



*Journal Of*  
*The North Carolina Woodturners' Association*

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AROUND AND AROUND WE GO!

"Nature moves in circles... The natural is rounded; the artificial is made up of angles." - "Beauty is Nature in perfection; circularity is its chief attribute." - "On the other hand, straight lines show that Nature has been deflected." - "When we begin to move in straight lines and turn sharp corners, our nature begins to change." From "Squaring the Circle" by O'Henry

William Sidney Porter (O'Henry) was never regarded as a philosopher; however, his short stories are punctuated by philosophical insights into human nature - the comical, the crude, the bitter, the ironic. In depicting the ironies of human nature, whether humorous or sad, he was at his best.

The story from which the quote were taken deals with a feud that originated in the hills of eastern Kentucky and culminated on the streets of New York. One feudist had pursued his mortal enemy there to do what their families had been doing to each other for generations. But finding himself surrounded by all that to him was strange, unnatural, and confusing, he became lonely. The straight lines of the big city, both horizontal and vertical, were too contradictory to all that he had known. The crowds of people hurrying in all directions were in stark contrast to the unhurried lifestyle from which he had come. He longed for something familiar. Suddenly he found it, or there before him stood his mortal enemy. His vengful rage was melted by the sight of something familiar, and the bitter feud ended with the warm greeting, "Howdy, Cal."

And are we so different? It depends on how you see it. The fact is that although not being truly philosophical, O'Henry nevertheless touched a point of truth. Circularity is more common in nature than is straightness. The universe, science tells us, is curved, even parallel lines will ultimately meet. Our galaxy is a giant pinwheel, and our solar system is a merry-go-round - the planets orbiting the sun, the moons orbiting their planets, and each rotating on its axis. The atoms from which it all is made are but whirling masses of energy. Everything is in circular motion!

Turning is, therefore, the most natural of all movements., so much so that say "turn" even when that which takes place is not a circular movement. W turn on the lights, turn off loud music, turn in for the night, turn out for a parade, turn down a raise if we've lost our minds, and believe that turnabout is fair play. If we could, we'd turn back time! The weather turns better or worse, and at this beautiful time of the year, we say the leaves are turning.

Boxers fight rounds on a square stage that we call a ring. We round off numbers, round over sharp corners, and round up cattle. We stand around, sit around, walk around, and look around. Sometimes we fool around. There are vicious circles and circles of friends. Just the right curves in just the right places make us attractive to each other, and it is well known that the longest way around is the sweetest way home. Rays of sunlight are as straight as anything can be, but only when they are refracted to form that most perfect of all arcs, the rainbow, do we see the fullness of their beauty. With the discovery of the wheel, man put circularity to work, and it is said that he thus became civilized. Be it weather cycles, business cycles, or the life cycle, circularity of both form and motion seem to dominate all creation.

All that being said, Isn't it reasonable to conclude that what we do is most complementary to nature? When we take straight boards or misshapen parts of trees and turn them into round forms, we are acting in concert with nature by revealing in the loveliest of all forms the beauty which we ourselves could not have put there. That which might otherwise have been burned, buried, or left to rot is thus saved; moreover, it can now be loved! - K. B.

#### PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The October 12th. meeting was attended by 27 members and a couple of guests. Considering the perfect autumn weather, I know that there were other activities to compete with. The business of nominations went smoothly. Actual voting will take place at the November 9th. meeting. The following were nominated:

<u>Board of Directors</u>	<u>Officers</u>
Ken Bachand	President, Tony Bradley
Harvey Pearman	Vice-president, Walt Hoyles
Jack Stewart	Corresponding secretary, Ken Bachand
David Snodgrass	Recording Secretary, Harvey Pearman
Rodger Jacobs	Treasurer, Nick Coccaro

Other events which highlighted the meeting were a narrative and VCR tape on the Dennis Stewart tools by Ken Bachand, a short talk and display of exotic woods by Wesley Blair of Global Veneer Sales of High Point, NC. We are very grateful to Wesley for the generous donation of lumber ends of some of those South American woods which most of us drool over. Half of these were put into the drawing for the meeting. The other six pieces will be raffled off at the next meeting.

My part of the program was demonstrating the workings of the Centaro T-4 Hydraulic Copy Lathe by making a 16 inch cocktail leg in approximately three minutes, using a template with roughing and finishing passes.

Our program on November 9th. will include:

- A. Election of board members and officers
  - B. Photography of Turned Objects by Bob Huffman
  - C. Cutting Tools Review by Jimmy Farmer of Vermont American Tool Company
- All who attend this meeting should try to bring up to three (3) pieces of their work to be photographed and for Show and Tell. A special prize will be given by Vermont American to each one who attends this meeting. Let's have a good turnout! -Tony Bradley

COMMENTARY AND REFLECTION

By Darrell Rhudy

The Journal has commented on two occasions about using a foot control with the lathe. I too have been "surprised" by accidentally stepping on the foot control, resulting in the lathe starting at an awkward moment. This has happened maybe three or four times in the turning of over one-thousand bowls. Fortunately, it has resulted in nothing worse than skinned knuckles or fingers.

