

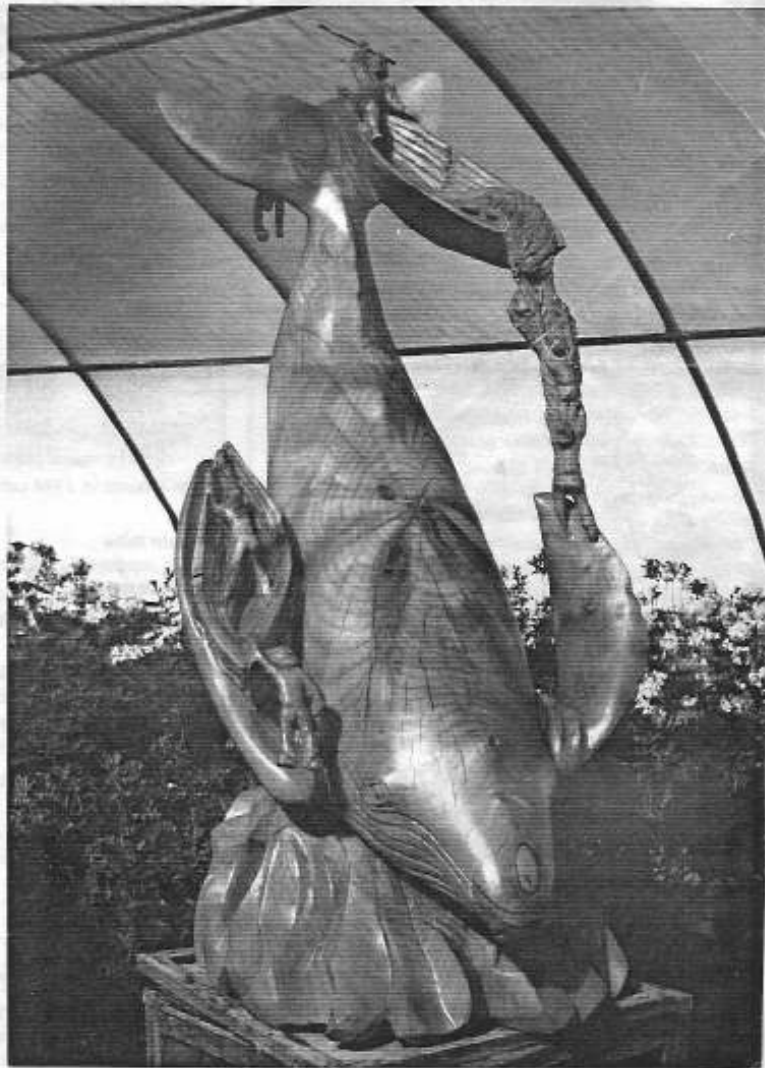
The Cutting Edge

Volume III Issue 1

January 1995

Inside This Issue...

1995 Calendar of Events
Miracle on 112th
1994 National Points Winner
And
Much Much More!



Cover Photo:

Oh No! Not Again!
Sitka Spruce
6ft tall x 3ft wide
Carved at Westport Contest, 1993
Sculptor, Pat McVay

THE CUTTING EDGE

is published bi monthly by the
Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild,
 a Washington State Non-profit
 Professional Organization
 7371 S. Holst Rd.
 Clinton, Washington 98236
 206/ 579-7811

Steve Backus, President
 Charlie Hubbard, Vice President
 Dan Whited, Vice President
 Susan Miller, Treasurer
 Carla Goudy, Secretary

Membership \$20.00/yr.

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 is edited and produced by
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NEW MEMBERS

Ken & Donna Ballou	Eureka, MI
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Helen Blanchard	Mango, FL
RL Blair	Arroyo Grande, CA
Robert Jurasek	Pioneer, CA

Letters To The Editor

NEW MEMBERS

I've been starving for information on chainsaw carving for the last couple of years. The guild and The Cutting Edge are just the ticket. Only wish I'd known about you sooner. Thanks!

