



STEPS IN MAKING A HORNCRAFT FISH

Herbert Harrison Belcher of College Station is shown with an exhibit of his horncraft work which was on display at the recent Campus Study Club meeting. Belcher has devoted his spare time for the last 15 years to this unusual hobby.

Carving Animal Horn Objects Hobby of College Resident

By NANCY LYTLE

"No man is born into the world whose work is not born with him. There is always work, and tools to work with, for those who will; and blessed are the horny hands of toil." These words of Lowell seem particularly appropriate for Herbert Harrison Belcher of College Station, who, when he retired from his vocation, became adept at a very unusual avocation, that of carving beautiful objects from animal horns.

Belcher's hands, however, are not horny. They are the hands of a craftsman, agile and strong. The 200 pieces which he has carved over a period of 15 years are concrete evidence of this fact.

Boy scout work first interested Belcher in his hobby. His son was making a horn whistle, part of the craft work of the scouts. With a few simple tools Belcher began to experiment with horn, and he has never stopped. Each new piece is an experiment with him. He gets his ideas from nature, books, and his own imagination, the latter playing the largest part in his work. There is a quality of liquid motion about each piece which stems from his visualizing a shape best suited to the natural contour of the horn.

The tools which Belcher uses are a wood rasp, jack knife, coping saw, small drill, an electric buffer, and jeweler's rouge. The electric buffer is the only expensive item among the tools. The artisan says that it has been well worth the money, as buffing by

hand is a long and tedious job which does not give the high gloss lent by the electric tool.

The rough horn is purchased by the pound from large packing houses at inexpensive prices.

Recognition has been given Belcher in two hobby shows and by various metropolitan newspapers. First prize was awarded him in the Oklahoma City Recreation Contest of 1941 and the Second Annual Hobby Show of Tulsa in 1942.

Belcher has exhibited his hobby to over 3000 people whose names are in his guest book. At the Hobby Show meeting of the Campus Study Club, Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Dallas Belcher, daughter-in-law of the craftsman, explained the horncraft hobby to members present.

She told them that horncraft is not new. The use of horns is as old as antiquity. The first nursing bottle was a horn. There were powder horns, hunting horns, and the first primer was a horn book. Horns were used as window panes in Colonial days, and they played a large role in primitive tribal ceremonies.

Mrs. Belcher stressed the fact that horncraft is "a creative hobby because it makes something out of nothing." At this time horns are used only to manufacture glue.

She said that Belcher has never made money from his hobby. He has refrained from commercializing on it in any way. She also reported that he gets his real joy from sharing his hobby with others and exhibiting it at benefit performances. He is always glad to show it on request.

She concluded her talk, "We in the family appreciate the hobby, too, because he is an interesting and agreeable person to live with. Time never hangs heavily on his hands and each day promises something new to be achieved.

"The hobby has been creative because of what it has meant to the man.

"A retired cabinet maker, shy and unassuming, he has grown with the hobby. He has gained recognition and respect through his contacts and has made many fine friends because of it. When widowed ten years ago he found in his hobby an escape from loneliness."

Through his daughter-in-law's words and through talking to the man and viewing his exhibit, it is easy to see that Belcher has brightened not only his own life but the lives of those around him with his industry and creative imagination.

Belcher himself says that he "gets pleasure from taking an old rough horn and making something beautiful out of it so that there is nothing else in the world just like it."

Among the objects which he displayed at the Study Club exhibit were beads; birds—sea gulls, penguins, and birds nesting; flowers—water lilies, cala lilies; a galley slave boat with 12 oars; two polar bears quarreling over a fish; a seal balancing a ball on his nose; an alligator; a curled snake ready to strike; reindeer; and a tableau named "The Fisherman's Dream."

It consists of an image of Calvin Coolidge sitting in a gondola with a walrus head on the prow grappling with a large fish. Even the slender fishing line is made of bone. There are also assorted buttons, rings, and bracelets made of horn.

Belcher, a man who made an art of his spare time work, is truly blessed by the results of his social meeting of the year.

Mrs. Riggs Opens Study Club Meeting; Creative Hobbies Discussed By Members

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THE Women's Corner

Belcher Outlines Steps In Making Horncraft Fish

"Steps in Making a Horncraft Fish" as outlined by H. H. Belcher, of College Station are as follows:

"Step 1. Select a cow horn the natural shape of the fish you wish to portray. Horns may be obtained at most large meat packing plants.

