



MAY 2014

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## Meeting Notes

### May Meeting

**The May meeting is Thursday, May 8 at Adventure Park, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. The park is located at 10130 Gunn Ave., Whittier.**

The meeting will be about favorite tools. Bring one or more of your favorite tools to the meeting and tell why you like them. Also, if you have them, bring one or more antique tools and talk about the function and history of these tools.

### April Meeting

The meeting featured a presentation by **John Buchanan** of Eurton Electric, a firm that specializes in motor rewinding and parts. The company is located at 9920 Painter Ave., less than one mile from Adventure Park. The firm rewinds and repairs motors for a wide variety of uses, including robotic motors, electric wheel chairs and scooters, hospital equipment, hospital beds, industrial equipment, etc. **Buchanan** said the company stocks more than 10,000 electric motor bearings and other parts. He advised club members to keep power tool motors cleaned and oiled, and to check for fraying cords, which could lead to damaged motors, and to listen for bearing wear. Business hours are 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday. Members should ask for **John** when bringing in items for repair. The company has more than 35 employees. **Jim Sparling** will have extra Eurton Electric business cards available at the May meeting.

### Hunter Smith, 1924-2014

**Hunter Smith**, longtime member of the Woodworkers of Whittier, passed away April 11 at his home in Whittier, following an illness.

“Hunter’s passing is a big loss for the club.” said Alan Schwartz, WOW president. “For years, Hunter spearheaded the club’s annual toy-building project, which has provided handmade wooden toys to thousands of disadvantaged children in the area. He provided many of the designs that club members use to build the cars, trucks, doll strollers and doll cradles we make every year. He was always there to give advice and counsel to club members on various projects. And he

always stressed the need to make jigs for any project that required identical parts. He was a former Woodworker of the Year winner, and will be sorely missed.”

A number of club members attended a gathering of friends and family members at Hunter’s home on Friday, April 14. When a club member went to the *Whittier Daily News* office to talk with a reporter about Hunter, he noticed one of Hunter’s candy machines on a desk in the office. It was a gift from Hunter to a reporter for an earlier story, another example of Hunter’s generosity.

The following is a story published April 18 in the *Whittier Daily News*. (Reprinted with permission.) The article was accompanied by a 2008 photo of Hunter with one of his wooden trucks.

### **Hunter Smith, 1924-2014**

### **Whittier’s ‘Mr. Fix-It’ dies at 90**

His toy designs provided presents for needy kids

By Sandra T. Molina

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WHITTIER Hunter Smith, who carved a way into the hearts of thousands of children he would never meet by sharing his love of woodworking through handmade toys, and never met a broken window or clogged drain he couldn’t repair, has died. He was 90.

Smith, a longtime member of the Woodworkers of Whittier, first created the wood-based toys for his children and grandchildren.

“My son still has a collection of the toys my dad made for him,” his daughter, Valarie Sanborn, of North Carolina said.

Joining the Woodworkers of Whittier shortly after its founding in 1993, Smith brought his toy-making to the club.

He shared the templates for the different cars, trucks, doll carriages and doll cribs with his fellow woodworkers, who then took them home to make toys to be distributed to children.

Over the years, thousands of toys were donated to the CHP for its holiday campaign, several women’s shelters in the surrounding areas and San Gabriel Valley, as well as human and family services departments.

“He was the woodworking guru,” said David M. Reid, a member of the Woodworkers of Whittier.

With the templates, he said, children will continue to enjoy Smith’s toys as long as the club remains active.

Smith’s generosity didn’t stop with woodworking.

He was the neighborhood handyman, helping his neighbors with any type of job, from replacing a light bulb, fixing a windowpane or designing and making a piece of furniture.

“He was always fixing things,” his daughter answered when asked to name a remembrance of her father.

Along with his quiet manner, Sanborn also recalled how her father took under his wing two neighborhood boys of a single mom.

To this day, the surviving sibling is thought of as family.

“He had a big heart, as did my mom.” Sanborn said.

Smith, who was known around town as “Mr. Fix-It,” was born in Oklahoma on Feb. 6, 1924.

Sanborn said her father had been ill for the past six months and died of congestive heart failure, April 11, at his home in Whittier.

The family made the move to Whittier in 1927 because his father, O.C. Smith, had a job offer with the city’s police department.

