

NEWS 115



October 2010

TTTG Inc

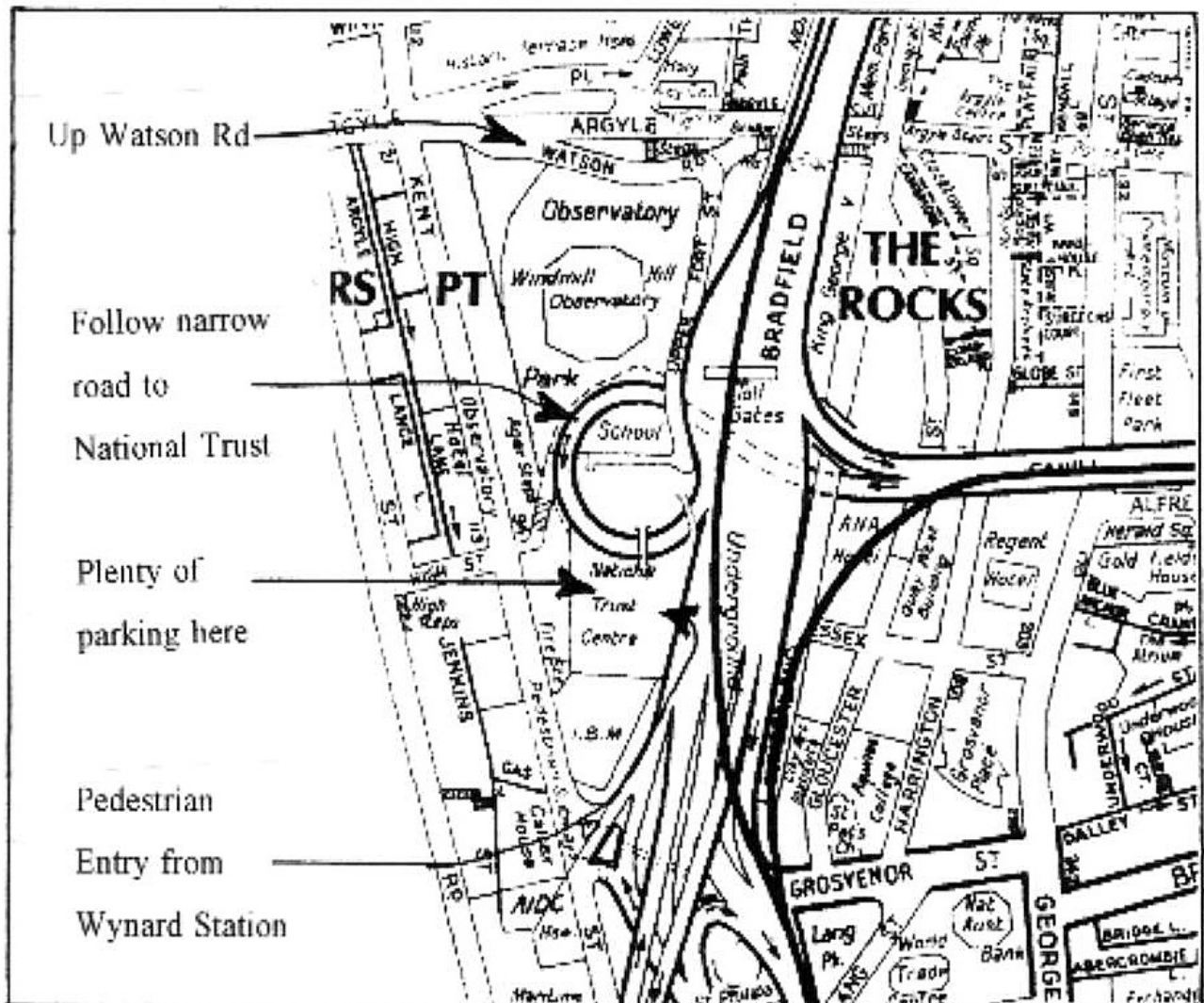
www.tttg.org.au

Next Meeting

Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Building, Observatory Hill

Tuesday 12th October.

Topic: Carter Planes and Tools



Postal Address

P.O. Box N240 Grosvenor Place
Sydney NSW 1220
Membership \$35
Entry \$5
'Doors open at 7pm'

Enquires

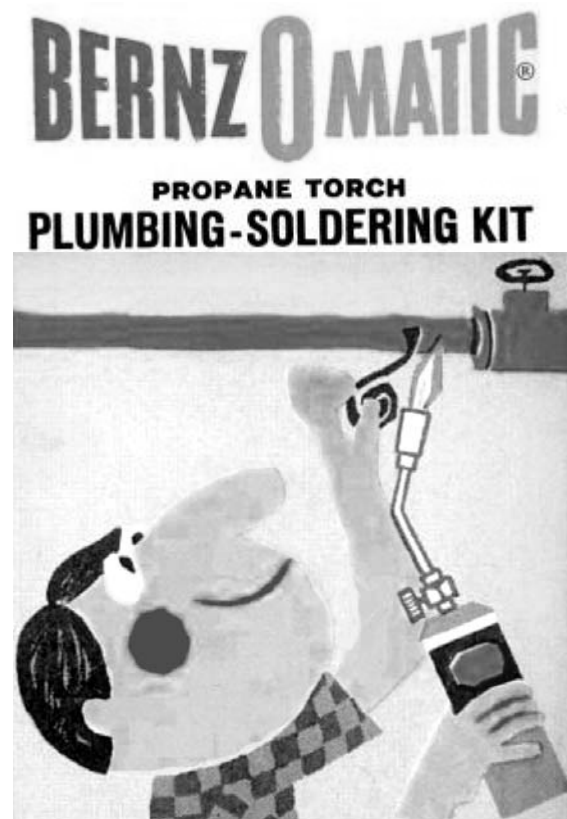
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Cover

Advert in Popular Science May 1961
It was a hard decision between it and the other BernzOMatic image. Certainly the chap on the cover must have asbestos fingers.



Back page

Bill Cooper, a long time member of TTTG, sadly passed away earlier this year. There will be an auction of his tool collection on 27th Nov and you will find details on the back page with a few pictures of some of the items for sale

Next Meeting

Carter Planes and Tools

Some of our members look down on Carter tools as second rate, and indeed many of their planes exhibit a variable quality of finish. However, the Carter Brand is interesting as they were a local company who produced products which were affordable and functional. Letters to this publication indicate a growing interest in Carter products. (See communication on page 13). They filled a market position below high priced and often scarce (after WW II) imported products and they were a small company “having a go” in difficult times. The tradesman of the day could almost equip himself completely from the Carter range of tools as not only were smoothing and bench planes produced but more specialist planes, as well as auxiliary items such as vices. The presentation will showcase a vast range of Carter products.

The Auction

The previous auction was compact but the range of quality items under the hammer pleased the bidders.

Now the lengths of string and old electrical cords have been banned the auction is back on track.

Previous Meeting

Annual General Meeting

The TTTG Treasurer tabled the *annual financial statement*.

This was followed by a brief report from the TTTG President.

All committee positions were declared vacant. Nominations from the floor for committee were called and accepted.

The 2010/11 TTTG Committee was then elected by the members.

The Presentation

Early metal machining The machines and the tooling

Strong general interest in the topic of metal machining was again shown.

A large assortment of early machine tooling was on display as well as numerous rare machinists’ measuring tools. These artefacts and discussion of early metal working machines were enjoyed by all members present.

2011/12 TTTG Inc. Committee

President: Bob Crosbie
Treasurer: Clynt Sheahy
Secretary : Mike Williams
Mario Dato
Darcy Hourd
Peter Evans
John Bates
Horacio Rodrigues
Ray Gurney
Fred Murrell

The Traditional Tools Group (Inc) Once a Year

'HANDS ON' DAY

**Where: - Strathfield Men's Shed
Pomeroy Street Homebush**

When: - Saturday October 30th 2010

Starts 9am Finishes 4pm

Light refreshments are provided. Bring your lunch.

The TTTG Tool Collection is stored in the Strathfield Men's Shed

The TTTG Library is being relocated to the Strathfield Men's Shed

The hand tools are in tool boxes. There are also two machines.

The Treadle Centre Lathe needs a general overhaul

The Hand Operated Mortising Machine needs reassembly

The numerous hand tools need sorting and cleaning

The numerous planes and chisels need grinding and sharpening

The saws need cleaning, filing and setting

The Library needs sorting and shelving

There will also be some stuff on sale

*** Numerous TTTG 'on consignment' and 'donation tools'.**

The good, the bad and the ugly at must-sell prices

*** A selection of rare timber.**

Surplus to requirements following Ray Gurneys' relocation

All TTTG members are encouraged to come along and help to get the group's Tool Collection and Library into order!

This day is also a get opportunity to get some bargains!

Contact Bob 02 9869 7487 Mike 02 9144 6356

2011 SYDNEY TOOL SALES

In 2011 there will be two Tool Sales

These will continue to be annual events

EACH YEAR:

HENRY'S SYDNEY TOOL SALE

Will be in SEPTEMBER

At THE STRATHFIELD MENS SHED

Pomeroy Street Homebush

EACH YEAR:

TTTG's TOOL SALE

Will be in MARCH

At ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

Old Pacific Highway Asquith

2011 TTTG Workshops

In 2011 TTTG will offer the following well established workshops:-

Saw Sharpening

Blacksmithing

Edge Tool Sharpening

Plane Fettling

The following workshop was offered as a once only event in 2010 but was so well attended it will again be offered in 2011:-

Tool Repairs

The Routers workshop introduced TTTG members to wood machining and the content will be included in the 2011 workshop

Wood Machining

&

Wood Turning

A new workshop will be offered at a new venue, Strathfield Men's Shed.

