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| 11757 | Patrick Leach <leach@i...> | Jan-10-1997 | The Tidey Bowl... |
|-------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
|-------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|

It's not very often we tool lovers and users can peer into the mind of a tool inventor, but through the pile of papers of the Providence Tool Co. we can look into the mind of the fellow who patented the plane that sold for \$27,000 at a recent auction.

And what horrific look it is into one M.B.Tidey's mind, if the letters he wrote to the PTCO are any indication. Some of you may recall the one letter I posted back during my serving time at the geek joint. If that were the only letter of his hand extant, it would be proof enough that the dude was whacked. However, what I've found since then is another half dozen letters from Mr. Tidey, most of which do nothing to diminish the perception that he was a certifiable, card-carrying lunatic of the first degree.

I'm going to enter each letter separately and in chronological order. I've tried to be faithful to the spelling Tidey used. I didn't write the word "gauge" in the umpteen different ways Tidey spelled it - I woulda never been able to rid myself of Tideyitis, the affliction of spelling "gauge" as "gague" if I had been true to his spelling.

There may be other letters from Mr. Tidey, and as I uncover them I'll scribble them in, but the installments I present tonight are really interesting. Wade through them, if you're at all fascinated by the fine line between genius and insanity, as well as patented planes.

I'll provide some Tidey-To-English/English-To-Tidey translations to put things in context and perspective. At least I'll take a stab at it, but some stuff may be lost in the translation. Afterall, only Mr. Tidey knew what songs were playing on his mind's jukebox, and my attempt to listen in, being quite the sane fellow I am, may only hear skips, scratches, and feedback.

Donn the straight-jacket, hide the wimmin and chilluns, and hold on. We're about to view life from the gutter.....

"

Ithaca Oct 11th, 1856

J.B.Anthony  
Providence

Dear Sir

Yours of the 4th inst. was duly recd. which I of course consider final. But as Treman&Bros. of this place will purchase a small bill at your store in N.Y. next week I suspect that you may think I am procuring through them which error should it exist I beg leave to correct though they purchase of you through my recommendation. If I can use of your manf. of irons it will be by a purchase directly from you - and if I can propose dealing at cash and remitting payment before shipment of goods and you thereupon ask of me reference it is my privelege honourably sir to decline which you may expect me to do in every of such instances

I was provoked sir to write as I did by my last. I was in much want of the goods and the money was ready on receipt of the bill either before or after shipment and considering the notice of my first proposition which was that if you choose I would deal at the present at cash I considered that you had no good cause for subjecting me to the deprivation which you did with out at least posting me also the cause. Your system if such it is of "dealing with none at cash with whom you would not deal on the usual time" I consider an absurdity.

Yours &c

M.B.Tidey

I'm an HONEST and HONOURABLE man }  
and a FREMONTER GOODBYE }"

In this first letter, Tidey is very miffed at the PTCO.'s balking at doing business with him. I came across a report sent to the Co. about Tidey's business stature, and it wasn't at all favorable to him. The report came right out and said he was a man of little means, worth nothing, and a real credit risk.

It's obvious that Tidey is concerned about the PTCO's opinion of him, where reading between the lines one can tell they'd rather not deal with him, or, at the very least, they won't sell to him on credit.

It also appears that Tidey is concerned that PTCO will think he's buying irons at a local purveyor, but tries to allay their fear by telling them that it was he who turned Treman&Co. onto the PTCO.

What's most laughable about this letter is that Tidey makes reference to his political leanings as a "Fremonter" (John Charles Fremont was the Republican candidate for president during the same year) in an attempt to change the Co. of their low opinion of him.

-----  
Patrick Leach

Just say Think when I go for a loan and my telling Mr. Banker that I'm a Gingricher that that will guarantee me instant credit? etc.

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| 11761   | Kenneth Stagg <kstagg@e...> | Jan-10-1997 | Re: The Tidey Bowl... |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <snip of bizarre correspondence and delightful commentary>  |                             |             |                       |
| OK, it is once again time to demonstrate my ignorance. I saw the reports of the 'Tidey plane' (wasn't it a plow?) selling for 25+K but have no idea why it would sell for that much. Could some kind galoot please provide a bit of history of this (in)famous plane? What makes it special? Is there only one? |                             |             |                       |
| Thanks in advance,<br>-Ken  |                             |             |                       |
| 11766   | Patrick Leach <leach@i...>  | Jan-10-1997 | Re: The Tidey Bowl... |

kstagg@e... (Ken Stagg) writes:

>OK, it is once again time to demonstrate my ignorance. I saw the  
>reports of the 'Tidey plane' (wasn't it a plow?) selling for 25+K but  
>have no idea why it would sell for that much. Could some kind galoot  
>please provide a bit of history of this (in)famous plane? What makes it  
>special? Is there only one?

