

# UNCLE JOE — THE STORY TELLER.

## He Tells of Usual and Unusual Uses to Which Wood Is Put.

**U**NCLE JOE the Story Teller sat whittling. When Uncle Joe whittled he always made something. Jim, John and Jennie stood by, trying to figure out what he was making.

"What is it to be?" asked Jim, the eldest of the onlooking group of youngsters.

"Something I used to make when I was a boy," answered Uncle Joe.

"Yes, but it's so small," said John.

"You're making it out of matches."

"Yes, and I've almost finished," responded Uncle Joe.

"Get me the smallest pin you can find and I'll show you what it is." Jennie hurried for the pin, and after a little careful putting together of things, Uncle Joe held up before the children the tiniest kind of a windmill spinning rapidly around. "This is for little Jennie," he said.

"Tell us a story," pleaded John, "about when you were a little boy."

"No; keep on whittling; make me something," requested Jim.

"Well, get a good peach stone and a nice, even piece of pine, and I'll see what I can do," he answered. And this is

### Uncle Joe's Story About Wood.

"When I was a little boy my parents moved away from Kentucky, but my grandfather remained there. My grandfather came up North to visit us one time not long after and the first morning he spent with us he took my two older brothers and myself for a walk.

"Great-grandfather had been a wheelwright, and grandfather had been a cabinet maker; so it was but natural he should stop in at the first

carpenter shop and engage in conversation with the proprietor. As grandfather talked he whittled, and though I was too young then to remember what he talked about I still remember what he whittled. And I never will forget my chagrin when he passed the different things around to us boys. For Jim he had made a three-bladed knife of wood, the blades of which would open and shut with a snap like a spring-back steel one. John got a two-bladed one. But when it came my turn I only received a blunt edge, straight baby knife, whittled all out of one piece. And, although I was only a little bit of a tot, I will never forget how angry I was at the time, nor how greatly I longed to arrive at the three-bladed knife age.

"Did you ever stop to think," continued Uncle Joe, "to how many uses wood is put? One of its most ancient and unusual uses was its employment in the making of mouth-pieces for the insertion of brass false teeth, as has been discovered by examination of Egyptian mummies.

"In the ordinary walks of life, everywhere we go, we are constantly surrounded by or in contact with wood. Take the average man—how much wood does he carry on his person? In the first place he may have cork nose-rests to his eyeglasses; his pipe may also be of wood; toothpicks and matches, the same. His knife handle, lead pencil, shoe pegs and cane are of like material. And that doesn't include his newspaper, nor the buttons on his coat and vest.

"Newspaper is in most instances made of the pulp of trees. Mashed



fully, and with the addition of water to thin it down so it may flow, and some bit of binding substance to make it hold together, the pulp may be made into a sticky stuff, which, after going through strainers, squeezing rollers and further congesting and drying processes, becomes the ordinary paper upon which the ink from type is put, that you may read.

quality means its 'natural best,' and, insofar as the term may apply to wood, means its 'utmost usefulness.' "Most plants that die down each year have little of wood in their composition. But, most plants have what is called woody fibre. When a tree first starts to grow there is no wood in it. It is too soft.

"When living plant life turns hard it is wood. Trunk, limbs and roots of trees form wood. Leaves, stems, tendrils and root-suckers partake more of the fibrous. Woody fibre is not properly considered a leaf. Leaves of plants are not exposed to light. In the town of New Alton, Illinois I once saw four miles of lumber in raft form along the river front, with many people living thereon. Along shore were the carpenter shops. The Chinese carpenter and builder has some peculiarly practical notions. All rafters, beams and supports he leaves unhewn and in their natural round state, claiming for them superior supporting strength. And, as the average life of a Chinese house is from 200 to 300 years it may be the Chinese carpenter is not much astray in his opinion.

## Men Might Be Dressed Entirely in It and Attract Small Attention.

Wooden shoes are common in many parts of Europe. Indeed, wood and woody fibre admit of so many different forms of manufacture that a man might be dressed throughout thereof and attract no special attention.

"Wooden clocks are famous, and the most cherished possession of many of our oldest families in America is the 'old wooden clock.' "Men engraved pictures on wood long before they did on metal and stone. Wood carving may be said to be the earliest form of art, and wood engraving as applied to printing processes is certainly the most ancient form of art reproduction.