Metal Working

&

Metal Machining

**2011 TTTG WORKSHOP
DATES AND VENUES TO BE
ANNOUNCED IN NEWS 116**

TTTG Inc. Tool Collection

The bulk of the TTTG Tool Collection is in the Strathfield Men's Shed.

The TTTG Library is being gradually moved to this location.

Eventually members will be able to access the Tool Collection and Library at this location by prior arrangement with the committee. TTTG will continue to accept gifts of tools and printed material and will continue to acquire items of significance.

The Strathfield Men's Shed is open on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

Membership fees are very reasonable and the Strathfield Men's Shed has excellent facilities and a wide range of machinery available to members.

For details about becoming a member of the Strathfield Men's Shed contact

Jim Windschuttle

02 97469005

TTTG Workshop Venues

Saw Sharpening

Blacksmithing

Edge Tool Sharpening

Plane Fettling

Wood Machining & Turning

Asquith Boys High School

Jersey Street (North) Asquith

Metal Working & Machining

Strathfield Men's Shed

Pomeroy Street Strathfield

Previous TTTG Workshop

Tool Repairs (see picture P19)

Jim Davey, John Daniel and Bob Crosbie conducted this workshop. Before the day they weren't sure how it would turn out. The scope is so large it was hard to know where to start.

As it eventuated this one was another very successful TTTG workshop.

Activities were as diverse as making a blade for a router plane, turning chisel handles, re-mouthing a jack plane and making a hammer handle, just to mention a few things participants attempted.

John had the audience spell bound with the speed of his spindle turning. Clear explanations of how and why are always a joy to experience, John is a true teacher.

John also showed some examples of wood planes he had brought back to life. Again he gave clear and straight forward details freely sharing his extensive knowledge.

Jim foreshadowed the next workshop by explaining his method of table routing plane handles. Bob showed examples of jigs he uses to make plane handles with a hand held router.

Everyone was keen to attend the next workshop to learn more!

Bob acted as anchorman as well as selling a large quantity of TTTG surplus tools.

There were real bargains and there is now space for more tools to sell.

One participant had a nice brass router plane missing a blade. Bob tripped over an old screwdriver and when picking it up realised it was the right diameter to make a replacement blade. So it was into the metalwork room, light the gas and start forging the old blade into a router cutter.

After filing up the new blade Bob put it back in fire and picked up the quench bucket. The job went well, perhaps the half rotten banana in the bucket added a bit to the hardening and tempering!

The next day the editor received an email

Bob,

Just a quick note to thank you for yesterday's workshop. It's nice to see an idea come to fruition, especially when it is one of my own!

I got that block glued in to my plane and planed it down last night. Had to pack it a bit around the edges but it wasn't too bad for a first attempt. Now I'll have a go at super-gluing the cheeks. Finally a link that you may or may not have already seen about laminated blades.

<http://www.fullchisel.com/blog/?p=1258>
#comments

Thanks again and see you in the shed sometime.

Cheers,

Bradley van Luyt.

Tool Repairs will be offered in 2011

NEXT WORKSHOP

Routers

November 21

Asquith Boys High School

2011 WORKSHOPS

The Topics **page 7**

The Dates **News 116**

If you have an idea for a workshop please contact the *NEWS* editor.

Next TTTG Workshop

Routers

November 21

Using the electric router safely

Jigs and devices

Pattern routing

Routers will explore the many uses and possibilities of this machine.

Numerous jigs and devices will be shown.

Please Note:

Hearing protection and suitable foot wear must be worn during TTTG workshops.

Especially when using electric routers you should always wear hearing protection.

Suitable footwear and appropriate clothing are also required at all TTTG Workshops.

Light refreshments are provided.

Bring your lunch.

Workshop Venue:

Asquith Boys High School

Jersey Street (North) Asquith

The new workshops have been offered in response to members' suggestions.



Why go to this workshop?

Jim Davey will be there with lots of great stuff to sell.

Jim and Bob will demonstrate several methods of making plane handles using routing jigs. This will get you thinking about the possibilities!

These are the main topics covered

-Routing circular work.
Circular table rims, bow drawer fronts

-Routing joints.
Housings, rebates etc

-Pattern Routing Tool Handles
Plane handles, saw handles

-Table Routing Tool Handles
Plane handles, saw handles

-Pattern Routing Shaped Work
Chair legs, plane stocks

-Routing Mouldings

-Mortising

-Flush Trimming

-Problem Solving with Routers

-What cutters to buy

-Second Hand Routers

-OH&S Issues

Recommendation

Do not bring a your router

BUT

Do bring your hearing protection.

Broken Tool Parts

Repair or Replace?



Confession time, I lifted this image from an overseas tool dealer, I didn't buy the tool but I would love to own and use one!

The plane is a Mathieson Bridle Plough. It is a good example of a tool that raises the question ***Repair or Replace?***

The ideal solution is to retain as much as the original plane as possible.

Old surfaces should be retained and further deterioration prevented. If the tool was intended to become a museum display very little beyond consolidation would be done.

If the tool is to be used, and most tools are meant to be used, it can be difficult to decide what to do. If in doubt, don't do anything! Leave it to someone else!

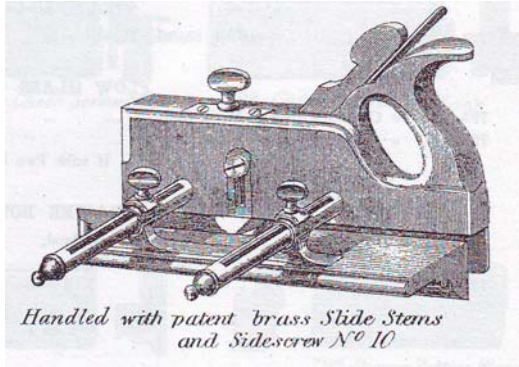
Everything that follows is a consideration of what I would do if I owned this tool in the form of a 'problem and solution' plan.

Mathieson Bridle Plough Plane

Problem 1

What did it look like when new?

Solution



The Mathieson 1899 Catalogue

Problem 2

What do I want?

Solution

If I owned this I would want to repair and use the plane. This answer determines what you will do.

NEVER strip in Caustic Soda or Sand the tool 'as new'

I would then start planning the repairs.

Problem 3

The Stems, Thumb-screws and Skate.

Solution

I can do the metal work BUT if I couldn't I would need to find a skilled metal worker experienced in conserving old metalwork. The first thing would be to remove the brass fittings. Care needs to be taken to remove the original screws and to avoid damaging these screws. I would also remove the skate at this stage.

Problem 4

The damaged brass stem.

Solution

First I would clean the stems and also the skate in a hot solution of Citric Acid. Next I would anneal the brass stems. Once annealed a soft piece of round stock would be inserted in the damaged stem and the distortion eased out.

Exactly how I would do this job would only be revealed when I started the job!

From the photo I think this would be a straight forward job.

Problem 5

The missing thumb-screws.

Solution

One thumb-screw looks to be good so I'd have one to copy. My guess is the new one is a BSW (1/4") round head so at least the screw-thread would be easy to cut. I would turn a new thumb screw out of matching brass, the top part would be filed to shape, finished with an emery stick and polished 'to match'.

Problem 6

The skate will be lightly pitted.

Solution

I would polish the brass bar and refinish the steel skate with a flat emery stick, accepting any minor pits.

Problem 7

The other Metal Parts, The Depth Stop

Solution

The Depth Stop and screws appear to be in good condition. I would unscrew them, being careful not to damage the original fixing screw. They would then be cleaned in a hot solution of Citric Acid and lightly polished to match the brass stems.

Problem 8

The Plane body and Fence. Handle-spur

Solution

I would chisel a flat and glue in a matching piece to the handle. When dry I would shape in the repair.

Problem 9

The dirt is easily removed by washing the wood in warm soapy water. When dry look at it carefully. If there are some white patches it means the plane was finished with shellac. A wipe over with Metho (on a cloth) will even out any oil or shellac residue. I would finish by rubbing with a cloth charged lightly with raw linseed oil.

The final step would be to reassemble the plane, find a set of plough irons, sharpen them and use the plane.

TTTG CITRIC ACID

THE BEST AND CHEAPEST

Available at all TTTG Inc Meetings and Workshops

*Support TTTG and save
money!*



*For tough rust
USE
TTTG Citric Acid*



ONE SIZE

ONE TTTG PRICE

500 grams for \$5

(Supermarket price 75 grams for \$2.20)

Citric Acid versus Molasses

Mike Williams

At every Timber and Working with Wood Show, we get old timers telling us that they have always used molasses for derusting and although very slow, (sometimes weeks) they tell us that it is better and safer than citric acid. Now molasses is basically just a sugary solution which, under ordinary circumstances shouldn't chemically remove rust. That is until you look at the industrial method of making citric acid. It is made by the fermentation of molasses by the naturally occurring organism *Aspergillus niger*. (Many other organisms will also work, but not as well). The active derusting ingredient in molasses **is** citric acid but without fermentation control, the strength will be variable. Furthermore, because the process takes much longer, there is more chance for hydrogen embrittlement to occur. Using TTTG citric acid is quicker, more controlled and gives the same result with less opportunity for hydrogen embrittlement to occur.

CARTER PRECISION TOOLS

In response to Alan Jacobs' article on Carter Precision Tools in News 114 Trevor Semmens sent the following additional information on Carter.

This is in response to Alan's article in News 114.

There are just a couple of small things to add to what Alan has written that I had in my files from my contact with Jack Carter in February 1993.

