



International Guild of Knot Tyers

TEXAS BRANCH NEWSLETTER

August 2001

Issue 10



Tony Barrick

to Rapid City, South Dakota. They returned to Carswell when their father rejoined the 8th Air Force Bombing Wing. Their father resigned his active commission in the Air Force when Tony and Tim were about 2 years old. From that time on, Tony lived in Dallas.

Tony attended elementary school at Claire Oliver in Oak Cliff and joined the Cub Scouts there when he was 8. While a student at Boude Story Junior High, Tony managed to burn the house down trying to fry fish. The family was forced to move, transferring Tony to Atwell Junior High. He graduated from Carter High School, where he was a member of the football team. Tony received his Associate Degree from Mountain View College and attended college at the University of Texas Arlington and Dallas campuses.

Tony's adult life has pretty much revolved around Scouting. His career with Circle Ten Council, Boy Scouts of America, began when he accepted a management position in the Supply Center, now fondly known as the Scoutfitter. That is where he met his lovely wife, Pam, when she was there to sign up her younger brother for a Cub Scout Day Camp. Tony made it a point to visit the Cub Scout Day Camp the very next day in the hope of seeing Pam again. He did and the rest is history. Pam and Tony were married in 1984 and just a short 10 years later became parents to a spoiled, and very loved little girl, named Sarah Elizabeth after Pam's mother, Sarah, and Tony's deceased mother, Elizabeth.

In addition to being an employee of BSA, Tony has also served as a volunteer adult leader over the past 30 years. He has worked with several troops, including Troop 926, Troop 786, Troop 531, and Troop 141, where he is currently registered. Tony has also served as a NRA Firearms Instructor and Summer Camp Staff for Circle Ten. Tony is a Wood Badge Scouter, Beaver Patrol, and has served on Staff for several Wood Badge Courses. To say that he has had unusual experiences with wildlife on Woodbadge courses would be putting it very mildly. For his work in Scouting Tony has been awarded the BSA District Award of Merit.

His knot tying interest is mostly in decorative knots, primarily the Turk's Head knot, as well as lashing and pioneering. Tony counts himself very fortunate to have known most of the members of the Texas Branch of the IGKT for many years. His friends through Scouting have been very supportive and encouraging."

Member Profile

In this issue of your newsletter the featured member is Tony Barrick. If you are a TxB member who has served as a volunteer in Scouting in Circle Ten Tony is well known to you. If you don't know Tony he is the guy who opens the Circle Ten Building for us for our meetings. Tony and I have spent many nights camping under the stars on Boy Scout troop campouts and Wood Badge courses and he is a fine outdoorsman.

"Tony was born at Carswell AFB on November 27, 1953.

Moments later he was joined by his brother Tim, to the shock and amazement of their parents, who were not expecting twins. They lived on base for a few months before their father was reassigned

The Prez says...

The dog days of August are upon us and I hope that a lot of TxB members were in Colorado where it is a lot cooler. Saying that indicates the August meeting attendance seemed a little light. However, there was a lot of teaching going on. The amount of learning will be determined in the displays we will see later.

Gary Sessions was teaching the steps of the Star knot (his specialty) and Ed Baker was making the lovely Matthew Walker knot, however it was not in pink. Yours truly was showing the diamond and double diamond knot, without the sparkles.

The business portion of the meeting encouraged attendance of the NAB - AGM. At this time it appears we will have 4 or 5 TxB members in attendance. The meeting dates are August 24, 25, and 26th, in Rockport. The NAB has information on their web site and Gary FNG has sent copies out via email. Please do your best to make an appearance. It will speak well of TxB and it will probably be fun.

Growth of the branch has been dramatic to date but I would like to see more members take part in the bi-monthly meetings. That is where the real fun is, not in the newsletters or emails (no offense Gary). The facilities at Circle Ten are great and we have plenty of room. Please put October 7th on your calendar and make the effort to support TxB with your attendance.

Your ideas for what you would like to have for in programming should be sent to Ed Baker or Gary Sessions. The officers really want to provide a program that is of interest to the members and if you don't let us know....well you know where that is going.

The member featured this month is Tony Barrick. Tony is a really talented Turk's head tyer, an avid fisherman, and good dad, and a fun guy. However, as with most of us, the real secret to Tony is Snookie (Pam), his wife. She is really a nice lady too.

See your knots in October,

Charles Holmes

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August meeting

Yes, Virginia, The TxB did indeed have it's regularly scheduled meeting on Sunday, August 5, 2001. And a good time was had by all.

President Charles Holmes called the meeting to order at about 1:20. Before any business was transacted, Prez. Holmes told the group a little about his recent trip to England where he visited with Brian Field and Des Pawson. He also brought up the upcoming NAB-2001 meeting in Rockport and encouraged everybody to go. Then he called for the Treasurer's report and the Secretary's reading of the Minutes of the June meeting.

From the Treasurer – we are still solvent. And with the advent of our newsletter distribution via the TxB Web Page, our little treasury should grow and grow and grow since we don't have to but postage for all of our members – just those without an internet capability.