"Wood oil makes the best varnish, and the best wood oil comes from Burma. Turpentine also comes from wood. "One of the finest wills ever made was made by a Missourian. He left eight acres of walnut trees to his heirs, with certain provisions. No tree should be cut until it should reach a certain age or girth; for each tree cut, two should be planted in adjoining ground, reserved for such purpose. That man was not only a nestor and conservator of forestry, but was also a great benefactor of humanity.

work of fighting insects and fungous diseases. The trees are small, seldom higher than a man's head, and such work as pruning and spraying is much more easily done. And though while such trees run faster to fruit than to wood, the quality of wood obtained from them is claimed to be superior.

"Did you ever hear of an embalmed tree? It sounds queer, but there is such. The head of the tree being cut off, a cup-like hollow made in the top, and creosote, or crude carbolic acid of coal tar is poured in. The liquid penetrates the wood and enters the cells of the wood tissue, and soaking in, practically embalms the tree, which, when cut into fence posts, railroad ties or into any form intended for burial in the earth, lasts much longer.

"More proper names among all nations have sprung from wood in its various forms than from any other source of nomenclature. From Ash to Woodruff you will be surprised to note how many you can think of in between.

"The buttons on my coat are made of sawdust mixed with other things, chiefly blood, and powerfully compressed in moulds. Nor are buttons the only articles made of moulded wood. There are many others."

During his talk on wood, which included much not here recorded, Uncle Joe had whittled with neatness and despatch. Of the peach stone he had fashioned a basket for Jennie. For John he had made a two-bladed knife, and for Jim a regulation "three-bladed." With her tiny wind-mill and her cute little basket Jennie was highly satisfied and delighted. But, poor John! One little boy's lips quivered in rueful attempt to appear brave. The strain, however, was too much and with a burst of pathos he blurted out: "I don't see why I can't have a three-bladed, one!"

## LATE NEWS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF MARION COUNTY

### Prospect

Prospect, Jan. 10.—The Prospect board of education held their first meeting Tuesday evening and organized as follows: president for one year, Wm. Findlay, clerk for two years, M. M. Dix, treasurer for one year, A. E. Johnson. The board consists of M. M. Dix, A. E. Wottring, A. E. Johnson, Wm. Findlay and S. H. Gast.

Miss Belva and Irene Fox entertained the Senior class of Prospect High school Thursday evening in a very enjoyable manner. The evening was spent in music and games including a contest in which Miss Etta Hibler was awarded the prize. Following this a two-course luncheon was served.

Mrs. Eva Davis entertained the T. A. B. club members and their gentlemen friends last Thursday evening. A three course luncheon was served and the evening was spent in contests and other amusements.

The Missionary society of the M. E. church held their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. C. R. Selanders on Tuesday afternoon. Several papers were read which proved interesting as well as beneficial. Dainty refreshments were served.

Miss Edna Stockwell entertained friends Friday evening in honor of her friend, Miss Elene Houser of Castalia. Music and games furnished the amusement after which a light lunch was served.

Clarence Lowery, the lad who was shot by his playmate Milton Henry last week is recovering nicely from his accident. The happiest boy in town is young Henry, who by his daily visits to the Lowery home to inquire after his friend proves how glad he is that the accident was not of a more serious nature.

Misses Helen and Ruth Freeman returned home from Toledo, Friday, accompanied by their aunt,

Mrs. William Moots who will visit her mother, Mrs. C. Hill and other relatives, a few days.

Misses Elsie and Grace Davis and brother, Harold, returned to their home at Newark Friday, after a two weeks visit with relatives at Prospect.

Mrs. Belle Wolford of Toledo, was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Samuel Treese last week.

Mrs. Will Hinley entertained her aunt, Mrs. Hattie Kent of Urbana, and her cousins Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Curtis of Marion Saturday.

Lawrence Flemming, after spending his holiday vacation at home has returned to his school at Orchard Lake, Michigan.

Mr. Homer Smith has left for Ashabula, Ohio, to take the management of the Citizen's telephone company of that place.

Miss Marie Childs of Perrysville, O., is visiting Mrs. Guy McDonald.

Mrs. Nelson Abie and Mrs. Carrie Owens of Marion were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Rarick Friday.

