

TREASURE SEARCH

Carving could have been used to measure grog



NANCY AND FRANK BOOS

Dear Nancy and Frank:

What is this? It is 27 1/4 inches long; it has markings equal to 22 1/4 inches; the wooden chala at the end has nine links with a hand grasping a ring to close the loop.

Debbie N., Canton

taining from 63 to 140 gallons of liquid. Grog is a mixture of alcoholic spirits and water. "Grog" was the nickname of Edward Vernon, the British admiral who in 1740 ordered the alcoholic mixture served to the sailors instead of pure alcoholic spirits. We also feel we have discovered the birth of the "mixed drink."

It's our feeling that this piece was probably made by a sailor as a presentation gift rather than to be used as a totally accurate measure since the measurements are off just a bit. We think the smallest measurement is a half-gill, which equals 1/4 pint or about two ounces, on up to the measurement between stars equaling about one pint. The measurer would then have to do his mathematical calculation taking into account the size and volume capacity of the hoghead.

We feel this item would possibly bring around \$800 in a retail shop, depending on whether the broken hand could be properly repaired. Here's to you!

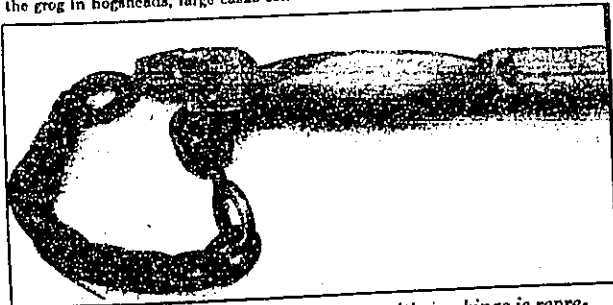
Nancy and Frank Boos are with the Frank H. Boos Gallery, an appraisal firm and auction house at 420 Enterprise Court in Bloomfield Hills that has been in the auction business for more than 30 years. Do you have an item you would like to know about? Send in a good photo of it, along with its description (including size, working parts, etc.) and any known provenance (history) to Treasure Search, The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Include your name, community and phone number.

Dear Debbie:

This is a toughie! Your item is obviously a piece of folk art. The hilt is a stylized pea pod with peas inside. The shaft of the piece, which has the appearance of a form of cane, has markings that include scored lines and stars.

At first we thought it might be a form of tailor's measure, but on calculating the distance between the marks we found that the large lines measured 15/16 inch distance between them. What tailor would want a calculation like that? Only one who doesn't want work! The distance between stars is a shade under three inches.

Well, we had an idea exchange fest here at the gallery and came up with a theory. We spoke with Fred Giampietro, one of the United States' premier folk art dealers in New York, and he was kind enough to offer a theory that corroborated ours. We all believe that this canelike piece of whimsical folk art was probably made by a sailor, as many such pieces were. We think it's representative of a grog measure used on ships in the 18th century to measure the grog in hogheads, large casks con-



To the mark: This canelike folk art piece with markings is representative of a grog measure used on ships in the 18th century.

Doll signing is scheduled

Shirley Peck of American Beauty Dolls will make a rare personal appearance at a signing 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at Diane's Doll House, 102 N. Lafayette in South Lyon.

Call (810) 488-0450 for information. A brunch with Peck will begin 11 a.m. Saturday. Peck will incorporate a talk, answer questions and educate partici-

pants on the collectibility of dolls. She has planned special gifts for those who attend. A drawing will take place at the luncheon for a \$50 gift certificate applicable for one of the dolls.

Peck has made a limited edition of 15 American Indian dolls (Morning Star) available only at Diane's Doll House.

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