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VICE CHAIRMANS and BRANCH NOTES. (By Tony Waddilove).

I have been asked to write the Chairmans notes for this issue of 'REVOLUTIONS' as Ray Key was away at the copy date. It is also rather useful for me to get in a bit of practice before having to do it for real. So this time folks, Chair and Branch notes combined.

Remember GOBLETS GALORE? Well, Liz Boddy of John Boddy's purchased a fair sized number of goblets to feature on the front cover of the Boddy catalogue. Now, I reckon that this is a great feather in the A.W.G.B. Members cap.

Since the last review of Committee meetings which was published in issue 16, we have held two further full meetings, so I will bring you up to date with these. The Association has been invited to the Woodworker Show at the Alexandra Palace on 17/20 October. We shall have further details of our stand event in due course.

As you must all by now know, the A.W.G.B. has, since its inception, pursue an active involvement in training. Generally this has centred around the ubiquitous two day course for a starter, and with the long term aim of establishing a more formal and national set of standards. O.K., so far so good, and to date the training subcommittee has produced a truly superb (I am on the sub-committee) set of standards for the basic two day course. However, the really news is that the training chairman, Brian Clifford, has been appointed Director of the crafts section of the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, known from hereon and for ever as the N.C.V.Q. What this means in effect is that YOUR Association is up front in formulating policy and standards. In the longer term the benefits to us all are tremendous.

So many members, myself included, would like a badge. The matter is in hand thanks

to the efforts of Mac Kemp and they will shortly be available. Watch 'REVOLUTIONS'.

Tentatively we are looking at a twinning project with Branches of the American Association of Woodturners. This could be interesting. (See letters page, ed.)

The new A.W.G.B. membership forms are now in force. Coloured green to distinguish them from the original buff ones, they are available from Mac Kemp or Hugh O'Neill. Also, as a result of the last A.G.M., a revised Constitution has been sent to all members.

Insurance is close to fruition and any time now you should see details of a package that your Hon. Sec. has negotiated. This will be a package for individuals rather than for Branches or groups. Group type policies are not on. Details will be published in 'REVOLUTIONS' as soon as possible.

Loughborough proceeds according to plan, with the appropriate sub-committee getting things into place. You know the saying "It'll be alright on the night". Seeing the basic programme I can only say I do not know how the planners have been able to improve on the last one, but I think they have.

By now all Branch secretaries should have received the final DRAFT of the results of the meeting held on 5th. January. I am presently working on incorporating this into the Branch start-up pack. Believe it or not, this is a very time consuming job. Also I am in the process of moving house and workshop. As a result, the document will not be finished for some weeks yet. When completed, ALL Branches will receive a copy, which will explain in more detail all the offers of assistance which the Association is able to provide for Branches.

The latest count shows 25 Branches on our records, 23 of which we know are active, as they tell us so. And one of the remaining two is about to be re-activated. Furthermore, another two new Branches are strong possi-

bilities, all of which makes 1991 a year of superb effort by you the members. Most of the Branches keep me well up to date with their activities through either their own local Newsletters or by writing direct. This correspondence is used in two main ways. Firstly, the editor of 'REVOLUTIONS' extracts relevant information which might inspire other Branches, and secondly, some of them are photocopied and sent out to new Branches who are seeking guidance in what type of programme to set-up themselves. Keep it up you Branches.

The A.G.M. looms, details of which are in with this Newsletter. Why not volunteer today? You know it makes sense. Seriously though, as detailed in 'REVOLUTIONS' No. 17, there will be many vacancies for committee members, so please get involved if you possibly can.

The old vexed question of when is a Branch and when is a Branch not - i.e., minimum of 75% National membership - has returned to the melting pot. The Committee view is well known, but an actual definition may be required. Any useful thoughts to me please, in writing.

The touring exhibition is moving to the top of the job list. **WILL BRANCH SECRETARIES CONSIDER POSSIBLE VENUES IN THEIR AREAS. BASICALLY VENUES WHERE THE PUBLIC WILL VIEW, RATHER THAN JUST WOODTURNERS.** Answers to me please in writing.

TONY WADDILOVE, Vice Chairman and Branch Co-ordinator.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. From **HUGH O'NEILL**, Honorary Secretary.

