

2017 October Newsletter

Parkers Prairie Woodcarving Club

September 29th—October 1st is carving a Cottonwood log Santa with Marty Dolphen. Class will be held at Jamie's place on 9373 County Road 21 SW. We are Looking at Troy Helget And Don Fisher for some Future classes.

Club dues are due at the first of the year. Adults or Family memberships are \$15 and Junior membership is \$5

Tip of the Day

Painting with the wrong end of your brush

Dots are made by dipping the wrong end of a paint brush, stylus, and other rounded object into a small puddle of paint.

Calendar

Sept 29 _ Oct 1

Marty Dolphen carving Santa

Oct 28 & 29

No instructor

November

Possibly Troy Helget

Contacts

Newsletter & Dues

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Introduction

To most Americans, whittling is considered a pastime of country folk with too much time on their hands. In fact, most whittling today is done by retired folks. They either whittled or remember someone who did when they were young. Now in retirement, whittling gives them an activity they can take pride in. Most people like to create things; even useless items such as wooden chains.

That may be what truly sets us apart from other creatures. An old whittler once told me, *“I take great pleasure in wasting my time.”*

History of carved Whimseys

I suppose the first useless carving could have been a small club carved for a cave-child's toy. When carving useless items actually began is impossible to answer. The oldest book I own which includes chains, balls-in-cages, and other Whimseys was published in 1906. The title is “Basic Sloyd and Whittling”; near the back of the book is a page of carvings titled “Spontaneous carvings by children under 12 years of age”.

If these items were commonplace to children in 1906, they must have been carved long before that time. As you can see, I know very little about the actual history of Whimseys; I can't say where, why, or when they began. I do know they are tedious to carve, require the ability to visualize in 3D and command a certain amount of amazement from non-carvers and children.

Once you have produced your first useless carving, you have become another link in the history of Whimseys and the chain continues. Although I may not know when it began, I can safely say it will not end as long as there is wood to carve.