Rob Jurasek
 Sierra Woodcrafts, Pioneer, CA

ADVICE COLUMN

Dear Editor

I have two brothers and two sisters. One of my brothers is in the chainsaw woodcarving business and the other is in prison for murder. Both of my sisters are prostitutes. My father sells drugs to keep the family in food.

My problem is this. I recently met this girl who was just released from prison for choking her illegitimate daughter to death. I am in love with her and want to marry her. Do you think I should tell her and her family about my brother that is in the chainsaw woodcarving business?

Confused

Dear Confused,

I would definitely marry her before you guys decided to have any children. But I don't know about telling her about your brother in the chainsaw woodcarving business. Have you thought about therapy?

The Editor

CCSG 1994 Treasurer's Report

BALANCE:			
JAN 12	\$1927.68	JULY 12	\$2153.36
FEB 12	\$2228.94	AUG 12	\$4732.00
MAR 12	\$2348.94	SEP 12	\$4332.00
APR 12	\$3013.06	OCT 12	\$3806.44
MAY 12	\$2354.86	NOV 12	\$3758.44
JUN 12	\$2354.86		

Our income in 1994 came from the following sources:

Dues	\$1360.00
T-Shirt Sales	66.00
Ads	155.00
Mini contests	5305.38*

Our expenses in 1994 were:

Newsletter	\$1360.00
Contests **	\$3771.23

*This figure is the amount left after deducting for reimbursing carvers and auctioneers.

**These expenses can be broken down as follows:

Coordinating Events	\$1500.00
Ribbons	379.12
Refreshments	196.36
City fees and taxes	143.75
T-shirts	400.00
Wood for mini contests	700.00
Judges	200.00

Costs of each contest sponsored by the guild

	Income	Expenses
Elliensburg	\$544.74	\$502.00
Maple Valley	\$358.00	\$600.00
Westport	\$4190.64	\$2096.52
Shelton *	137.00	\$300.00

CALENDAR of EVENTS

MARCH

March 25, 26 KXLE - Central Washington Chainsaw Carving Contest, Ellensburg, WA. Contact Dan Whited 206/ 884-9534

MAY

3rd Annual Irrigation Days Carving Contest, Sequim, WA. Contact Dennis Doran, 4701 Sequim Dungeness Way, Sequim, WA 98382. 360/ 683-2597

May 20, 21 Bucks County Chainsaw Sculpture Contest, Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Contact Bill Plant, 4366 US HWY 202, Doylestown, PA 18901, 215/ 794-8266

JUNE

3rd Annual Maple Valleys Days Carving Contest, Maple Valley, WA. Contact Steve Backus 360/ 579-3574.

2nd Annual Washington Coast Championships, Ocean Shores, WA. Contact Don or April Etue, 509/ 722-6169

JULY

6th Annual Northeastern Regional Carving Championships, Tupper Lake, NY. contact Hal MacIntosh, Route 214, Lanesville, NY 12450. 914/ 688-7875.

AUGUST

August 4-6 - 6th Annual West Coast Championships, Nautical themed at Westport, WA. Contact Steve Backus, 360/ 579-3574 or Jessie Groeschel 360/ 579-7811

August 5, 6 Tall Timber Days Festival, Grand Rapids, MN. Carvers invited to carve. Contest on the 5th. Sign up deadline is July 1. Contact Tall Timber Days Festival, Lilah Crowl, PO Box 134, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, 218/ 326-5618

OCTOBER

3rd Annual Carving Contest, Shelton, WA. Contact Charlie Hubbard, E. 1161 Mason Lk. Rd. 2, Shelton, WA 98584. 360/ 426-3038

DECEMBER

2nd Annual McLenden's Hardware & Samco Christmas Carving Contest. Contact Carla Goudy at Samco, 206/ 537-6263

A Message From The President

Hello there folks

How the hell are you? Fine, glad to hear it. A Happy New Year to you all.

Well, how quickly the calendar clicks by. The new year has begun but before a blink of an eye spring will be around the corner. Time to plan. Mark up those calendars. A bit of networking!! Part of the newsletters purpose is the crossroads of our particular and very unique trade.