They are:-

"...brother Frank was much older than me and in the early years, he was the driving force"

- "My brother Frank was 8 years older than I but he died of a heart attack in 1972 at the age of 57 years. He and I were employed during the war at AWA Ashfield".

- 'Between the years of 1945 to 1955 many thousands of Carter planes were manufactured, all carried the manufacturer's guarantees. I don't recall any problems with warranty claims.'

This was partly in response to a comment I had made in my draft notes which I forwarded to him for comment 'that they were of mixed quality'. He was not happy with that description.

- "we stopped making planes due to a company upheaval (and) at that time we were at Grose and Buller Streets Parramatta."

I wonder what this company upheaval was about!

Trevor also commented on the Carter C1 illustrated in the article. This illustration was copied from an undated Goodall Sydney Tool Catalogue. The quality of the original was also a bit fuzzy!

Alan, the illustration you show of the Carter C1 is I reckon a copy of the Stanley 10 and therefore wouldn't describe it as 'a Carter innovative design'. I have a couple of Carter C1's, including one new in its original box. They are nice planes.

As it happens the editor selected the illustration of the Carter C1 in News 114.

The editor considers the Carter C1 to be an innovative design despite the plane being a copy of the Stanley 10 plane. The C1 is not an exact copy of the 10 as the C1's blade is wider. The #10 blade is 2¼" and the C1 blade 2³/₈".

When the Carter was making planes the common use of the #10 was to clean up the rebates in door and widow jambs. The #10 is narrower than the standard rebate meaning that the job has to be finished with a bench plane. The extra 1/8" would have saved time and the C1 would have appealed to joiners and to site carpenters.

I believe this is an example of Carter Tools 'knowing the market'.

Another example is the Carter's decision to copy the Stanley 54 plane. The Carter 'Plow and Rebate' was probably just what the average user wanted as well as being cheaper than a Stanley 45.

I remember Jack Carter speaking to a TTTG meeting in 1994. He was very sensitive to any criticism of any Carter tools and very evasive on how Carter sold and advertised its products. At the time it was believed there were no Carter adverts! We now know Carter Tools featured in Scruttons, McPhersons and Goodall catalogues and that Carter Tools were even sold tools in the hardware section of David Jones Parramatta. TTTG has republished a very well designed Carter advertising leaflet.

The image Jack presented of Carter Tools as 'west of the Arnott's Biscuit Factory battlers' cries out for revision.

THE LEDGER

New Members

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

Keith Johnson	M 599
Mark Azzopardi	M 600
Peter O'Loughlin	M 601

IMPORTANT !!

WE'RE B..A..A..CK !!

TTTG's October 12 meeting will be held at our traditional venue:

The National Trust Building on Observatory Hill.

For the benefit of new TTTG members or those who have not attended this venue, The National Trust Building was the old Fort Street High School, that big building on Observatory Hill that you see on the left as you drive north over the Harbour Bridge.

It's a fairly short distance from Wynyard Station (exit the station on the York Street side and take the subway under the Bridge approaches).

If you're coming by car, from Argyle Street, drive up Watson Road which becomes Upper Fort Street. Go as far as you can then turn right and with the Sydney Observatory on your right drive 'round the circular road to the National Trust Building. There is plenty of free parking.

Get there about 7pm for a very light snack catered for by our world renowned gourmet chef, Mario Dato.

Electric Router Workshop

On Sunday 21st November, 2010 at Asquith Boys' High School, starting at 9:30am, TTTG will be holding an all-day **Router Workshop**. This workshop has been requested by several TTTG members and will be the first time it has been held.

Tea/Coffee and bickies provided; bring your lunch if required. I you get there at about 9am, have a cuppa before the Workshop starts.

Enter Asquith Boys' High School from Jersey Street North; drive 'round past the playing field to the Industrial Arts block.

TTTG workshops teach not just skills but provide a day of fun and camaraderie. Many members joined TTTG as a result of their attendance at our workshops.

Among the presenters at the Router Workshop, Jim Davey will demonstrate the making of bench plane handles.

Workshops \$20 members; \$40 non-members, (non-members may join on the day to enjoy the numerous delights of TTTG membership). No need to book, just turn up. It would be helpful if workshop delegates brought the correct money (\$20 notes) as a whole stream of \$50 notes makes my treasurer duties difficult.

Don't bring your own router, but please bring hearing and eye protection.

My discovery of electric routers was 50 years ago when Bill, our carpenter, at work, built me a bookshelf as a

foreign order in no time flat at lunch time using a Stanley electric router. I was so impressed that 20 years later, in 1980, I bought a fixed-base Makita 3601B router which is still going strong. It was my first power tool after the ubiquitous quarter inch Black & Decker U-1 electric drill.

When enquiring about the Router Workshop, one TTTG member jestingly felt guilty about going to a Traditional Tools event about an electric tool. Is the electric router a traditional tool? I assuaged his concerns by pointing out that in the short history since this colony was founded in 1788, machine tools have been in use for more than half this time. The electric router was a hand-held spin-off from the spindle moulder which has been around since the year dot.

Whilst electricity was only relatively recently reticulated to the public in 1904 by the Municipal Council of Sydney (later the Sydney County Council and Energy Australia), there were a number of private power companies previously in business which the Council subsequently bought out. And industrial organisations generated their own power to run machines.

In 1863, Sydney was illuminated (in honour of the marriage of the Prince of Wales) by an arc lamp at the Sydney Observatory near where TTTG holds its meetings.

In 1888, Tamworth had the distinction of having the first electric street lights in the southern hemisphere, quickly followed by

Young, Penrith, Moss Vale, Broken Hill and in 1891 by Redfern.

The Australian Woodworker Magazine

To complete a collection, I'm looking for, and willing to pay a reasonable price for the following issues of The Australian Woodworker:

July/August 1985

March/ April 1988

January/ February 1990 and

July/August 1990.

I may be contacted through

treasurer@tttg.org.au

or (02)9416 7134.

TTTG's Next Publication Project

As foreshadowed at TTTG's AGM on the 10th August, 2010, President Bob has in mind a book based on the engravings in Smith's Key with recent colour photographs of the tools illustrated therein and augmented by descriptive text.

Smith's Key (long title: Explanation or Key to the Various Manufactories of Sheffield, 1816), by Joseph Smith, though neither an explanation nor a key, depicted all the tools, cutlery, etc, made in Sheffield at about the turn of the 19th century.

A reproduction of the Key was published by the Early American Industries Association in 1975 and although the Key is long out of copyright, TTTG has obtained EAIAs permission to use some of its explanatory text in our proposed publication.

Clynt Sheehy
TTTG Treasurer

'HAMMALOT' revisited

It was an "eye opening" experience inspired by a guest appearance of Brian Pickett at a meeting of the Kiama Woodcraft Group. (I have been gently attempting to influence our group to appreciate the merit of traditional tools).

On arrival at 'HAMMALOT' the address of Brian's unique hammer museum we were welcomed with a much appreciated mug of tea / coffee and good Aussie rock cakes prior to the raising the doors. He received the orchestrated response desired; the group had the usual 'jaw -dropping' reaction common to most visitors.'



'You can take them off the hooks, as long as you put them back in the same place,' was an invitation too good to resist, although the occasional *'which hook was this on?'* was a bit of a worry. We should never let kids loose in a lolly shop!



I have explored the isles of this shed on several occasions and thought I had seen it all ,not so, as many previously unnoticed "heads" and "faces" seem to come into focus on each visit. The tools that seemed to demand attention on this occasion were those made of wood, which, I suppose was predictable, as I was wearing the hat of the Woodcraft Group.



The variety of mauls, mallets for carpentry, plumbing, lead beating, shipbuilder's rope serving, etc., transported the mind to innumerable trades of the past. The woods used to make the tools were, at most times selected for their characteristics, and at times, their availability, and others, whatever the modified or converted object had been constructed from in a previous life. I needed to get my camera out.



There was lots of 'hammer talk' as we departed with frequent acknowledgement of Brian's generosity.

Well worth the cramped mini bus ride!

**JD's
continued**



September 19th Workshop

As usual, we had a good roll-up at our last workshop where various techniques were discussed and demonstrated for repairing tools.



A German Plough Plane?

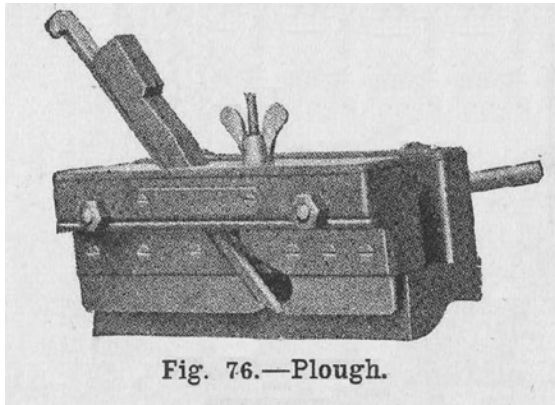


Fig. 76.—Plough.

When I was a child one of the few books my father owned was a copy of Cassell's *Carpentry & Joinery*, 1907, edited by Paul N Hasluck. He didn't have much interest in anything but the rougher types of work so I suspect he never opened the book. Maybe this is why, as a boy, I asked him where it came from and he told me 'an old hand had given it to him' before he joined the Army and ended up in New Guinea.

When I was a teenager I traced the true identity the old hand and started looking for the 'fine tools' he was reputed to have owned. He was dead but was the father of one of my mother's friends so during one of our visits when she tried to 'civilise' me I asked her about the tools. She pointed to a rotting tool chest beside the out-door lavatory. End of conversation.

During my frequent days off school I spent the time watching television and reading. In retrospect the TV re-runs I watched were the best cinematography of early last century and reading books like Hasluck's *Carpentry & Joinery* was a good grounding in traditional technology.

