



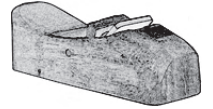
E l e p h a n t

Droppings

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Jim Krenov's prediction of imminent demise has at last come to pass. Knowing that it could happen at any time didn't make the event any less distressing. We can all be thankful to have known him and to know that he has found peace in the only way he ever would.



Jim's last cabinet went to David Finck and Marie Hoepfl in an incomplete state in the early fall of 2006. As that phase ended, he lamented that, "my eyes have deceived me."

Throughout his official retirement, he looked forward to his weekly phone conferences with students of Robert Van Norman and was happy to have CR visitors.

Though he lost confidence in his cabinetmaking abilities, he kept busy in the shop, making hand planes. He probably gave away as many as he sold. Myles Gilmer kept him supplied with a variety of material for plane stock, leading Jim to gain an appreciation for mesquite.

He had been known to say that it was curiosity that kept him going in his cabinetmaking. Curiosity kept him going in his plane-making as well. He was eager to share with visitors new approaches that he'd discovered even after having made fleets of planes. He delighted in the demonstration of cutting cross pins on the band saw causing onlookers to become oxygen deprived as they held their breath. It seemed that he sensed the blade's location by the breeze of the passing teeth.



After a shop incident in mid-April of this year, Jim realized that he was no longer sound enough to continue in his work. He arranged to have the shop emptied.

Anyone with the slightest of familiarity with Jim would know that without his shop, there was little reason to keep going. He could shake off his despondency when visitors dropped by. Those old stories were refreshing, giving him at least a brief sense of purpose.

Jim was still tentatively getting around during the second week of August, but shortly after that needed to use a walker. Having announced that, "this is no way to live," he refused to wake up on the third of September.

Katya Krenov came to the shop to ask for some shavings to make the hospital room smell more comforting. Fortunately, there was some Lebanon cedar. The astringency of Port Orford might have prematurely sent him off. Or worse, wakened him in a bad mood. After making a pile of honey-scented shavings, it was remembered that Armin Driver had left some small blocks of sandal wood. Shavings from one of them and a remaining palm-sized chunk were sent off. Katya placed the sandal wood in Jim's hand where it remained to the end on Wednesday evening. Its ashes were mixed with those of the master's.

Members of the class of '87 will recall that Jim remade his music stand. Student Bernard Henderson, and local resident Marsha Sloane, both professional cello players, performed a cello duet in the shop using that stand.

Hearing of Jim's confinement, Marcia brought her cello to his hospital room and played for a half hour on his last day.

Tina and Katya went to the Highlight Gallery in search of a suitable container for the remains. It couldn't have been more fitting that Taimi Barty had a dovetailed, reclaimed redwood box there, painted with flowers in a Swedish manner.

Britta and the girls ended the long week with dinner at The Restaurant where Britta ordered something other than the usual.

Elephants that Friday drew a few more locals than is typical. Hawaiian Wayne Jacintho ('85) just happened to be in town, lending depth to the lineup. Topping everything was the appearance of Britta, Katya, and Tina. Britta may have wondered if she'd know anyone, but that worry was immediately banished. Tina said later that Britta was happy and comforted to have been there.

Visits to our Fine Furniture web site jumped from an average of about one hundred thirty a day to nearly seven hundred in the two days after Jim's passing. The numbers of pages viewed went from six hundred fifty or so to over thirty five hundred. There's got to be a better way to get traffic.

The calls and emails of condolences to the shop have made the passing feel like the affair of very large family. People of periodic association, feeling the need to commiserate, appreciative for having had the acquaintance, and grateful for being around to talk about it.

As comments came to the shop, it seemed fitting to post them on the web site. Tim Coleman wasn't the only one to wonder if Jim left any green bananas behind.

If some sort of public memorial take place, it would seem fitting to do it for Jim's birthday this Halloween. Suggestions for an agenda with corresponding offers of assistance will be gratefully accepted. There are a good number of Krenov cabinets in the area. A small collection had been presented once before, maybe a larger one could be organized.

There'd been a very small amount of concern that copies of these natterings had not been delivered these past couple of years. There has to be something to deliver first. The diligence of your reporter leaves something to be desired.

A report of the success of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Reunion is overdue. Participation in both weekend attendance and exhibition entries were exceptional.

Very nearly one hundred graduates made the journey to be here in person. Add to that the number of partners and local transplants and you're talking about a real party. Every class was represented, including five people from the first class of 1982. The Class of '99 made the best showing, having eight people from out of town in attendance. The classes of '87 and '92 came equally close to matching top turnout.

Paul Arnold ('87) contributed to the ambiance with maps he'd generated showing the world-wide distribution of students' whereabouts. We're everywhere!

Friday Elephants began a little earlier than is customary, lubricated by kegs donated by Randall Wilson ('89, '90) and Les Cizek ('91, '92). They lasted almost to sunset. We ate better than usual, having a catered dinner provided by Karen Mathes.



A forum convened on Saturday afternoon to "Meet the Old Dawgs" proved to be a satisfying draw with more than twenty graduates, some with a modest amount of arm-twisting, giving accounts of experiences at, and after, CR. One of the more dramatic testaments was given by David Lenearts ('84), when he showed that his very hard Moritz plane iron was worn to an unusable length and made a plea for a replacement.

In a previous posting, mention was made of Byrd brand helical cutter heads for jointers and planers. One set of knives for the shop's Powermatic planer had been ground to the point of being unusable. Rather than spring for a new set of old school knives, a Byrd head was obtained, made possible due to a generous graduate contribution.

