

The Push Stick

Unique Furniture



At the WOW May meeting, Bruce Zentil showed us some of the awesome woodworking his father did. Unfortunately, his father passed away, but his creations live on. Bruce gave us a great video presentation along with bringing some of the actual items in that Norman Zentil made.

Norman Zentil was raised in Canada and went to school until 10th grade upon which he went to vocational school for toolmaking. He moved to Southern California and was a general contractor until retiring in 1980. That's when he became passionate about woodworking. In his home shop from 1980-1995 he created many items that the Zentil family still

treasure, from jewelry to furniture. Looking at some of his creations, it is hard to tell how they were made.

He told Bruce, around 1990, that he wanted to have an article in Fine Wood Working Magazine. Bruce didn't think he could, because only the best get in there. Norman Zentil has an article in the September/October 1991 issue of that magazine. It goes into detail about the machine he built on a lathe for "Spiral-Routing on the Lathe". With it he could make intricate cutouts and designs like the stand pictured. The magazine even put his article on their best articles CD.

Even though Norman Zentil has been gone for some time, his creations still inspire. Thank you Bruce for sharing them with us!



Ray Mitchem

by *Dave Reid*

Ray Mitchem, a long time member of the Woodworkers of Whittier, died Tuesday, May 10, at his home in La Mirada, a victim of a heart attack. He was 76.

Although he specialized in turning bowls on a lathe in his backyard workshop, Mitchem delighted in making hundreds of small wooden cars he called "pocket cars." He donated the cars to the Emergency Room at Presbyterian Inter-community Hospital to be given to small children who were patients or visitors to the facility.

He would also give the items to children he would see in restaurants or other places. Mitchem was also a mainstay volunteer in the club's major project in

Club Volunteers

President
Alan Schwartz
(626) 274-4840

Vice President
Dave Reid
(562) 693-3204

Treasurer
Ray Mitchem
(714) 523-8697

Secretary
Dick Toney
(562) 328-6102

Membership
Jim Lockwood
(562) 926-7069

Raffle
Gene Getz
(562) 777-1480

Refreshments
Julie McCamey
(562) 698-7496

Push Stick Editor
Website
Alan Webster
(562) 943-4919

Founders
John Erickson &
Jerry Hughes



making wooden toy cars and trucks for underprivileged children at Christmastime. He was active in producing thousands of building blocks at the workshop facilities at Hathaway Ranch in Santa Fe Springs.

In 2014, club members named him as “Woodworker of the Year”. He currently served as club treasurer. He was always generous with his time and volunteered to help with many club activities, said Alan Schwartz, club president. “At every woodworker event that I have ever been involved with, Ray was there.”

“Ray would always help me look for wood,” said Jim Sparling, a friend and club member. He often gave free lessons on bowl turning in his shop.

Before they disbanded, Mitchem was active in the Whittier Chorales Barbershop Chorus

For years, Mitchem sported a stylish handlebar mustache. He was set to enter the mustache contest at the recent Whittier Founders Day celebration, but the event was cancelled because of rain.

A memorial service was held May 29 in La Mirada. Many WOW members were in attendance along with scores of Ray’s friends and family members. A group from the Whittier Chorales performed several tunes. Many of Ray’s bowls and projects were on display at the event.

Ray leaves his wife, Judi (What’sHerName) two sons and their wives, Mike and Marian, Gary and Wendy, and five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Hunter Smith Award to John Rodgers

John Rodgers was presented the Hunter Smith Woodworker Achievement Award for his many years of service to WOW and the community. He was WOW’s President many times, loved to show members how to scroll saw and represented the club at many community functions, where he told them what WOW did for the community. Congratulations John and well deserved!

June 9th Meeting

Gary Mitchem (Ray’s son) will show us how to finish bowls. How to get that nice glossy finish Ray did.

Steering Committee Minutes- WOW has 39 paid members.

Woodworker of Year selected- Alan Webster. Block building project is on schedule. \$2393 in bank.

Voting for Officers

We will be voting for club officers in June. You can nominate yourself! It’s called volunteering. You can call Dave Reid at the number above. Please step up and volunteer. **Dave Reid** has volunteered to be

Club President. Thanks Dave! Other offices are Vice President, Membership, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Club Calendar

June Meeting- Thursday June 9th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Steering Committee-Tuesday June 14th 7-8:00 p.m.

July Meeting -Thursday July 14th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Steering Committee-Tuesday May 19th 7-8:00p.m.

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month at Adventure Park
10130 Gunn Avenue Whittier , CA 90605

Thanks to: Harold Ehlers for mailing the newsletter, Julie McCamey for bringing the snacks, Gene Getz for organizing the raffle.