

• solid wood excellence since 1978 •

# WOOD CASTLE Times



Summer 2002

FOUNDER AND  
PRESIDENT OF  
WOOD CASTLE



## Some Words from Ron Loe

Venerable oaks grow from simple acorns. Likewise, successful furniture development start from rough ideas. And as acorns require good soil, water and luck to thrive, ideas need focused care, skill and even listening to make it.

Wood Castle's Special Products Operations (SPO) brings together the tools and know-how to design, prototype and refine our new fine furniture concepts.

In a separate building from our manufacturing division, SPO can "grow" a concept to a finished, full-size prototype collection in a matter of weeks.



Special Products Operations Bldg.

This issue of Wood Castle Times highlights a key employee in SPO: Sam Chapman. Read about Sam in **Face to Face**.

Customers "plant" ideas too. An example is discussed in the adjacent **Product and Service News** article on Wood Castle drawers. We listened; our drawers now whisper.

Even with state-of-the-art development tools and an open ear, some of the responsibility for the beauty of our furniture lies squarely in the lap of Nature. **Furniture Facts** looks at figure – the wonders of wood grain.

Seed ideas and Nature's best merge to perfection at Wood Castle. That's because our furniture is built for perfectionists ... by perfectionists.

## Product and Service News

# Wood Castle Drawers

Stronger *Quieter* Better



## Shhhh.

At Wood Castle Furniture continuous improvement is a reality. And a reality that recently involved more than one issue plus a surprise.

A few buyers commented that our otherwise excellent drawers rolled unevenly and were too noisy. Separately, a major account manager suggested adding dust molding as an elegant upgrade to the drawers.

After careful research, we found the solution to the noise issue was to upgrade our hardware and change our finishing process. And as luck had it, it also involved the dust molding.

We changed to a significantly better drawer glide option. The new hardware can support 25% more weight than the old style. It's heavier

and contributes less to rolling noise.

Overspray in our finish booth, we found, settled into the drawer glide tracks on the case, inevitably contaminating the wheels on the drawer. Result: noisy, rough rolling. Solution: We now temporarily insert a block of wood during the finish spraying, completely eliminating the source of the problem.

The dust molding added more noise reduction. By acting as a gusset between the drawer bottom and the drawer back, the molding serves to dampen the "drum" effect of drawer bottom while adding even more strength and rigidity to the drawers – not to mention, elegance and ease of cleaning.

We were surprised (but shouldn't have been) to discover that we could increase our drawer box width 1/16-inch beyond the hardware supplier's drawer-to-case specification. Our exacting tolerances ( $\pm 0.01$ -inch) are well ahead of industry norms. Going wider by a sixteenth did not compromise function at all. Instead, the drawers now roll straighter, with less side-to-side wobble.

At Wood Castle, we listen; we research; we act. A quieter, stronger, better drawer is the result. That's something to shout about – except that we like keeping some things quiet.

Wood Castle Furniture

## Century Guarantee

We're as proud of the way our furniture looks as we are about the way it is crafted. Continuing Old World traditions, we use only premium grade materials, from the finest hardwoods to the best drawer hardware. We're so confident that our furniture is the finest made in America, we offer the Century Guarantee:

*Your family and heirs will enjoy Wood Castle style and craftsmanship for at least 100 years. Wood Castle warrants all its manufactured furniture against defects in original materials and workmanship for 100 years from the date of purchase.*

## Face to Face

meet Team Wood Castle



Sam Chapman

### Horseback rides on the 'Bear'

**S**am Chapman knows a thing or two about horse rides. And big families. And fine furniture making.

Born in Farmington, New Mexico (“on the map it’s the state right next to ‘nowhere’”), Sam shared a household with nine brothers and sisters. Survival skills were a must, especially at meal-time when 24 hands, arms and elbows reached for second helpings.

Always strong and lanky (he stands now at six-foot-four), Sam earned the nickname “Bear” from his siblings. The family’s high-country horse ranch was close to hunting and fishing. And, of course, lots of horses.

A rider by age four, Sam “broke” his first horse at seven. “I’ve ridden more horses than most people have seen in a lifetime,” he boasts with a smile.