Though it could not be said that the replacement process was simple, it was uncomplicated. Nearly all of the mechanism had to come out in order to make the change, but still, the switch was accomplished during the course of a day. Need it be said that there were no students around at the time?

The change-out was immediately proved justifiable. The most contrarian piece of maple to be found sailed through without tear-out, an event still expected after months of use. Initial instinct is to wonder if anything is being cut, the operation is so lacking in racket. The original edge of the four-sided carbide knives lasted for the better part of a year. Visits to the wide belt sander have radically dropped. Students have gotten veneers through down to $\frac{1}{16}$ " of an inch, and once, by accident, $\frac{1}{32}$ ".

A new 10" Taiwanese Oliver jointer sits next to the real Oliver band saw. Alumni from earlier years wouldn't be familiar with the ancient refurbished 8" Northfield that had been in that spot. Replacement in November of 2007 was necessitated due to a lapse of attentiveness during an emergency knife change. Holes in the ceiling register the path of shrapnel. A bent knife hangs in the aide's room as an admonishment.

The choice of that particular machine was made due to size, cost, and the fact that there was an option to have it delivered with a Byrd head. The jointer is a solid mass of metal, but the fence does not stay dependably square.

The 12" Northfield jointer is, as of this past summer, also sporting a Byrd cutter head. We could be a poster shop for the company. They have been good about giving the school a break.

A distressing series of break-ins at the shop has necessitated the installation of a security system as well as a barring of windows, lending the shop the ambiance of the inner-city.

The first violation occurred during the Christmas break of 2006, the weekend after the shop was closed. An attempt to enter the back door was discovered and reported on Saturday morning. Thieves returned that night, apparently with a bigger bar, used to break the catch out of the door jamb.

The low-lives made straight for the cash box with a disturbingly apparent lack of need to seek it out. About \$300 in cash was taken, but that was all, a relief, considering the value of tools present.

A request to the administration for installation of some sort of security system at that time was deemed to be too costly to be reasonable.

Reason presented itself the night after the shop was cleaned up and closed at the end of the second semester, when everyone was at the Budlong party. This time the culprits threw a chunk of petrified wood through the front window to gain entry. They also smashed a window in the office. There was less cash to be taken but a number of checks were lifted. The office was ransacked; papers with addresses and records were selected. The camera bag with two cameras and three lenses was added to the take.

There was an apparent limit to the amount that could be carried in one go, because more windows were broken four nights later. This time, the computer and peripherals were taken as well as additional records and miscellaneous personal tools from the aide's room. A missing Japanese dovetail saw was discovered down the bank behind the shop at Thanksgiving time, in predictably poor shape.

The miscreants had time to horse around while in the shop; various items were found in uncustomary places upon survey.

Discontent with the evening's haul, the next target was the bus barns, where, after a small amount of mischief, an alarm went off, panicking the reprobates into leaving a few items, including two rolls of carving chisels from the aide's room.

Investigations yielded no leads. Only the second assault made the Police Report in the *Advocate News*, and that as vandalism.



Brian Newell and David Welter submitted a proposal to host a Furniture Society conference in 2011. A distinct impression was given that Fort Bragg would be a favored location. Hopes of drawing big-time attention to the North Coast were dashed when the Society's board decided that we are too far from airports to be practicable.

Second-year students now are expected to sing for their supper. With the intent of promoting the Fine Woodworking program, senior class members have been asked to either enter a piece in competition outside of the College, or to submit an article for publication. Greg Klassen ('07, '08) and Andrew Wallace ('08, '09), each have taken top prizes in their category at the biannual Association of Woodworking and Furniture Suppliers trade show in Las Vegas.

The regularity with which CR grads show up in the pages of Fine Woodworking magazine is due in no small part to the efforts of associate editor Anissa Kapsales, ('06). Conscious of avoiding appearance of playing favorites, and uninvolved with final decisions, she has been a dedicated guide in leading the way to publication. She's also a new Mom, giving birth to Helen on the Fourth of July.

Shrewdly recognizing a need, Andrew Wallace has established Mahout Tool and Supply, a local resource for oft-sought specialty tools. It's a wonder it took so long.

From before the time the first Fine Woodworking class was held, Fort Bragg has been raising funds for a new swimming pool. As of this August, the town has a 43,000-square foot recreation center which includes a lap pool and separate areas for therapy and for kids. The building is located at the east end of Maple Street. Completion of the \$13 million dollar facility was made possible last summer through the contribution of \$4 million dollars by AIG just weeks before its collapse. The founder of AIG, C.V. Starr, was from Fort Bragg.



Contributions allow us to keep the wood shop in running order. Our operational budget is essentially the same as it was twenty years ago, and is certain to be reduced this year. Should the spirit move you, donations may be made to the Detjens fund to benefit female students, the JK fund for a general student scholarship, and, should all of the free glue, screws, dowels and plywood be weighing on your mind, to the Robb fund.

We're not likely to have more events with such import as during this past week, but you can keep up by joining the alumni list server. The moderator strives to find a balance between the silly and stultifying sober.

If it's been a while, phone home.

SOURCES

CRFW Alumni Listserv
lists.mcn.org/mailman/listinfo/crfwalum

Association of Woodworking and Furnishings Suppliers
www.awfs.org

Starr Community Center
www.mendocostrec.org/aquatic_center.html

Mahour Tool and Supply
707.964.0670
www.mahouttoo.com

Byrd Tool Corp.
800.441.2973
www.byrdtool.com



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