

THE CUTTING EDGE



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THE CUTTING EDGE

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ON THE COVER: Mark Colp of California doing some dental work. More on the Northern California Championships on pages 8 thru 11.
Cover Photo by Jessie Groeschen

The Cutting Edge

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The CCSG

The Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild, an independent nonprofit organization devoted to the advance of chainsaw and power sculpture. Membership is \$20 a year and includes *The Cutting Edge* publication which is produced bi-monthly.

FROM THE EDITOR

In October, I filled the back of my old Ranchero with bears, a 6ft caricature of a happy old woman, named Mama Casells, a carved chair and headed down to Pt. Arena, CA. As many of you know, when your truck is loaded with carvings, you reign supreme on the highway. People let you cut in, make room, honk, give the thumbs up sign. One guy was even video taping me as we were stuck in traffic in Seattle. "Bring the art to the people", that is my thought when I go on these carving road trips.

Things went smooth until I got onto the Avenue of the Giants. The "Avenue" is a stretch of highway in Northern California, with gigantic redwood trees right next to the road and their branches looming over it. You feel small, real small. I'm driving along and my car starts acting funny, like I'm running out of gas, but I have plenty of gas, my car slows down, then speeds up, I go thru a little town Phillipsville, wondering if I should stop and see a mechanic, but I don't see any garages, no, my goal is Garberville, a bigger town, nine miles away, I know they have mechanics there. But my car slows, down, 40, 30, 20. finally, I just pull off the side to the road. I'm sitting, thinking "now what do I do?" I must of been there 2 minutes before a car pulls up right behind me, a man gets out, comes to my window and says "hey we are remodeling a bar a couple of miles back and saw you drive through town and noticed the chair in the back of your truck. I said, "yeah, I'm on my way to Pt. Arena, there's a carving contest, but I'm having car problems" he says "well come on back to town maybe we can help you out." I limp my car back to the bar, it was called the Saw Blade and I knew everything was going to be ok. One of the guys working on the porch, with a beer in one hand, yells out to me "are you imitating that movie, with Chevy Chase, you know Vacation, with the dead grandmother tied to the roof." "No" I said "Looks that way, I'm going to a carving contest but my car doesn't want to go anywhere." "Whats wrong with it?" "Oh, it's like, I'm out of gas" Then the one with the beer, puts it down and says he is the manager of the place, he said "don't worry, I have a broken down Ford truck, maybe we can swap some parts onto your car. If we can't, we'll drive you to your carving contest."

He takes a look at it, and it turns out to be something simple, a clogged fuel filter, he pulls the one off his Ford and puts it on mine and it works. I was very appreciative because when you're broken down and there is no auto parts store for miles around, your stuck, so I gave him a carving, and a choice of either a carved loaf of Wonder? Bread, or a bear. At first he said "I don't want nothing! Just want to help you out." I forced him, so he took the bread, saying he was tired of bears. Off I went, feeling good by how things worked out, as I was leaving he said "when you get done with the carving contest, come back we need some bar stools carved." But that is a story for another time.

Jessie Groeschen

CCSG NEWS

(Interim) President's Message

On November 13 and 14, Steve Backus organized a contest at the Puyallup Fairgrounds, and in spite of the rain, the weekend ended with a number of mighty fine African animals. We also held both an informal meeting so that Rick Carver of Point Arena could describe his vision of organizing contests, and a formal meeting where officers were nominated and meetings for the coming year scheduled, as well as a short discussion of some other topics.

There was a lot of good energy at this get-together. It was held in conjunction with a large carving show, and as I walked around inside looking at the hand carvings, I heard many comments about how amazingly good the chainsaw carvings are, how much skill chainsaw carvers are developing, how "Wow, you chainsaw carvers are real artists!"

The evening meeting was devoted to discussion of contests and the possibility of forming a contest circuit that would be guild sanctioned and would work on a point system. This could grow into a major and lucrative series of events and as Rick presented his ideas, could be a wonderful opportunity for competitive carvers. Our morning meeting was short, since everyone was eager to get out there and finish their contest pieces. Besides nominating officers, a number of ideas were generated for publicity, carvers insurance, a directory, a promotional video, group purchasing of tools, a museum. Roy Colbert, who has judged at many shows, described the system developed for regional hand-carving shows, and there was interest in improving our system of judging chainsaw events. A number of committees were formed to address these areas, and I would encourage any member interested in helping to get involved. In this issue of the newsletter, you will find a ballot for current members to use for voting. Keeping in mind that each officer always brings his or her own strengths to the job, here is a minimal description of what each office entails:

PRESIDENT: Schedules and conducts meetings. Coordinates the efforts of members and committees to make sure that the guild is fulfilling its stated purpose of promoting the art of chainsaw carving. Communicates with the members through the newsletter.