The Secretary read Minutes of the June meeting were read and no large discrepancies were noted.

In no particular order, members attending were:

Chas Holmes
Rob Higgins
Jack Keene
Gary Sessions

Tony Barrick
Phil Lipoma
Dee Schauer

Ed Baker
David Hudgins
John Schauer

New business.

A discussion ensued about the TxB T-shirt quest by Rob Higgins. Rob has received an approximate estimate of a maximum of \$26.00 per T-shirt with an embroidered emblem. More discussion ensued and it was a general consensus that most of us didn't want to spend \$26.00 for a T-shirt. Ed Baker made a motion that a search for a less expensive, silk-screened alternative get started. Ed's motion was seconded and carried. Charlie Holmes agreed to check with a source his Troop uses. The embroidered option was tabled for the time being. It was felt that that option should be reserved for something a little better than a T-shirt like maybe a polo shirt or a golf shirt.

August Program.

For the program portion at three smaller groups formed and Prez. Charlie Holmes worked at teaching some folks the finer points in tying the Diamond and Double Diamond knots. Ed Baker demonstrated the finer arts of tying the Matthew Walker knot and Gary Sessions worked with a couple of knot tyers on the Star Knot and a double crown knot finish for the Star Knot. After the teach and learn sessions the meeting agenda drifted to fellowship and small general discussions about knot tying, knot tying materials, knot tying tools, and other topics of interest.

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Calendar Dates

- Oct 7 – Regular TxB meeting.
- Aug 23 – 26 IGKT NAB Meeting in Rockport, TX
- Nov 11 – Music of the Sea Festival in Rockport, TX

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*“One knot in a Thread will stay the Needle’s Passage as well as five hundred” R. Bolton, 1633
From “The Ashley Book of Knots”*

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Letters to the Editor

In response to my editorial “we” dilemma in the June 2001 issue Sam Lanham sent the following.

“...The editorial 'we' comes from the assumption that the editorial is the product of the newspaper staff rather than one individual. Of course, that isn't usually the case. Since you do this all by your lonesome, you have permission to use "I.”

Ed. Thanks, Sam.

In response to our e-message challenge for an appropriate title for Jack Keen we received the following suggestion (s):

From Joe Brooks – **Web’s Bo’sun.**

Ed. Thanks Joe. Are there other suggestions?

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Ashley Interview

The first installment of this interview with Clifford W. Ashley was printed in the June 2001 issue of your newsletter. Full credit for the interview goes to the *Boston Traveler*. Our thanks to Phoebe Ashley Chardon, Clifford Ashley’s daughter, for “finding” it and sending it to Brian Field, who submitted it to us to be included for your reading pleasure.

STARTED YOUNG

Ashley developed his new science from a very early boyhood. He will tell you that he was tying knots when he was 4. He sailed from New Bedford on the Swan Song voyage of the whaling bark Sunbeam, beautiful Maverick of the once magnificent whaling fleet. He helped with the sextant, he stood a trick now and then at the wheel and in the crow’s nest; he studied whaling and sailing aboard the whaler under the microscope. A shellback may have grinned at the youngster with his camera, his habit of squatting on deck with a lot of rope on hand sizing up varying shipboard knots – or making notes in a small book. He went out in the whaleboat with the veterans and manned an oar. He even tried his hand at hurling the harpoon and the keen edged lance as the closing in and death of the animal.

ACQUIRES FAME AS ARTIST

Then he materialized in New Bedford once more; startled the town and the whaling world with his book on whaling – became a figure because of his canvases produced in rapid-fire order relative to a 1000 scenes of the chase of

the mammal. Eventually, however, his name became to knots. At exhibitions his baffling genius in knot creations and the braiding great numbers of strands into harmoniously wrought shapes drew marked attention. Today he says: "I am always glad when any one gives me a new purpose for a knot. I have something to work to and the desired knot can certainly be made. "Every once in a while I run out of ideas for knots. Then I get a new idea and I start out on a whole new series."

Recently a New Orleans expert wrote a lengthy essay on braids, explaining with great care the impossibility of making a triangular braid. It simply could not be done – was outside the human skill. In 20 minutes the Fairhaven artist tied one of eight strands. Shortly there after he made a long braid of 100 strands, a perfect triangle in shape, and later devised a machine that would make just such a rope. "I spent several nights," he said, "deciding whether I would go into the rope making and manufacturing business, as I was urged to do, or stick to my painting and knot-tying. Painting and knot-tying at home won." Ashley makes his headquarters part of the year at Wilmington, Del. This fall another of his books, "Whaleships of New Bedford." will be published.

Ed note.

If the book "Whaleships of New Bedford" was published we haven't been able to find it. However, Ashley did write at least one book on the Whaling Industry and titled it "The Yankee Whaler". Amazing as it may seem knots and knot tying are hardly mentioned in "The Yankee Whaler". When Ashley sailed on the Sunbeam the whalers seemed to be more interested in scrimshaw than knotting.

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New Discoveries

Wayne Lewis submitted the following article. Full credit is given to Archaeology News for this article, which is printed as it appeared.

