

AUSTRALIAN TOOLS

Two members, Ian McIntosh and Julian Rose, have provided information about the tools marked "GBM Melb". Both recalled that GBM stood for the firm Green Brothers and Miller of 94 Rosslyn Street, Melbourne. The firm was near Rosesler's the metal stamp manufacturers. Ian, who worked for the Department of Defence, had contact with Green Brothers over a period of time and notes that older workmates recall Green Brothers long before his working life. Ian notes that Green Brothers produced engineering milling cutters, slab mills, side and face cutters, screw slotting cutters, screw threading stocks, dies and taps. Their commercial name was "Rapid Cut" which was marked on their tools. Ian believes that as items marked "GBM" appear in the 1937 McPherson catalogue (pp 93-96) the firm most probably dates from before that time. McPherson's catalogue No. 34 for Engineers and Manufacturers (1934? page 78) notes that McPhersons are agents for Green Brothers and Miller. However no marked tools were seen in that catalogue.

TOM CAINE & THE CAINE TOOL COLLECTION

For the second time this year our display of some of the Tom Caine Tool Collection has attracted the attention of someone who knew him. At the "Working With Wood Show" in October Colin Wenker of Yea stopped to look at our display. He remarked that he knew the face and the name "Tom Caine". This was encouraging because our display calls him Thomas Caine.

In the end, we have, however added just a little more to our knowledge. Col Wenker felt that, although he had worked with hundreds of blokes during his time as a joiner, he knew Tom Caine. Col worked in Surrey Hills at the firm of W.J. Vine and Company in Canterbury Road. Vines was a big joinery which at the time (1936-37) had downstairs staff of sawyers as well as about 40 joiners upstairs. He remembers that they used to deliver their work in Albion trucks with solid rubber tyres as well as in drays pulled by horses. Vines did general house work including making box windows and mortised doors.

Col Wenker recalled that in the period 1936-1937 Tom Caine worked with Lord Brothers of Preston and North Melbourne on staircases. He explained that when Vines had a big job on and were too busy they would get assistance from Lord's. Thus Caine came to the Vine' workshop to do a staircase job. Col Wenker remembers him as a joiner or "staircase man" who was then aged around 46 - 48 years of age. As a joiner with Lord's he would have worked around Toorak and the city area. In the instance that he came to Vines he made up the whole staircase job on the spot.

At this time Col Wenker recalls getting \$1.70 for a 48 hour week. Col Wenker actually also worked with Lords at Glen Waverley as an apprentice.

Nigel Lampert
November 1991

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD - PLANEMAKERS 1

I hope that members did accept the challenge of this crossword. One person wrote to say he found the research involved interewsting. I hope he was successful. For those who had a go here is the solution. I will compile other corsswords fo you at a late date.

Nigel Lampert



ASH
BAILEY
BUCK
CARR
DAVIS
DIXON
GAGE
GABRIEL
GOODELL-PRATT
HAW
JOHN-GREEN
JENNION
KEEN

KNOWLES
LAKE
LEE
LUND
MATHIESON
MADOX
MARPLES
METALLIC
MILLERS-FALLS
MOSS
NELSON
NORRIS
PHILLIPSON

PRESTON
REID
SARGENT
SILCOCK
SIMS
SLATER
SPIERS
SYM
SYME
TIDD
UNION
WEATHERIL

THE WHATSIT FILE

The Whatsit in the october Newsletter (Vol.3, No.5) marked "Instrument - Crellins complete Traverse Table" brought only one suggestion forward. The mystery remains for others of you to solve.