No doubt it also made up for the 'reading and writing' I avoided at school. The tools in Hasluck were a revelation as no one I knew had such tools or could do this type of detailed work.

When I started High School everything was new. The only subjects my friends were interested in were metal work and woodwork. In the metalwork rooms there were new Hercus Lathes and two Douglas Shapers and an empty spot where the forges had just been removed! I had asked about the forges because I remembered the forge glowing in the local smithy before it had been bulldozed for progress.

I must have also read about Smith's work in one of my father's other books, *The Farmer's Handbook*. Maybe this book also gave me the idea that the tools in Hasluck weren't just useless old fashioned stuff as the carpentry section only showed wooden planes and described them as 'the best'.

When I got into the school's woodwork room I was over awed by the new Turner metal planes. I asked the teacher about wooden planes and he told me that they had been 'phased out' last year.

My class in high school was a bit feral and in fact most of my associates had dropped out after a couple of years. I did Woodwork as an elective, mainly because I wasn't allowed to do real subjects.

In time I settled down and started to excel at woodwork. One teacher spent a lot of time with me and passed on some of the old methods he had learnt before joining the Army and ending up in New Guinea.

As a young man I learnt on modern tools but always tried to find older tools. I don't know the reason but initially they were hard to find. For cutting grooves I used a Stanley 50 until I finally found a beaten up old wooden plough.

When it comes to joinery the information in Hasluck is something of a bottomless well. The book was compiled from articles in *Building World* which may explain why the above illustration of a continental plough is included without comment!
Maybe a reader can identify the plane

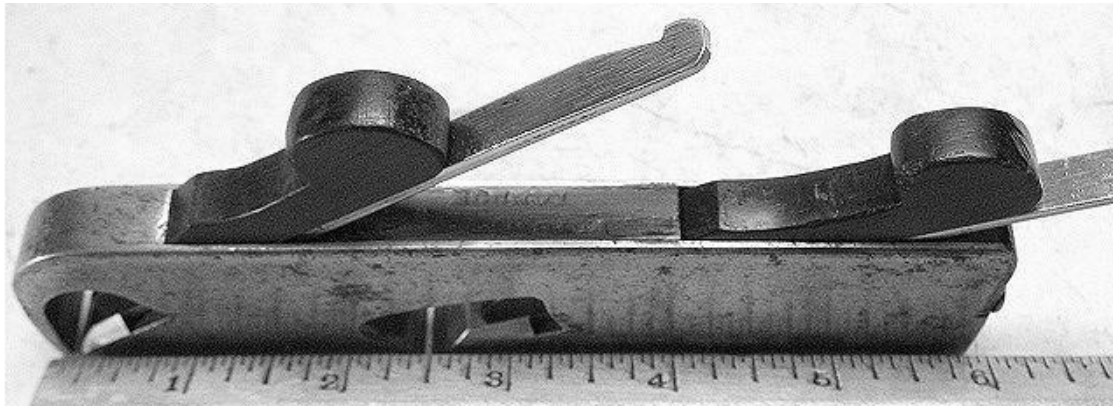
Ed..

TOWELL PLANE

Colin Sullivan saw this plane on eBay. The plane is rather unusual Robert Towell plane, notice the front iron looks like it is set at 45 deg. and the back about 25 deg.

Any information on Towell planes is eagerly awaited by the TTTG editor.

Have you seen any planes like this?



The editor contacted Fred Murrell and he sent these observations.

I left a bid on this little gem, but I was not in the hunt. I emailed the seller asking him to email me a full side on photo, but he couldn't be bothered. I offer some brief comments that may interest readers.

In his fine work, 'Stewart Spiers and the Planemakers of Ayr', Nigel Lampert, referring to 'infill' type rebate planes as opposed to other metal 'infill' planes which were developed before Spiers commenced production, said:

"By contrast, the bull-nose rebate plane certainly seems to have been a Scottish affair in which Stewart Spiers appears to have played the leading role. Despite its early appearance, only Spiers and Mathieson are known to have made the bull-nose rebate plane in this period, except for one marked 'Moseley & Son' which was probably made by one of them. ... It thus seems fairly certain that

Spiers deserves credit for the development of this pattern."

The photo is of a plane recently sold on Ebay, in England, made by Robt. Towell who, to best accounts, operated no later than 1840, some ten years before Stewart Spiers commenced actively making planes, and probably twenty or thirty years before he commenced to make the twin iron bull nose planes. The plane is 5 7/8" long and only 1/2" wide of wrought steel dovetailed and with rosewood infill.

Was Robt. Towell the inventor?

Perhaps, one day, someone will find a bull-nose infill plane made by John Green or Christopher Gabriel.



Double iron bull-nose rebate plane in Stewart Spiers 1851-1858 Brochure This brochure is the earliest known advertisement for metal planes.

Convict Sydney Exhibition at The Barracks

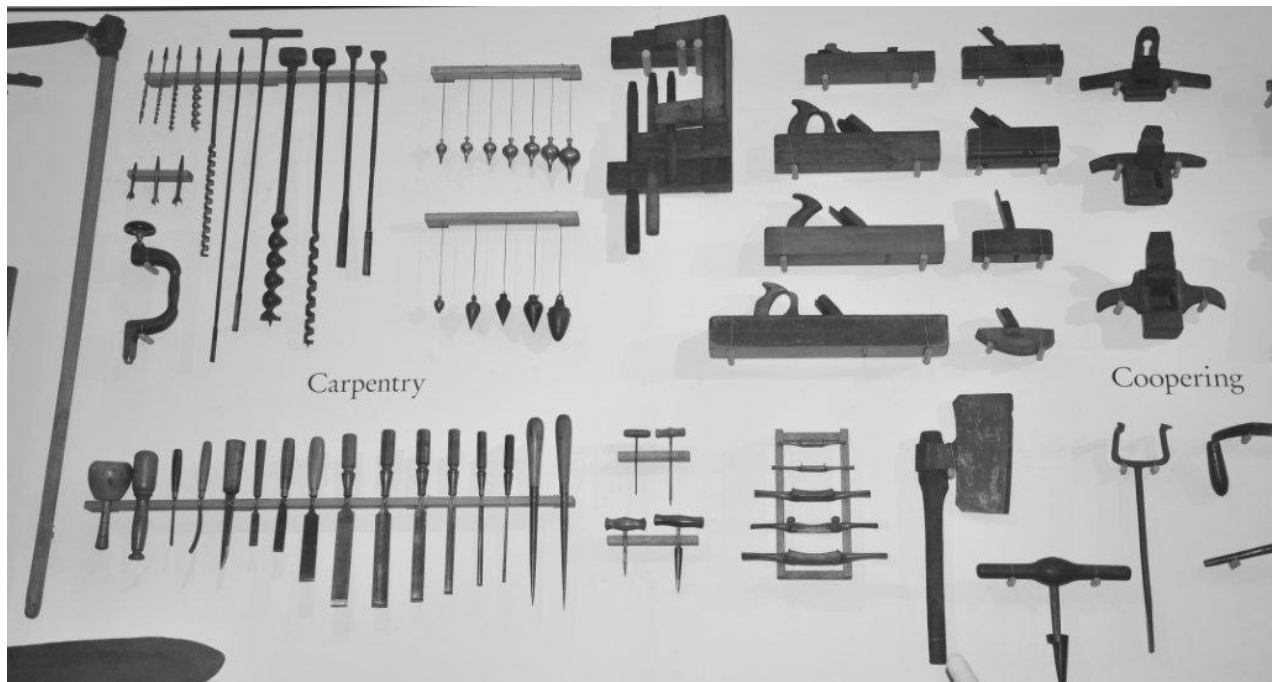


A new exhibition has just opened at The Barracks on Macquarie Street.

It is entitled “Convict Sydney” and of special interest to TTTG members is the display of convict era tools. Many of the objects have been loaned to the exhibition from the collections of TTTG members so ensure that you don’t miss it!

Left: Dressed for the occasion, TTTG Member “Big Jim” guards the entrance to The Barracks.

Below: A selection of the tools on display



Titan Letter Opener

This rare Titan artefact was found by the TTTG Treasurer.

The only comparable Australian tool memorabilia the editor recalls is the Bakelite Carter Tools Ash tray.

Does a reader have anything similar?



The Titan letter Opener



Detail of the blade inscription

Linseed Oil

Postscript to

An Old-Timer's Formula for Fine Wood Finishing



Raw or Boiled?

I've had many an argument over which linseed oil should be used for wood finishing. Those who blindly follow the text books insist that boiled linseed oil must be used. I use raw linseed oil as I maintain that modern boiled linseed oil is not the same as old boiled linseed oil.

Commercial boiled linseed oil is raw oil with dryers added. The dryers do not improve the quality of the oil. Raw oil used sparingly and applied with lots of friction produces a superb finish.

Of course I have been ridiculed on many occasions. Now I have found someone else who had a similar opinion.

Popular Science in 1960 ran an article on a traditional method of wood finishing. In March 1961 a follow-up article was published. In this follow-up the author discusses the 'problem' with modern boiled linseed oil.

Of course we have to advise the readers to take all necessary precautions if they do decide to follow the old timer's method of boiling their own linseed oil.

Kettle-boiled linseed oil, also known as hard oil, has had the vegetable fats removed by boiling and is a much deeper color than raw oil. It used to be that kettle-boiled linseed was widely available. But what you get now as "boiled" linseed is usually just raw oil with driers added. The fats in it cause the sticky surface.

Boiling your own oil is the best answer. I've been doing it for years. It takes three to five hours, depending on the amount of oil you start with.