"Step 2. Remove the outside weathered layer with an ordinary wood rasp. Caution do not dig too deep in any one spot.

"Step 3. File marks are removed by scraping with a sharp jack knife. Use care to remove even the deepest marks as the beauty of the finish depends largely on this step.

"Step 4. Smooth the surface with a fine grade of emery cloth. Next, work over the piece with a fine grade of steel wool. Shape mouth and cut slots for tail and gills with a coping saw. Cut slots for fins with a small drill. Make sockets for the eye brilliants with the point of a jack knife blade.

"Step 5. Trace the outline of the fins and tail on a suitable piece of horn. Cut these pieces out with a coping saw. Shape with a wood rasp and jack knife and polish as in step 4.

"Step 6. Assemble by placing fins and tail in the slots and gluing brilliants in the eye sockets. Polish on an electric buffing wheel using jeweler's rouge."

Presbyterian Church Ladies Meet In Mrs. Spence's Home

College Station Presbyterian church women met Monday afternoon with Mrs. T. R. Spence at her home in Beverly Estates.

The president of the group, Mrs. R. R. Lancaster, presided over the business session. Mrs. S. R. Gammon, program chairman for the day, addressed the group on "Making the most of Sunday."

The hostess served refreshments to 18 women during the fellowship hour at the close of the program.

SAM Wives Have Picture Taken

The S.A.M. Wives Club had Longhorn pictures taken at their regular business meeting held last Tuesday evening in the lounge of the YMCA on the Campus.

Mrs. Mary Belle Hamilton and Mrs. Teddy Garner were announced as hostesses for the meeting on December seventh, which will be held in the YMCA lounge.

The club members are urging all wives of management engineering students to attend this first social meeting of the year.

Miss Hodges Named Cushing Memorial Reference Librarian

Miss Mary V. Hodges has been appointed head reference librarian on the staff of Cushing Memorial Library. She succeeds Mrs. Billie Jo Peirce.

Miss Hodges comes to A&M from Atlanta, Ga. where she served as assistant chief of the library division for the Veterans Administration. Prior to that she was librarian at the Kennedy Veterans Hospital in Memphis. During World War II she served with the Navy Library Service.

Miss Hodges has a BS degree in library science from Peabody College.

Mrs. Vance Talks On Greek Children

"The Children of Greece" was the topic for discussion by Mrs. B. F. Vance at the monthly meeting of the Missionary group, Women's Council of the A&M Christian Church, held last Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Irene Ryan.

Mrs. Vance emphasized the lives of the children of Greece during and after the war. In connection with the talk, Mrs. E. E. Vezey showed a movie, "Delayed Pilgrims," depicting the displaced persons of Europe and their hardships. She was assisted by Mrs. Ryan.

Mrs. E. E. Middleton, president, directed the business meeting.

Mrs. Sally Hertz was program chairman for the afternoon, and she introduced Mrs. Vance.

The devotional was given by Mrs. L. W. Brittain.

Mrs. Charles N. Shephardson discussed plans for the church bazaar which will be held at her home, Monday afternoon, December 6 at 1 p. m.

Five-O Club Holds Regular Meeting

Mrs. Jim Hallmark was hostess for the Five-O club Thursday evening at her home at 400 North Baker.

Mrs. Hugh Wallace, president of the club, was in charge of the business session. Plans were discussed for a Christmas party and a committee for decorations was appointed. They are Mrs. Charles Corbett, chairman, Mrs. Hallmark, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Arch Flowers, and Mrs. Herb King.

December 9 at 7:30 p. m. is the time of the next meeting which will be held at the Bryan Country Club. Hostesses will be Mrs. Dan Albright and Mrs. Johnny Reeves.

Aggies '68

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. M. Warren of College Station, a boy, Charles Wicker, born Nov. 9 at St. Joseph's. Mr. Warren is an instructor in the A.H. Dept.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred B. Crouch of College View, a boy, Alan Bruce, born Nov. 9 at St. Joseph's.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade M. Smith Jr., a boy, Barry Gene, born Nov. 11 at St. Joseph's.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis E. Robert of College Station, a boy, Alexander Campbell, born Nov. 14 at St. Joseph's.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Foster of Bryan Field Annex, a son, Richard Wayne Jr., born Nov. 13 at St. Joseph's.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Q. Butler Jr., of Bryan Field Annex, a son, John William, born Nov. 16 at St. Joseph's.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett B. Turner of Bryan Field Annex, a son, Curtis Burton, born Nov. 16 at St. Joseph's.