I don't know about you, but it seems for the most part I hang out with carvers. We know each other and each others' families (which can be a double edged sword). Up here in carvers' country, it's only natural to have fun and get together and have a contest. It's the common thread that binds us. Cowboys hang out with cowboys, truck drivers with truck drivers and federal judges hang out with federal judges. It's not unusual for carvers to hang out with carvers. I am constantly amazed at how many different ways there are: stump jobs, custom jobs, shops, street corners, bookings, or just driving around.

How do you measure how good you are? It's a matter of opinion, heavily influenced by winning or placing in a competition or art show. How else do you build a reputation as a winner? A good way is by winning a contest but once again that's the opinion of the judge. Everyone that loses, thinks the judges suck and everyone that wins, think they did a good job. So we try to (at Guild sanctioned contests) get good judges, along with prying money out of folks who want contest. Judges who have reduction three dimensional carving experience are the best but they are hard to find. Our way is not an exact science, so please write with ideas on this and other things to do with contests. Thank you all!!! By the way, a big hearty slap on the back to Bill Plant in Pennsylvania. He's grabbing the bull by the horns and having a contest. So all you folks out there who want to play at Bills' place, please call or write him. He's got room for a few. I know from experience that it feels good to know before hand if anyone is coming to your party. So let him know and you'll make a friend, a carving buddy, a compatriot, a pal, someone you can borrow saw gas and cigarettes from.

Bye Bye!
Steve Backus

PS. Good luck Bill!

OPPORTUNITIES

Florida State Fair - February. If you would like to warm up, carve in Florida. Space is limited. For more information contact Dave Watson @ 608/ 253-3890, or Gary Villa of A-1 Service & Sales 813/ 888-6747.

Burlwood Industries in Monterey, Calif is always looking for good quality carvers to stop in and carve. No hackers. For more information contact Lewis Bray @ 408/ 372-4008.

Another one of those Sappy Christmas Carving Stories

By: *Jessie Groeschen*

Little did Don Kieffer know that on the weekend of Dec. 10 & 11 would be a special one. This was the weekend of the 2nd Annual Christmas Carving Contest sponsored by McClendons Hardware and Samco Landscaping & Nursery. He drove from Davenport, a small town in Eastern Washington, 300 miles across the state to Western Washington. He was on his way to Puyallup a hustling bustling kind of a town, situated in view of the mighty mountain Rainer. The trek took him five hours in which he had to go an over icy, snowy mountain pass.

It was a cold, cold, frostbit fingers kind of a day. Not the ideal carving conditions. The contest began in which ten carvers participated

including Don Keiffer. The contest was running smoothley. The carvers were carving fast and furious just to stay warm. Day one of the contest ended with the carvers all in a jovial mood. Because they knew that soon they would be indoors, in a warm place. But Don decided to drive more and stay in a warm place in a different town. He drove another hour in a half to stay with a fellow carver.

Day two started much as day one had. The contest ended but with a disturbing note. Don Kiefer blew up the only chainsaw he had. But at least he was able to get his carving done. Boaz Backus the contests' Master of Cermonies emerged out of the Summit Restaurant where he spent most of the day watching the contest from a booth by the window. Once again he was able to spew out a delightful pitter patterring of

information so the public wouldn't get bored during the tedious judging.

Boaz Backus called all the carvers over to announce the results of the contest. It took nearly fifteen minutes due to the fact that everybody was waiting for Don Keiffer. Who was busy loading up his tools and his contest piece so he get a head start on his return trip back over the mountains and hopefully beat the snow. Finally Don Kieffer showed and Boaz rattled off the places. Fifth place was yours truly, me, Jessie Groeschen. Fourth place Ted Whited, third place Dan Whited, second place was Steve Backus, and the winner was - yes you guessed it Don Kieffer. And one of the prizes was a brand new chainsaw. All us carvers couldn't have been more happy for Don, he dd a great piece. We spent two days carving next to a busy street, some called it a miracle on a 112th.