Place a quart or so of raw oil in a double boiler—more if a larger boiler is available. But don't fill the upper container too full. Keep the lid on and bring the water to a boil. Maintain maximum heat; keep the lid on and the water boiling. In about two hours the vegetable fat will begin to separate from the oil and rise to the top.

Safety warning

- Boil the oil in a double boiler.
- Do not heat over a naked flame.
- Do this in a well ventilated area.
- Skim off and dispose of fat responsibly

The editor has prepared oil in this manner for many years and it works!

Make-shift Tool Repairs



The *NEWS* editor acquired an Ohio Circular plane (identical to the Stanley Plane illustrated at left) at the last TTTG Tool Sale.

The Make-shift Repairs are amazing.

This plane will feature in NEWS 116



PLANES

FULLY FETTLER (TUNED) AND SHARP
STANLEY BAILEY, BEDROCK & BLOCK PLANES
FETTLING SERVICE, REPAIRS, WELDING

TRADE PRICES ON:



DMT DIAMOND PLATES - DIA-SHARP PLATES



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M2 HSS ACADEMY BLADES, LEATHER CHISEL ROLLS AND COVERS



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JDAVEY@bigpond.com www.jimdavey-planes-sharpening.com

Practical Hints



Short Cuts and Tips

FROM PS READERS

Automatic Picket Spacer

IN BUILDING a picket fence, this easily made jig will space the pickets evenly and at the same height. Rest it on the top rail as you position and nail each picket.—*B. L. Wollenzien, Grand Junction, Colo.*

Popular Science January 1960

Short Cuts and Tips

FROM PS READERS



Chuck-Cleaner Made from Bottle Brush and Dowels

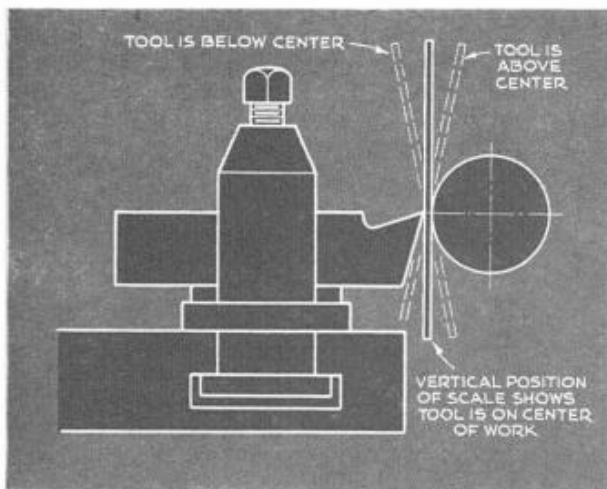
BEFORE mounting a chuck on a lathe spindle, you should brush chips out of the threads of both spindle and chuck.

Any brush will do for the spindle. A bottle brush is good in the chuck, but it should have a handle that rotates easily. You can make the handle from a 4" piece

of $\frac{3}{8}$ " hardwood dowel and a $\frac{1}{2}$ " button of 2" dowel. Drill the dowel to take the wire of the brush and fasten the button with a single nail. Hold the button against the palm with your third finger and rotate the handle with thumb and index finger.—*Walter E. Burton, Akron, Ohio.*

Popular Science August 1960

Practical Hints



Setting Up Lathe Tools

AN EASY and accurate way to set the cutting height of a lathe tool is to place a machinist's scale (or other thin strip of steel) against the work and advance the tool until it presses hard enough to hold the scale. If the scale assumes a vertical position, the tool is on center. If it is above or below center, the scale will tilt as indicated by the dotted lines shown on the drawing.—*M. W. Loftus, Chicago.*

Popular Science May 1961



How to Dress a Reamer

A REAMER will produce an exceptionally fine finish if you lap the cutting edges lightly with fine lapping compound.

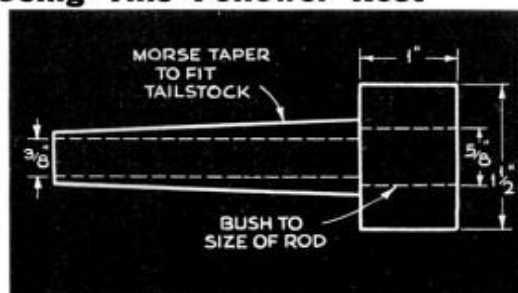
Dog the reamer between centers in the lathe and run the machine in reverse while you hold an adjustable ring lap lightly around the flutes.

This method will remove only a few ten thousandths—not enough to impair the relief angle on the cutting edges—but it will clean away rust, metal build-up, and small nicks.—*H. J. Gerber, Stillwater, Okla.*

Popular Science July 1960

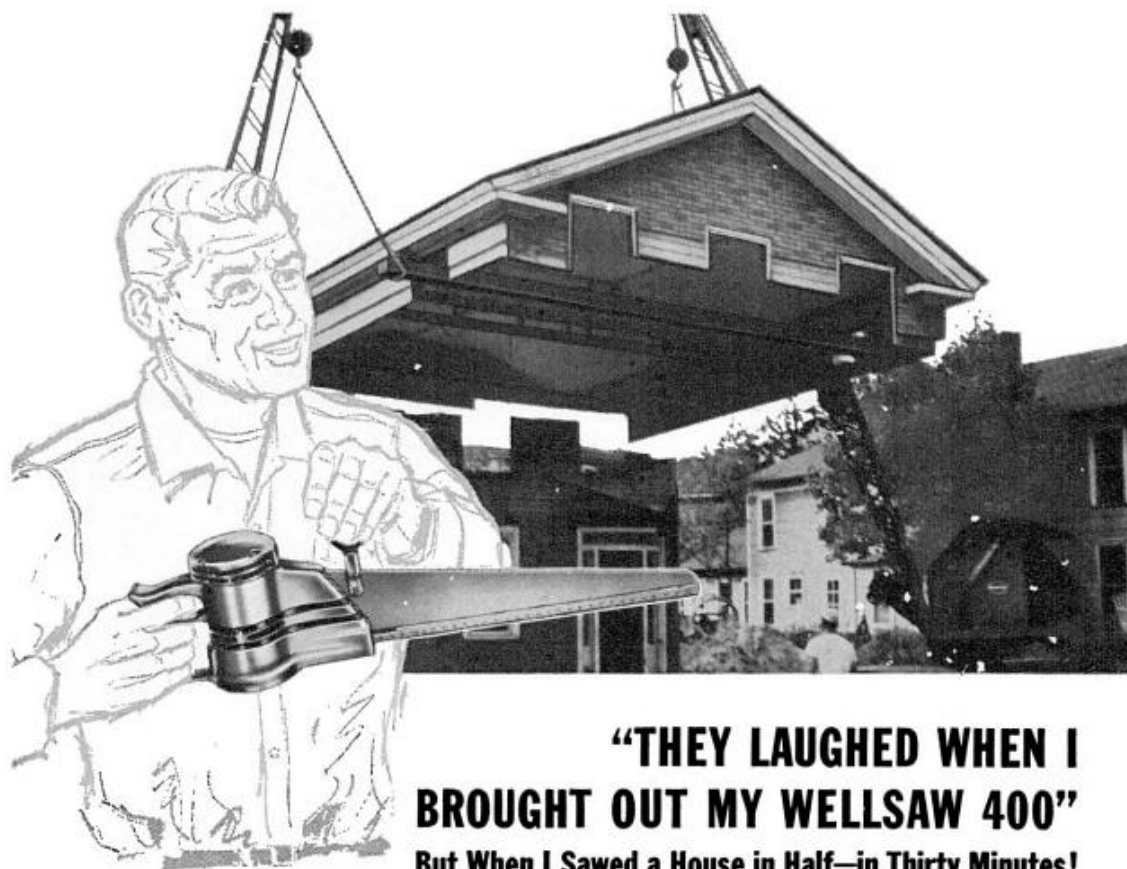
Slender Rods Can Be Turned Using This Follower Rest

THIS easily made follower rest for the tailstock eliminates the tendency of small-diameter work to bend away from, or climb, the tool. Turn the tapered sleeve as shown and make up a set of bushings to fit any size CRS up to $\frac{3}{8}$ " in diameter. Always cut from left to right, using the movement of the saddle to push the tailstock along the ways, when using the follower rest.—*Robert Beasley, Detroit.*



Popular Science November 1960

What was new in 1962



**“THEY LAUGHED WHEN I
BROUGHT OUT MY WELLSAW 400”
But When I Sawed a House in Half—in Thirty Minutes!**

“That’s right! That’s all I used—just my electrically powered HANDSAW—WELLSAW 400—to saw this house completely in half!” If you use a saw for anything . . . send for free illustrated story, **“The Sawing Magic of WELLSAW 400”**—America’s most versatile handsaw—electrically powered to deliver 8000 rigid in and out cutting strokes a minute!

SO SAFE—it stops cold in $1\frac{1}{2}$ seconds—just by releasing the trigger.

SO EASY TO OPERATE—you will be an expert in a few hours.

SO LIGHT IN WEIGHT (under 9 pounds) a teenager can handle it.

SO ECONOMICAL—it pays for itself many times over in *saving time, cost, overhead, exertion and fatigue.*

PRECISION BUILT—with a 90 day Warranty.

SO MANY USES—it is America’s most versatile handsaw.

NO OTHER HANDSAW—powered or otherwise—saws so many things so well, so fast, so accurate, so safely!

Precision built and designed for carpenters, home owners, builders, farmers, ranchers, fruit growers, meat cutters and processors, do-it-yourself handyman, etc.