Mrs. M. A. Coleman and daughter Bernice of Hamilton, Ind., Miss Bess Straub of Columbus, were guests this week of Mrs. S. A. McCausland and daughter Bess. Mrs. Coleman is a sister of Mrs. McCausland.

Fred Gabriel returned Tuesday night from Pittsburg where he disposed at a good price of a load of fat cattle.

Mr. Clem Hollenbach left Tuesday for a trip through Texas and will stop at Fort Worth to visit Mr. Ned Thatcher and other friends.

Wednesday evening Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Gast entertained Mr. and Mrs. Walter Adams and Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Smith and daughter Gladys.

Mr. J. W. Keller and wife of Denver, Colorado, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Schmeltzer. Mrs. Keller is a sister of Mrs. Schmeltzer.

day with Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Drake. Theo. Crum got quite badly hurt last week at the Marion Steam Shovel shops and although the injury is still very painful he has returned to his work.

Mr. Dale Crum entertained his Sunday school class and teacher Mrs. Elmer Roberts Saturday evening at his home. Twenty-five were present and a delightful evening enjoyed.

Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Hodges gave a dinner New Year's day in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Dayton Hodges. The day was spent in music and social enjoyment and Mr. and Mrs. Hodges received many useful and beautiful presents.

Miss Genevieve Stiffler has returned home after spending a few days with Miss Lucile Pace of Marion.

Kirkpatrick, Jan. 10.—Mrs. Nancy Brady, of Indiana, is visiting at the home of Mrs. Luisa Matthews.

Dr. and Mrs. C. L. Baker were the guests of relatives in Marion, Sunday.

Mr. Harley Roberts, of Bucyrus, visited his farm west of Kirkpatrick Monday.

Mrs. Maggie Beers and Lelia Dawson were the guests of Mrs. John H. V. Young, Tuesday.

Mrs. Anna Beck, of Akron, and Mrs. Frank Seebach and daughter of Upper Sandusky, are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Reamsnyder this week.

Misses Maud and Ella Baker, who were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Baker, returned to their home in Ada Monday.

Mrs. Ellen Rosenberns was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. F. Fairchild, south of Marion, last week.

Miss Gladys Mapea, of west of Kirkpatrick, was the guest of Miss Millie Beers northwest of Monnette, Tuesday.

daughter Dimmie returned home from a trip in Pennsylvania Friday.

Mr. Robert Rice left for Pennsylvania Friday evening.

Miss Laura Spiece who is attending school in Bucyrus, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. L. Spiece over Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Agnes Young visited at the home of Mrs. F. Mitchell Tuesday.

Miss Arelina Hinds, of south of Kirkpatrick, was visiting relatives in Akron last week.

Mrs. Martha Kennedy, of Bellevue Avenue, Marion, was called to Kirkpatrick Friday by the illness of her brother Mr. James Walton.

Mr. and Mrs. James Walton, of Marion, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Kennedy last week.

Misses Imo Reeder and Nellie Carl were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fritchard Sunday.

Mr. Frank Mitchell was in Marion Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Alf Clutter were the guests of W. J. Welr Wednesday.

Mrs. Lena Rice was the guest of Mrs. Orphie Reeder Saturday.

Mr. Ray Reamsnyder was the guest of Mr. Pearl Beck, of Morrill Sunday.

Wednesday.

Mrs. O. D. Kennedy and children spent New Year's at the home of her father James Fink.

Miss Grace Campbell, of Marion, spent New Year's at the home of Joseph Weidemaier.

The Ladies Aid society will meet Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Barbara Crissinger.

Mrs. Joseph Weidemaier and Mrs. Wm. Glathart were in Caledonia, Friday.

O. D. Kennedy and family spent Sunday at the home of Henry Lowmiller.

Mr. and Mrs. William Glathart and son Myron spent New Year's at the home of Joseph Weidemaier.

Frederick Winch had a corn-shredding, Thursday.

The St. John's Reformed Sunday School held the annual election and elected the following officers: Sunday: Superintendent, E. J. Winters; Assistant Superintendent, Frank Swisher; treasurer, Charles Colter; Secretary, Fern Winters; Assistant, Gusta Lowmiller; Librarians, Mazie Winch and Clara Keller; Chorister Henry Baldinger; Organist, Joseph Weidemaier.

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home Monday visiting his parents. J. E. Bending has moved his saw mill to St. James.