VICE PRESIDENT: Works with the president, and fills that position if the president is unable to continue.

SECRETARY: Keeps accurate minutes of meetings and reports on the meetings in the newsletter.

TREASURER: Handles guild funds.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: (in Dan's words, "Minister of Fear") Actually does have a function. This person should work with contest coordinators to ensure that carvers carving at guild events are conducting themselves in a professional manner.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The purpose of the board of directors is to ensure continuity and stability in the guild. They should be willing to take part in meetings and work for the general good of the guild, appoint persons to fill unexpected vacancies, and be able to objectively settle disputes and differences of opinion within the guild. They should have an idea of where the guild came from as well as a vision of what it could accomplish

Each nominee has an opportunity to put information about him or herself into this newsletter. I hope that you read it and vote. Meanwhile, Christmas is coming. Get out there and carve!

Susan Miller (Interim President)
71233 Hwy 47, * Mist, OR 97015
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MINUTES OF THE CCSG MEETING

November 13, 1999

An informal meeting was held Saturday evening so newcomer Rick Carver from Pt. Arena, Ca. could present his vision for a Professional Chainsaw Sculpture Competition League.

November 14, 1999, In attendance 20 plus people.

MEETING DATES- 2 meetings for board members scheduled for Nov. in Puyallup and Mar. in Redding tentatively. Further meetings to be announced as required.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE- Dec 31st Mary, Pete and Jessie are the committee to meet and discuss options.

JUDGING GUIDELINES- *Educate new judges to eliminate bias/personal preference. *Possible preview of work prior to judging by the judges. *Create guidelines as criteria for judges.
(* Items in need of feedback and/or further discussion)

OTHER CONCERNS- Make scores available after competitions upon request.

Insurance Group projects Photo's
Guild member directory Docmunetaries

Museum committee-

Steve, Jessie, Judy and Nanette.

Grants committee-

Pete, Susan, Bill C.

NEW MEMBERS

Justin Howland	Maple, Wisconsin
Suzette Hone	Midvale, Utah
Carl Sickau	Boone, Iowa
Robert Miller	Cloverdale, California
Del Hansen	Kenmore, Washington

Letters • Viewpoints • Ideas

NEW MEMBERS

Enjoy seeing pictures of what the big guys are doing. They keep me thinking, "there are no limits."

*Carl (Buck) Sickau
Boone, IA*

"Carve or Starve" how true! Do you have any decals made up of that? Would love to have one if you have anything made up with that saying.

*Justin Howland, Grizz Works
Maple, WI*

Editors note:

Dear Justin, I'm currently working on bumper stickers with the saying "Carve or Starve" but haven't thought of the idea of making it into decals. Soon, maybe both will be available in *The Cutting Edge*.

RENEWALS

Jessie and *Cutting Edge*, Hey ya'll I can't say how much I love the newsletter! I only wish I was closer to ya'll. Being around other carvers is a great charge to one's batteries. I love it.

*Gail Conn
Missouri*

I really enjoy your mag. Been carving everyday with Duane Hall. Duane and Marsha say "hi to all!"

*Mark Giese
Poncho Springs, CO*

A LETTER FROM STEVE BACKUS

(Past president of the guild)

Hi gang, "hooray" for elections. Please take the time to vote! So very important. I endorse Susan Miller for president. I like Rick Carver, but he needs more time in the Pit. But a darn good last name for a campaign slogan. What a great meeting in November! Truly a bold new beginning. All of the folks nominated are people who will actually do something. Makes me glad I stuck with it. Oh, by the way Jessie, my reign was six years as prez. Too long a stretch. Every two years would be better.

If you all elect me as a board member, I will continue to serve faithfully. If not, who will you blame stuff on? A new office, Sergeant of arms is being implemented for good reasons. Between Judy McVay, who can be mean as a rattlesnake, and Marvin Howard, who will let anyone out of line, whether with verbal abuse, it's a toss up. My moneys on Judy she has big dogs! Lastly, thank you Jessie Groeschen and Pat McVay for this newsletter. It is the tool that has made the contest at Westport blossom and grow, without it, there would not be the proliferation of contests out west. It makes me proud thou have had a good part in the financing of this newsletter. It made Westport a self fulfilling prophecy! So remember to vote and see ya.

THE SAW TESTER

BY Steve Backus

Oh, I use chainsaws hard. The first thing I do is shitcan the gaurd.

Then, I paint them up pretty and leave them in the rain, because they are good stuff, they take the pain.

I've got good german saws, the big ones hold up, but the little ones and the mediums can fall victim to a loose nut.