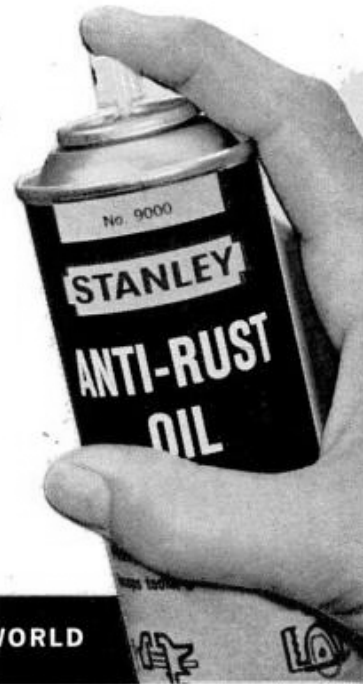
SEE YOUR DEALER OR DISTRIBUTOR!
Read the completely New Exciting Story of Wellsaw 400. Mail this coupon today.

NEW STANLEY CHEMICAL TOOLS

Each of these new Stanley Chemical Tools will do dozens of jobs around the home or shop ... use them in the workshop, garage, outdoors. **JUST PRESS BUTTON and PRESTO** ... the job's done! Quickly and conveniently. **ONLY \$1.39 EACH** at your hardware dealers.



SEND FOR FREE SPRAY HANDLE—50¢ Value. Converts any spray can to spray gun in seconds ... keeps hands clean. Write, enclosing "Special Offer" sticker or Number cut from front of can label, to Stanley Tools, Division of The Stanley Works, 632 Elm Street, New Britain, Connecticut.



STANLEY THE TOOL BOX OF THE WORLD



what's new
.....TOYS

Workshop for Small Fry

Just about any job that big power tools can do can be duplicated in soft materials by this tool for junior craftsmen.

Powered by three flashlight batteries, the miniature multipurpose tool can be set up as a lathe, circular saw, jigsaw, disk sander, or drill. It's "lumber" is foam plastic and balsa wood, supplied with the tool. There's an adjustable tailstock, a machine-type

cutter that slides along the ways, even an outboard spindle for sanding large pieces and faceplate turning.

The accessories are cleverly designed to fit interchangeably on either the headstock or tailstock. Paints for finishing the work and a book of projects are included. The price is \$9.95 from Kenner Products Co., 912 Sycamore St., Cincinnati.

UNIMAT

Popular Science October 1963 published an article on the many uses of the Unimat miniature lathe.

Unimat owners will find the following extracts useful

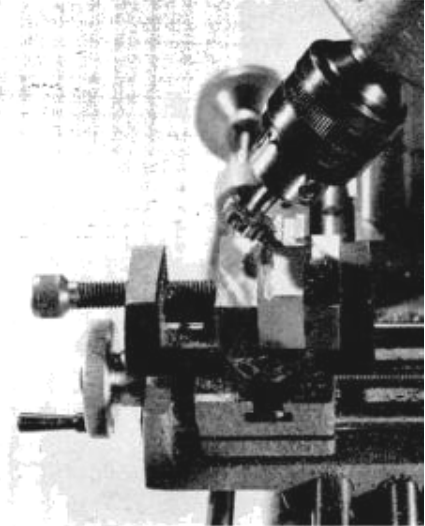
It's even a milling machine—and a surface grinder, too



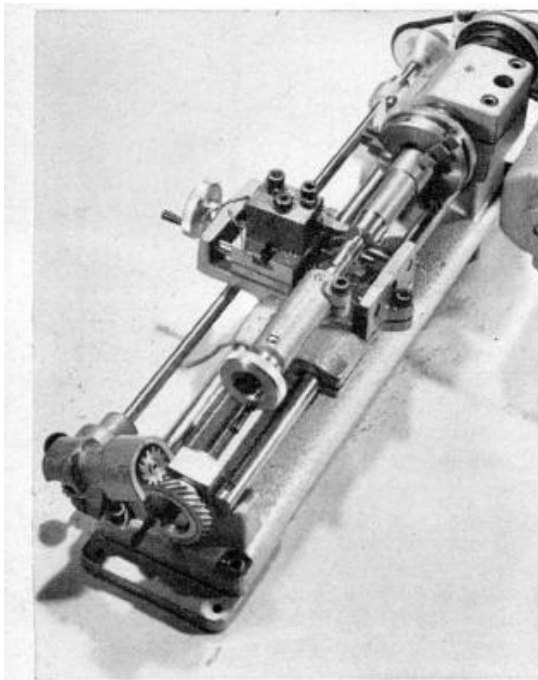
Set up to mill, the Unimat makes quick work of cross-slotting this brass chess rook. With the rook mounted on the cross slide, the cross-feed is used for one slot and the longitudinal feed for the other. This makes it easy to get the slots exactly 90 degrees apart.



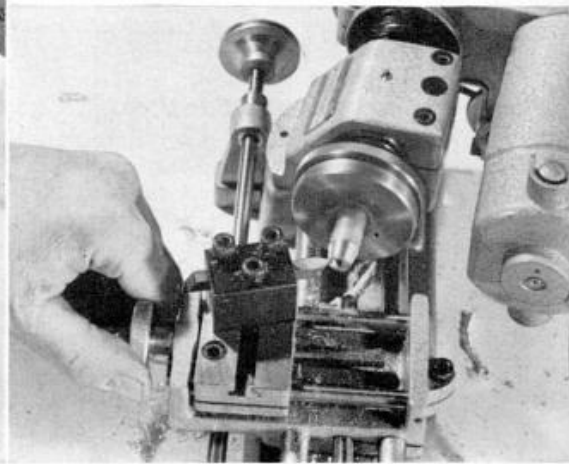
Milling a blind slot on an arc, an all but impossible job by any other means, is a cinch. With the chuck on the indexing attachment, two starting holes are drilled two degrees apart. Then the chuck is rotated by hand as an end mill is slowly lowered.



Milling at an angle is one of the many off-trail jobs you can do on the Unimat. Here the headstock is locked at a tilt on the vertical column and a $\frac{1}{2}$ " keyway cutter takes $\frac{1}{64}$ "-deep bites in aluminum. A shallower final pass with the cutter put a good finish on the notch.



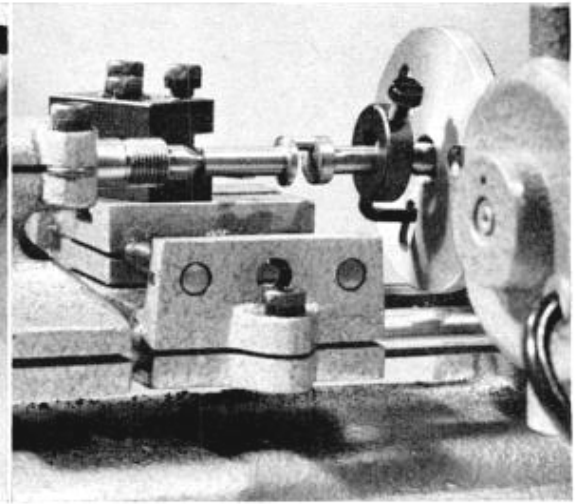
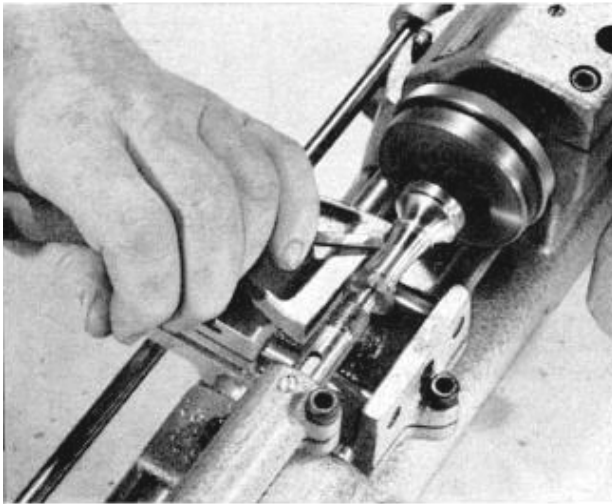
New power feed, shown at left, is belt-driven from spindle at headstock end and turns the lead screw through bevel gears at the tailstock end. On brass, it readily turns down $\frac{3}{32}$ " at a pass, leaving an almost polish-smooth finish. For taper turning (below) you swivel the headstock instead of offsetting the tailstock. When the angle is small, you can couple up the power-feed belt for automatic taper cuts.



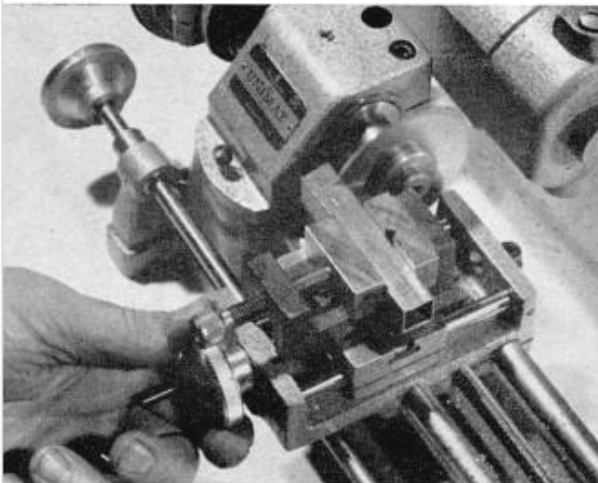
UNIMAT

Freehand turning can create intricate shapes in metal, like this brass chessman. The tool is supported on a rest bolted to the cross slide. A longer rest that bolts directly to one of the lathe ways is also available. The Unimat comes ready to use for about \$140. Though the tool is basically a metal-turning lathe, an ingenious vertical column mount and detachable headstock quickly convert it to a drill press.

