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Meeting Dates

March.....19th

June.....11th

September....24th

November.....5th

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Terry Page

V. Pres. 585.237.5098

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Rocking the Presidents... Sam Maloof Celebrates his 90th BIRTHDAY in 2006... By Michael Morin

n January of 1916, When Samuel Solomon Maloof was born, there were people dancing in the streets of his home town of Chino California. A block party celebrated

Sam's birth, the first boy in the family, after six girls. Chino, a community 37 miles east of Los Angles hosted a thriving Arabic speaking Lebanese community at a time when Lebanon was still part of Syria and the Turk-

ish Ottoman Empire. Because Maloof, was already a common name in Southern California, Sam's father Silmen, a dry goods merchant, began using the more common Judeo-Christian form of his last first name as the Maloof's family surname to help his supplier's track his accounts.

So young Sam Maloof grew up Sam Solomon, a name he used until 1945, when his brother legally changed it back to Maloof, a name known to several of our nations presidents and woodworkers every

around the world.

Best known for his signature rocking chairs made of spectacularly figured woods and impeccable craftsmanship, Sam Maloof was also the first living crafts-



man ever to be included in the White House Collection of American Furniture. Frequently associated with U.S. presidents Carter, Reagan and Clinton, Sam Maloof's rocking chairs have made his furniture world famous.

Former President Jimmy Carter, and avid woodworker and furniture maker himself, is reported to be one of Maloof's most ardent fans and collectors. Carter is the only Commander and Chief to pick up his custom rocking chair in person, arranged so he could meet the maker and see

Maloof's California shop. A recent announcement of a Bonhams & Butterfields for an auction in Los Angeles on 27 March 2006 lists a " (Maloof ed.) Southern California collection from the early

1950's including an American walnut "refectory" drop leaf dining table with six carved chairs (est. \$20/30,000), a very rare triple-mitred tall chest of drawers (est. \$5/7,000), a spindle-back upholstered occasional chair (est. \$3/5,000)

and a pair of early walnut tables night (est. \$10/15,000) all in American walnut. In addition, the sale will feature a good American walnut pedestal coffee table estimated to bring \$12,000 to \$18,000. The highlight of the group is a rare carved American walnut conference table. duced circa 1967, with ten arm chairs (est. \$70/90,000)". The illustrated catalog will be available online for review and can be purchase at Bonham's Web

www.bonhams.com/us <

Above: Maloof's Upholstered walnut rocker Blind musician Ray Charles, upon running his hands over one of these chairs, proclaimed it as having "soul".

Have a Story or a question? ❖

Submissions,

comments or questions for Talking Tools can be sent to the Editor: Michael Morin 1037 Elwood Ave Buffalo NY 14222

Atten: WNYATCA



Above: Maloof's carved seat walnut rocker that made him furnituremaker to the presidents

Report of the June, 2005 Meeting...Michael Morin

WNYATCA President Chuck Wirtenson welcomed new members **Dan & Myrna Coleman** and announced that this particular meeting was free to members, fulfilling the request to do so by a majority vote at the November meeting. It was also reported that having no fee at this meeting had no effect on attendance. Our November meeting did retained the \$5.00 fee for future regular (unsubsidized) meetings. The newest of the old business was the president's continued request that members update their phone, e-mail and home address with the club **Jim Clarke**, the association's Treasurer. (585.225.1911) (*No one will ever win a unused, mint tool in-the-box by hiding behind their mail carrier*, **so please tell us how to reach you!** Ed.)

Really new business was the announcement of the 2006 WNYATCA meeting dates: March 19, June 11, September 24, November 5 and the MJD tool auction meeting on August 4th and 5th.

There was no Treasurers report follow by the *Parade of What-Its*, always a crowd favorite. This editor's default guess (*if it you can't drive a nail with it – It must be dental*) finally paid off with a unique but practical mouth opening device for the administration of oral medications to horses. Other odd and curious devices included and hide or net stretcher, a kettle hook/chain, a possible can opener, a device to clean the lead channel (came) for leaded glass windows to name a few.

Martin Donnelly of MJD Tools in Avoca New York presented a PowerPoint lecture entitled *Swimming in a Sea of Tools* and he wasn't kidding. The task of organizing and tracking the consignment only collections of 30,000 – 40,000 tools at any given time, prompted Martin to create his own data base that is capable of retrieve a single tool or numbered lot of tools from and enormous virtual pile that includes user and color grade specimen's of Americas farm, factory and family legacy of tools of the trades.

Impressive is the speed, accuracy and time saving capabilities Martin has built in to his system. Any tool description that has been used with in the database can be retrieved, edited and repurposed for a new tool of a similar or same type as it enters the database. Why rewrite the type specimen details for each tool when an earlier note field record can be instantly located edited and reassigned with a few strokes of the keyboard? Simply brilliant! Martin's 25 years of experience collecting and selling tools showed with each facet of his demonstration. Presenting with his laptop containing close to 2,000,000 records, Mr. Donnelly displayed a patent model of and up and down saw while detailing his personal history that took a guy looking for a few tools to repair and old house (where have we heard this before) to a major international antique and collectible tool dealer.

Disappointed with the cheap handyman grade of hardware store tools, Martin did what so many tool people have done and started surveying the local flea markets and garage sales with the promise of older, high quality hand tools! Realizing the potential market of reselling his duplicate or unneeded treasures he began selling old tools at the Avon Flea market and later setting up annual yard sales at his parent's home until the lawn and his parents' patients began to ware thin. Martin progressed to his first catalog sales in 1991, Web sales beginning in 1997 and his first Auction in Nashua New Hampshire in September of 2000. MJD tools will have 11 auctions 2006.