Woven Cloth Dates Back 27,000 years

Woven clothing was being produced on looms 27,000 years ago, far earlier than had been thought, scientists say. It had been thought that the first farmers developed weaving 5,000 to 10,000 years ago. But Professor Olga Soffer, of the University of Illinois, is about to publish details in the journal Current Anthropology of 90 fragments of clay that have impressions from woven fibres.

Professor Soffer revealed some her findings recently when she said that a 25,000-year-old figurine was wearing a woven hat. If confirmed, her work could change our understanding of distant ancestors, the so-called Ice Age hunters of the Upper Palaeolithic Stone Age.

They were the sporadic homes of the Gravettian people who roamed between Southern Russia and Spain between 22,000 and 29,000 years ago scratching out a living on a semi-frozen landscape. Some of the fibre impressions may have been made accidentally, such as by sitting on a fresh clay floor or when wet clay was carried in woven bags.

"Other impressions may have been caused by deliberate action, such as lining a basket with clay to make it watertight," said Professor Soffer. A detailed examination of the impressions reveals a large variety of weaving techniques. There are open and closed twines, plain weave and nets. Professor Soffer said that twining can be done by hand but plain weave needed a loom.

It may be that many stone artefacts (sic) found in settlements may not be objects of art as had been supposed but parts of an ancient loom, which should now be considered as the first machine to be made after the wheel and aids such as the axe, club, and flint knife.

This research could force a re-evaluation of our view of ancient man, who lived tens of thousands of years ago, before the last Ice Age had ended and before the invention of agriculture. The traditional view is of the male Ice Age hunters working in groups to kill large prey such as mammoths. But this may be a distorted and incomplete view of their lives.

All that scientists have from these ancient times are mostly solid remains such as stone, ivory and bone. Now they have evidence of textiles. The discovery that they developed weaving as early as 27,000 years ago means that we must consider the role that women and children may have played more carefully.

The possibility that they made nets has fascinating implications according to Professor Soffer. It may be that nets were used by women and children to catch small prey such as hares and foxes. By catching food this way, women and children could have made all the difference to their communities' food budgets, allowing a surplus to be generated that permitted society to grow.

Further revelations are to be expected in this area of research. There are recent reports that fragments of burnt textiles have been found adhering to pieces of flint.

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*"Knots aft on the port si'
Forward on the Starboard;
Opposite the left eye'
All around and inboard."*

*The Rigging Lanyard Knot
(Sailors' Work Rhyme)
The Ashley Book of Knots*

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From the Ditty Bag

I hope the TxB Newsletter as part of the TxB Web Page concept works for you as the reader. Your Editor had several items on his agenda after it was discovered that this technological feat was possible. To wit:

1. Less expense to the TxB Treasury. No Postage Stamps to buy except in unusual circumstances.
2. Less wear and tear on my poor, trusty HP printer. The poor thing really groans when I print the newsletter. The noises are probably natural but I lived in fear of a complete breakdown. Or, even worse, running out of ink.
3. Longer newsletters. I had tried to keep the size of the newsletter at the size that could be mailed with the minimum first class stamp (see #1). Now there is plenty of room to print more stuff like the Ashley interview and the article from the *Archaeology News* submitted by Wayne Lewis.

This issue will be distributed in a single, wide column format, which your Editor hopes will work for you if you scroll your monitor while reading your newsletter. And if you print the newsletter before you read it, well the newsletter is still the newsletter. No longer in a newspaper-like, columnar format but, and we hope, still readable and worth your time. Let me know how you prefer your newsletter – 3 column or single column. I can't guarantee you get your preference but it would be nice to hear from some of you, between meetings, about anything at all.

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*"First a crown,
Next a wall,
Then tuck up
And that's all."*

*Captain Charles W. Smith's Foot rope Knot
Both from The Ashley Book of Knots*

*"First a wall
And then a crown
Next tuck up
And then tuck down."*

The Manrope Knot (Sailor's Work Rhyme)

Editorial

By the time this newsletter reaches you it will almost be time to start packing for the trip to the NAB 2001 in Rockport, Texas. I sincerely hope that the TxB will have a good representation at the meeting. Over and above my native's pride in all things Texan, it promises to be an excellent opportunity to meet and greet some really fine knot tyers and see some really nice knot work. Having attended three of these IGKT functions your Editor can tell you that these meetings are a lot of fun and educational as well. I hope you will be there.

The article from the *Archaeology News* raises several issues that will probably provoke some serious debate in scientific circles, not to mention in MCP (Male Chauvinist Pig) meetings at the local pool hall. The MCPs will probably refuse to accept any theory that "wimmin folk" played any role other than bearing and raising children, cooking, and cleaning. The picture of our male stone-age ancestors slaying a mastodon or two for supper tonight might seem appealing to the MCPs but is probably a little farfetched when you consider the fact that so many modern day Nimrods, equipped with high powered rifles capable of killing Bambi in the next state, ATVs, and all other sorts of modern, high tech gear, often as not come home empty handed.

Ed. note. Do we have MCPs in the TxB? Don't you just love these acronyms?

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