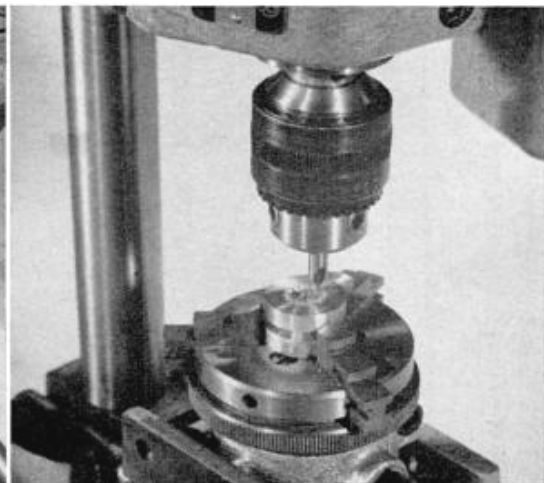
This one-piece crankshaft was turned as part of the PS tests. A length of steel shafting was first mounted offcenter to turn out the crankpin, a difficult interrupted cut. The space between the webs was then blocked for turning the journals to size. Attachments for the Unimat enable it to cut threads, do indexing and gear cutting, and drive an accessory jigsaw, flexible shaft, or 2½" circular saw.



indexing give you an idea of the tiny lathe's versatility



Dead-square cutoffs are easy to make with a slitting saw on the spindle and the work in a vise. The vise shown is an accessory that mounts on the cross slide. One advantage of the small lathe: The setup takes a fifth the time it would on a standard 9" or 10" lathe.



Indexing 16 holes on a blank for a miniature turbine wheel is a precision job made possible by this 48-division indexing attachment, available as an accessory. For this, the headstock is column-mounted in its drill-press position, a changeover that takes only one minute.

There is more in the original but this should be enough to whet the appetite!

Sanding and Planing 1960

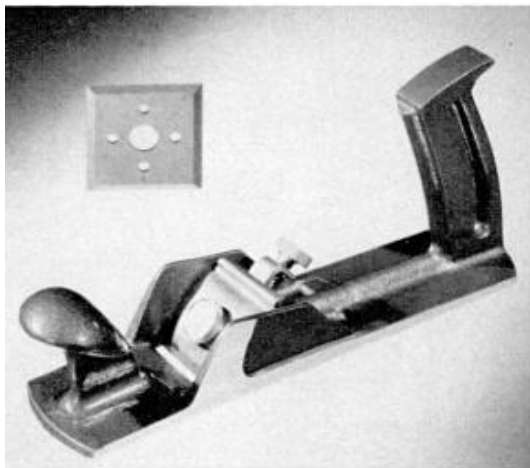


Vacuums Floor While It Sands

This floor-finishing machine cleans up debris as it works. It has twin sanding pads at front and back, won't gouge, and sands flush with baseboard and in corners. It is manufactured for rental service in most major cities. Statler-Petoskey Corp., 20356 Grand River Ave., Detroit.



Popular Science March 1960



FOUR-EDGE PLANE provides you with a sharp blade at all times. When one side of the square cutter becomes dull, you turn it to another edge, and when the fourth edge wears, the blade can be replaced. The plane with one blade sells for \$3.29; replacements, 98 cents each. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 925 S. Homan Ave., Chicago.

Popular Science March 1960



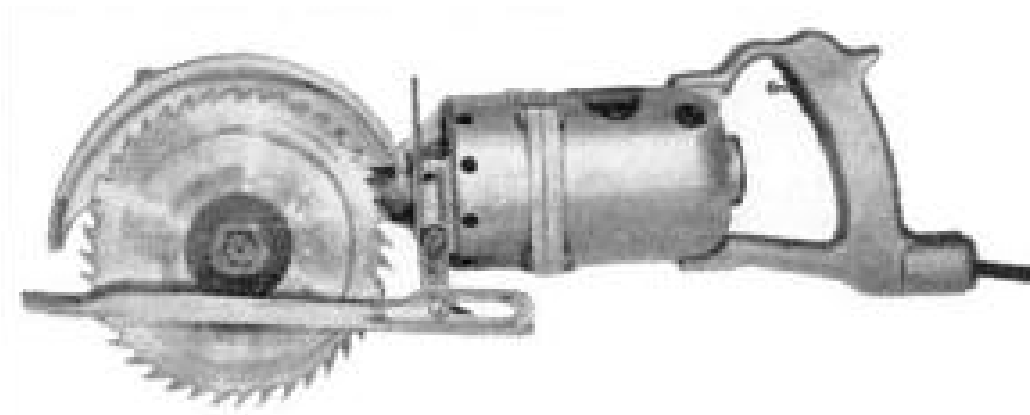
POWER PLANE combines the handiness of a normal plane with the speed and efficiency of a machine. Cutting depth of its $2\frac{5}{8}$ -inch blade can be adjusted from zero to $\frac{1}{16}$ inch by a knurled screw on the front. Its universal AC-DC motor drives through gears sealed in an oil bath. Temperleys, Haslehurst & Co., P. O. Box 548, Vancouver, B. C.

Popular Science May 1960

Early Portable Circular Saw

Birth of a Saw

SOME time back in a piece on “cut-off” saws, you mentioned that “about 35 years ago the Skil people made tool history by introducing the portable circular saw.” I thought you might like to see the saw that started it all.



In New Orleans in the early Twenties, a man named John W. Sullivan met an inventor—Edmund Michel—who had an idea for a portable electric saw with a circular blade. The prototype saw had one big flaw: It ran in reverse. But Sullivan was enthusiastic, the saw was perfected, and the two men started in business in Chicago.

Six production models were made at \$1,000 apiece and Michel set out to demonstrate the tool at Atlantic City’s then-new Million Dollar Pier. The Pier’s developer stopped at the booth, watched the saw work, and asked the price. Pulling a price out of the air, Michel asked \$160. The Pier developer became his first customer and the first owner of a Skilsaw.

CHRIS HERBST
Skil Corporation, NYC.

The letter and photograph were published in Popular Science August 1961.

At first glance the saw looks very different to the modern portable circular saw.

On closer examination the various components start to appear familiar. The concept of the modern portable circular saw is just discernable in the first Skilsaw.

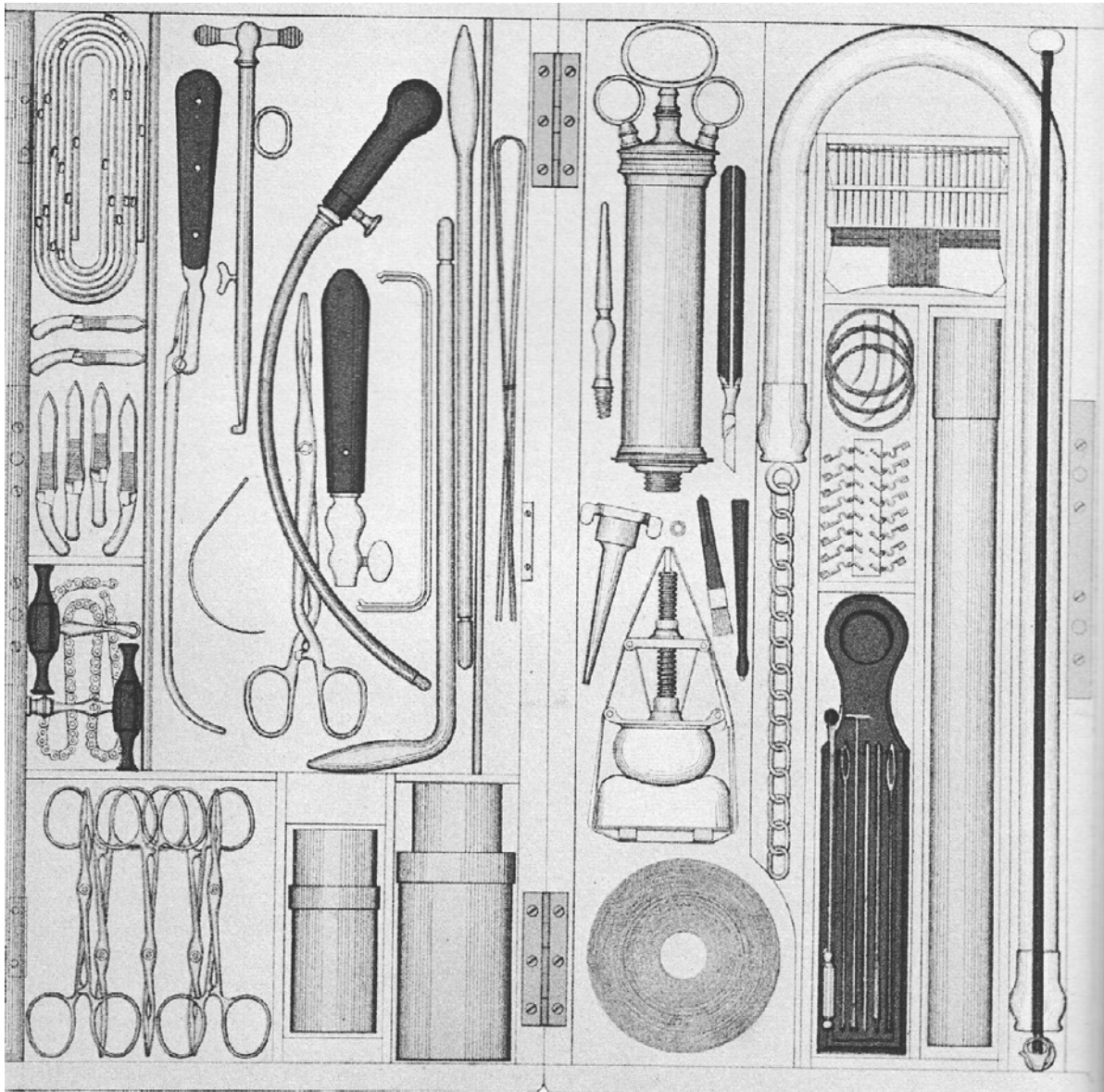
The handle and trigger are very close to the modern portable circular saw but the mounting and guarding the blade appear alien to modern eyes.

