

A Wood Worker's Night Before Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas
And all through the shop,
Not a worker was stirring,
All projects were stopped.

The chisels were left
By the whetstones with care.
In hopes that the elves
Would come sharpen them there.

The tools were all nestled
And snug where they lay.
While visions of wood shavings
Danced on each blade.

Then up in the wood loft
There came such a clatter,
The whole building shook
From the weight of the matter.

And there on the creaky
Tin roof did appear.
A fine handmade sleigh
Drawn by ten dusty deer.

With a sparkly eyed craftsman
As spry as a buck,
Who went by the nickname
Of "Old Saint Woodchuck"

He was dressed all in suede
From his cap to his shoe,
And his clothes were all covered
With sawdust and glue.

A bundle of tools
He had tucked in his sack,
With a Japanese saw
Sticking out the back.

On his face he wore goggles
And a dust mask fit tightly.
His cheeks were rosewood
His hearing shot slightly.

His skills were the sharpest
And the best in the land,
And he still had five fingers
On each of his hands.

Then quick as a chainsaw
His staunch helpers came,
And he hooted and hollered
And hailed them by name.

"Now Router, now Ruler,
Now Hammer, and Bitbrace,
On Shaper on Scrollsaw,
On Jackplane on Compass."

All ran to the workbench
And leapt to his call,
"Now get to work, get to work,
Get to work all!"

So they dulled not an edge,
But cut straight to their task,
And sawed, planed, pounded
And scraped till, at last.

All the toys that the children
were waiting to get,
were finished and wrapped.
(though the paint was still wet)

There were jacks made from walnut
And dolls made of yew,
And a ash rocking horse
With its tail painted blue.

A set of birch soldiers
All carved from one log,
And even an oak ball
Hand turned for the dog.

Then the kindly crew tidied
And swept every crack,
And Saint Woodchuck thanked them
While stretching his back.

Then he jumped on his sleigh
And let out a yell,
And they roared from the shop
At the tone of the bell.

But these words he exclaimed,
As they vanished from sight:
"Merry Christmas to all---
That's enough for one night.

Written by Henry from Kinsington.

*****FLASH BULLETIN*** DUES NEWS: John Philips would like everyone to make a great effort on sending in their 2008 dues on or by this coming Dec 13th meeting. For this effort, ONE lucky person will have their dues free for the entire upcoming year. All the checks received will be placed in a hat, and one check will be drawn out. This check will be "Torn up"...ripped to shreds...disposed of....Kaput.....not checked for a bounce factor.....OK you get he idea (Not cashed)! So Let's get'em in early!**

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