



San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

April, 1982



You may have seen many a quaint craft in your day, for aught I know; --square-toed luggers; mountainous Japanese junks; butter-box galliots, and what not; but take my word for it, you never saw such a rare old craft as this same rare old Pequod. She was a ship of the old school, rather small if anything; with an old fashioned claw-footed look about her. Long seasoned and weather-stained in the typhoons and calms of all four oceans, her old hull's complexion was darkened like a French

grenadier's, who has alike fought in Egypt and Siberia. Her venerable bows looked bearded. Her masts--cut somewhere on the coast of Japan, where her original ones were lost overboard in a gale--her masts stood stiffly up like the spines of the three old kings of Cologne. Her ancient decks were worn and wrinkled, like the pilgrim-worshipped flag-stone in Canterbury Cathedral where Beckett bled. But to all these her old antiquities, were added new and marvellous features, pertaining to the wild business that for more than half a century she had followed.

Notes on the March Meeting

The March meeting was devoted to last minute details of our annual static show and contest, and to the sharing of models, modeling tips, and resources. Elsewhere in this issue you can find three of the references given at the meeting for particular resources. There was a good show of models with several of the show entries being brought down early. Among the models present were:

Val Petersen	Parts to a Tuna Seiner, 3/8", scratch built
Joe Bompensiero	"SEGUIN", 1:20 POF Laughing Whale Kit of a wooden steam tug.
Lou Harmeling	"DUKE", a 1 1/2" scale scratch built R?C steam tug.
Dough McFarland	"SANTA MARIA", 1:75 POF kit
Bill Kelly-Fleming	"CALIFORNIA, 1/8" solid hull scratch built of the barkentine. "CALYPSO, 1:125 Revelle plastic kit of the oceanographic research ship in a diorama.
Fred Fraas	"S.S. JEREMIAH O'BRIEN, 1/8" POF scratch built Liberty ship.
Ted Pugh	"OLIVER CROMWELL" 1:48 POF Scratch built Privateer.

Log Keeper's Log

Articles and information have been coming in faster than we can use them, but please keep up the good work. By the time our next issue goes to press I'll be done producing the TV shows that have taken so much of my time and I'll get caught up on the articles. So if you have submitted an article, do not dispare, it will appear next month. In upcoming issues I hope to pass along information from newsletters from other shipmodeling clubs as well.

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Calendar of Events

- April 24/25 *MAC Show in Long Beach
 *Spring Sail Regatta at the pond... pond closed to open running
- May 17 Liberty Ship JEREMIAH O'BRIEN makes its annual cruise out of San Francisco for \$50.00 per passenger.

Also In This Issue

- *Model Show results
- *Best of Show Modeler of the Month
- *How to make a thumb Plane
- *Resource contacts from March meeting
- *Models in the News
- *Up to date roster of members
- *Museum Library Information

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Confidence in the Media

Bill Benson must have had confidence in the media in fore ways than one recently as he trusted the media to tell the story of his model of the CONFIDENCE. The Channel 8 evening news carried a feature, as did the SAN DIEGO LOG, whose article we reprint by permission:

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San Diego Log

March 19, 1982

A Model Gift To Be Presented

A two-foot model of the sailing ship that carried the Whittier family from England to the United States will be presented April 2 to Scripps Hospital in La Jolla.