John Sharrock has purchased the Samuel Sharrock farm south of the Big Four tracks.

Mr. John Beech was visiting Bucyrus friends Tuesday.

Jacob Hurr was over from Marion Tuesday, attending the funeral of the late Mr. Rutherford.

Jessie Moyer made a business trip to Bucyrus Monday.

The only new member on the board was R. K. Combs, F. Bush and O. L. Hipscher being re-elected president and F. Bush, secretary.

The Odd Fellows lodge will install their new officers for the coming six months on Thursday evening January 14. All members are requested to be present.

Miss Susie Ireland and Blanche F. Bollinger attended the wedding of Miss Edith Hall at Iberia New Year's eve.

Ollie Bayles returned to Cleveland Sunday after spending the holidays with friends and relatives in Caledonia and Marion.

The W. C. T. U. will hold their next meeting at the home of Mrs. Belle Underwood on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. John Witeraft left for Green Camp Tuesday evening where they will remain the guest of relatives a few days.

### Caledonia

Caledonia, Jan. 10.—Monday the township board of trustees and the board of education reorganized the newly elected members taking the oath of office and those whose time had expired retiring.

In the board of trustees W. H. Nesbitt who was serving as a trustee was re-elected, John Baldinger who was defeated at the November election by Nesbitt, was given the office as he received more votes than either of the two candidates in the south precinct.

John Stafford qualified as township clerk to succeed S. E. Trey and Chester Geddis took charge of the township funds to succeed A. Williams.

Philip Meister qualified as constable to succeed P. B. Atwood. Edward Fisher who was elected ditch supervisor failed to qualify.

The township school board organized by electing George W. Douce chairman and John Stafford clerk. The new members to take the oath of office were G. W. Douce and John Gruber.

Bill Bone delivered one of his humorous lectures at the town hall Friday night. Those who heard him were well pleased with his droll remarks.

Curtis Harrold who is attending college at Boston is the guest of friends here this week.

Taxes were collected at the De. post bank Tuesday and Wednesday.

The corporation board of education re-organization Monday evening. The only new member on the board was R. K. Combs.

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### Martel

Martel, Jan. 9.—Miss Edna Price of Galion returned home Sunday after a delightful visit with relatives in this village.

Mr. A. F. Garver and wife and Mrs. Nora Spurdock were called to Lima, Thursday, on account of the serious illness of their father.

Mrs. William Rutherford is suffering with an attack of the grip.

Cloyd Hileman spent Sunday with his parents.

Mr. Clair Gallier has accepted the position as agent and operator at Mt. Victory, with the Big Four railway company.

Miss Mary Colmery returned home Saturday from Ft. Wayne, Ind., after a two weeks' visit with relatives in that city.

Orien Tennant of Marengo, was the guest of his uncle Mr. A. S. Downs, Sunday.

Pete Jacoby was in Bucyrus Saturday on business.

### Maple Grove

Maple Grove, Jan. 9.—Louis Goldsmith is feeling somewhat easier at this writing.

Peter Newman, of Gallon, spent Sunday at the home of William Jones.

J. D. Kennedy and Mr. and Mrs. George Long, assisted W. C. Kennedy in butchering Thursday.

Miss Ella Lowmiller was sewing at the home of her aunt Mrs. Joseph Weidemaier, last week.

Mrs. Sarah Jones, visited at the home of Henry Lowmiller, last

Wednesday.

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### Bells Corners

Bells Corners, Jan. 10.—Mr. John Hurdis has moved west of Essex on Mr. George Parish's farm.

Mr. Herbert Lauer has just returned from Cleveland, where he sold a car of fat stock.

Mr. John Redd, who has been under the care of the doctor for some time is no better at this writing.

Mr. Charles Coulter is buying, baling and shipping hay in our vicinity at present.

Mr. Adam Lauer is repainting his house, which helps the looks of his residence very substantially.

Mr. Wells Holt, who is taking a course in the Ohio Wesleyan University of Delaware, has just returned to his books again after spending his vacation at the home of his parents.

Protracted meeting commenced at Essex last Thursday evening with Rev. B. F. McKinnon in charge. Mr. Charley Quanz and wife of Marion, Kansas, are the guests of Mr. William Brady, south of Bells Corners this week. It has been 21 years since their last visit here and after visiting relatives in Marion and New Jersey, they will leave for home the last week in February.