However, I must maintain that the advantages of the foot control far outweigh the hazards. If something happens with the lathe turning, the natural reflex results in your removing your foot from the switch. It would take much longer to find a switch and cut it off by hand.

There are two types of foot controls, one like a big pushbutton that you step on once to turn it on and again to turn it off; the other is actuated only when depressed. I prefer the second type.

There are many times when it is advantageous to control the motor operation without using one of your hands. There are times when I want to reduce speed, and I can do it by "bumping" it along by intermittently pressing the control. Then there are times when it is useful to turn while rotation is slowing down. I am so sold on foot control that I bought another two from Knud Oland for my tool grinder and table belt sander. Two more possible uses are for the drill press and bandsaw.

The news of Knud Oland's death came as a great shock. Knud introduced me to bowl turning in his shop in 1988 and changed my retirement completely. His genuine enthusiasm for the craft and complete willingness to share his knowledge made him an excellent instructor. His efforts have resulted in bowl turning becoming my principal retirement activity and has extended to becoming my son's full-time work. He was also responsible for my becoming an instructor at the John C. Campbell Folk School. Future trips to the school will not be the same without a side trip to see Knud.

While her plans are not complete, Lisi Oland will continue to operate the business, and supplies can continue to be ordered

Knud will be missed by many for years to come; but fortunately, his excellent work will be enjoyed by many more for a lifetime.

Editor's Note

For a source for both kinds of foot controls, see page 2 of the August newsletter (Woodworkers' Supply of New Mexico and Oland Craft). You can get a catalog of Oland tools and supplies by writing to Oland Craft at Rt. 1, Box 75, Brasstown, NC 28902 (704 837-2273).

Be advised that most foot controls will not work with magnetic switches. Maybe one of our electrical wizards will send in some information about how to get around this problem.

PLEASE HELP!

Until all books and video tapes have been returned for inventory, we cannot prepare the bibliography that we promised. Please return whatever you have checked out promptly so that the librarian can complete this job.

## After 20 years, hobby becomes artist's livelihood

HENDERSONVILLE — Turning wood is something that was always a hobby for Herb Quarles, a native of Henderson County and a member of the Henderson County Crafters Association.

But in 1988, Quarles, who had spent 20 years working in the furniture industry as a plant and facilities engineer, decided to make his avocation his vocation. He and his wife Ginger then began "Aerie Wood," their business.

Quarles "turned" his first bowl while a student at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee and pursued the interest as a hobby in the following years.

"With no formal lessons since the course at WCU, Herb is basically self-taught," according to Ginger; Quarles was out of town at a show in Mississippi last week. "He has worked out the techniques of turning hollow vessels through trial and error."

His work was beginning to gain recognition about the time the two began the business, Ginger said, and he decided to concentrate his efforts towards a career as a working artist.

In 1990, Henderson County's Four Seasons Arts Council awarded him one of their Emerging Artist Grants to further his studies in the art of turning. He attended the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tenn., and was honored to have the instructor, David Ellsworth — known in the turning world as one of its innovators, according to Ginger — single out his work to compliment in a closing session.

"As an art form, turned wood is relatively new and just beginning to come into its own," said Ginger. "One of the appeals is the tactile experience — you can enjoy the works by touching them as well as viewing them."

Quarles will exhibit his work at the Henderson County Crafters Association's 11th annual fall craft show and sale Oct. 18-20 at Blue Ridge Mall.

### FAME AND FORTUNE

We are very proud whenever one of our members is recognized for the excellence of his work and feel that we are particularly fortunate to have such talent in our association.

We would hope that as Herb's fame grows, so will his fortune. In the meantime, the fortune is surely ours.

It is worth noting that Herb does not have a large shop filled with expensive tools. An old Rockwell lathe does most of the work, and many of his tools are homemade. He has recently bought a new miniature lathe and has agreed to demonstrate it for us at his first opportunity. It will be a show worth seeing!

Herb's recent trip to Arrowmont to study with David Ellsworth was a highpoint in his career. He feels that the techniques he learned have not only improved his turning skills but also streamlined his production methods. That means more turnings in less time without sacrificing quality.

Herb is now looking forward to attending the AAW symposium in Provo, Utah.

### REGARDING OUR ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Our bylaws require that each member shall have an opportunity to vote, and a ballot has been included with this issue of the Journal for the use of those who will not be able to attend the November 9th. meeting and vote in person.

Although the floor was open for multiple nominations, both for Board of Directors and for Officers, only one nominee was named for each of the five Board positions and for each office. These, therefore, are the only names that appear on the ballot. However, you may vote for anyone else for any one of these positions simply by marking out the name shown on the ballot and writing in another. This will then be your nomination, and that name will be presented to those in attendance prior to the taking of the vote. If you wish to vote for one who has already been nominated, just put a check in the small space to the right of the name. Please sign the ballot! Mail it to NCW, P. O. Box 2968, Hickory, NC 28603 before November 9th.