

# STORIES OF A WOODWORKER

by John Tegeler aka Mr. Radial Arm Saw

## CHAPTER 1 THE DISCOVERY

It all began one day in the summer of 2007, shortly after I had retired. I was standing in my garage, hands in my pocket, as guys are prone to do, and just looking around and enjoying the warm summer day. For whatever reason, out of the corner of my eye I saw a large mass of something in the recesses of my garage. “What in the world?”, I muttered to myself. When I moved here a few years ago, I sort of vaguely remembered the mover asking, “What do you want to do with this thing?”. “Oh, stick it over there in the corner. I will figure out what to do with it later when I have time”, I curtly replied. Well, now it is almost six years later.

As I gradually worked my way through a pile of stuff, stepping around the lawnmower, moving aside the gas can, shifting a few sheets of plywood and sheetrock, and a couple of saw horses, I finally arrived to face this mass of something. It was draped with old rags and layers of dust that reminded me of glacial formations. The table was covered with oil cans, insecticide bottles, an assortment of garden tools, grass clippings and a vast array of other junk and debris.

As I gradually peeled away the rags, cleared off the table top, I said “What in the world is this?”. There was my old shop apron still draped haphazardly on top with the apron strings disappearing beneath all the clutter. “Mmmmm?”, I said as something stirred deep within. Memories began to emerge like the curved shavings from a bench plane. Oil stain rings, spattered paint markings, gouges and scratches bedecked the table top. Brushing aside the cob webs and coughing and wheezing with all the dust, I pulled off the blue denim apron, and, voila, there was an old friend of mine.

The saw that could do compound miters with ease, the saw that could cut through wood like it was butter, the saw that could rout wood forever, plane boards and even sand wood. The saw that could do it all, the saw that every woodworker dreamed of, the saw that every woodworker had to have. All of this and more with the mere flick of the 'ON' switch. There it was, my Craftsman radial arm saw.

(To be continued)

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