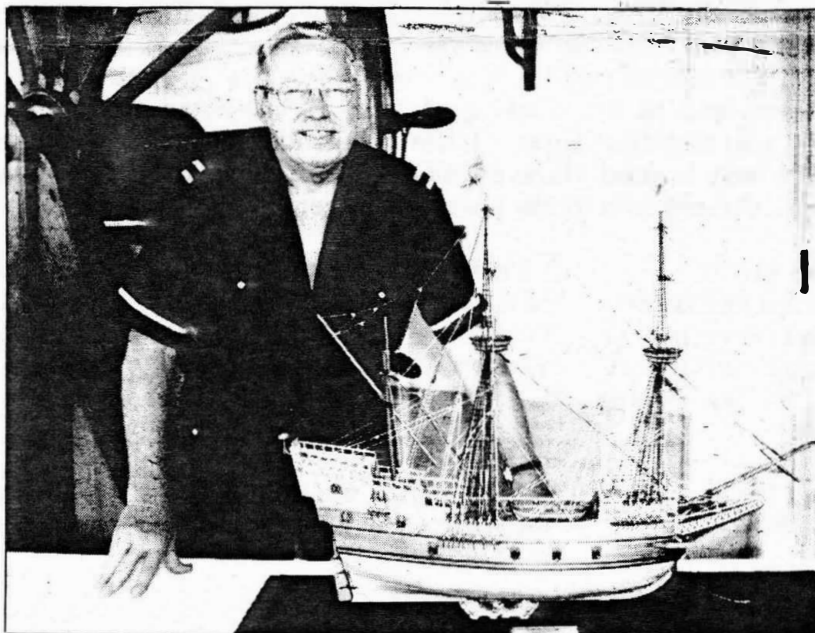
The model of the British merchant ship *Confidence* was built by retired Cmdr. Bill Benson, curator of models at the Maritime Museum Association of San Diego.

The *Confidence*, which was a contemporary of the *Mayflower*, was the ship that Thomas Whittier sailed on 12 generations ago.

The family settled in New England before migrating to California where it dabbled in ranching and petroleum.

The three-masted ship was 78 feet long on the deck with an overall length of 90 feet. It carried 10 guns.

The replica was built by Benson, an experienced model builder. Benson, a retired submariner, has



Staff photo by Bob Covarrubias

CONFIDENCE MAN—Retired Cmdr. Bill Benson shows off the sailing ship *Confidence* he built for the Diabetic Clinic at Scripps Hospital in San Diego. The model will be presented to the hospital April 2.

been making models since he was nine.

The replica is a 1/4 inch to the

foot scale and will be presented to the Thomas Whittier Diabetic Research Clinic.

AND SPEAKING OF ARTICLES

In the most recent issue of SCALE SHIP MODELER one might have recognized two of the models as having been in last Fall's regatta. There was a color feature of Bob Herrera's wooden steam scow ROSEBUD, and the cover story of Dwight Brook's massive trawler NORDKAP. Very few issues go by without a model from one of our members of from a competitor in one of our events is featured or shown. Other recent features have included a good photo of the stern detail of our "Best of Show", the OLIVER CROMWELL built by Ted Pugh, and Bob Herrera's mamouth tug MAJESTIC (reaturing of course JWC Props).

(ed.note: John promises to do a nece job of typing and getting this out if I give JWC a plug or two!)

Resource Information: (From March Metting)

Ted Pugh's Miniature Saw: R. Kemp Slaughter
Box 54
Route 1
Sagle, ID 83860

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OLIVER CROMWELL Judged "Best of Show"

Ted Pugh's flawless model of the OLIVER CROMWELL, was judged to be the Best of Show at our March event. The model is a 1:48 scale scratch built plank-on-frame replica of a ship that took over 5500 hours to build. Ted also happens to be our Modeler of the Month.

The Scale Static of Display Model Show last month saw fifteen official entries with several more models brought in for exhibition. We had an excellent location on the main deck of the BERKELY, which brought us good visibility before the public visiting the museum.

Ted's CROMWELL was first place in the Sail category, followed by Bill Kelly-Fleming's 1/8" scratch built, solid hull model of the Barkentine CALIFORNIA, with third place going to Doug Mc Farland and his 1:75 plank on frame SANTA MARIA.

In the Commercial Category, Tom Palen of the Fullerton Club took first and second place, his exquisite scratch built Venetian Gondola in 1/2" scale taking a well deserved first place, and a well done 1/16" modified kit of the T-2 tanker GAINES MILL taking second. Third place went to Russell Scott for his 1/2" scale model from a kit of the AMERICAN ENTERPRISE.

In the Military Division, PT 109, a 1/19 scale scratch plank-on-frame model by William Jacobs took first place, with William Vecera's SCHNELLBOOTE, a 1/32" Accuscale kit taking second.

