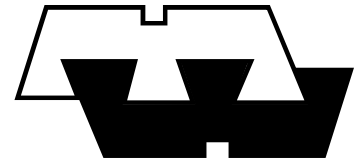




MICHIGAN WOODWORKER

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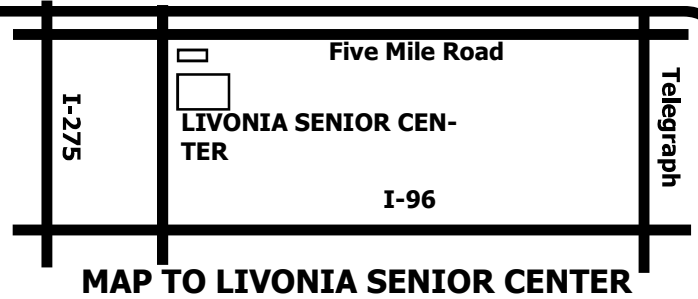
Michigan Woodworkers' Guild (est. 1981) January 2019 Vol. 40 No. 1

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

At the Livonia Senior Center from 2:00 to 4:30 pm
The raffle and other activities from 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Jim Kudej will be demonstrating how to design and construct **SHAKER BOXES**. Great projects that don't require a lot of machine tools.

The West side luncheon will be at the Senate Coney Island on the 22nd at 1:16 pm (see map on page 7)



MWG THEATER--"MASTERING WOODWORKING MACHINES" by Marc Duginske. Starts at 12:30. Marc shows you how to achieve zero-frustration, complete-control woodworking with machines.



AL EICHER AND HIS APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE WOODWORKING SHOWS will be at the **SUB-URBAN COLLECTION SHOWPLACE** February 15-17. There will be no regular meeting this month.

The **February** luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on the **28th** at 1:16 pm

The **March 10** meeting will be at the **Livonia Senior Center**. Our **Annual Showcase of Skills**

The **March** luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on the **28th** at 1:16 pm

Ragnar Bergethon will demonstrate making band saw boxes and making passive amplifiers at the **April 14** meeting at the **Royal Oak Senior Center**

The **April** luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on the **25th** at 1:16 pm

The **May 19** meeting will be at the **Livonia Senior Center**. **Ed Stuckey and Ed Thomas** will demonstrate **various Sharpening Techniques** and **Clay Bolduc/Bill Rigstad** will demonstrate the **Join Tec Jig**.

The **May** luncheon will be at George's Cony Island on the **23rd** at 1:16 pm



President's Corner

By Pete Goddard



Welcome to 2019. I hope all had a wonderful holiday period.

Our last meeting featured Al Eicher speaking on "Old Time Radio" which was interesting, particularly to those old enough to remember a time before TV took over the entertainment industry. I personally don't share in those memories. I grew up in the 1950s in San Bernardino, California – about 60 miles inland from Los Angeles. Since Los Angeles was the home of the flagship network stations, television penetrated the greater Los Angeles area very early in the 1950s, while I was a young child. I did, however, experience radio plays broadcast over Armed Forces Network in the late 1960s. It was a surprise to me, raised with television, how good radio based plays can be.

As a part of the December meeting, final nominations and elections were held. This year's elections included a pleasant surprise. During the month of November and through early December, the Guild had several people volunteer to begin serving on the board. It has been several years since the board has had substantial change. Many of the existing board members are ready for a break. The new members of the executive board include Tom Rowley, the new Vice President, Jerry Romito as the programs manager, and seven new At Large Directors. The intent is for the new Directors At Large to work with existing board members, transitioning into their position once the full range of the position requirements are understood and able to be performed.

The election results are:

President: Peter Goddard
 Vice President: Tom Rowley
 Secretary: John Dolinsky
 Treasurer: Ed Stuckey
 At Large: Clay Bolduc, Tony Gigliotti,
 Mike Holden, Will Wilson, Ken Wallace,
 Don Hess, Ron Ross, Rich Herbert, Dan
 Holowicki, Dave McCagg, Ragnar Bergethon

Appointed Positions:

Library:	Jule Ann Clough
Newsletter:	Bill Gayde
Special Projects:	Bill Rigstad, Jim Kudej
Web Site:	Open (Peter Goddard acting)
Web Site Cal:	Fred Ball
Membership:	Ed Thomas
Programs:	Jerry Romito
Toy Project:	Ken Wolf
Mentoring:	Bob Mills

A chip carving class for Guild members was held December 1, 2018 at the Washington Township Senior Center. The instructor was John Sabina, our speaker at last September's meeting. The class filled in advance of the class start and two people had to be turned down. All of the feedback I have received from the attendees was positive. If there appears to be enough interest, we will try and schedule a class in the Livonia area sometime in the first quarter of the year.

It looks like the Woodworking Shows will be in Detroit this year. Bill Rigstad is coordinating manning for the Guild tables at the show. Guild attendance and participation in this show will supplant a monthly meeting for February.