This is the **FORMAL NOTICE** concerning the agenda and nominations for the A.G.M. The Annual General Meeting of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain is to be held soon after the Loughborough Seminar. The date is 29th. September, the venue is High Trees School, Cooper Lane, **BRADFORD 6**. The agenda, time table and postal ballot form will be advised to you either with the next issue of 'REVOLUTIONS' or by direct mail. The change of venue is in order to give our northern members a chance to attend. We now need Committee nominations plus notification of any issues for inclusion in the agenda. You are reminded that all nominations and motions have to be submitted to me in writing, and must be signed by both the proposer and seconder,

both of whom must be paid up members of the Association. Committee membership nominations must also be supported by a 50 word statement, an "election address", **WRITTEN BY THE NOMINEE THEMSELVES**. All nominations and motions must be received by me by second post, August 9th. Late receipts, submissions or telephone nominations can not be accepted under any circumstances. The Officers must retire annually and some Committee members are due to complete their two year term of office this year. The Chairman, **Ray Key**, has now served his full permitted term of office, but the Secretary and Treasurer are available for re-election. Committee membership can not be undertaken lightly. There are 6 or 7 meetings each year, plus probably another 4 or 5 days working party meetings. Each member may also have personal responsibility for an area of the Associations activities; Branch organisation, Publicity, Training, Exhibitions, etc. Members are also expected to help organise/attend various seminars, exhibitions and shows etc. As you know, the Association tries to keep a balance of professional and amateur members as Officers and Committee members.

HUGH O'NEILL, Hon. Sec., 5, Kent Gardens, Eastcote, **RUISLIP**, Middlesex, **HA4 8RX**

EDITORS ROSTRUM.

This could quite well be the last time we see this particular feature, as I expect someone else to be in the driving seat for the next edition of 'REVOLUTIONS'. Having seen our Newsletter grow from nothing to become what I hope is a lively four year old, I feel that the time is right to pass it over to new hands. Changes are bound to happen because of this process, and that is only right and proper. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members who have contributed with ideas, information etc., over the years, and whilst I have not taken them all on board, they were none the less appreciated. I hope that the new editor receives at least as much support, if not more, than I have had over the years. I have enjoyed those years, and learned a lot about editing. I now have a lot more sympathy for the editors who I work with in the trade press, and should soon be able to meet the increasing number of deadlines which recent events have sprung on me. Watch the magazines for details. In the meantime, enjoy your turning, enjoy your reading and enjoy your membership of the A.W.G.B. **REG. SHERWIN.**

LOCAL BRANCH REPORTS.

DEVON WOODTURNERS continue their regular meetings, a recent one being a talk, demonstration and slide show by **DICK BEW** on his particular aspect of woodturning, which is Stickware, or Tunbridge Ware. Dick's interest in turning started when he was in the Royal Navy and working in Portsmouth Dockyard. He and many others were responsible for the maintenance of H.M.S. Victory, '...and there was all this wood lying around...'. It must have been a hell of a lathe to turn the mainmast!!' says **JOHN TAYLOR**, Devon's newsletter compiler. (More information on Tunbridge Ware has been spotted by your eagle eyed editor in the July edition of 'Woodworker'. Not turned, but Tunbridge all the same.)

John also mentions a communal space which the Branch booked at a big Craft Fair, a workshop which was run by **DAVE REGESTER**, and a photographic workshop, which was a theme for one of their regular meetings. I have it on good authority that Dave's workshop was in fact a failure in one sense. He tried to create a dig-in with the skew, and failed. Future attractions are a visit from **RAY KEY**, on the A.W.G.B.s free demonstrator scheme. And I can't let one snippet of information get by without mention. John can honestly claim that his work is good enough to be seen in Paradise! He sold some pieces to an American lady from Paradise, California. That must be unique. Unless you know better of course?

GLOUCESTERSHIRE has had an inaugural meeting, very kindly hosted by Tewkesbury Saw Company, and instigated by **DON BROWNING** and **BOB KEENE**. Don rang me the day after the meeting and reported that no less than forty interested people attended, with apologies from a further eleven. The decision was taken to form a steering committee for the first six months, with regular Wednesday night meetings at Tewkesbury Saw. The dates of these meetings will be announced shortly. After the six months 'learning time' a formal committee will be elected, but in the meantime, Don has agreed to coordinate activities. He can be contacted at 43 Mead Road, Leckhampton, **CHELTENHAM**, GL53 7DY. (0242) 514053. I know from personal experience that Don was until recently one of a comparatively few members in the Gloucester area, although it boasted a lot of turners. Don decided that whilst he wasn't able to