Mr. and Mrs. James McCulloch of College, a son, Lawrence Williams, born Nov. 16 at St. Joseph's.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Hale of Bryan, a boy, Alan Franklin, born Nov. 16 at St. Joseph's.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold R. Brenholtz of College, a boy, born Nov. 19 at St. Joseph's.

Creative hobbies of members of the Campus Study Club were featured at a meeting of the club held last Tuesday afternoon in the parlors of the YMCA on the Campus.

Opening the meeting, Mrs. J. K. Riggs spoke briefly on the types of hobbies exhibited and introduced four speakers who gave informative talks.

Mrs. Dallas Belcher took her father-in-law's hobby as topic for discussion. H. H.

Belcher was the only non-member who exhibited at the meeting. Mrs. Belcher discussed the tools which were used in his hobby of horncraft and told of how he began his interesting work. Belcher's exhibit included flowers, various types of animals, and jewelry.

Corsage-making was discussed by Mrs. Ben Ferguson. She gave a demonstration of this art, explaining the importance of balance and color harmony.

Furniture refinishing was the subject of Mrs. F. B. Clark's talk. She showed her expert technique in refinishing old objects by exhibiting some "before" and "after" pieces. Mrs. Clark specializes in refurbishing antiques.

Mrs. George Potter's hobby is shellcraft. She had on display many dainty dolls made from minute vari-colored shells which she had gathered in Puerto Rico. One doll, a nursemaid with a baby in a carriage, attracted particular attention.

Other hobbies on display were Mrs. Ashton's embroidery work which included pieces of Italian cutwork, puto d'Assisi and Riche-lieu design; Mrs. J. K. Riggs' metalcraft consisting of bronze bowls, and hammered engraved aluminum pieces.

Miss Jennie Oliver showed a beautiful knitted bed spread and afghan.

An art exhibit consisted of the work of Mrs. R. Riser, Mrs. R. G. Reeves, and Mrs. E. R. Alexander. Mrs. Riser showed her pastel, "Lady with Balloons"; Mrs. Reeves exhibited two oils—"Indian Woman" and "Log Cabin"; and Mrs. Alexander showed a water color still life, an arrangement of fruit.

Mrs. E. B. Reynolds had a display of tin flowers made from tin cans; Mrs. R. M. Sherwood showed an example of leather tooling, a leather purse; Mrs. Ray Oden exhibited crocheted doilies, and Mrs. Dora Barnes had examples of textile painting.

During the business session of the meeting, Mrs. H. L. Heaton, president, presided. Introduced as new members were Mrs. H. E. Hampton, Mrs. Robert Barrow, Mrs. Fred Smith, Mrs. Paul Balance, and Mrs. Robert Barham.

Mrs. W. F. Adams, American home committee chairman, spoke on child training. Mrs. A. L. Par-rack, chairman of the public service committee, told of the club's plan to underwrite the cost of supplying milk for two underprivileged children. Christmas toys will also be collected by the committee for underprivileged children between the ages of 4 to 8.

Hostesses for this meeting were Mrs. Edward Madeley, Mrs. F. B. Clark, Mrs. George E. Potter, and Mrs. Paul B. Pearson.

Tessies '68

Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Nider-korn of Bryan Field Annex, a daughter, Sherry Lynn, born Nov. 10 at St. Joseph's.

Mr. and Mrs. Acie Clarence Mc-Ada of Bryan, a daughter, Judy Ann, born Nov. 13 at St. Joseph's.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy E. Dewald of College, a daughter, Diane, born Nov. 9 at St. Joseph's.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob F. Conger of College, a daughter, Pamalah Joyce, born Nov. 20 at St. Joseph's.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Patterson of College, a daughter, born Nov. 20 at St. Joseph's. Mr. Patterson is with the College Experiment Station.

College Foods Group Meets

The College Foods Group met Friday afternoon in the home of Mrs. S. L. Lovelless, South Oak-wood addition, in College Station. Thanksgiving in New England was the theme for the meeting.

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Thanksgiving Turkey Quiz

As Thanksgiving Day draws nearer, housewives are busy with the problem of that most tempting of all feasts. Cecily Brownstone of the AP has anticipated many of the cooking problems with a Turkey Quiz for housewives.