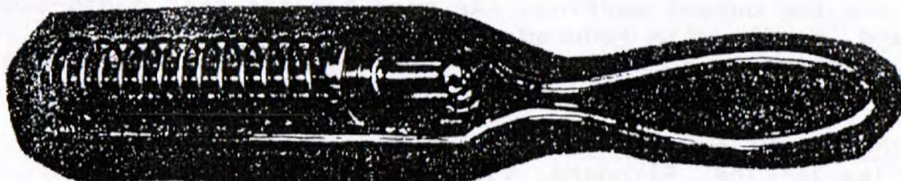
Alex Jenkins of Flinders, Victoria felt it was used by draftsmen and based his decision on information from an 85 year old friend who is a former carpenter. His friend called it a "tremel" (trammel?) and said they had made bigger ones out of wood for plasterers to make ovals or ellipses with.

(Editor's Note: I still favour something to do with maps or charts due to the LAT marking)

A NEW WHATSIT

As we have so unsuccessfully as yet solved the last one, Ken Turner of the Cobweb has given us another one to ponder on during the Christmas period.

WHATSIT ?



HANDLED FRAME IS OF NICKEL PLATED STEEL
10" LONG X $1\frac{1}{8}$ " WIDE X $\frac{3}{16}$ " THICK
- 1" DIA. COILED WIRE SPRING IS OF BRASS
AND NUT ON THREADED SPINDLE ALLOWS LENGTH OF
SPRING TO BE ADJUSTED 4" TO 5"

Submitted by Ken Turner

LETTERS TO THE EDITORTool Restoration

Terry Butcher, Redfern, N.S.W.

I refer to Richard Davidson's reply (October 1991) to my earlier letter on tool restoration.

I hang my head in shame, Richard. Yes, you are absolutely correct! When I said "Do nothing", it would have been better to say to remove the iron and smear well with light oil and then replace. Of course, care should be taken to replace carefully so not to get mineral oil on the wood.

My thanks for your observations.

Miller's Patent Plough and Fillister

Nigel Lampert, Melbourne, Victoria.

Recently I acquired part of a 41 Miller's Plough and Fillister. The interesting aspect of this tool was its nickel-plating which seemed to be original. References refer only to the 141 or 143 as nickel plated, but it is not one of these as there is no bullnose capacity. My feeling that it was possibly a late model close to the end of production in 1897 is not supported as the imprint on the handle of the marking "Miller's Patent, June 28, 1870" is clearly visible. On all (few) others I have seen the later models with the rear depth-stop no longer have the patent marking. As mine has the rear depth-stop and handle with reduced tip to the top I conclude it is in the 1884 to 1897 period. Has anyone else seen another nickel-plated No.41 like mine?

The Saw Nib Mystery

Alex Jenkins, Flinders, Victoria.

After reading the article on saw nibs I spoke to an elderly friend who was a carpenter by trade. As a former bank manager interested in woodwork I can't comment professionally, but my friend was quick to assure me that the nib was used for removing sawdust from saw cuts and to check for nails especially when one was using a newly sharpened saw.

Hand saws are a thing of the past in many respects, especially in quality, and I think we may fail to realize the care and importance in which tradesmen held their saws. Thus the idea of checking for nails is an important one.

Editor's Note:

The Chronicle of The Early American Industries Association (March 1990 p.16) contains an interesting insight into the saw nib issue. Essentially, the view put after reviewing traditional saw shapes as early as 17th century

is that "the ornamental nib is a vestigial relic of a convention of saw decoration employed more than 300 years ago and doubtless kept by saw manufacturers as a concession to the conservatism sometimes remarked in hand-workers who perhaps preferred tools that looked like Grandpa's". The article strongly puts the view that the many suggested uses for the nib came about after its appearance as a decoration on saws.

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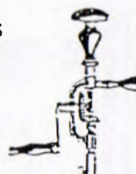
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- Frog for Bedrock 602

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Contact Nigel Lampert

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HAND TOOL PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION



1992



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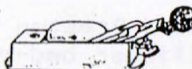
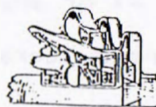
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(The Hand Tool Preservation Association reserves the right to selectively make spaces available to sellers who are not club members.)

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