Let the Chips Fall: The Woodcarving of Dean Wright

An intricate Chip Carving piece in progress. Also pictured are some of Dean's carvings at work, in a one-piece wooden stool.

Dean Wright, who is pictured at the left, particularly enjoys carving birds.

On a beautiful,made to order sort of sunny afternoon, I got the chance to chat with Bethlehem woodworker Dean Wright and his charming wife, Helen. We've been in their shop along with the carv-ing club. I loved getting some of my carvings up to the Valence Heritage Art Center and then I put some down at the Holli
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In a shop where you can use the knife cuts and things like that. I painted a couple of them and they looked so much like plastic. I'd rather have it with the hand carved look. Do you do lots of shows? I ask. "I've done four shows this year," she says. "I've done the New Year's Eve show, the Christmas show, the Hickory show is coming up, and then another small show. And I've got that Squaresville coming up next, and then another small one in March. I could do a show every week. The Hickory show is coming up, and it’s one of the largest around here. It’s the 25th and 26th of this month, and we’ll have all the show signs and things, flowers and en
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design work on it with carving, and the power tools, and shapes along with the turning. Make some beautiful things out of it." She’s trying to pass it on to a new generation if we can keep them interested in it rather than the com-
peter. I’m teaching kids from ages 9 to 16 now. They seem to catch right on, and I’ve got them interested in the turn-lathes now doing bowl turning. And to be doing bowl turning now. It’s hard because the kids can’t go too fast, It’s four years now. It’s differ-
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