I've dropped 'em, kicked 'em and flung 'em in the truck, I don't blow 'em out or filter change them for muck. It's not what the manuel instructs me to do. I treat them like horses headed for glue.

Then them Swede saws can really take a beating. Most other saws that toe the line, run from the Vikings with a most pitiful deleting.

My saws are an assortment of tough hardy troops that don't let me down when I run into loops.

If I spend my money, I buy the best I can, no lie, then I have them for years, no contempt when they die.

Because an unworthy saw is an unworthy beast and believe me old partner they will fail you when you need it the least.

NORTHERN REFLECTIONS

BY Rob Forde
Hope, BC, Canada

Today, I stopped by Pete Ryan's shop in Hope, B.C. I followed the sound of a power saw and found Pete hard at work filling orders. Covered in sawdust and surrounded by towering logs, soon to be pieces of artwork, is definitely Pete's "comfort zone".

After four years of formal art training focusing on sketching, Pete picked up his first power saw for the purpose of carving. That was 23 years ago. He gave up a trucking career that was never meant to be and has been carving ever since. Although I see a predominance of wildlife work in Pete's albums he claims to carve just about anything. Red cedar is the tree of choice in this area. First growth if you can get it. Like many carvers Pete utilizes many different power tools to finish detailing the power saw's work. A little burning for highlights and a coating of Sikkens log home stains is his favorite finish on the larger outdoor pieces.

Pete feels carving becomes more enjoyable and challenging with experience as the detail the carver strives for increases. This statement reminded me of what elite athletes might say about sport. A bit of an overlap here on the psychological benefits of creativity and athletics. One day Pete hopes to run an art school from his home where students could stay and sketch or carve for a truly unique learning experience in the Pacific Northwest.

Pete hopes to get to Westport or one of the other contest one day, but finds his schedule is pretty full with the constant request for carvings. Sound pretty nice doesn't it? If you want more information on Pete's carvings contact the town of Hope's web site of www.hope.com.

Carve on friends!



"Pioneer Pete & Nugget" on display at the Hope District Hall.



"Cougars" on the rocks.



Pete at his workshop.

The Knowledge Exchange

*Master and Apprentice Guild on
Tahoe's North Shore*

By Matthew Welter
Lake Tahoe, CA

Next to the beach, on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe, there is an unusual sculpture gallery and working guild. *Timeless Sculpture*, in Kings Beach is a creative happening that is best described as a "Knowledge Exchange".

A minimum of eight hours per week is required in order to access the apprentice program. Each week's schedule is predetermined by each guild member, but committed schedules are strictly adhered to. There is no pay and no tuition.

The studio activities are divided between:

1. Investment time: Shop, grounds and office upkeep
2. Learning time: Helping with masterworks and / or journeyman pieces.
3. Studio time: Creating works of their own to sell in the gallery.

The program is structured as follows: Novice apprentices, upon collecting \$1,000 for works sold in the gallery are elevated to Journeyman status. Benefits include expanded scheduling liberties, more studio use, access to retailing and marketing earnings opportunities and qualification to complete apprentice commissions (for as little as half the price of masterworks).

Journeyman apprentices, upon collecting \$10,000 for works sold, or commissions completed are elevated to Master status. Benefits include a full Master's wage on commissions completed, and increased earnings opportunities for marketing and retailing duties.

Masters, upon collecting \$100,000 for works sold in the gallery



Adam Bradley (Journeyman) applies rubber to wax sculpture.

are elevated to Grand Master status. Benefits include access to low interest loans for the purpose of establishing their own, outside studios, entitlement to buy shares in the mother company as well as access to the customer and vendor base of the same.

Novices spend one third of their time at investment, and Journeymen spend one quarter of their time supervising, for their investment. Newcomers to the program are assigned a one-time preliminary investment period of

two to eight days, negotiated according to an applicant's skills which they bring into the guild.

Some participants of the Guild have found the learning and production system described above to be an effective means of achieving a successful career in the arts, and in some ways, superior to conventional venues. The program stresses a real world, creative approach as it applies to the conception, production, marketing and business of art, with emphasis on professionalism and character.

Many enforcement mechanisms in this system are entrusted to the honor system. That, in itself becomes an effective screening device.

The varied benefits are self-evident, but the primary reason to stay remains constant, to learn. In the process, participants may find the chance to the unthinkable, like making a few dollars doing something they love to do anyway.



Matt Welter, right and apprentice Kevin Ragkly (Journeyman) work together.

Outdoor Gallery, Lake Tahoe



With chain saw carving contests thriving and chain saw sculptures beginning to earn acceptance in the art world, is it any wonder that outdoor chain saw sculpture galleries are popping up everywhere? One of the earliest locations is Lake Tahoe. Tahoe's outdoor gallery started in 1984, with the creation of an "on-site" sculpture of a bear for Eric Schmidt in Tahoe by chain saw sculptor Rand E. Oertle.