How much dressing should you allow?—One cup of dressing for each pound of turkey is a good guide. The rule is to pack the stuffing lightly to allow for expansion in cooking. This way you'll achieve a fluffy, good-tasting result.

How can you put two kinds of dressing in one turkey?—If the members of your family have strong individual preferences for wet or dry, sweet or not-at-all-sweet dressing, you can make everybody happy by preparing one kind of stuffing for the body, another for the neck.

Why is trussing recommended?—Because binding the legs and wings to the body improves the turkey's appearance; helps the bird to roast evenly, and makes carving easier. First step in trussing is to lift the wings up and out, forcing the tips back until they rest flat against the neck skin. Second is to tie the legs together and then pull toward the tail until the leg ends are right above it; now tie the legs close against the tail. After one hour of roasting the leg trussings should be cut, releasing the leg ends from the tail.

How do you use skewers?—To fasten the neck skin—after it has been filled with dressing—to the back. Also to close the abdominal opening so the dressing won't fall out by lacing it together with light cord and a few small skewers.

What are the advantages of a roasting rack?—Either a flat or a v-shaped rack raises the bird so that heat can circulate freely around and cook and brown it evenly. Roast the bird breast-down, except for the last quarter of cooking, when the breast may be turned upmost to insure total broiling.

And how about the cranberries to go along with the turkey? Here are some tips for their Thanksgiving preparation that ought to make them taste better than ever.

What kind of cranberries give the best eating?—In buying, choose berries that look fresh, firm, and shiny. If they're shriveled, dull-looking or soft, you may be sure they'll be of inferior flavor. Government experts say that the smaller, darker berries may be somewhat sweeter than the rather large, bright red berries. For whole cranberry sauce the largest, brightest berries make the best appearance.

What else besides turkey goes well with cranberries?—If roast chicken, duck or pork are on your Thanksgiving menu you'll find the sweet-art flavor of cranberries just right with them.

How long should cranberries be cooked for sauce or jelly?—Modern methods emphasize short rapid cooking as the best way to preserve flavor and color.

How about raw cranberry relishes?—Raw cranberry relishes are a comparatively new development in cranberry cookery—and one that's here to stay. They are like-

ly to be popular ones you try them on your family and friends that they'll want you to include them every year. The base of all these raw relishes is the raw cranberry, but through the food chopper, usually using the medium knife. Along with the cranberries may go any other fruits you like, fresh or dried, and then enough sugar is added to sweeten and develop flavor. When such fresh fruits as lemon or orange are used the fruit skins go through the chopper along with the pulp. Other additions such as nuts or coconut may also go into the relish.

Here is a new recipe for Cranberry Pear Relish that I tried for the first time this year with the hearty approval of guests. The tangy taste of lemon and the fresh flavor of the pear go well with the cranberries.

Cranberry Pear Relish
Ingredients: 4 cups fresh cranberries, 2 lemons, 2 cups sugar, 2 ripe but very firm large pears.

Method: Pick over cranberries, discarding any that are soft or blemished; wash under cold water and drain. Wash lemons, quarter and seed, removing center strip of membrane if desired. Put cranberries and lemon quarters through food chopper, using medium knife; add sugar and mix well. Peel pears, halve, core and cut in dice that are not too small—about one-half to three-quarter-inch pieces. Add to cranberry mixture and mix in lightly. Chill in refrigerator before serving. Makes about 5 cups. Relish will keep in a closed container in refrigerator for about a week.

Mrs. Clark Renews Old Furniture

Mrs. F. B. Clark of College Station is very modest concerning her hobby—furniture refinishing.

At the Campus Study Club Hobby Show Mrs. Clark said that she was "strictly in the amateur class and always would be." The work which Mrs. Clark exhibited helps her statement.

She showed a number of rose-carved chests from her collection of Empire period sofas which she reconditioned and refinished.

"Finding these old pieces is just a form of treasure hunting, and messing with varnish remover is as fascinating to a grown-up as mud pie making is to a child," said Mrs. Clark.

A pair of old German candle holders were exhibited which were 16 inches high and six inches in diameter, intricately carved from a solid piece of oak. Mrs. Clark has cleaned, restored and polished them to a soft sheen. She plans to use them as lamp bases.



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