

# Flickertail carvers initiate training

By ROBERT MATZKE

**T**HE Flickertail Woodcarvers Club was established 33 years ago with the goals of providing quality training and enhancing the art of woodcarving. The club is located in Bismarck, N.D., which is almost at the center of the state. It maintains over 100 members, who come from all over the United States. The majority are from within North Dakota but others come from Montana, Minnesota, South Dakota and Canada. Each year more than a third of the members go south for the winter.

This makes it difficult to provide the high-quality training everyone wishes for. The club accomplishes this by conducting 18 two- to three-hour classes during the regular business year (September to May). During the summer months there are three classes held in a local park that have varied projects and last from two to three hours. In the spring of each year a special class is held

that generally lasts for two days.

Noted carvers are contracted to come in and instruct. Each year the club sponsors a featured carver for its annual show. There are generally two other classes in conjunction with the show for carvers. This show is open to the public, and attending carvers can display and sell their work. The Flickertail Woodcarvers also sponsor some unique classes for non-carvers (generally the spouses). These classes help maintain their support. In the past, classes have consisted of wreath making, ornaments, pillows, rugs and many styles of needlework.

The most recent carving classes were conducted by Leroy Berry (rainbow trout) and Lloyd Meng (caricature figures). This was a fun class as there were a dozen projects to select from this past March. Dave Sabol was the featured carver for the annual show this past October; he taught a unique-style Santa. Also at the annual show were Gerald Ekern who taught carving a flat-plane