1ST ANNUAL	
You can help the bucks county chainsaw carving event be a success by putting in an ad in the ad book.	
BUCKS COUNTY CHAINSAW SCUPTURE CONTEST	
To get all you good carvers to attend, good prize money is needed. Logs must be bought plus other prizes.	
<i>Hey all you saw, tool, & log companies!</i>	
<i>Advertise in the ad book. All of the public will see this ad book.</i>	
<i>All you wood carving shop owners!</i>	
<i>Advertise your ad in the Bucks County AD Book</i>	
AD PRICES	
Full Page \$200	Quarter Page \$50.00
Half Page \$100	Business Card \$25.00
Your Name \$10.00	
For More Information Contact:	
Bill Plant	
4366 US HWY 202, * Doylestown, PA 18901	
215/ 794-8268	
1-800...	
carving, etc. supply hotline	
Bailey's	1-800 3Bailey
<i>A nice line of carving tools.</i>	
Grizzly Tools	1-800 541-5537 West
<i>Tools</i>	1-800 523-4777 East
Husqvarna	1-800 438-7297
<i>Chainsaws</i>	
King Arthur Tools	1-800 942-1300
<i>Chainsaw carving tools</i>	
Lab Safety & Supply	1-800 356-0783
<i>Safety equipment</i>	
Mitchell Graphics	1-800 841-6793
<i>Color phot business cards</i>	
Stihl	1-800 43 Stihl
<i>Chainsaws</i>	
Van Dyke's	1-80 843-3320
<i>Taxidermy supplies, eyes, etc.</i>	
Non 800 Numbers but still very useful	
Standard Abrasives	1-818 718-7070
<i>All Kinds of sanding stuff, including sanding cones.</i>	

Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors' Guild - National Points Winner

By: Jessie Chauschen

In 1994 we started something new with the guild. A point system. I came up with the idea while watching the first contest of the season at Ellensburg. Since there was going to be alot of contests in 1994 I thought it would be interesting to see who would be the top competitor throughout the year. This included not only winning but if you placed in the top ten, won the quick carves, and showed up.

If you showed and a member of the guild you automatically got 1 point. If you placed in the top ten you got points. 10 points for first; each place below that got a point less. 2nd place 9 points, 3rd place 8 points, etc. Points were also given out for all the mini contests. The top three finishers got points. 1st place getting 3 points.

After the last contest of the year in Puyallup. We had a little ceremony to name the winner of the National Points Award. Throughout the year it was not clear who the winner would be until the very end of the year. The winner of the award was Don Etue. he received \$300, and a plaque. The plaque was most unusual being a gold leafed chainsaw bar mounted on a wood backing. He totaled 84 points throughout the year. Steve Backus finished 2nd, with 69 points, and 3rd place was Dan Whited, 57 points.

So far the only contests that count towards the point system are the guild sponsored ones. It would be nice to some how keep track of all the winners around the nation and come up with a national points system.

Check It Out!

Hey all you carvers, things are looking up. In the 1st issue of the 1995 Farmers Almanac, they had a column on what is hot and collectible for 1995. They listed chainsaw art as a good investment. "Buy it now before prices really go sky high and before too many "wanna-be" chainsaw artists flood the market." The article continues on to say that "creations range from a full-size moose sculpture sold (for \$4000), to the stunts of experts such as Ray Murphy of Maine. Ray carves names on wooden belt buckles while the owners wear them. A good way to start out 1995.

Tales From The Cutting Edge

By: Pat McVay

Just about anyone who has met the Wild Mountain Man (AKA Ray Murphy) knows part of the reason why he carries that name. Who else would use a chainsaw to custom carve a persons name in a wooden belt buckle, while they wear it? One of the first few original chainsaw carvers in the world, he is perhaps best known for being in Ripley's "Believe It or Not". He carved the complete alphabet from A to Z on a #2 pencil. I saw the pencil at his studio in Rapid City.

