

The Colorado Carver

www.ColoradoCarvers.org

October 2009

Tracking Down Bruno Ernst Weber

Just drove back from Ohio in time to finish the third and final installment about my escapades in the Buckeye State. As I'm sure you'll remember, installments one and two were in the March and April newsletters which recounted my visit to the Warther Museum in Dover, riding an old time carrousel in Mansfield, and learning how to carve a folk art bird under tutelage of Henry Wood, Master Carver of Put In Bay.

Henry also took me around to see some great wood carvings on South Bass Island in Lake Erie (that's where the city of Put In Bay, Ohio is located) by Bruno Ernst Weber. Bruno was of German descent, born in Silesia on January 19, 1883 and died on August 5, 1953. He is buried in the Maple Leaf Cemetery in Put In Bay. Silesia was part of the Kingdom of Prussia which is now split between Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Bruno started to learn woodcarving at the age of 14 when he worked in a furniture factory. His father was an expert cabinet maker. After a four year apprenticeship in woodcarving, he traveled extensively, worked in many carving shops and gained experience in architectural carving, especially in fine works for churches.

In 1906, Bruno immigrated to the United States where he spent four months in New York before settling in Columbus, Ohio. There he worked for the U.S. Carriage Company, makers of hearses, and carved much of the work that they delivered.

After that he did architectural carvings for churches and fine residences in Columbus and surrounding cities. In 1935, Bruno had an exhibit of his carvings at the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts. In 1939, he moved to Put In Bay and established a home on Langram Road where he lived until he died.

The first Bruno carving that Henry showed me was a boat sign that was carved out of an old oak table leaf. It had hung on a post by a man who rented boats, and was then thrown away into the woods when his house was demolished.



Henry had always admired the sign and went looking for it, found it, and was told that he could have it for \$3. I forgot to mention that Henry is a "dye in the wool" dumpster diver with many treasures to his credit. The boat sign now hangs in Henry and Caroline's home in Centennial.

Henry knew that Bruno had carved a fireplace mantel for his home on Langram Road and called the current owners to ask if we could come and see it. They were gracious enough to invite us into their home, let me take some photos of the mantel, and tell us a little history about it. They said originally there were some detailed scenes on either side of Washington and Lincoln, but that Bruno needed some money and had to sell them.

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Notes from our Secretary



The September 13th meeting was called to order by **President George Smith**.

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Secretary's report was given and approved. Treasurer's report was read. Jim said we need to pay the deposit for the June Carving in the Rockies 2010. A vote was taken and passed to pay the deposit.

Committee Reports

Welcome Committee - Jim Bane: There were no new rookies today. The committee could use donated gouges.

Seminars - Jim Bane: At the November meeting, **Lew Hammer** will do a carving of a duck. **Ruth Thompson** and **Mary Rogacki** will paint the Christmas ornaments made at the September meeting.

Show - Jim Bane: Jim has flyers available. You can come to help set up for the show the Friday before (October 9) at 5:00pm.

Nominating Committee: If you would like to run for an office, let one of the committee members know. They are **Polly White**, **Mary Rogacki**, and **Eileen Reynolds**.

Library - Celia Schefe: The library will be open at 1444 S. Sherman St., Denver, CO, from 2 to 4 pm. on Sunday, October 25, 2009.

Other: Bob Smith donated two carved pens for a drawing. He suggested the money go to the Grange to buy brighter light bulbs.

Meeting adjourned.

Margaret Borchardt
Secretary



October Birthdays & Anniversaries



Suzi Hammer
October 5

Jennie Samson
October 10

Rob Summers
October 6

Mary Garfield
October 17

Jim Paris
October 8

Anniversaries

Gene & Donela Roberts
Anniversary October 7, 1962

Lawrence & Shirley Olsen
October 17, 19??

There are no seminars in October due to the Show.



Need a vest or a Tool Roll?

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2009 Calendar



Carving & Meetings

October 10-11 (Annual Show)

November 8

December 13 (Holiday Party)

Tracking Down Bruno Ernst Weber

(Continued from page 1)

He then carved some linen fold panels to fill in the void. Bruno also carved two totem poles out of some old timbers that came from a local barn that was razed and placed them to flank his driveway. One has a frontiersman theme and the other a Native American; they've had to be repainted several times over the years.



As reflected in his fireplace mantel, Bruno was a big fan of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Oliver Hazard Perry. Perry was in command of the American fleet that defeated the British fleet just Northwest of Put In Bay on September 10, 1813. This was during the War of 1812 and gave control of the Great Lakes to the Americans. After the victory, Perry sent a message to his commander, General Harrison, "We have met the enemy and they are ours: two ships, two brigs, one schooner, and one sloop."