In the plastic category, Bill Kelly-Fleming's diorama of Jaques Cousteau's CALYPSO, complete with carved California Gray Whales to scale, took first, while Dana McPeck's CONSTITUTION with sails took second place.

We've already given Vic Crosby a special award for his ship in a bottle collections, but the show stopper was a ship in a bottle with a three foot long vertical neck - - OK Vic, how did you do that one? Bill Benson withdrew his beautiful model of MEDEA when he became one of the judges at the last minute.

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners, and thanks to all who entered or brought a model to display.

APRIL MODELER OF THE MONTH

** TED PUGH **

By Bill Kelly-Fleming

"I have looked at this model for hours and have yet to find a flaw." This is a compliment any modeler would like to receive, but when it comes from an experienced professional modeler who is also a judge, it is no wonder that the model becomes "Best of Show." This is the case for the OLIVER CROMWELL, with the well deserved compliments quoted going to our Modeler of the Month, Ted Pugh. Ted had actually been selected to be our monthly modeler before the contest, so his award in the show actually confirms the soundness of our choice.

Ted spends his winters here in San Diego, while living the rest of the year in the northern panhandle area of Idaho. Born and raised in West Virginia, he has been modeling since a boy, starting with airplanes, then ships, then railroads, and after a 20 year hiatus to build a summer home he returned to ships. Once he did return to ships, his interests changed, going from the relatively modern 19th Century clippers to the 18th and then 17th Century warships. Some of this change was brought on by the artistic challenge presented by the elaborate carvings and decorations of the older ships.

After earning his E.E. degree from VPI, Ted built the first of his ships, the four masted bark, CALIFORNIA. Later models included the CUTTY SARK, SOVEREIGN OF THE SEAS, AMERICA, BLUENOSE, DANNEBROG, and SMUGGLER.

Since his retirement as a public relations manager eight years ago, he has spent much of his time in the study and collection of books regarding sailing ship construction, architecture, and history. OLIVER CROMWELL was the fourth model to be built since retirement.

OLIVER CROMWELL was a merchant ship that was converted to a private ship of war. During part of its life, it was known as BEAVER'S PRIZE. The model was Ted's first scratch built and first plank on frame, and features exposed framing. It is 1/4" to the foot, 28" long, and was developed with the aide of twelve research documents. Eight types of wood are used, including swiss pear, boxwood, holly, degame, ebony, walnut and lignum vitae. Windows are made from micro slide covers, and the guns and iron works are made

of brass. Part of the reason for such fine work was that Ted would rip out a section and start over if he didn't like the results. The stern galleries, featured on page 52 of the January 1982 SCALE SHIP MODELER, was the result of 7 or 8 different tries before he got one he was satisfied with! No wonder it took 5500 hours and 3 1/2 years to build... and such dedication shows on the finished produce.

Ted's current project is the 17th Century, fourth rate, 50 gun ship ST. ALBANS. He is working on the drawings from incomplete plans obtained from the Maritime Museum of London, and at this point is drawing the frame lines. Hopefully when he returns next December, he'll have a frame started to show us.

With his interest in wood working and furniture making, Ted has a complete workshop. The address given elsewhere in this issue is where anyone can contact his friend who made his miniature saw he displayed at our last meeting. One tool he has found helpful is a set of jeweler's screw drivers he has ground into chisels. These he finds are especially good on small detailed carvings. Another helpful feature of these modified tools is that the tips are replacable if broken or damage.