take on a permanent organisers role, he and Bob would at least get something started. Tony Waddilove was contacted, the meeting was called and now they are up and running. I feel sure that the same situation exists in many other areas of the country, for instance, the **HEREFORD AND WORCESTER** branch are primarily from the Worcester, Droitwich, Redditch and Bromsgrove areas. There are a lot of members in **HEREFORDSHIRE** and it only needs one of them to grasp the metal for a strong group to be formed. Meanwhile, we still hold our monthly meetings, usually hosted by one or other of the members. The last one was at the home of **WALTER JARVIS**. The theme for the evening was 'a cup and saucer', and twelve or so were shown. One of our members squandered his ten minute lunch break to produce one, so the result was somewhat under size. But he is rather busy editing 'Revolutions'. The next scheduled event is a barbecue at **JOHN PHILLIPS** house. This will be followed by the summer recess, then a workshop demo on tool sharpening at **REG SHERWIN's** Avoncroft workshop in September.

KENT has recently been entertained by the globe trotting **RAY KEY**, his two day demo being a sell-out. One of the results of Ray's visit was that the Kent 'bulk buyer' sent off for a catalogue of finishing products and is now taking orders. Other attractions were a talk on part turning wet bowl blanks by local branch member **TREVOR DAWES** and a Health and Safety talk on dust in the workshop by a local purveyor of masks, respirators etc. This last event elicited a complaint from one of those present who found it difficult to smoke whilst wearing a turbo visor. This in turn gave **DAVE BATES** a few moments of amusement, visualising the grumbler '...wearing a smoke filled visor and with a cigarette butt in each ear, to save a few pence on foam ear muffs..' (One of the things which I will miss when I pass on the editorship of 'Revolutions' is Dave's way with words in the Kent newsletter. ed.) Future attractions are a visit from **MELVIN FIRMA-GER**, and an 'Any Questions' session, described by Dave as '...a sort of informal mass brain picking session..'.

MARTOCK AND DISTRICT continue to meet on the last Tuesday of each month. The venue for these meetings is Yandles Ltd., by kind permission of Mr. G. and Mr. D. **MOUNSTEVEN**. Recent events have been a talk by **MARTIN TURNER**, a viewing of the Richard

Raffan video and a talk on wood by the hosts. This latter event incorporated a tour of their timber yard. Next on the list of events is a visit from **MELVIN FIRMAGER** of **Wedmore**. In September the branch will be manning a stand at Yandle's show, and in October **REG SHERWIN** is due to while away a day.

NORTH SUFFOLK is still alive and kicking, according to my informant, '**DICKIE**' **DOWSETT**. Their May meeting was something of a boxing match, with a demonstration by host **ROBERT BRUCE**. Robert showed his production routine for producing straightforward small boxes with 'Kremlin' type lids. Then a general melee followed with everyone showing their own favourite ideas, - lids inside, lids outside, lids made first, lids made last etc. etc. A good time was had by all. Their next meeting is to be an outing to **North Heigham Sawmills**, followed by a visit to the **Apollo lathe works** at **Derham**. Should be a good day.

"**SCOTWOOD**", which must surely qualify as our most widespread branch, held its 3rd. meeting in April and interest continues to grow. This time they were 'oversubscribed' and **Jean Burhouse Furniture Ltd.**, the hosts in **Inver** by **Dunkeld** managed to accommodate some 40 members, many of whom had travelled considerable distances to be there. **MAURICE MULLINS** demonstrated some of his wide ranging talents from microscopic vessels to the use of colour and texture in finishing turned objects. Maurice impressed the audience with his range of special tools, holding devices and techniques to achieve his objectives. His willingness to share information and discuss problems was much appreciated by the members. One thing we are all learning whilst attending our seminars is that there is no 'right' way of doing things. Each of our guest professionals has a different approach. A good day, a chance to 'blether' about woodturning and a superb setting - not to mention meals and refreshments taken in a local hostelry at lunchtime. Roll on the next event. Finally, a special word of thanks to **Jean Burhouse** and **Graham** for their most generous hospitality. (And thank you **LEN GRANTHAM**, for the report. Where do you find the time? ed)

SURREY ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS theme for their March meeting was 'A Ball'. Whilst this didn't leave a great deal of scope for design interpretation, the choice of timbers, and more importantly the choice of techniques made for some very interesting

discussion. The April meeting had "A Truncheon" as the theme. Such choices in successive months could easily lead to speculation as to whether Surrey are looking for invitations to **The Policeman's Ball**? Have any other branches had themes which could be interpreted thus? Speakers for other meetings have been 'Turning techniques' by **BOB FRENCH**, 'Walking Sticks' by **JACK WILSON** and 'Extraction' or 'How to clear the air', speaker to be advised. Thanks to **MIKE MORLEY** for keeping me informed via the **Surrey Newsletter**. And it is nice to see that neighbours **Surrey** and **West Sussex** keep each other informed of their activities and send out invitations when appropriate.