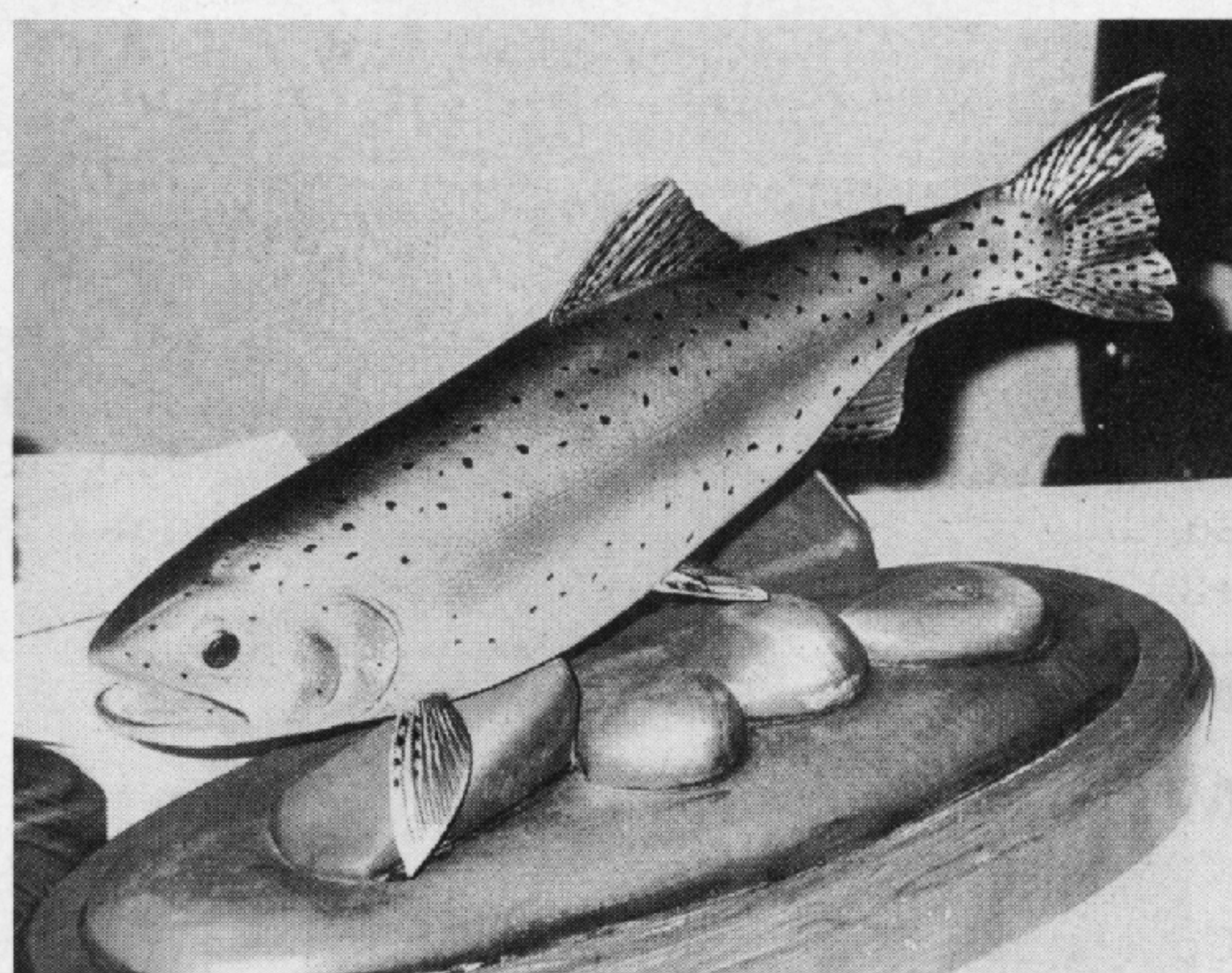


Lloyd Meng of Yankton, S.D., taught caricature carving. Left to right: Roger Duchsherer, Mitch Olson, Ron Holtz, Bob Pedigo, Stan Skarphol, Ed Horner, Lloyd Meng, and Warren Schlecht; hobo was one of the projects.

— Photo by Bob Matzke



Leroy Berry of Colorado taught rainbow trout carving; pictured, left to right: Dick Johnson, Leroy Berry, Frank Koch, and Bob Lawrence. Finished rainbow trout is by Leroy Berry.







Dave Sabol of Wrightsville, Penn., demonstrates on a Santa caricature. Standing, left to right: Mitch Olson, Ron Holtz, Don Davidson, Berry Bell, Cliff Rime, Bob Lawrence, Arnold Sakshaug, Ron Torgeson; seated: Bob Pedigo, Dave Sabol and Frank Koch.



Gerald Ekern of Westby, Wisc., taught carving a flat plane farmer. Standing, left to right: Richard Anderson, Dave Kingsbury, John Yonker, Clara Yonker, Bob Clooten, Howard Rasmusson, Ray Grim; seated: Stan Skarphol, Rick Jensen and Gerald Ekern. Unpainted project by Bob Clooten.

farmer, and Gary Paulsen carving a troll, for which he is noted.

The club has contracted with Frank Koch to teach carving a stylized cardinal for the spring class, March 28 and 29. Frank is a noted caricature carver and excels in many areas. He has achieved many awards. The club has yet to contract with a featured carver for the 34th annual show, but have several prospects to select from.

For more information about the Flickertail Woodcarvers or its classes, contact Frank Koch, P.O. Box 7473, Bismarck, ND 58507. ■

*Are your membership dues due? Check the numbers after your name on this mailing label.*

## Woodworking/carving machines for sale

Bill Usher, House of Usher, 2366 Corley St., Arcadia, LA 71001, has three machines for sale: (1) a 1989 Robland X-31 multi-use machine (table saw, joiner, planer, shaper and end mill all in one), asking \$1800; (2) a Bison heavy-duty manual copy lathe with 14" diameter by 36" length capacity (reversible motor allows free-hand turning on one side and copy use on the other), and (3) 1991 Andreoni 12 AL/S Carving Machine with 12 spindles and a 10.5" x 60" capacity. More than enough carving bits included to get started.

Phone Bill at (318) 791-4166 or e-mail <bmusher@shreve.net>.

## Calusa woodcarvers renew totem pole

The colorful, 24-foot tall totem pole at Calusa Elementary School in New Port Richey has been refurbished by the Calusa Woodcarvers Club (Robert Jahrling and Bunnie Sheets are pictured). A new plaque was also installed.

The totem pole was set up and dedicated in April, 1990. This project needs attention every five to six years because of the heat and weather conditions in Florida.

Bob Dewar, founder of the club, designed the totem pole with a wing-span of ten feet. It was originally carved from a telephone pole donated by a local utility company. The six symbolic figures topped by an eagle were carved by Don Baker, Bob Dewar, Bob Jahrling, Joe Santos, Bill Diehm, John Maguire, Sam Morris, John Pardey, Roy Patton, Bunnie Sheets, Otto Wiler and Art Winheim.

Dewar, who was a local resident, taught Indian art craft and woodcarving at a Michigan summer camp and is credited with keeping alive an interest in totem pole carving and the lore surrounding this part of Indian culture. — E. Jane Wentworth