Oertle probably carved the first on site sculpture in the basin on an existing tree. The tree died when a

wind blew it down leaving the first 10 to 15 feet of the stump. Owner Eric Schmidt contacted Oertle who created a sitting bear about 6 feet tall and 4 feet in diameter. Since that time Oertle has created more than 70 on site outdoor carvings around the lake including one last year for Tahoe City. Oertle describes an "on-site" as a carving created on a tree left in the ground and carved in place.

A few years after Oertle created the bear, wood sculptor Matthew Welter, came to Tahoe and began creating his own unique style of sculptures adding to what Welter dubbed as the Lake Tahoe Outdoor Gallery. Welter has generally specialized in sculptures on California's north shore and Incline Village in Nevada, although he has examples of his work all around the lake. At a curve on the road that circles the lake at Carnelian Bay, is a striking sculpture created by Welter featuring an eagle and eggs in a nest, and a bobcat family.

Oertle lives in Utah and returns to Tahoe during the summer to fill commissions there. This past year he was commissioned to create "Thor" for Granlibakken Ski and Conference Resort and an eagle and nest for the lake front estate of Claudia Florsheim. Oertle create a 25 - foot sculpture a year ago for Tahoe City and a skier for The Resort at Squaw Creek in Squaw Valley. It was the seventh "Oertle" for the resort. The resort is just 6 miles from Tahoe City off the Truckee highway. In addition to the Tahoe City sculpture, Oertle created a 14-foot Indian women, who has become know around the lake as "Lady of the Lake."

Other sculptors have come to

the lake in the last couple of years and added their talents to the "Outdoor Gallery," and Oertle estimates that there are probably more than 150 on site sculptures around Tahoe and more than 1000 other sculptures that have been put on decks, in houses and other locations. The one unfortunate side of the Outdoor Gallery is that many of the best sculptures are on large estates and not visible to the public. However, many are visible and a vacation to Tahoe would be enhanced by a tour of the visible sculptures on the highway circling the lake. Some of the sculptures, not visible from the highway, can be seen from a boat.



Top Right: Lady of the Lake. 14 feet. By Rand E. Oertle. Above: Master Carver, Matthew Welter applies oil to one of his roadside monumets at Lake Tahoe.



Winning sculpture by Fred Bero, "Bacchus"

Pt. Arena

CALIFORNIA

By Jessie Groeschen

The second annual Northern California Championships was a success. Again the theme this year was nautical, wine and grapes.

Twenty seven carvers participated for the \$8,450 in prize money awarded.

Fred Bero, of Concrete, Washington, won \$2000 for his first place entry "Bacchus", which featured a toasting Bacchus, on top of a wine barrel, underneath him were a couple of elves hidden amid the grape vines. Second place was by Dave Tremko of Forks, Washington, Dave carved a deep sea diver and a mermaid, for his efforts, \$1,200.

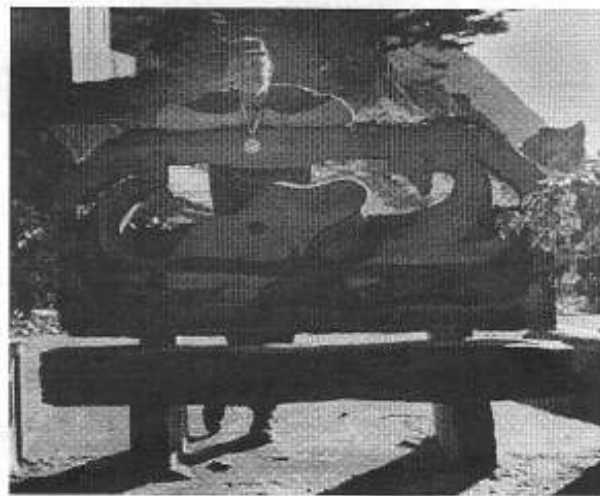


Above: Pat McVay using a disc grinder on his entry, titled "Classic Pose". Right, Steve Barr and his whale bench.