You should remember the first part of that from high school history, if you were paying attention. But enough of a history lesson: go to Google to get the whole story. Don't forget to read about the country's third tallest monument (352 feet) that in 1912—15, was built in Put In Bay to commemorate Perry's victory (I was at the top last week).



(Washington & Lincoln)

Next we went to Heineman's Winery, which is conveniently located just around the corner from Henry and Caroline's cottage, to see some more of Bruno's work whilst drinking some of their fine wines. At one time, going back into the 1800's, most of the three Bass Islands (South, Middle and North) were covered with vineyards and orchards which have now mostly been replaced with houses, tourist establishments, and a small airport. There we saw four carved plaques hung in the bar area and listened to stories from the elder Louis Heineman about his remembrances of Bruno sitting in the bar, drinking wine, and working on the carvings. I especially liked the one of Bacchus.



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Tracking Down Bruno Ernst Weber

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They were going to start picking grapes on the following Monday and I was offered a pickers job if I could have stayed longer.

Our final stop was the Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church which contained a number of Bruno's carvings. The only carving I got a photo of was the near life size one of Saint Teresa. The other church on the island, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, is located directly across the street and although I didn't get to go inside, Henry took a photo of a Bruno carving in it that lists the members who were serving in World War II. The Catholic Church had a similar one, but its whereabouts are unknown.



I always enjoy hearing stories and seeing the work of woodcarvers from bygone times that made their living by carving. If you know anything about Bruno Ernst Weber or any other old time carvers that should be remembered, please let me know.

The photo of Bruno and some of his story came out of "The Columbus Dispatch," dated May 31, 1935.



Changing the subject; I did receive a letter about my September message on José that is included on the next page. Also, I included a few words about the October show (below) and the need for members to "step up" and support your club (page 6).

See you at the show *George*

Its Show Time!

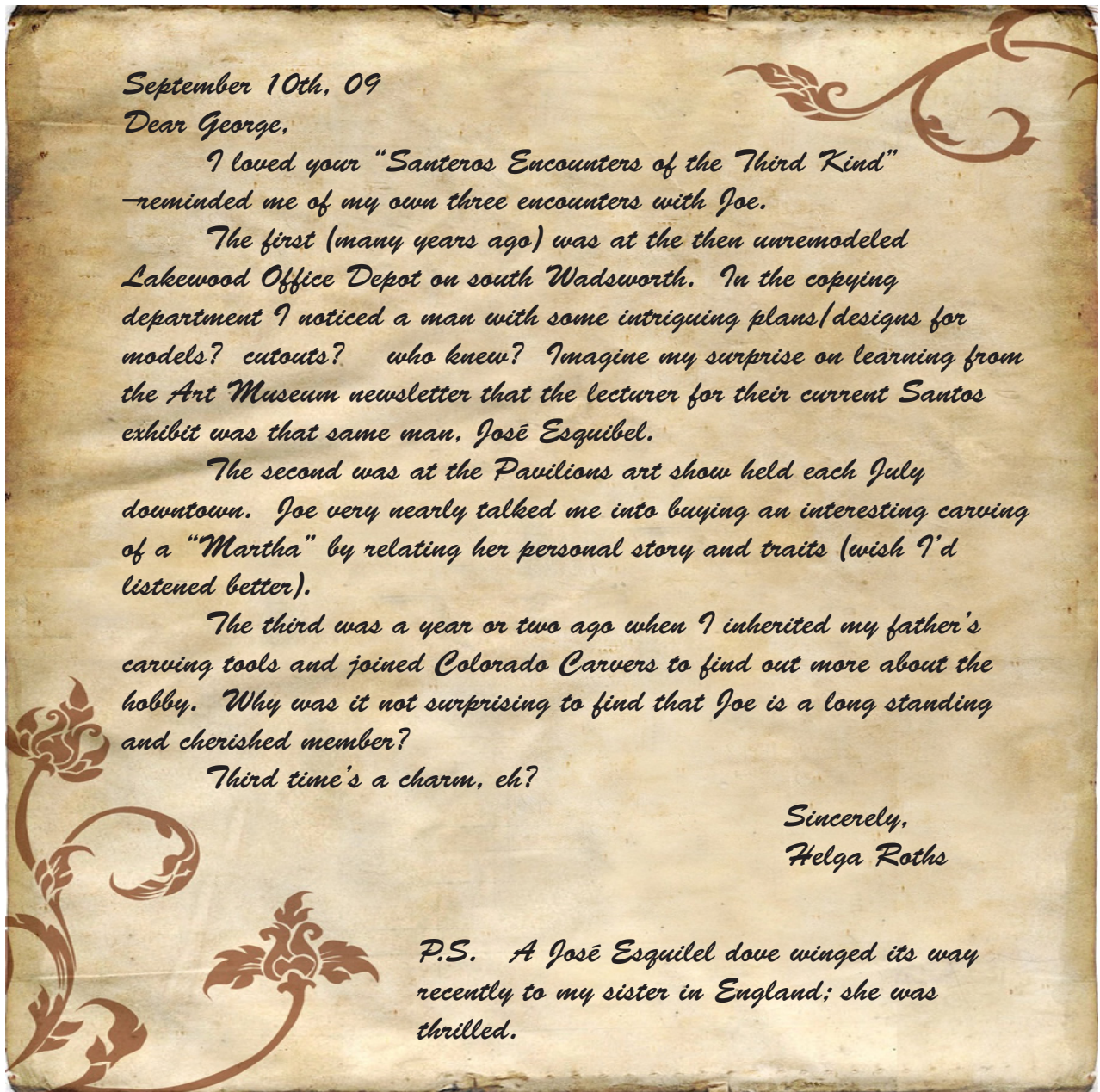
Remember, Saturday and Sunday, October 10th and 11th, is our 35th ANNUAL WOODCARVING SHOW 2009 COMPETITION & SALE at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, so, if you go the Grange on the 11th, nobody will be there unless it's some line dancers or the model airplane engine guys.



