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Aug. 20, 1996

David Borek  
Maple Specialties Inc.  
43306 SE North Bend Way #1&2  
North Bend, WA 98045

Dear Mr. Borek:

Thank you for your comments on our September issue cover story about you, and I appreciate you taking time to interview with Bill LaHay and with the cover photographer.

You have our permission to reprint this article for use in your business, as long as it isn't re-published in a commercial newspaper or magazine. Since we buy only first-time publication rights, you should also contact the free-lance photographer, Craig Wester, if you plan to reprint and distribute the color photos in the article. Craig Wester can be reached at 1128 Corona St., Port Townsend, WA 98368. Tel: 360-385-5390.

I've enclosed a velox of the article, and color reprints of the cover and first page of the article.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian C. Bowen".

Ian C. Bowen  
Editor  
encs./pf

# AMERICAN WOODWORKER®

October 2, 1997

Dave Borek  
Maple Specialties  
43306 Southeast North Bend Way  
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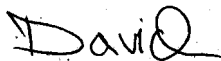
Dear Dave:

Please accept this as a belated thank you for your Herculean efforts in finding the "giant" spruce log and having it delivered to us in Detroit, on time. I've enclosed a snapshot of Stuart Mortimer turning the log on the Tyme Highlander Lathe at the American Woodworker Show. It was truly an awesome sight!

Without you and your steadfast determination this remarkably successful event could not have happened.

Again, thank you for all of your support.

Best regards,



David Sloan  
editor & publisher

encl.



# Wood turner used 2-ton lathe to attack record for largest bowl

By Tod Riggio

Staff Writer

Stewart Mortimer turned what he hopes will be the world's largest bowl at The American Woodworker Show Nov. 7-9 at the Fort Washington Expo Center in Fort Washington, Pa.

How large? Try a diameter of 7' 9-3/4" and a depth of 36" — plenty of room for a really big salad.

Mortimer — a craftsman, woodturning instructor and author from Great Britain — turned the bowl out of Sitka spruce with a 2-ton lathe made by Tyme Multico of Essex, England.

The exercise of turning the bowl was a bid for the world record — which still needs to be verified by The Guinness Book of World Records — and a chance to illustrate the capabilities of The Highlander lathe.

"Nobody has done one of this size before purely by turning. It's a total exercise in turning. It's been a lot of fun. Now it's for somebody else to beat this record."

Mortimer has turned other large bowls since retiring from a 27-year career as a London police officer in 1989.

"We've worked up to this," he said, referring to himself and Tyme Multico. "Everybody's done two-, three- (or) four-foot bowls. Then we did a five-foot one, then a six-foot-six (inch) one and a seven-foot one in the United Kingdom."

Mortimer said representatives of American Woodworker, the woodworking magazine that produced the show, saw the 7' bowl, made in Wembley, England, and asked him to make a bigger one in Fort Washington.

The magazine bought the spruce from Maple Specialties Inc. of North Bend, Wash. The spruce tree, cut in Gold Beach, Ore., was approximately 375 years old and 340' tall, according to David J. Borek of Maple Specialties. Borek added that the tree was scheduled to be cut down to make way for a road.

The bowl was turned from stock measuring 3' 7" deep, taken from a cut about 18" from the base of the tree, according to Mortimer. A depth of about 2' was removed, then it was mounted to the faceplate of the lathe with 24 six-inch coach screws, Mortimer said.

"It was loaded onto the machine with a 5-ton forklift

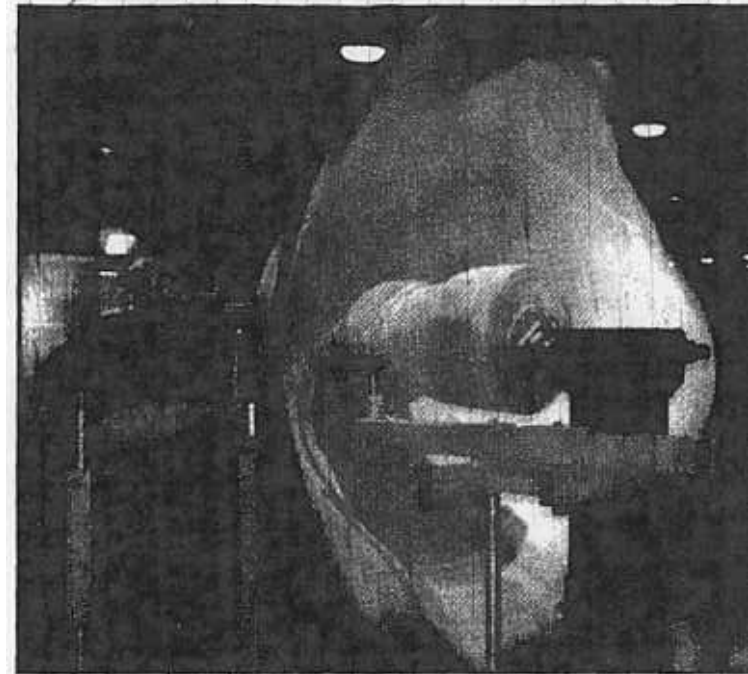
truck. The weight of the material when we first got it was about 5,600 pounds. After we cut out a bit in the center and the outside it may have weighed somewhere around the 3,500-pound mark.

The outside of the bowl is 1-1/2" thick. "The outer edge is left natural. It's like a flower," Mortimer said. "We left as much bark as we possibly could, but the bark had begun to fall off before we got the tree. It's got a dark sapwood edge all the way around the tree. That dark, sapwood edge is all dry now so it makes it look quite attractive."

Mortimer's previous experience at turning giant bowls came in handy during the record-setting attempt. He made the sides of the 7' bowl (turned in Wembley) 1" thick and found it to be a bit fragile.

"We've left that edge a bit meatier so we have some strength, so you can get ahold of it," Mortimer said. He estimated that the side of the bowl, at 1-1/2" thick, was probably equivalent to a 2' bowl with a thickness of 1/8".

Mortimer guessed it would take four people to remove the bowl from the lathe, with



TOD RIGGIO PHOTO

Stewart Mortimer makes finishing cuts on a huge bowl at The American Woodworker Show in Fort Washington, Pa.

a final weight of 300 pounds.

The Highlander costs about \$10,000, according to Mortimer. He designed the lathe in 1993, based on the theory that a big lathe could handle any size turning project. As the size of this bowl proved, the lathe has a very large swing capacity.

The lathe has two variable-speed motors attached by belts to a gearbox. The first motor, or slower motor, is started at about two revolutions per minute for balancing purposes and can be speeded up to about 50 to 60

revolutions per minute. The second motor, or faster motor, can produce 1,000 revolutions per minute, Mortimer said.

He used turning tools with handles up to 12' long and an industrial strength tool rest, fitted with bolts for guides.

The future of the bowl is unknown. "We really don't know what we're going to do with it," said David Sloan, editor and publisher of American Woodworker.

For information, contact Multico, Paragon House, Flex Meadows, The Pinnacles, Harlow, Essex, UK CM19 5TJ.