men to practice their trades within the City but only at the price of escalating rental costs and limited space.

Planemaking like other trades tended to move outside the walls and eventually to the country regions to supply the growing demand for planes to rebuild London.



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