The **WESSEX WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION** has offered life membership to **JOHN SANDERS** on his retirement as Chairman. Without John's help, enthusiasm and knowledge, the **WWA** would not be as strong as it now is. Recent events have been an illustrated talk by **DAVE REGESTER**, the result of which was realisation that even the pro's have failures, (or 'experiments') from time to time. Dave's wit and skill ensured some lively discussion and the resolution to arrange a full day's demo as soon as possible. A stand at the **Bath and West** four day Show resulted in sales totalling £558.40. As the general feeling amongst other exhibitors was that 'nobody is buying', the conclusion was that for a first show they did quite well. Future meetings are planned to take place at **Yandle and Sons Ltd.**, **Martock**. Members have been asked to let their committee know what they would like organised for the forthcoming 12 month programme. Possible repeats of coach trips to **Woodworking Shows**, exhibitions at local shows, one or two day demo's, more time to mingle and chat? My thanks to **Ken Tettmar**, who keeps me informed.

Our **WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH** continues with its regular meetings, recent events being a coach trip to **London**, and a demo by **JIM HOPKINS** of **Coventry**. To quote **GRAHAM LOVETT**, 'The West Midlands Branch was unknown to Jim, and similarly, Jim was an unknown quantity to us, but by the end of an enjoyable afternoon, each had warmed to the other, and the afternoon seemed to pass far too quickly.' Jim's polish is pretty good too. Their last meeting was a demo by **RAY KEY**, who once again did them proud. **Graham** says that a big thank you to **DOUG VAUGH** and **DAVE WOOD** is appropriate for organising the speakers to date. The ques-

tion has been raised as to whether a full day might be arranged in the future, rather than the normal half day. Unfortunately a proposed JACK HILL demo had to be postponed when Jack contacted an ear infection. I suppose that we demonstrators give out a bit of ear ache from time to time, so it is only right that we find ourselves on the receiving end occasionally. I am pleased to report that Jack is recovering. The Branch has also proposed a trip to the Pinto Collection of Treen which is housed in the Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery.

BEADS AND COVES.

ALEX BURNETT, of Cornwall, suggests a modification which owners of the original Coronet No. 1 lathes might find of use. The irritation of the tailstock barrel locking knob detaching itself from the slot in the barrel can be eased by scribing a line along the top of the barrel, so that the position of the slot can be ascertained. This will ease re-location of the locking knob in the slot. I have had this problem and I overcame it by centre punching both the top and the front of the barrel face at the top. Owners of the later model lathes don't have the problem as the barrel is located by a separate key. The other problem with the older tailstocks is that they fill up very quickly when doing long hole boring. The redesigned tailstock overcomes this problem, but I understand that replacement tailstocks cost about £100. ALEX also suggests scribing the tailstock barrel laterally, so as to gauge the depth when drilling holes. This tip could be applied to many lathe tailstocks.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS:- The University of Leeds is organising the second Great Northern Woodworking Exhibition and D.I.Y. Fair, to be held at their Exhibition Centre, on 6th, 7th. and 8th. September. Further details of stands for exhibitors etc are available from Sarah Pells, Exhibition Manager, Leetronex, The University of Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS2 9JT.

MIKE SCOTT's Solo Exhibitions are at the Hannah Peschar Gallery, Black and White Cottage, Standon Lane, Ockley, Surrey, until 31st. July, and the South Bank Centre Craft Shop, Royal Festival Hall, London, from 17th. July until 18th. August.

HUGH AVIS, one of our members from Crowborough, East Sussex, is arranging a Woodturning Exhibition at the Ashdown Forest Centre, Wych Cross, Near Forest Row. Running from 1st. July to 5th. August. Part of the exhibition will be live demonstrations of our craft which will be aimed at entertaining the public rather than other turners. Any member living in the area who would like to be involved should contact Hugh on Crowborough (0892) 653916.

Congratulations are due to PAUL CLARE and MELVIN FIRMAGER, both of whom have had work selected for the International Lathe Turned Objects, Challenge 4. The touring show will be visiting Pennsylvania, Arizona and California between now and April 1992. A black and white 68 page catalogue (catalog) of the show is available from The Woodturning Center, P.O. Box 25706, Philadelphia, PA 19144 U.S.A. cost is \$16, plus \$2 shipping. It may also be available at Loughborough.