Pat McVay of Whidbey Island, Washington placed third, carving a mermaid being chiseled out by a woodcarver. Pat won \$700. Fourth place was snatched by Steve Barr of Myers Flat, California. He carved a beautiful whale bench, prize money \$400. Fifth place was won by Marvin Howard of North Plains, Oregon. He created a millennium piece, "Blast off to 2000" A few bears riding on a champagne bottle. Dry ice hidden inside the bottle made it smoke. The crowds also loved this piece by placing it their favorite in The People's choice

category. 6th place was captured by Mark Colp of California, he incorporated a driftwood log, placing two very realistic sharks on it. Jessie Groeschen of Whidbey Island, Washington took seventh place. (She finished seventh last year, too) She carved an abstract version on a nautilus seashell left in a wood matrix. What pleased her was not placing but being stopped in the street and being told by a stranger 'hey, are you that girl carver, I've been in the wood business for over thirty years and that's is the most beautiful thing I ever seen in wood. Eighth place went to Steve Backus of Whidbey Island, Washington for his big story chair. Dale Lloyd of Tacoma, Washington, carved an eagle with fish which earned him the title of ninth place. And Tenth place went Lynn Backus of Ocean City, Washington who carved a bench with leaping dolphins.

In the novice division, Rick Boswell of Bonnie Lake, Washington carved sea lions and won first place, earning him \$200 and a chainsaw. 2nd place went to local netsuke carver turned chainsaw carver, Nick Lamb for his dolphin. 3rd Place, went to Mike Schmidt, of Oregon for a bear with his





Redwood Nautilus Shell by Jessie Groeschen.



Auctioneer & Master of Ceremonies, Boaz Backus, left, Jerry Muir, right. Jerry won Friday's quick carve and donated his saw back to the carvers, who didn't win

catch of the day, a fish and a bottle of wine. It was both Nick and Mike's first time in a chainsaw carving contest.

The daily quick carve results for the pro division: First Place on Thursday, Steve Backus, Friday, Mark Colp, Saturday, Jerry Muir and Sunday, Steve Backus; There was also a new feature added to the the quick carve on Saturday. It had a theme, Birds of Prey which was judged by two bird lovers, Michael Laybourn, President of the Mendocino Brewing Company, which features Red Tail Ale. and Rick Carver, photographer, who has some of bird photos featured in Audobon magazine. The winner of the judged portion of this contest was

Dave Tremko, other honorable mentions, Pat McVay, Marvin Howard, Mark Colp, Todd White and Jessie Groeschen.

Mike Schmidt of Oregon won every day of the quick carve in the novice division.

At the end of the main contest another contest was held for fun, a ten minute pumpkin carving contest, which delighted the crowds as they watched the carvers chaps being sprayed by pumpkin seeds and pumpkin guts.

The whole town treated the carvers like royalty, providing the carvers with meals, water, coffee and encouragement.

This years sponsors, was The Mendocino Brewing Company, Pacific Stihl, Baileys, and The CCSG.



A football player bust, carved by Mark Colp in the pumpkin carving contest.



Nick Lamb of Point Arena, putting the finishing touches on.



3rd Place novice division winner Mike Schmidt.



Dave Tremko and friend heading back to Washington.

FROM AUSTRALIA

THE BUCKJUMPER



By Kevin Gilders

North Clayton, Victoria, Australia

I salvaged a most unusual Elm log from a suburban park and after much deliberation to make the best use of such a prize, I carved a buckjumper.

Over the past 9 months I have displayed this carving at a number of shows, in hopes a finding an owner (no luck yet!).

Each time this carving is put on display, I have received complimentary remarks from various "experts" in the audience, but nothing compares with what happened at the horses most recent outing.

I had three carvings on a stand at the Melbourne "Working With Wood" show mingled in with various pieces of smooth and shiny furniture pieces.

There was the usual level of interest (disinterest?) from woodworkers milling past the stand when I noticed some activity on the far side of the horse and rider.

A young woman's face appeared with a huge smile and

as she moved along the carving her hands passed over the textured surface feeling the form and the detail.

As she moved around the front of the horse's head, the reason for her delight became apparent, a thin white cane came into view and I suddenly realized that the young woman was blind.

Amid all the noise and confusion, her sighted companion had guided her to my buckjumper and she was able to "see" the carving with her hands.

This woman was able to appreciate this piece of Elm in a way that the thousands passing by would never be able to.

To me this was a huge compliment, but at the same time very humbling, to give such joy to someone through the medium of a chainsaw carving.

Next time I pick up a saw to start carving, I will be reminded that I also carve Braille.

Scratch Your Buddy's Back

By Capt. Bill Sonntag
Colton Point, Maryland

You have heard the old saying, "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours!" It was time for the annual County Fair. I am not like most people that go to see the pigs and chickens. I head straight to the chainsaw carving area. It is one of the few chances I have to see and to talk to a highly skilled, artistically endowed true American...a chainsaw carver. I had met tall, slim Ben Rinsney there in 1997 and was looking forward to seeing him again. I always wait for the second day of the fair because I get to see some of his completed carvings, and to maybe get some new ideas. When I saw the five carvings sitting there, I thought to myself, "Boy, Ben has sure changed his style." I looked around for Ben, and saw this guy sitting on the ground with his back against an old building, which provided the only shade to be found. I could see by the sweat on his brow and the wood chips in his hair that he was the carver. I moseyed over, stood in front of him and said, "my name is Capt. Bill. I am a hacker too. Where's Ben?" The man stands up and says, "I am Rick Hicks. I am taking Ben's place because he couldn't make it." I thought he was standing in a hole, so I asked, where is the rest of you?" The man smiles and says, "This is all you get!" I responded, "Man, how does a small person like you handle that big saw all day long?" This thought led me to another story.