Show setup will start at 5 pm on Friday and any of Jim's "slave labors" assigned to work should be there, or else. And, of course, anybody else that would like to help or just wants to know what kind of scandalous activities go on there, is more than welcome.

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This is a typed version of a letter George received from member, Helga Roths



Its Show Time!

(Continued from page 4)

A few carvers like to get their tables setup on Friday which is OK, but the main task is to get the club's information table up, extensions cords placed and the judging area setup. The Exhibit Hall will be open by 8am on Saturday for the remainder of the carvers to setup in time for the 10am show opening.

Also remember that **Mary Lou Spurgeon** is in charge of the club's display tables and is looking for carvings from the members that we can show-off to the public. You can bring them on Friday evening or Saturday morning.

Contact James Ford at 303.368.1282 if you still need a table...there are only a few left!!

Your Club Needs You!



- Want to get involved!?!
- Want to get to know more members!?!
- Want to start something new!
- Want to focus more on outreach programs (i.e., Toys for Kids, Boy Scouts, you name it)!?!
- Want to find a new handicap accessible meeting place!
- Want to change the meeting times!?!
- Want to make better use of our money!?!
- Or you just don't like the way things are being done and you think some changes are overdue!?!

Well, here's your golden opportunity to satisfy your wants. Our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for 2010 is coming up on November 8th. You can get your name on the slate and you don't need a petition drive to do it. Just because somebody has already agreed to keep serving in an office, doesn't mean that you can't throw your hat into the ring; a little competition would be welcome and healthy. How? Just get in touch with a member of the Nominating Committee who are:

- Eileen Reynolds –(303)202-5133
- Mary Rogacki—(303)697-4136
- Polly White—(303)279-2404

They would be tickled pink to hear from you and would probably even treat you to some fancy dessert with coffee.

Correction to Show Judging Fees



Correction to Judging fees for the show competition as shown in the brochure Under "ENTRY FEES/Judging Fees;" there is no \$3.00 fee for an Exhibitor as shown, but the \$2.00 fee for each carving is valid as shown.

The \$5.00 + \$2.00 Entry Fees for a Novice carver who does not have a table is valid as shown. Of course, a Novice carver who has a table, pays only the \$2.00 fee for each carving.



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Will Rogers (1879 - 1935)

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 For personal ads that might only run one or two months, prices are as follows:
 CLUB MEMBERS:
 Free of charge. Just notify the editor.
 NON-CLUB MEMBERS:
 Will be \$10 per month. (However, the editor will need to be notified by the treasurer that the payment has been collected first.)

The Colorado Carver

The *Colorado Carver* is a monthly publication of the **COLORADO CARVERS CLUB**, a registered, nonprofit organization. Unless otherwise stated, meetings will be held on the **SECOND** Sunday of each month, **1:00pm** at the Maple Grove Grange Hall, 3130 Youngfield Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO. Open carving and instructional carving is held on the **SECOND** Sunday of each month, **9:00 till 11:30am**.

Members: See the newsletter in full color on our website at www.coloradocarvers.org. Click on "Who We Are"

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