REG SHERWIN is to be found performing at British Gates, Biddenden, Kent, on 17/18 July. This is an all ticket event, so don't just call in on the day. Further details from Lyndon Davies, British Gates and Timber Ltd., Biddenden, Nr. Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DD (0580) 291555. Reg will also be spreading the word Northwards at R. & L. Keenleysides, 16 - 19 Station Rd., BEDLINGTON STATION, Northumberland, NE22 7JN (0670) 823133 on Saturday 3rd. August. This is not a ticket event. Further details from Mr. George Millican of Keenleysides.

Am I the only demonstrator with a bike or are any other members making exhibitions of themselves in the immediate future, at none A.W.G.B. organised events? Please let the Newsletter Editor know. This way we can get to some of our members who may be in the area, but who have not yet got the benefits of a local branch. We can also possibly get the nearest branch involved in some way, so that the message can be spread.

The final pieces of information for this section are news of two seminars. Firstly, another Regional Seminar has been organised at Piggotts, Nr. High Wycombe, Bucks. The demonstrators are TOBIAS KAYE and PHIL REARDON. The date is 14th. September, the cost is £20, including lunch, and the person to contact as soon as possible is BRIAN CLIFFORD, 51 Sarrat Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 7JN. Tel (0442) 246948. Brian hasn't told me if there is a limit on numbers, although I should think

that there must be. Piggotts is a big venue, but even it has limits. Don't delay, contact today!

The second seminar is another of my twice yearly Avoncroft one day workshops. The event will be held on 13th. October. This time MAURICE MULLINS will be the presenter. Maurice is a very experienced and innovative turner who has, until recently, kept himself and his expertise hidden away in Lakeland. He seems at last to have found the routes both Northwards into Scotland and South, where he is one of our Loughborough presenters this year. The event will be in my workshop at Avoncroft. My address is, possibly for the last time, (sob, sob,) at the head of this Newsletter. Cost for the day will be £20, including lunch. The first 20 members to send me a cheque, made out to the A.W.G.B., will secure places. Non A.W.G.B. members can attend, but only if there are any spaces left a few days before the event, and at a cost of £22.

OVERSEAS NEWS.

Betty J. Scarpino, Editor of AMERICAN WOODTURNER asks me to apologise to any U.K. members of the A.A.W. who have not been receiving their journals on time. The A.A.W. has just gone through a rough patch on the administration front, but things now seem to be back on the rails. Betty also asks if any U.K. members would like to 'write an article on woodturning in Great Britain from a native's perspective? Some of the questions that could be addressed are:- How do most turners learn their craft? What are the most common native woods and what American woods are considered "exotic" by English turners? What are some of your Associations activities?' Betty asks that anyone who can write such an article should also include black and white glossy photographs if at all possible. The AMERICAN WOODTURNER is a journal which is read by turners in the States, and which contains 'how to' articles, as well as news, views etc. Any articles should be sent to Betty J. Scarpino, Editor, AMERICAN WOODTURNER, 5613 Ralston Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46220, U.S.A. Membership of the A.A.W. costs \$20 p.a., and includes four copies of the quarterly magazine. Send cheques to Mary Redig, A.A.W. Executive Director, 667 Harriet Avenue, Shoreview, MN 55126, U.S.A.

FOR SALE.

No fewer than three lathes are looking for new homes this time. First, a Viceroy bowl turning lathe, three phase, four speeds, nice machine, £350 o.n.o. The sale is forced by a house and workshop move. Contact Jules Tattersall, Anglesey, (0470) 861294.

Next in order of receipt is a Fell type HG, which is very similar to the type GH, for those familiar with the Fell range of machines. A fixed knife machine capable of producing 4 to 8 items per minute, this is one for the production turning shop. Asking price is between £300 and £400. Contact Doug Shearer, "Birchwood", FEARNAN, Perthshire, Scotland.

Final lathe on offer this session is also for a specialist. A Wadkin R.U. Cast Iron construction, 13' (Thirteen feet) between centres, normal swing over the bed is 12" (2 feet diameter) but with an option of approx six feet diameter inboard turning by using an extended bed facility. Outboard capacity is approx 8 feet diameter. The 3 phase lathe has a range of nine speeds, from 98 to 1904 r.p.m. It also has a travelling carriage with a fixed cutter, a selection of faceplates, a 3 jaw self centring chuck and a pedestal tool stand. Offers around £1,000 are invited. Buyer must collect. Contact Albert Harrison, 24 Walthew Avenue, Holyhead, Gwynedd, LL65 1AG.

