

Model M Patent Automatic Spoke Driving Machine.

Export Shipping Weight, 3,200 Pounds.

Net Weight, 2,500 Pounds.

Cubic Measurement, 136 Feet.

Cable Word, DREXTEL.

20  
References

I C S Reference Library, Wheel Making, undated - about 1920?

The Wheelwright's Trade, John Thompson, 1983

The Craft of the Wheelwright, Woodworker, February 1964

The Art of the Wheelwright, Woodworker, January 1976

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Showing off Young Donald to the Relations  
(Tool Hunting in America)

From mid-December to late January my wife Joyce, son Donald and I, were in North America visiting relatives and friends. Prior to leaving Sydney I had joined the West Coast Tool Society P.A.S.T. Many thanks to Frank Ham for a copy of their newsletter.

The first month was spent in Red Deer, Alberta, which is on the Canadian prairies midway between Edmonton and Calgary. It gets fairly cold there; minus 35 degrees was reached on two days and zero was quite pleasant. The population is about 60,000 so I placed a wanted advertisement in the local "Advocate". I had five replies, and planes and other tools from two of those replies.

Joyce's dad Mervin, who is a retired farmer, spends the winter in Phoenix, so after Christmas in the snow we flew south with the "snow birds". Joyce stayed with her dad in his mobile home and I travelled onto California. There I stayed with US furniture maker Gary Bennett whose bold extroverted style of works sells from galleries in New York. Gary was in Australia lecturing and giving workshops during 1988. We hosted him in Sydney whilst Alan Wilson was his Melbourne host.

Having a copy of the PAST membership directory I was able to contact members who lived within a reasonable distance of where I was staying in Alameda in the Oakland/East Bay area of San Francisco. One PAST member Neal Dawson told me of a flea market at Berkley but said to get there early to make any finds. After scraping the frost off the screen of my Avis car I zoomed off on the notorious

Almeda freeway, did several false entries and exits due to missing signs or being in the wrong lane or turns lane. I arrived about 6.30 am. There I met up with Neal, a young computer expert who has been collecting for about a year and has an impressive array of tools including all the aluminium planes, even the rare A45. These were picked up at flea markets, or traded with a mate who covers the markets he doesn't. We didn't make any great finds that morning. I was so hesitant to buy until I'd checked out the local scene further, that I passed up a very early No13 compass plane with screwed on sole and a mint 113. Neal did buy amongst other items a No4 prelateral for \$10.00, and I a 5/8" Forstner bit for \$1.00 from the same dealer.

I visited about five dealers including Alan Foster who doesn't have much stock at present. He collects levels and similar himself and also waterbags. He is keen to get some distinctly marked Aussie waterbags, so if you see any for sale let me know. John Wells had some interesting items, but a sale we had arranged to take place on the day I was leaving didn't come off due to his business commitments in downtown San Francisco. Dave Paling has an extensive stock of planes and is a fulltime dealer. He has some very unusual items including the Stanley plane for making shuttles for weaving looms. Dave traded me a quantity of planes including a prelateral No.3 and No.8, A6, 5 1/4 etc for a 444 which I had taken with me. I did another deal with a private collector for another 444 also.

We took three bags with us on our flight over but this had grown to six for our return: one too many for two adults and a baby. Qantas didn't charge me for my box of planes! They weighed 80lbs which is 10lbs over, so you can be lucky sometimes. It was a good trip. I was broke when we went, but by taking some "trades" with me I came back with numerous items for my collection.

Henry Black

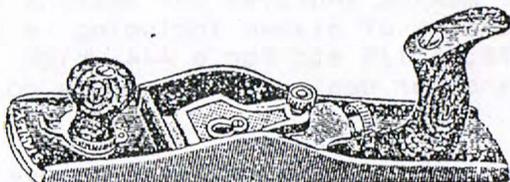
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## Interesting Finds

In the December issue of the newsletter I read of a find at a tip.

One of my finds was very similar. A workmate of mine asked if I would drop my trailer at his Aunty Lil's house so he could fill it with rubbish for me to take to the Sunshine tip for her. Knowing I was interested in old tools he said I could have a box of old moulding planes and other hardware items for my trouble. After unloading the rubbish at the tip and on sweeping 3 or 4 inches of sawdust and dirt out of the trailer I sighted lying in the bottom of the trailer a Stanley No 62 which was in quite good condition.

Feeling guilty of the find I went back to Aunty Lil's to see if she knew it was there, and she said "Yes, it was a terrible plane to use; the angle of the blade is too flat, so we threw it out". I wondered what else she had thrown out prior to my trailer load.



1908 (Ref. 3)

No. 62 Low Angle Plane

### LOW ANGLE PLANE

Sometimes called a low angle jack plane or a low angle block plane.

This tool is actually a large block plane designed for working cross grain on large stock.

*Offered:* 1905 (Ref. 65) thru 1942 (Ref. 67)

*Length:* 14 inches

*Width of Cutter:* 2 inches

*Wood Parts:* Rosewood

*Metal Finish:* Japanned with nickel plated trim and polished sides.

*Weight:* 3 5/8 lbs.

Cutter slope is 12 degrees.

Adjustable throat.

## Australian Planemakers

There has not been a flood of response to our listing of known makers in the April Newsletter. However the following find has come to life:-

- \* A handled chamfer plane, aluminium.  
Adept Tool Pat. Pending PA 2994/70. Made in Australia

Can any member help with information?

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## Wanted

- \* Broadaxe for use, 12" size blade.  
Pitching irons for facing bluestone.  
Handle for broadaxe (or pattern?)  
Contact David Marshall
- \* Cutters for Stanley No 46.  
Cutters for Stanley No 50.  
Contact Ian McIntosh
- \* Ideas for reproducing moulding plane marks in our newsletter. Current suggestion is a 6B pencil over tracing paper on the end, and a 3B pencil around the profile. Has any member a better or alternative method?  
Contact Editor Nigel Lampert
- \* Cutters for Stanley 45 or 55 for own use.  
Contact Ben Rasalam
- \* Further information on "Snail Brand" and snail emblem firm. Markings found on shipwright's hammer. Are they English markings and if so how old?  
Contact Nigel Lampert



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