I had retired from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. after 38 years of faithful service as the foreman of the machine shop. My family and I moved permanently to my summer place on the beautiful Potomac River, which is about eight miles before the Potomac dumps into the Chesapeake Bay. It's a small place called Colton's Point, Maryland.

After two full weeks of doing nothing, I started to get bored. Every

morning I would get in my boat and run around the river. It was the beginning of oyster season, and there were plenty of work boats out there working the oyster bars. I noticed this one, old, raggedy boat with a very small black man working 20-foot oyster tongs in 17 feet of water. As I got closer, I could not believe what I saw! This little, old man had filled up half his boat with big, fat oysters and it was only 9:00 in the morning.

All of a sudden, the calculator in my head started working. "Let's see...25 bushels of oysters at \$20.00 a bushel - that's \$500.00! Boy, that's a good day's work." The very next day I had an oyster license, a pair of 20 foot tongs, and I was out there with the best of them. After five hours of the hardest work I had ever done in my life, I looked in the bottom of my boat. There was only a small pile of oysters that I am sure would not have filled two bushel baskets. I weighed anchor and moseyed over the where the old, black man was working.

"Excuse me, sir, how come a little man like you can catch all those oysters?" He replied, "It's in the balance, Captain. I let the tongs do the work."

Rick jerked me back to reality when he replied, "It's all in the balance, Capt. Bill. I let the saw do all the work!" I asked Rick where he was staying and he replied somewhere in the next town. He responded, "I tried staying at one of the local motels, but had to leave because the roaches and mice keep me up all night rearranging the furniture." I told him he could stay at my place next year, because it's only about 20 minutes from the fairgrounds. I had built a nice apartment over my double garage for my daughters that visit from Atlanta, Georgia.

The following year Rick took me up on my offer. A week before he was due in, Hurricane Floyd paid us a visit, and knocked down half of the trees in Southern Maryland.

Right away I started getting calls from my neighbors. "Hey, Capt. Bill, do you want these trees that fell in my front yard?" Having the pick of the litter, I cut up a couple of real nice red cedars in seven foot lengths. The moment Rick arrived at the house, he spotted the cedar logs and says, "Let me carve you something for my room and board."

Rick had to be at the fair by 10:00 a.m. each morning, but said he could give me about an hour's work for the next two mornings. I thought to myself, "I won't get much for two hours worth of work, but let me see what he can do." Boy, was I fooled! In two, one hour shifts, Rick had carved me a beautiful seven foot red cedar "Sea Captain." I did not think it was possible to put so much detail in the face with a chainsaw! He is truly the Rembrandt of the chainsaw, and a good guy to boot.

So...any chance you get, "Rub your buddy's back!" Until the next time, "Keep your saw up, but not too far!"



Capt. Bill, left, with Rick Hicks.

ART PRODUCTS 1-800...ETC.

Air Powered Stone Carving Sets: Everything you need to get started at a special kit price of \$375. Trow and Holden Co. 800/451-4349.

Photo Color Business Cards: Great American Printing Co. 1000 Full color business cards, \$57.95, 1/800-440-2368.

Standard Abrasives: All kinds of sanding stuff, including sanding cones, 1-818-718-7070.

Pronto Tools For sculpture, 1-805-648-5432, Ventura, CA

Bailey's, A good line of carving tools, 1-800-3BAILEY

Grizzly Tools East 1-800-523-4777 or West 1-800-541-5537

Husqvarna Chainsaws 1-800-438-7297

Stihl Chainsaws 7-800-43 STIHL

King Arthur's Tools Chainsaw carving tools, attachments for grinders 1-800-942-1300

Lab Safety & Supply Safety Equipment 1-800-356-0783

Van Dyke's Taxidermy supplies, eyes, etc. 1-800-843-3320

MISC Industrial Supply Catalog, 1-800-645-7270

GranQuartz Stone carving equipment and other carving tools, 1-800-458-6222

Wood N' Things Carvers Catalog, 1-800-365-4613.