HELPLINE.

Once again your editor seeks assistance. (It does seem that I am just about the only member who uses this service). One of my regular selling items are whipping tops. Mine are turned from 2" square beech, ash, maple or suitably heavy off-cuts of similar timber. I have been driving a solid upholstery tack into the base, giving the toy a rounded and safe end to rotate on. My source of solid tacks has now dried up. I need something with approximately a 9mm diameter, domed head, and which can be driven into a solid piece of wood. I have rejected the idea of two part upholstery tacks, sharp nails etc, on safety grounds.

SCHOOLBOY HOWLER.

"Trees make very good windbreaks. A mature beech tree can break wind for up to 50 yards".

LETTERS.

A letter has been received from Alan Lacer, President of the American Association of Woodturners, suggesting a twinning arrangement between American and U.K. branches. Would any branches interested in this possibility care to write to Tony Waddilove, branch co-ordinator. And I emphasise, please write, don't ring, as Tony is moving house and will shortly have a new telephone number. The final details of any twinning arrangements can be worked out when response has been gauged.

HUGH O'NEILL asks that any members who hear of turning competitions, either National or International, let the Newsletter Editor have details, so that all members can be advised. As much notice as possible should be given.

'TREEN' our occasional columnist, writes:- 'Whilst in conversation the other day it was brought home to me how seldom we see Inn signs reflecting the work of turners and their equipment. 'Occasionally one sees "The Turners Arms" or hears of "The Pole Lathe" but so infrequently that if anyone reading this knows of any pub supporting our craft, perhaps they could drop a line to John Holyoak, Mead Cottage, 69 New Road, Blakeney, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 7PA, giving the pub name and address and also that of the brewer, and maybe we could put together something of interest to all. In fact, I feel sure that John would be interested to hear from any member who has a particular topic which would be of general interest to turners and which could do with a bit of light research.

RECENT EVENTS.

British Gates and Timber, of Biddenden, Kent, recently ran a competition for which the A.W.G.B. donated a trophy. Business sponsors were Craft Supplies and Libron Waxes. A.W.G.B. members amongst the prizes were Mr. I.J. SANDFORD of Broomfield, (two prizes), Mr. F.S. HAYWARD of Minster, Mr. P. YOUNG of Deal, Mr. A.H. THORNE of Dover, (two prizes), Mr. H.G. YEOMANS of Brook, Mr. D.F. WOOR of Isfield, Mr. E.H. EDE of Pound Hill and Mr. D. CRAWFORD of Cobham, 3 prizes. Judging in the hot seat was our own evergreen JACK HILL.

JOTTINGS FROM TREEN.

My space, I am told is limited, so this time a few words on serviette or napkin rings.

The first recorded napkin rings were of silver and were introduced about 1880. Treen rings followed made in many different diameters and forms predominantly in hardwoods such as lignum vitae, box, olive walnut etc, and quite often had numerals carved into the surface for use in large families and hotels. I understand that napkins were provided in some noble households in the late 15th. century, but these were used to contain the knife, spoon and rolls. Fingers were used for eating with definite rules of behaviour and a washing table was provided. This seldom applied to the lower orders. Forks appear to have come in during the 17th. century and the knife sheath was modified to take also a fork and occasionally a spoon. With the introduction of the fork, polite society gave up eating with their fingers and the napkin became obsolete. In Victorian times the napkin came back into prominence and with it the business of making serviette or napkin rings.

It's always nice to end on a bright note, so how about this>

DAVE CRAWFORD, one of our members who was very influential in starting up the Kent Branch, returned to the States recently, his 'tour of duty' having been completed in the U.K. Like most of us, Dave had acquired a surfeit of tools and other bits and pieces, and decided to donate them to a worthy cause.

After consultation with some of the turners in his area Dave agreed to the suggestion that DENNIS CAREY would be a suitable recipient. Dennis is a pensioner and works as hard as anyone else for his Branch, acting as Treasurer, tea and coffee boy, mill hand and general dogs body. Boxes full of tools etc., were duly delivered to Dennis, who thought it was his birthday.

"How can I pay for this lot" he asked, only to be told that no payment was expected or needed. "Do you think they would accept one of my spinning wheels?"

In fact, Dave and his wife had been looking for just such an item, so all were delighted.

And Dennis is of course now in the export market. Will he put his prices up I wonder?