Jim Kudej is presenting on Shaker Boxes at the January Guild meeting. I took John Wilson's course on Shaker Boxes more than ten years ago and made several sets of boxes myself. Shaker box creation is a useful and an interesting process. Since the sides of the box are made separately from the top and bottom wood, Shaker Boxes make a nice platform for inlay work and /or marquetry work. It should be an interesting presentation, well worth the time to attend the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at the January meeting.



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MEETING REVIEW

By Dale Aushman



MWG Meeting Review

**Al and Dave Eicher - Early Days of Michigan
Radio
Livonia**

9 December 2018

Our speakers for the 2018 Guild Holiday meeting on 9 December were Al and Dave Eicher, founders and principals of Program Source International (PSI), based in Bloomfield Hills. PSI is a television production and marketing company founded over 26 years ago. Together they and their staff create and deliver television and multi-media programs for a variety of corporate, institutional, and educational audiences (www.program-source.com/). Al and Dave also give lectures to groups based on their wealth of historical documentation. They offer 19 lecture presentations of historic aspects of Michigan, and an additional series on travel adventures. They have given over 740 lectures and visual presentations throughout the State of Michigan. Two years ago for our holiday event they gave the lecture *The Orphan Train in Michigan*, and last year they informed and entertained members and spouses with *Michigan's Lumbering Days & Camp Life*, advertised as "*When the Big Trees Fell*." This year's presentation was on *Early Days of Radio in Michigan*, which entertained us greatly, as most of us are old enough to remember sitting on the floor of our childhood homes and listening to many of the radio programs reported by Al and David.

I offer the following highlights of their very enjoyable and educational presentation, derived from my notes and a detailed presentation script generously provided by Al and Dave Eicher.

Their presentation was designed to stimulate our own memories of early radio. A major point made was that

radio programs stimulated our imaginations to an extent not provided by modern day movies and TV, or even most Internet media traffic. We as listeners had to envision in our own minds what the characters looked like, the scenes they occupied, and the action they undertook. We were aided of course by many sound effects, and available promotional material often provided an image for us. I remember to this day sitting with my big sister listening to Rin Tin Tin or the Lone Ranger. She was the boss and always chose the station. And I remember sitting at the dinner table with



The Lone Ranger and Tonto

family listening to Amos "n" Andy and Jack Benny.

August 20th, 1920 was the date of the first commercial radio station in Michigan, which was put on the air by the Detroit News. By the end of 1922 there were 550 radio stations nationwide, with 1 ½ million listeners. In 1922 a new station was launched by the Detroit Free Press. This station changed ownership several times but by 1928 became known as WJR. The early stations had low power transmitters of a little over 500 Watts, but by 1925 many stations had increased to 5,000 Watts. In 1935 the FCC revamped the broadcast frequencies and permitted WJR to go to 50,000 Watts, making it a "Clear Channel" station. Several other stations were given Clear Channel status and radio set sales soared during the thirties.

The early radio sets used headsets, with loud speak-

ers only appearing in the early 1930s. The early sets also required several dials to adjust. Thus listening required attention on the part of the user, and only one person could listen at a time. But by about 1935 radio programming changed because headsets were no longer needed and women at home had the freedom to get things done around the home without wearing those headsets. This gave rise to the era of the “soap opera,” shows which were sponsored by the soap companies. Early Soaps included Ma Perkins, Stella Davis, Helen Trent, Our Gal Sunday, Just Plain Bill and many others. Some of these shows were on the air for over 20 years. You could also have breakfast with the Don McNeil Breakfast Club originating from Chicago, and march around the breakfast table as McNeil’s show guests had to do in the Chicago Hotel ballroom where the show originated. (From Wikipedia I learned that the radio program ran from June 23, 1933, through December 27, 1968. McNeil’s 35½-year run as host remains the longest tenure for an emcee of a network entertainment program. I looked this up because I distinctly remember listening to this show with my mother for much of my childhood.)



By the late thirties radios became large pieces of furniture in the living room, featuring only two dials (volume and station frequency) so that even small children could operate them. By 1950 GE and Westinghouse

had big consoles (Cherry, Mahogany, etc.!) with radio and phonographs together. I remember that my family got one of these sets at Christmas time, and I still have the 78 rpm Bing Crosby Christmas album which we played 100’s of time that year.

