

Whittler Grows His Own Wood

Fifty years ago, Ed Choby planted a Pennsylvania white pine seedling in his back yard. Today the tree is 20 inches in diameter and has branches that are up to four inches thick. The lower branches are cut into suitable lengths for whittling.

Fresh off the tree, the blocks should be washed in soapy water, Ed says, to remove scale. The blocks may be carved immediately or be allowed to dry. In either event no checking takes place.

The wood has a smooth firm grain and is nice finished natural. The accompanying photos show some of a variety of ideas that may be carved.

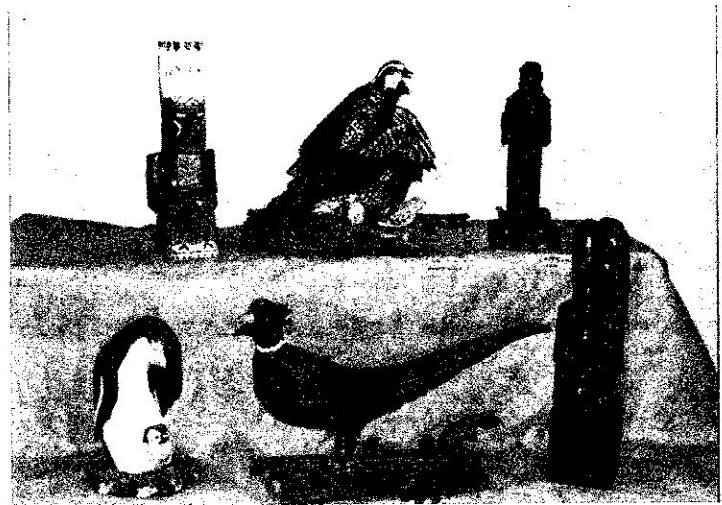
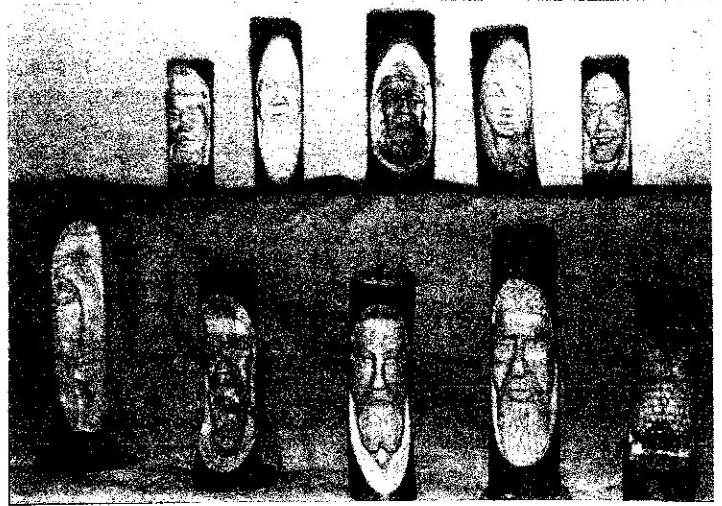
Ed Choby, one of the early members of NWCA, is now retired after a lifetime of supplying carvings and carving blocks. He has traveled extensively to promote the art of whittling, teaching primarily at summer camps. He has used many of the ideas and patterns that have been published in *Chip Chats* over the years.

Anyone wishing to correspond with him is directed to write to: Ed Choby, 1544 Berkshire Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226.



Ed Choby with his pine tree.

Samples of the variety of carving Ed Choby has made from sawed off limbs from the pine tree he planted half a century ago.



Letters (Continued from preceding page)

Dear Editor —

Again I have to state that subscribing to *Chip Chats* has really pushed my carving along! The Mary Duke Guldán series is outstanding, and my three best carvings are the two horses and the bear made to her very fine drawings. That being the case, much of the credit must truly be hers. — Irving L. Levine, Clearwater, Fla.

Dear Editor —

You are doing an excellent job with *Chip Chats*. It really helps keep a person pumped up, educated and informed on carving. — Roger Armstrong, Ogallala, Nebr.

Dear Editor —

Can't say enough about the magazine ... always frustrating sitting around waiting for the next issue. I find it amazing you can produce such a quality magazine on a continuing basis for such a small fee; as a novice at carving, I find it invaluable, and as I have already mentioned, wait impatiently for each issue.

— Bruce Stephens, Warton, Canada

Dear Editor —

Enclosed is my check to cover my dues for another three years — the balance may be applied wherever necessary. It is a real pleasure to receive such an interesting and inspirational publication.

— Robert F. Arndt, Fort Collins, Colo.