

"Some carve their careers; others just chisel"

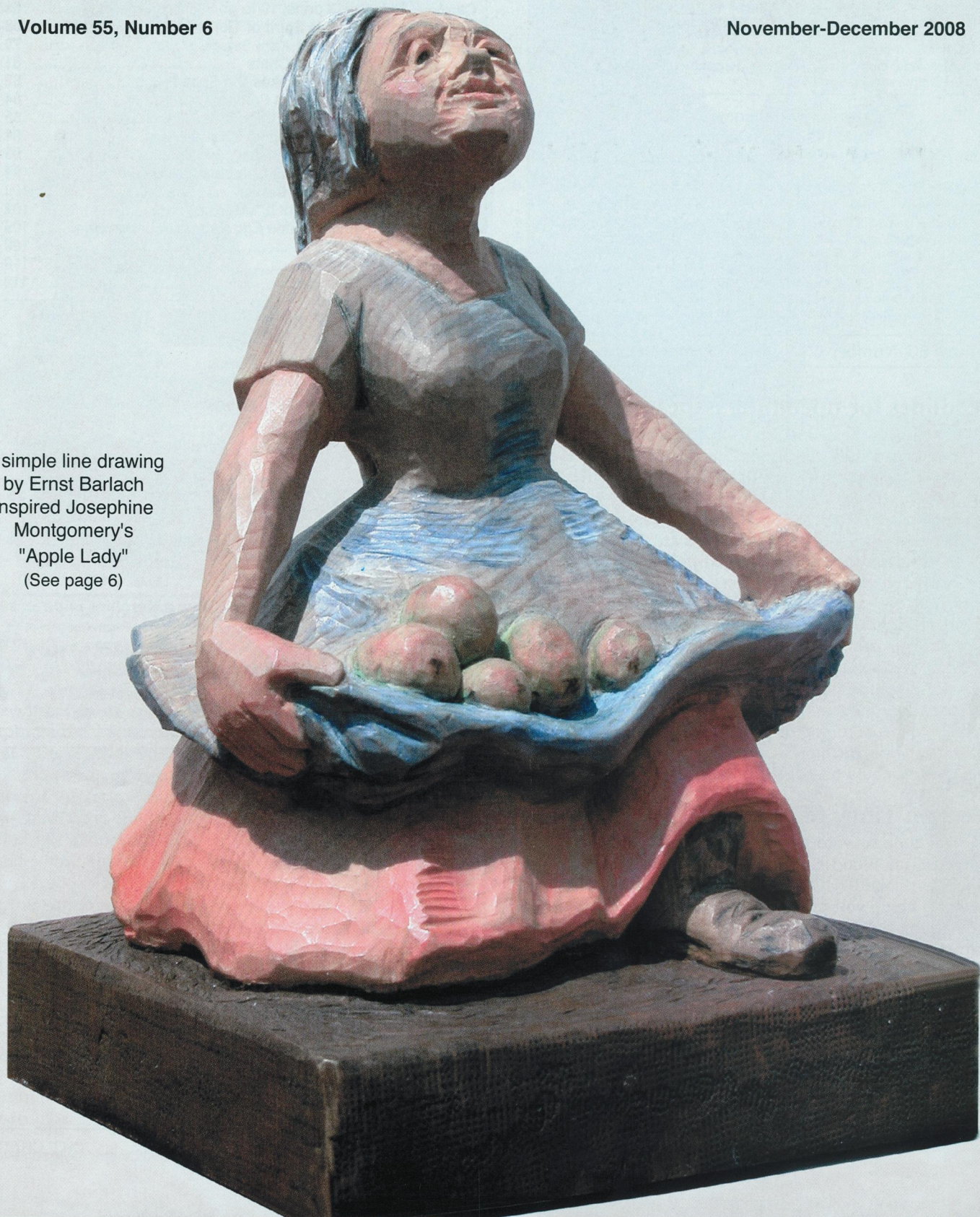
CHIP & CHATS

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A simple line drawing
by Ernst Barlach
inspired Josephine
Montgomery's
"Apple Lady"
(See page 6)



Carved wolf embodies spirit of Timberlane



By ERIC M. SAPERSTEIN

ARTISANS of the Valley features a variety of chainsaw carvings by Bob Eigenrauch in its online portfolio. The majority of these carvings are completed by Bob, but a few are combined efforts featuring the skills of multiple craftsmen, and the wolf carving pictured here is such a joint venture.

Bob handled all the rough carving and heavy lifting, shaping the sculpture down to muscle tone and body definition. This was then followed by Artisans' Stanley D. Saperstein who completed the detailed carving.