SERVICES

HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION, The AHIRC provides health care information through its Web Site. The info. is on a state by state basis. 1-800-796-8447. Web site URL is <<http://www.actorsfund.org/ahirc/www.actorsfund.org/ahirc/>>

OPPORTUNITIES

BETTY BOWEN AWARDS: Jury awards for emerging 2 & 3-D artist in WA, OR, ID. Send slides of 6 pieces, mask background to Vicki H., SAM, POB 22000, Seattle, WA 98122. Deadline, Ongoing

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: Available to (painter/sculptors) artists working in mature career phase for 10+ years, whose needs are result of unforeseen, catastrophic incident. typical grant \$4000. For application: Gottlieb Foundation Inc. 380 West Broadway, NY, NY, 10012

OUTDOOR SCULPTURE INVITATIONAL: Open to NW artists living in WA, OR, ID, MT, BC. Seeking large durable (weatherproof, wind proof) sculptures for outdoor display March 15 - November 15, in a 26 acre sculpture garden. Site specific proposals welcome. 30% commission, insurance. No jury fee. For application SASE to Maryhill Museum of Art, 35 Maryhill Museum Dr., Goldendale, WA 98260. 509. 773. 3733, fax 6138. Website www.maryhillmuseum.org

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM: Retail Sales Gallery seeks submissions for its First Ave window space. Send resume, proposal to Barbara Shairman, SAM Rental/Sales, 1334 First Ave, Seattle, WA 98101

PUBLICATIONS

Arts Council of Snohomish County's, Washington State, *Opportunities for Artists*, 425/ 257-8380, arts@everett.com.

WoodWorker West, A bi-monthly publication to promote craftsmanship in woodworking throughout the Western U.S. \$12 a year. 310/ 398-5931, email: editor@woodwest.com <http://www.woodwest.com/wood/>.

Chip chats, National Woodcarvers magazine \$11 a year. PO Box 43218, Cincinnati, OH 45243.

Sculpture Northwest: is published bimonthly by the Northwest Stone Sculptors Association, a Washington State nonprofit professional organization. Membership is \$40/yr. Newsletter subscriptions only \$20 425/ 778-6162.

Woodcarving Illustrated, 1-800-457-9112. \$23.80 per year.

1/4 PITCH SPROCKETS

Hawkins Bros. Service Center Poulan, Homelite, Husqvarna. 573-588-4731, Days, 573-983-2441, Evenings

Bailey's Catalogue 1-800-3BAILEY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY A tentative guild meeting to be held in Reedsport, Oregon, contact, Susan Miller, 503/ 755-2508

FEBRUARY Feb 19 & 20 5th Annual carving contest in Seymour, Australia. Contact Kevin Gilders 4 Erawan Ave., North Clayton, Victoria, 3168, Australia, Phone, 613395614604.

MARCH Mar. 3, 4, 5. Carving contest in Redding, CA. Good prize money. Contact Nyal Thomas, 707/ 882-4027.

MAY North Eastern Regional Championships, contact Hal MacIntosh, 800.640.5871

May 12, 13, 14, Mothers Day Weekend, 9th annual Irrigation Days Carving Contest. Contact Don Dykema, 137 Pierson RD., Sequim, WA 98382, 360/ 683-1264.

JUNE 3rd annual Sand and Sawdust Festival, Ocean Shores, WA. Contact Bert Adams, Coordinator, 723 NW 96th., Vancouver, WA 98665, 360/ 574-2378, sandsculpt@transport.com

lisalmi, Finland, Chainsaw Carving Contest, 14 annual Two day event. Contact Harri Leinola, lisalmi city Tourist Office, Kauppakau 22, 74100 lisalmi, Finland, Phone 358-17-8301-223, FAX 358-17-826-860, email harri.leinola@lisalmi.fi.

AUGUST 3-6 11TH Annual International Chainsaw Carving Contest, THE BIG ONE! at Westport, WA. Contact Steve Backus, 360/ 579-3574. \$7000 in prize money.

OCTOBER 21-24, 2nd annual Northern California Chainsaw Sculpture Championship, Point Arena, California. Good prize money. Theme: Grapes, wine or nautical. For information write to: Nyal Thomas, PO Box 636, Point Arena, CA 95468. 707/ 882-4027.

FOR SALE

020 Stihl 1/4 pitch with quarter tip carving bar \$250.00. Also, electric chainsaw, grinder, hand router and Cedar logs. All excellent condition. Dave 253. 858. 3743

Membership Application

8/99

Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild was founded in 1986 with the purpose of promoting public and private awareness of chainsaw work as an art form, provide trade information, and to foster a collaboration of energy among members. Annual membership dues are \$20.00 (US Funds) Dues pay for the bimonthly newsletter *The Cutting Edge*, other mailings, and expense of the CCSG. Dues are collected in January for the current year. To join, please return this form and your dues to the Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild, 5612 Osprey Lane, Freeland, WA 98249.