## Announcements

The elder Smith was named acting chief of police in April 1938, and sworn in as permanent chief on Oct. 9, later that year. He served until his death on June 5, 1954.

Hunter Smith graduated from both Whittier High School and Whittier College.

He married his wife, Evelyn, on July 1, 1950. The couple had two children, and were married until Evelyn Smith's death in 1999.

After leaving the aerospace industry, Hunter Smith went into the carpentry business.

"Making things with his hands was his passion," Sanborn said.

In fact, her father built a bedroom set for her, which is now in her own daughter's possession.

Smith is survived by his daughter and a son, David Smith, of North Carolina, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

A private memorial was scheduled for family and friends Friday night.

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## Steering Committee Report

Red Nichols' treasurer's report showed a bank balance of \$1,348.82. Membership chair **Lindsey Fisher** reported that the club had 42 paid members. Steering Committee members discussed the passing of **Hunter Smith** and his many contributions to the Woodworkers of Whittier. The committee will be working on a way to honor him in the future. **Jim Sparling** announced that there will be a tour of the Carpenters Union Training Center in Whittier on May 22 at 9 a.m. Details will given at the May meeting. The committee also set up a telephone tree to inform members of important events.

## Share Your Skills

Members are encouraged to share their woodworking skills with others in the club who may have limited experience in some aspects of woodworking, such as turning, furniture making, drawer construction, etc. **Ron Holtz**, who taught woodshop to middle school students for 15 years, said members should not hesitate to ask others for help when working on a challenging project.

## Show and Tell

Bring an example of any project you wish to tell us about at the May meeting.

## Woodworker of the Year

Forms to nominate a club member for Woodworker of the Year honors will be available at the May meeting. Forms must be completed and submitted to President Alan Schwartz by the end of the May meeting or submitted at the May Steering Committee meeting. The guidelines for this award are as follows:

### Description

Each year, the Woodworkers of Whittier shall have the option of honoring one of its members as Woodworker of the Year. The period will be from July 1 of the present year to June 30 of the following June.

### Criteria

## Announcements

The Woodworker of the Year honoree shall be a member in good standing. He or she shall have been active in club events, and have participated in club activities, such as attending meetings, participating in toy-making projects, participating in community outreach events, staging woodworking demonstrations, serving as an officer, serving on committees, helping to organize events, etc. He or she should also be an active woodworker. This award is not necessarily for the most skilled worker in the club, but honors the one who has made outstanding contributions of service to further the goals for the club.

### **Nominations**

Nominations for Woodworker of the Year may be made by any member. Nominations shall be submitted to the club president on a nomination form to be provided at one or more regular club meetings.

### **Selection**

Selection shall be made at the May Steering Committee meeting. All members in good standing attending the meeting may express opinions on various nominees. After discussion is concluded, those attending the meeting shall make a selection by secret ballot. In the event of a tie, the president shall make the final decision. In the event that one of the members present has been nominated, that member shall leave the room during the discussion of that member's nomination. If agreed upon by members, the club may decide not to name a winner for that year. The club may also decide to name co-winners, if appropriate.

### **Timing**

Nomination forms will be available at the April and May club meetings. Completed forms are to be returned to the president. The winner will be selected at the May Steering Committee meeting and announced at the regular June club meeting. The award will be presented at the July club meeting. This will allow time for any plaques to be made, etc.

## **WOW Shirts**

See **John Rodgers** at the May meeting if you wish to order a club shirt.

Meeting, that member shall **not vote nor**

### **WWWWWWhittier Founder's Day Celebration**

Whittier marks the 127<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding at the annual Founder's Day Celebration in Central Park, May 10, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The park is located at the corner of Baily St. and Washington Ave. in Uptown Whittier. As in the past, the Woodworkers of Whittier will have a table at which club members will demonstrate tools and techniques. If you wish to help, contact John Rodgers at the May meeting. It's fun event with bands, dancers, food and exhibits by a number of community organizations. There is usually a fascinating exhibit of antique cars and trucks.

## **On Your Calendar**

**May Meeting** Thursday, May 8, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**Steering Committee** Tuesday, May 13, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**June Meeting** Thursday, June 12, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Steering Committee** Tuesday, June 17, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**Thank you Bill, Julie, Harold and Paula**