Today Martin Donnelly offers searchable value guides on CD with multiple category codes to search for tools by type, maker, model number, bar code number and a note field for text descriptions. As new tools gather they are digitally photographed and all the identifying data is entered including the items weight (for shipping quotes) id number, lot location, descriptive label with bar code and color code that is specific to each auction in annual schedule. This information is live and up to date throughout each auction. Bids appear on screen along with benchmark numbers for the aid of the auctioneer. (continued...page 8 *)

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WNYATCA MEMBER DIRECTORY AS OF JANUARY 2006

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| WNYATCA Lane, Walter 3 Pewter Lane Johnstown, NY 12095 | We're Talking Tools! | WNYATCA Larson, Lars 18028 Reed Melvindale, MI 48122 | We're Talking Tools! | WNYATCA Leathersich, Glen 78 Greenwood Street Canisteo, NY 14823 | We're Talking Tools! |
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Rochester, NY

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Stewart, James 18 Scenic Circle Rochester, NY 14624-1008

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Wirtenson, Charles, PRESIDENT 5644 E. Main St. PO Box 109 Verona, NY 13478-0109

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Young, Robb 953 Mendon Ctr. Road Pittsford, NY 14534

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Thompson, Thomas 136 Knowlton Avenue Kenmore, NY 14217

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Yokel, Don 149 Glenview Lane Rochester, NY 14609

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Zavada, Rollie 21 Cottonwood Lane Pittsford, NY 14534

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VanValkenbu, Ken 82 Lake Ave. South Bergen, NY 14416

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Young, Chuck 263 Howard Road Rochester, NY 14606

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Western New York Antique Tool Collectors Assn.

Martin Donnelly (Cont. from page 2)

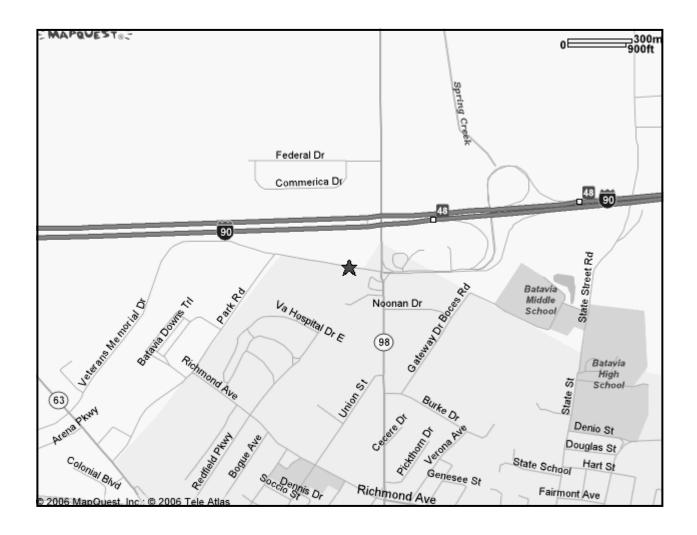
...A bit like playing 3D chess with Star Trek's Mr. Spock or working at an air traffic control monitor, Martin's professional auctioneers sells about 11,000 lots a year. The auctions move at a quick pace at an average of 4 lots per minute or 250-350 per hour! Martin explained that online or telephone bids taken early in the bidding procthat exceed the ess amount of the last live bids prevail. The item in questions is sold to the highest early bidder, but at a price reduced to just above the highest live bid. So a high pre-auction bidder of \$500 may pay much less if the live bids never reach the \$500 threshold! WNYATCA members were stunned by the sheer amount of control Mr. Donnelly's personally created database has. Many questions followed a great presentation. �



President Ronald Reagan test rides his new walnut bronco in the Oval Office as furniture maker Sam Maloof and delivers the first piece of studio furniture to enter the White House. Freda Maloof, Sam's wife, partner and business manager for 50 years, looks on as the President accepts the gift for use in the First Family' private quarters in 1981. Freda Maloof died in 1997.

WNYATCA Meeting Schedule 2006

Batavia Holiday Inn - 8250 Park Road (West of Route 98) Exit 48 NYS Thruway



March 19th June 11th
September 24th November 5th

C3

10:00 AM - Tool Table Setup and Coffee 11:30 - Business Meeting, What's-it Quiz and Guest Speaker



MEMBERS!

Is your membership up to date? Our membership fee is \$15.00 a year.

Please send your check payable to WNY Antique Collectors Association.

Mail Check and up-to-date postal/e-mail address and telephone number c/o James A. Clarke, WNYATCA Treasurer 8 Peck Road, Hilton New York 14468

ATTENTION! WNYATCA Members!

1st Meeting of 2006 Sunday March 19th

Crystal Room - Holiday Inn

West of Rt. 98 - N.Y.S. Thruway Exit 48 - Batavia, New York

10:00 AM - Tool Swap Set Up - Meet-n-Greet

11:30 AM Meeting, What's - it Quiz and Guest Presenter

Guest Speaker: WNYATCA member Jim Altemus will speak about restoring old tools. Many well made tools may not be considered rare or an expensive collectable, but most old tradesmen's implements, are worthy of several generations of significant use. Jim will talk about his restoration methods and demonstrate the proper tuning and sharpening of tools such as hand planes. Jim's presentation will focus on improving the longevity, performance and worth of common old tools for the current and future woodworkers that will use it.

A door charge of \$5.00 includes coffee and tea. Guests and prospective WNYATCA members are welcome!