New Member Renewal Name _____
 Address _____ Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____
 _____ City, State, Zip _____ Date _____

To get to know you please complete the following:

Years sculpting with a saw? _____ Type of wood and size: _____

My best types of work are: _____

You are: Full time carver _____ Part Time Carver _____ -Novice _____

Remarks/Comments _____



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References are required.

Pick up an apprentice applicants Kit at our gallery at 8626 N. Lake Blvd., Kings Beach

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530.546.8480 - Ask for Matt

TIMELESS
SCULPTURES

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 1999

The Cutting Edge

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Freeland, WA 98249.
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THE
CUTTING
EDGE

5612 Osprey Lane
Freeland, WA 98249

Steve Backus
4524 Glendale RD.
Clinton, WA 98236



Everyone nominated was told at the meeting to submit letters if they wanted to. This is what I received.

Jessie.

Nominee for Guild President: Susan Miller

My background is pretty varied. I have a degree in education and a masters degree in painting. For a number of years I was a headstart administrator, and taught school at all grade levels. For several years, I was the president of our district's teachers union. At this time, I am the secretary and personnel manager of our community fire district and have also spent several years as a volunteer EMT.

My involvement with chainsaw carving goes back to when I first saw Mike McVay's carvings (the late 1950's), and was absolutely blown away with this incredible art form. After carving mostly during weekends and summers, I quit teaching about ten years ago to become a full time carver. I have been a member of CCSG almost since its beginnings and treasurer for the last four years. I believe that the guild has played a major role in the development of chainsaw art.

If I am elected as president of the guild, there are several goals that I feel are important:

1. We have members with interests and expertise in not only carving, but also publicity, writing, photography, and other areas useful to the guild. I would foster cooperation between all members to the benefit of all of us.
2. I think the contests are wonderful; they have motivated carvers to just keep getting better, and have made carving more visible to the public. We need to develop fair and consistent judging. Having a point system and series of guild sponsored contests is a good idea. At this time, there is a lot of interest, and many different ideas about what makes a good contest. The challenge will be to get people to work together to make contests as beneficial as they can be.
3. There are other possibilities besides contests. I'd like to see the guild offer information about group projects, grant development, a carving museum, an exchange of information about tools, carving techniques, marketing ideas, possibly a guild web site. The newsletter is an indispensable tool for the exchange of information and as a way for carvers to share their ideas. As president, I would work to strengthen the role of the newsletter.

I am not a competitive person. I'm good at listening to people and getting them to work together on common interests. I'm committed to promoting carving and carvers wherever it can be done

Nominee for Board Member - Pat McVay

Pat McVay is a founding member and past president of the CCSG. He is a full time carver and has participated in and organized lots of events.

"There are a lot of good ideas floating around the carvers organization. A contest circuit shows, group carving projects, a symposium, a museum, etc. My best skills are finding solutions by connecting people with each other to get the job done. I pick up a lot of loose ends and try to stitch them together with talented people.

I would like to endorse Susan Miller as president. She is a full time carver, a founding member and has a lot of experience. She is a great listener, is really good at building a consensus and keeps the door open to lots of different ideas.

This is not to take away anything from Rick Carver. Although he is not a carver, he has some great ideas about the carving contest circuit we are trying to form and how to make it a success. I think he and Steve Backus and Nyal Thoms would make a great team to make this happen and they could use a lot of help from anyone who would like to volunteer. They want to make it fun and a success financially. Nyal and Rick did a great job at the Point Arena contest and I'd like to thank them, the sponsors and their community for generous hospitality and good fun. Also, I'd like to thank our outgoing president, Steve Backus for all his enthusiasm, hard work, humor and honesty, generosity. It's easy to let someone else do all the work and Steve wasn't afraid to take on too many jobs. He'll do a great job as one of our contest coordinators. Look at how big the Westport Contest grew from 7 carvers in 1988 to 56 last year. Hopefully now he'll have a lot more help!

Nominee for Board Member Steve Backus

Hi gang, "hooray" for elections. Please take the time to vote! So very important. I endorse Susan Miller for president. I like Rick Carver, but he needs more time in the Pit. But a darn good last name for a campaign slogan. Truly a bold new beginning. All of the folks nominated are people who will actually do something.

If you all elect me as a board member, I will continue to serve faithfully. If not, who will you blame stuff on? A new office, Sergeant of Arms is being implemented for good reasons. Between Judy McVay, who can be mean as a rattlesnake, and Marvin Howard, who will let anyone out of line, whether with verbal abuse, it's a toss up. My money's on Judy she has big dogs! Lastly, thank you. So remember to vote.