After marrying, Sam and wife Cindy settled in Oregon’s lush Willamette Valley where he began work at Wood Castle. Minivan-conversion skills he learned in New Mexico fit well into Wood Castle’s production flows, where precision tools are key to the plant’s efficiency.

After five years, work ethic, dedication and experience have helped promote Sam to a pivotal position in Special Products Operations, Wood Castle’s research and development division.

Sam and Cindy busy themselves with four active children, the youngest two of whom are identical twin girls. When there’s time, Sam hunts and fishes around the northwest. But the horse rides are history – except for “Bear-back” rides for his kids.

## Contacting Wood Castle

We welcome your comments, questions and visits.

### Manufacturing and Showroom address:

29855 HWY 34 / Albany, OR 97321

### Mailing address:

P.O. Box 805 / Corvallis, OR 97339

541-754-9304 voice / 541-754-0511 fax

### On the Net:

www.woodcastle.com / info@woodcastle.com

... did you know?

## Furniture Facts: Go figure

With the grain

Wood figure delights the eye. And Wood Castle’s clear lacquered collections never hide Nature’s wondrous work.

All woods exhibit some variation in grain. When that variation is extreme or unusual, the wood’s figure (how the grain appears on the surface) can be dramatic – and beautiful.

There are many named figures. Some may be peculiar to certain wood species, such as Bird’s Eye, usually associated with certain maples.

Naming types of figure is often descriptive but not specific. Fiddleback figure, for example, is associated with violinmakers and may be from maple or mahogany. Mottled, Quilted, Button, Ribbon (Stripe) and Peanut Shell, among others, hint at the nature of other eye-delighting figures.

Some figures, such as burl, result from abnormal anatomical growth that disturbs the normal range of grain variation. Even knots, normally occurring in all trees, can sometimes be unusual enough to create a unique figure.

Sometimes external forces play their hand in creating wood figure. Fire, rot and insects each (or together) can alter the natural grain in fascinating patterns.

The sawing method used – quarter, flat, through-and-through, and others – directly affects figure, sometimes enhancing one type of figure while hiding another. And once exposed by the saw and finish sanding, a figure’s mystery may be further enhanced depending on the lighting and angle of view.

Wood Castle is proud to allow its woods, be they cherry, maple, walnut or birch, to display their figures naturally. Why, after all, would anyone want to hide a good figure from view?

## Fine Furniture Great Customers Kind Words Tuscany

Wood Castle has a passion for manufacturing the finest furniture in America. This passion is nurtured by the good feedback we get from furniture users all over the country. Here are some Good Words from Anaheim, California.

❖ We recently received the pieces of the Tuscany Bedroom Collection that we had ordered through Plummer’s Furniture [an Interline outlet in Southern California].

*I just wanted to let you know how beautiful the furniture looks. It looks lovely and, according to my husband, is constructed to last a long time. I realize this is your goal and certainly you have achieved it in this line of furniture.*

*We have been looking for bedroom furniture for over 2 years and never saw anything that compared to your furniture.*

*Thank you to everyone involved in producing this furniture.* ❖

## How Green is Green?

When it comes to being “environmentally friendly,” Wood Castle doesn’t even have to try.

- Ninety-nine percent of Wood Castle’s incoming lumber either leaves as furniture or is chipped and recycled.
- Wood Castle’s Century Guarantee assures that its furniture will be cherished for generations, unlike so much of what is sold today that within a few years ends up in landfill.
- Our lumber comes from renewable hardwood forests, not particle-board processing plants dependent on harsh chemicals and glues.

Using Mother Nature’s own wood to produce enduring furniture is our dream and our passion – naturally.

**Printing Furniture . Huh?** The next time you lie snuggled comfortably in your bed reading a good book, reflect for a moment about a type of furniture having little to do with comfort. Letterpress printers since Gutenberg have relied on standard sizes of oiled hardwood blocks called furniture to fill the gaps between areas of type in the press chase. Smudged from decades of use, furniture snugly and securely cradles inked words of wisdom and whimsy long enough to print to pages ... perhaps the same pages you’re about to read in your Wood Castle bed.