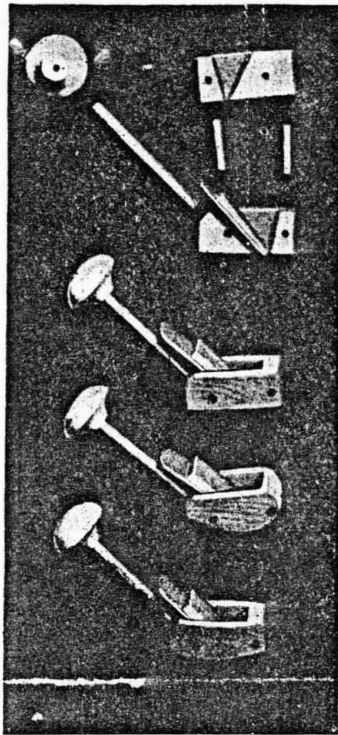
Another helpful resource he has found is the book SHIP NOTES put out by the Nautical Research Guild. He found this helpful for instance when it came to making the gratings.

Ted likes the woodwork and carving aspects the most of his hobby. As for what he likes the least...rigging! AHA...now we know why he didn't put full masts on OLIVER CROMWELL!! Still, it is a superb model and the pride of our Modeler of the Month. Congratulations, Ted.

Tiny Thumb Planes

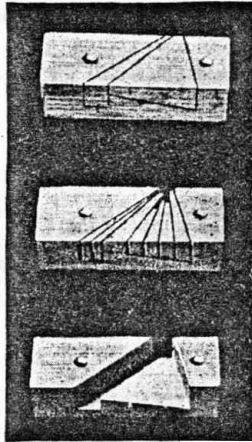
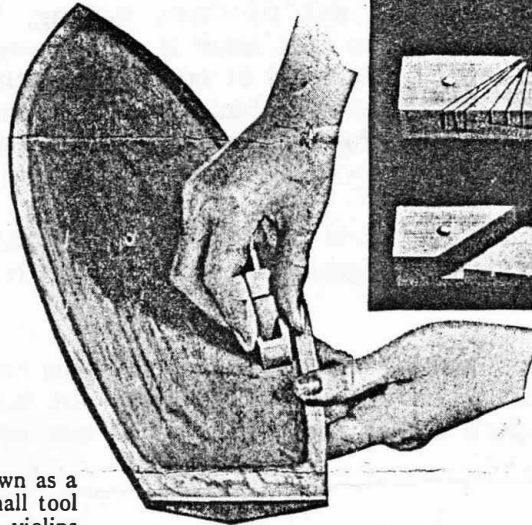
AID IN BUILDING MODELS

You can make a whole set for a few cents and will find them invaluable for shaping hulls and similar work



The parts of a thumb plane ready for assembly, and three complete planes with bottoms of different shapes. The body of each plane is made in halves, then doweled

The inside of each block is marked as shown at the right, then slotted with a saw and finished with chisel and file. A round-bottom plane is illustrated below in use on the inner curves of a model sailboat hull



sides can be finished, and then the bottom of the plane can be shaped as you desire—straight, concave, convex, or in any other form.

A palm rest turned to the shape and size shown in the drawing is to be preferred; however, a serviceable rest may be made from a slice of $\frac{7}{8}$ -in. dowel with the top rounded, and a hole drilled in the bottom to take a $\frac{1}{8}$ - or $\frac{3}{16}$ -in. dowel. The wedge is made of hardwood as indicated.

The blade is a piece of hack saw or similar steel, ground and honed to the shape of the bottom of the plane. In setting the plane, let the blade project just a hair from the bottom.

Although the utility of these little tools is more or less obvious, a few of the many jobs may well be mentioned where they will be found to do better work in less time. The flat plane can be used to shape decks, deck houses, and other small parts necessary in making models. The convex or full round is most helpful in shaping the flare at the bow of ship models, also for shaping the inside of ship and sailing models. The concave plane has been found just the tool for shaping masts and yards; it does the work neatly and makes it much easier.