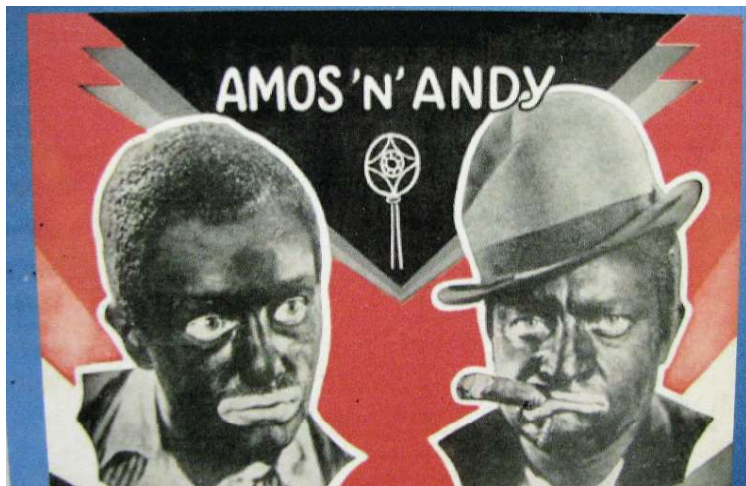
Al and David reminded us of many early radio programs, too many to mention in this space. And to test our knowledge we were given a written quiz to match radio shows against characters or elements of the show. If we paid attention during the presentation all of the matches would be revealed. Some of the top ten radio shows from the 1930’s through 1953 included: Edgar Bergen & Charlie McCarthy, Jack Benny, Bing Crosby, Lux Theater, Eddie Cantor, George Burns & Gracie Allen, Major Bowes, Rudy Vallee, Fred Allen, Al Jolson, Fibber McGee and Molly, Aldrich Family, Walter Winchell, Fannie Brice, Amos ‘n’ Andy, The Bandwagon, Arthur Godfrey, My Little Margie, My Friend Irma, and Mr. and Mrs. North. I had not heard of many of the programs, maybe because I am not old enough. I will highlight a couple of the programs which I recall from my own early years of radio.



Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy

At Chicago in 1926 a radio show was created called “Amos ‘n’ Andy.” The characters in real life were Charles Correll and Freeman Gosden, both from Chicago. They developed two black characters, first known as Sam and Henry for programming on a local

radio station. In 1928 they moved to WMAQ radio and changes the names to Amos and Andy. It was a hit and soon underwent national distribution. The show became very popular and by 1930 carried 53% of the national radio audience. The program aired six days a week at 7:00 pm, with a 15 minute episode each night. (This is why I remember always listening with my family at the dinner table.) The Amos and Andy show lasted on radio until 1960, a total of 34 years.



I also remember listening to the Jack Benny show, which I recall also being on during the dinner hour. Jack Benny (born Benjamin Kubelsky!) started in radio in 1932 and his career lasted at least 20 years. Benny often portrayed his character as a miser, playing his violin badly, and claiming to be 39 years of age, regardless of his actual age. Benny was known for his comic timing and the ability to cause laughter with a pregnant pause or a single expression, such as his signature exasperated "Well!" His chauffeur was Rochester, who drove him around in a 1924 Maxwell.



I also recall listening to the Lone Ranger, and his Native American sidekick Tonto (he was called an Indian in those non-politically-correct days). This show has particular relevance to Michigan. The Lone Ranger was a creation of WXYZ Radio in Detroit and had its first broadcast on January 30th 1933. Brace Beemer, who lived in Oxford, Michigan was the Lone Ranger for 17 of its 26 year history on radio. The voice of the first Lone Ranger was played by a Mr. Deeds, but for only six months. Brace Beemer in the early days also played the role for only two months, and then Earle Graser became the Lone Ranger for eight years. Earle Graser died in 1941 from a car accident and at the time, Brace Beemer became the Lone Ranger for the next



17 years. Beemer live on his farm just east of Oxford where his trusted horse Silver was stabled. Beemer was a great showman, riding Silver in many parades and rodeos. He often went to schools and hospitals to visit and talk with the children. Brace Beemer passed away at the farm in March of 1965. Al says that many of us will never forget "Hi Ho Silver ... Away!"

We thank Al and David for once again presenting interesting and entertaining Michigan historical highlights to our annual Holiday meeting. The presentation was enjoyed by members and spouses alike. And we thank our energetic and generous Board for arranging such a wonderful program.



OPEN FORUM

By Ken Wolf



2018 Toy Program Final Summary

I would like to thank all of our members who donated toys and boxes to Children's Hospital as part of our guild 2018 program. On December 10 the toys and boxes were delivered to the hospital to support their Christmas parties in the different areas of the hospital with toys and to provide plain boxes for patients to decorate in their art classes (and store their personal items during their hospitalization). In addition, memory boxes were delivered for the hospital staff to use to return personal items to the family when a patient does not survive their treatment.

Our toy goal for 2018 was to provide 400 or more toys for the hospital and our guild members donated a total of 571 toys this year which is the highest number in the 20 years I have been involved with the toy program. This outstanding performance is much appreciated by the hospital staff.

Our plain box goal was to donate over 25 boxes and our members donated a total of 46 boxes for 2018 again significantly exceeding our target. The hospital appreciates the encouragement the children receive from the opportunity to participate in customizing boxes that they get to keep after their hospitalization. This provides a pleasant distraction from the demands of a hospitalization stay for a child.

Production of our memory boxes was lower than recent years and we did not reach our goal of 12 or more of these boxes with 7 boxes available for donation. The boxes provided were of high quality and much valued by the hospital. Perhaps a few new box builders could help us produce additional memory boxes during 2019.

Overall this was a terrific year for the program and I would like to again thank you for the time, materials and effort contributed to this worthwhile program that brings smiles to the children and dedicated staff of Children's Hospital.

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Jim Kudej.....	Special Projects.....	734-591-0843
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Fred Ball.....	Web Site Calendar.....	248-681-3108
Bob Mills.....	Mentoring.....	248-540-8658

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