No doubt a series of nasty accidents encouraged a redesign of the saw casing and handle position. It should be easy for anyone familiar with the modern portable circular saw to see how the early saw morphed into the modern portable circular saw.

The first Skilsaw must have been a bit dangerous but it obviously caught on!

Red Cross Ambulance Tools

1868



137 Case of surgical instruments kept in a Red Cross ambulance, 1868. Swiss philanthropist Henri Dunant founded the International Red Cross in 1863 in an effort to improve medical treatment and care of the wounded.
138 A stretcher for transporting wounded soldiers, 1867.

Readers interested in surgical tools may recognise the instruments in the illustration taken from *A History of Medicine* written by Jean Starobinski and published by Leisure Arts Limited Publishers London. The book is undated

As well as showing dated typical surgical instruments the illustration is a good example of a well designed specialised fitted case.

Does a TTTG reader have such a case of surgical instruments?

Timber Bending Book

Mike Hendrikson has written, and will soon publish, a book on Timber Bending.

Mike sent the draft to the *NEWS* Editor asking him to check for typos; the editor did this and also offered a few suggestions.

The editor also congratulated Mike on writing an excellent treatise full of fact, free of fertiliser and enjoyable to read because of the author's humour.

The book offers practical advice on Timber Bending and will become a standard reference on the topic. Everything Mike writes is based on experience, both his own and the cumulative experience of generations of older tradesmen.

Mike will offer a special once only deal to TTTG members.

There should be more details by the time NEWS 116 goes to print.

James Munro's Silverwater Sydney

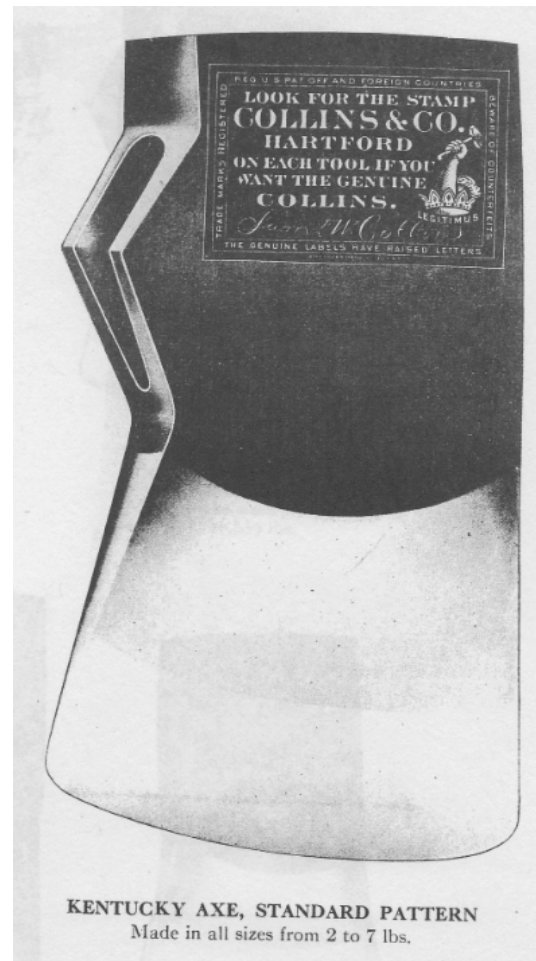
In the draft of *Timber Bending* Mike Hendrikson mentions buying timber from James Munro's at Silverwater in Sydney and discusses the timber bending machines Munro's used to produce a wide variety of bent timber products and the timber stock held.

Does any reader have any information about James Munro's?

Sydney Timber Merchants

The editor is interested in any old Sydney Timber Merchants Price Lists.

Axes CD's



Steve and Maree Lehmann have produced a number of CDs on Axes.

The titles so far issued are

****Plumb and Kelly Axes***

****Axes of the Traditional Trades***

The CDs contain reprints from old catalogues and colour photos of axes.

The production quality is excellent and the prices are reasonable.

Anyone with an interest in old tools will be delighted with these CDs.

Contact

axeman@bigpond.net.au

SANDVIK SAW FACTS

Arguably Sandvik made the best saws ever produced in the 1950s and 60s.

The series of Sandvik advertisements reproduced below are from various issues of the American magazine Popular Science published in 1955, 1956 and 1957.

for
Saws that Cut
TODAY...
TOMORROW...
ALWAYS...
it's **SANDVIK!**

Made of genuine Swedish Charcoal Steel... hardened, tempered and filed to produce the finest, sharpest, longest lasting cutting edges you've ever seen. Extra high crown, perfect balance, easy-grip handle. Compare a Sandvik saw with any ordinary make. The difference in the way it cuts will convince you that there's no finer handsaw made.
Be sure to look for the Sandvik "Fish & Hook" trade mark. See your hardware dealer or write us for handsaw folder. Dept. PS-2

"Fish & Hook"
Brand of Quality

Sandvik Saw & Tool
47 WARREN ST., NEW YORK 7
DIVISION OF SANDVIK STEEL INC.
SANDVIK SAWS SERVE THE WORLD

The first advertisement describes the steel used in Sandvik saws.

Anyone who has used a Sandvik saw will attest to the superior edge held by these saws.

Sandvik saws may be hard to file and they do take care when setting but the effort is more than rewarded by the speed and quality of the cut.

3398

WHAT...

...DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HAND SAWS?

QUALITY STEEL...
Good saw steel should be hard enough to hold its cutting edge and yet malleable enough to be flexible. Only saw manufacturers who operate their own mines and steel mills can give you the uniform controlled steel consistency necessary in every saw blade. Sandvik Swedish Charcoal Steel Hand Saws feature this high quality hand saw steel. This is only one of Sandvik's many exclusive advantages. Before you buy any hand saw, ask your dealer to show you a Sandvik.

Write today for the new 16 page booklet... "Things You Should Know About Hand Saws". It's free - Dept. PS.

Sandvik SAW & TOOL
Division of Sandvik Steel, Inc.
1702 NEVINS ROAD, FAIR LAWN, N. J.

The second advertisement describes the characteristics of *good saw steel*.

At a time when other steel refiners were experimenting with new ways of refining steel and with alloyed steels Sandvik continued to produce high quality *charcoal steel*.

Note the change of address in the second advertisement.

"Things You Should Know About Hand Saws" was available free through the mail.

Any reader having a copy of this Sandvik booklet, who is willing to give TTTG a copy, is requested to please contact the editor

SANDVIK SAW FACTS

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HAND SAWS?



HIGH CROWN
 . . . means that the tooth line is curved or arched. This arched tooth arrangement gets fewer teeth engaged in the wood at a time . . . reducing friction, making cutting easier . . . faster. SANDVIK Swedish Charcoal Steel Hand Saws feature this high crown. This is only one of SANDVIK'S many exclusive advantages. Before you buy any hand saw, ask your dealer to show you a SANDVIK.



Want to know more? Write today for the new 16 page booklet that tells all. "Things You Should Know About Hand Saws." It's free! Dept. PS



Sandvik SAW & TOOL
 Division of Sandvik Steel, Inc.
 1702 NEVINS ROAD, FAIRLAWN, N. J.

The third advertisement describes the *High Crown* on Sandvik saws.

Few modern saws have crown and all commercially machine sharpened saws are now filed flat.

Saws without crown are laborious to use tend to wander off the line.

A well sharpened, high crowned, Sandvik saw is a pleasure to use.

When filing and setting Sandvik saws give the teeth minimum set.

Too much set will break the teeth!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HAND SAWS?



TAPER GRINDING
 Two-directional taper grinding means that the blade is thinner at the back than at the tooth line—and tapers from handle to tip. Proper taper grinding gives the blade better clearance in the cut reducing friction and ensures perfect balance and flexibility. SANDVIK Swedish steel hand saws all feature taper grinding over the entire blade . . . a feature found only in top quality saws.



If you'd like to know more, write today for free booklet "Things You Should Know About Hand Saws". Write Dept. PS



Sandvik STEEL, INC.
 Saw & Tool Division
 1702 NEVINS ROAD, FAIR LAWN, N.J.
 IN CANADA: P.O. Drawer 1330 Station "O" Montreal 9

The fourth advertisement describes the *Taper Grinding* of Sandvik saws.

Traditionally all the best saws were taper ground.

Taper Grinding, combined with the quality of the steel, is why Sandvik saws require minimum set.

Taper Grinding, and the sway back, reduces the weight of Sandvik saws.

By the fourth advertisement Sandvik had an address in Canada. The doors of the British Empire were opened to these exceptional Swedish saws

Auction Sale

Late Bill Cooper Collection

Saturday 27th November 2010 - 10.00am

Scout Hall, Bourke Street, Goulburn NSW

Carpenters tools for user and collector including number of Stanley Planes, signs, cedar and pine furniture.

Australian prints, collectables.

90% unreserved.

Full list on request from Jim Brewer 0248215050 or
jbrewer@tpg.com.au



Stanley No.1



Greenfield Plough Plane



Stanley No.2



Scraper plane



Stanley No 78



Rabone inclinometer rule