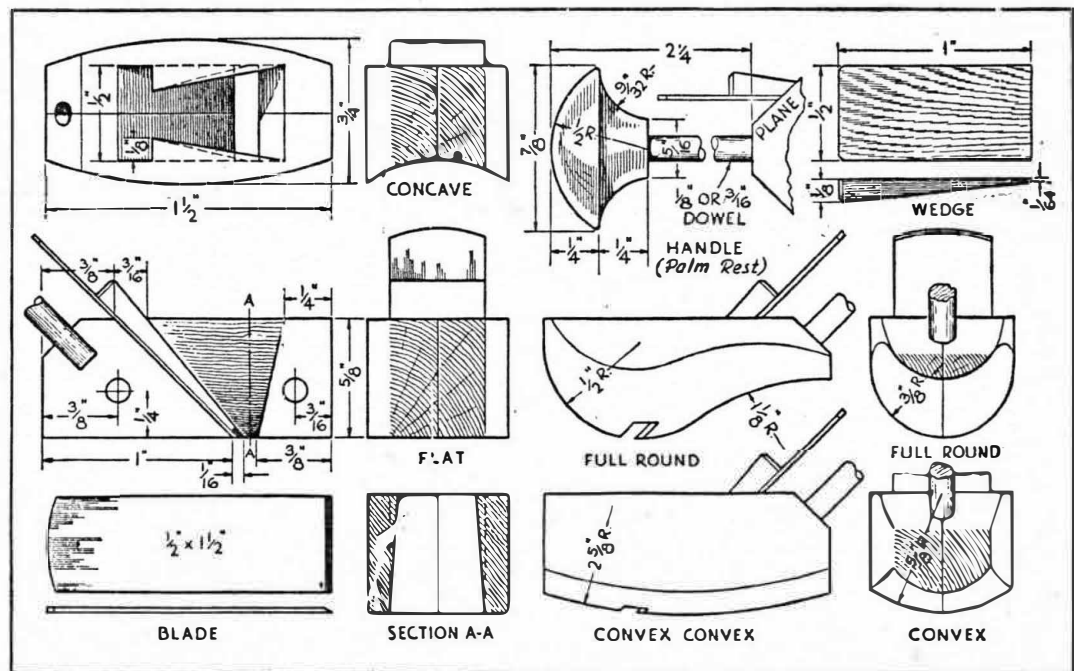
WHAT is familiarly known as a "thumb plane" is a small tool invaluable in making violins and similar musical instruments and in shaping model ships, airplanes, sailing yachts, and the like.

The body of this plane is held between the thumb and forefinger, and the handle butts against the palm of the hand. With the ordinary plane of this type, the fingers get tired very quickly, but with the new design illustrated, it is possible to work for several hours without undue fatigue or cramps in the fingers because a good deal of the thrust required to push the plane is taken up by the carefully designed palm rest.

The body of the plane is made of two pieces of maple, beech, or some other hardwood with a fine, close grain. Each piece should be $\frac{3}{8}$ by $\frac{5}{8}$ by $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. Clamp them together and drill two $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. dowel holes as shown in the drawing. With the dowels in place, mark the top and bottom of the pieces; then remove the dowels and mark the inside of both pieces. With a small

saw, chisel, and file, remove the waste wood.

When you have finished shaping the inside, the two parts should be doweled and glued together. After the glue has set, the



Full-size drawings of thumb planes to show the method of construction and various shapes found useful for models



San Diego Ship Modelers Guild
 Bill Kelly-Fleming - Logkeeper
 /redacted/

TO:

Fred Fraas
 /redacted/

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 * San Diego Ship Modelers Guild *
 * Officers for 1981 *
 *
 * Master: John Woodard Point Loma /redacted/ *
 * Mate: Bob Crawford State College /redacted/ *
 * Logkeeper: Bill Kelly-Fleming Hillcrest /redacted/ *
 * Stearing Committee: Doug McFarland Mira Mesa /redacted/ *
 * Al L'heureux Poway /redacted/ *
 * George Oliver Santee /redacted/ *
 * Bob Ross Chula Vista /redacted/ *
 *
 * Meetings: 3rd Friday of each month, 8:00 pm aboard the Bark Star of *
 * India, on the Orlop Deck. *
 * Membership: Dues for Members of the San Diego Maritime museum and *
 * anyone living outside San Diego County - \$7.50. Non-Museum *
 * Members - \$15.00. After July 31, 1982 dues are 1/2 for the *
 * remainder of the year. *
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