In 1988 during the contest in Hill City, Minn. He asked for a volunteer from the audience and asked the young girl her name. She replied "Irene". He took out a #2 pencil from his pocket, cut a notch in a stump with an old Stihl 020, (no carving bar!) set the pencil in the slot and proceeded to carve her name in it! A TV reporter stepped up and asked him if he did any other tricks and so Ray whips out this special belt which holds a little slab of wood about 2"x3". She put it on and while she was wearing it, for Minnesota TV, he carved her name. He said "It's good to get someone with a firm stomach, calm nerves, and a short name."

In 1986, there was a carving contest in Durango, Colorado, in front of a big place called the Iron Horse Inn. At the end of the day, the carvers went inside to warm up and check on their carving sale that was going on. After a bit, Hal MacIntosh thought he heard a chainsaw running. He walked outside to see what fool was still out there, but there was no one. When he came back in he again swore he faintly heard a chainsaw. He walked down a hall and the noise got louder. He turned a corner and he knew now that it was definitely a chainsaw. A couple of more turns and hallways and the noise now roared. He opened the door to the bar, the crowd in the place stood with their mouths hanging open. There he was, on stage, in clouds of smoke and fumes, the Wild Mountain Man with his old Stihl 020 blazing away. Murphy had the belt strapped around the barmaid, her white blouse was covered with bar oil and he was carving her name on the buckle!

And I don't think he was wearing his safety chaps.



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If you're on our mailing list, in early January you'll be receiving our new 84-page full-color Winter '95 Mail Order Catalog. If not, contact us, and we'll zip a FREE catalog to you pronto.

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Electric Carving Saw: One Makita electric (carving saw) with standard 3/8" pitch, a special 12" carving bar and 1/4" pitch carving chain, and 1/4" drive sprocket — ready for woodcutting or carving.
SPECIAL \$299.00

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SPECIAL \$179.00

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SPECIAL \$223.00

Introducing: The King Arthur line of carving tools. This line of carving tools makes carving more efficient. The Lancelot attachment has a 4" diameter and the (full house) 1/4" pitch cutters can be sharpened by a 5/32" round file. The Percival and Percival Plus! attachments are 1-3/4" in diameter; one has a single 8-tooth (1/4" pitch) circle of cutters and the Plus! has three circles of cutters.

The Makita (110 volt) electric saw has a chain speed of 5,500 feet per minute, which is fast, and the entire saw weighs just 9.5 pounds. The Poulan 180 is a 2.0 cubic inch chainsaw and the powerhead weighs just 8 pounds.



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ORDER TOLL FREE 1-800-322-4539

GET YOUR T-SHIRT NOW!!!!

The Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild has a few T-Shirts left.

The design is of an eagle's head with the words CASCADE CHAINSAW SCULPTORS GUILD underneath it. A real striking shirt.
Design by Don Etue

"I bought a quilt shirt and my life improved immediately! My earnings got better and I felt happy about myself. I look so nice in my new shirt. My friends returned and made nice comments on my new wardrobe. Thank you for selling me this shirt."

The cost is for guild members \$10.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping

GET YOURS TODAY!!!!

In Extra Large and Large the shirts are gray. In medium the only colors left are light blue.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Size: _____ Color _____

Please pay \$12.00 check or money order to The Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild and mail payment to 7371 S. Holst Rd., Clinton, WA 98236

DUES are DUE!!!!!!



Howdy Partner! The Marlboro Man here. Have you thought of your new resolutions? I've thought of mine. I have two, one is to send in my dues so I can continue receiving the "Cutting Edge". The other is to get rid of this nagging cough. So, don't hesitate, cuz' if you do, it'll be too late.

Make your checks out for \$20 to the Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild, deadline is January 31, 1995. Fill out the information below and mail to The Cutting Edge, 7371 S. Holst Rd., Clinton, WA 98236.

NEW MEMBER

RENEW



Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____

Comments: _____

Please return to: The Cutting Edge, 7371 S. Holst Rd., Clinton, WA 98236

60th ANNIVERSARY

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The Cutting Edge



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