The photos in this article show the steps from a solid block of poplar (a blank) to a completed life-size wolf carving. Blanks can be logs or milled lumber. If the carving will be placed indoors, milled lumber is required. For carvings destined for an outdoor life, logs are preferred.

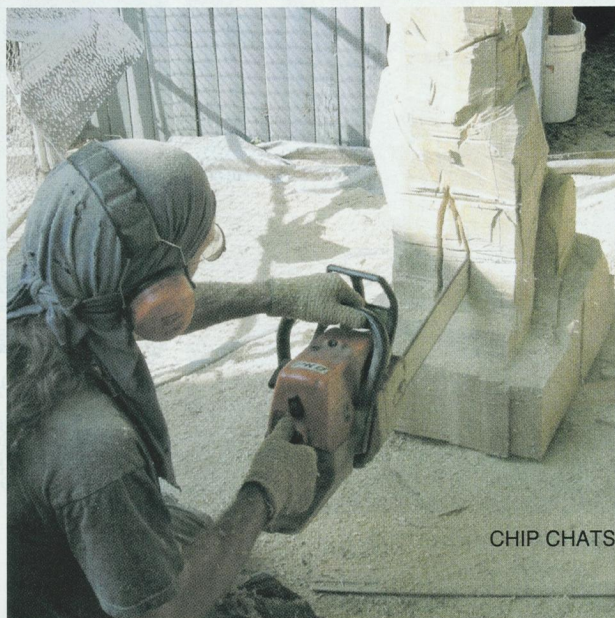
The carving process starts by tracing a template profile onto the blank. Then begins the roughing in — removing large chunks of outer material that will not be required for the finished figure.

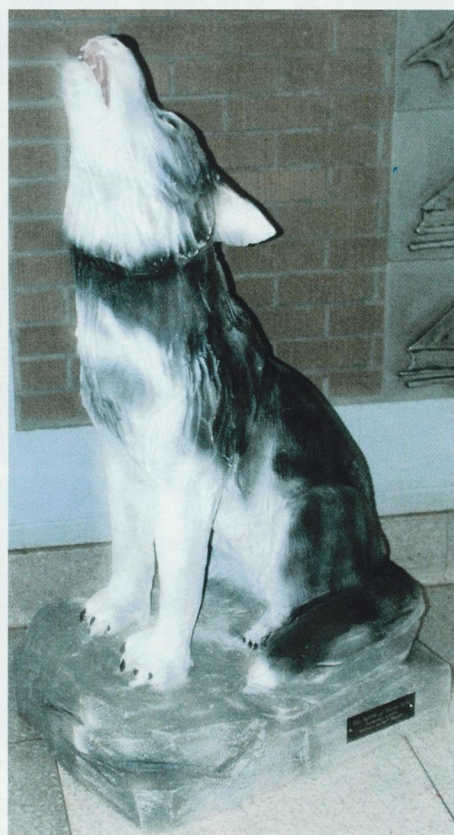
As the rough-in transitions into more detail, the actual features of the carving start to take shape. The body begins to flow into the physical form of a wolf, head and neck take shape, and ears start to protrude. Chainsaws change with specific steps in the process; larger, more powerful saws are used for the roughing, while a midsize saw takes care of subsequent carving.

Once the outer form is shaped, the next step is to begin removing material to create voids required to split the blank into sections showing legs, tail, and other features of the newly forming creature. Muscle tone and rough fur layers, separation of the



Bob Eigenrauch roughs out wolf mascot.





Stan Saperstein poses with completed carving. Top two photos show him doing detail work on the wolf after it had been roughed out by Bob Eigenrauch.

Carved wolf stands guard at Timberlane Middle School in New Jersey.

head, and definition of the neck take place using a detail or specialty carving chainsaw.

Body shape and flow (muscle tone) for this project were handled using a carbide power carver. This high-speed wood grinder removes material while starting the smoothing and finishing process.

Switching from power to hand

work, Stanley's larger scale wood sculpting and carving tools come out to begin the detail work. The carving was then coated in a plaster (gesso) to seal all cracks and prep the piece for painting.

Painting involved various spray techniques, brushes, and other hand techniques to create texture and layering of colors. Oils, acrylics, and

enamels were all employed for color before a clear coat was applied in the appropriate sheen.

Displayed in the lobby of Timberlane Middle School in Pennington, N.J., this commission was donated by retired teacher Michael Riley in honor of the staff and students of the school district that gave him his 32-year career. Presentation took place at the opening of the 2007 school year. ■

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