The plane is a double beveling plane, which bevels two edges of a board simultaneously, which is obviously not something that every woodworker is pumped to do, and if he is, he can do a better job of it with a chamfer plane or a bench plane. With Tidey's contraption, because it carries two irons, where each is dedicated to one side of the wood, one of the irons is going to be cutting against the grain.

The plane looks like a screw arm toted plough plane that collided with two conventional molding plane stocks, each of which flank the main body and are capable of being pivoted about their bottoms.

I know of at least three of these monstrosities. One is pictured in Roger Smith's books and is made of beech and boxwood. Another surfaced at Crane's a few years ago (it wasn't signed, but it had all the bizzare tell-tale signs). The other one is the 5 figure selling one that sold in PA November past. It's this one that was made of ebony and had ivory tips on the arms. I thought it was rather ugly looking do to its mass and darkness.

The brass securing mechanism was engraved with Tidey's name and patent date. Many thought that this was his own personal plane, but I didn't think so. Tools of that era were decorated as much as the purchaser wanted and Tidey probably found some fellow who went nuts with the decoration. And, with the letters as proof, Tidey didn't even have a plane he could send to PTCO. for their examination.

-----  
Patrick Leach

Just say There's a lot of speculation in the tool collecting world.  
etc.

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| <b>11752</b> | <b>Patrick Leach &lt;leach@i...&gt;</b> | <b>Jan-10-1997</b> | <b>Back to the Tidey Bowl...</b> |
|--------------|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|

Here's the second letter from Psycho Tidey:

" Ithaca Oct 28th, 1856

Mr. J. B. Anthony Esq  
 Providence

Dear Sir

I recd your satisfactory reply of the 25th inst. today. I do not of course expect persons to decide further than you have done relative to my proposed enterprise until they have had opportunity of practical demonstration and the opinion of judges respecting my inventions. I am not by any means desirous on my own part of entering into any scheme about the success of which I have any misgivings nor would I presume to present a device of mechanism for inspecting of New England judges were I of the apprehension that it lacked any of the elements requisite to its correctness. I have also another article invented by me in my last for which a covent is only filed which I did not deem proper to represent by my last on account of the unreasonable length to which that letter was protracted. This a saw gauge - a device necessary as an accompaniment for all slitting buzz saws. It is a portable gauge placed at the side and on the table of buzz saws and very conveniently adjusted to any desired distance from the saw against which the stuff strides according to which distance of the gauge from the saw is the width of the stuff sawed. All slitting saws have a substitute for this device but they are far from being convenient or satisfactory. A rude and imperfect model of this gauge together with my improved bench plane I think I shall be able to furnish you the latter part of this week. Of the beveling planes I have none on hand but will try to procure one which will probably be sufficient to illustrate the principle. Your Most Obedt Servt,

M. B Tidey"

Translation - It seems as though Tidey is offering up his inventions to the Co. for their inspection as proof of the success of his business. He also seems to hint, or at least, sounds hopeful of entering into an agreement with the Co. for making his inventions.

His description of the saw gauge is interesting. It sounds like it's some sort of device for regulating the width of board as it's being cut by a circular (buzz) saw; i.e. a fence that fits on the table of the saw.

It's also interesting to note that he mentions his bench plane patent, which was granted just some months earlier on March 24, 1857. This patent seems to have come in two styles, but is based upon a cast iron throat insert upon which the iron is bedded and

against which the wedge butts. One style has the cast iron insert screwed directly to what is normally the plane's bed, while the other has a hole bored through the side of the plane into which a circular rod is fit, which then receives screws to secure the cast iron insert forward of it. This latter style is capable of having its cast iron insert adjusted upward via a screw as the plane's sole wore.

Sounds like a neat idea, doesn't it? But like all of Tidey's plane patents, it was a miserable flop. Even his beveling plane, which was patented just 3 years earlier, had become extinct as evidenced by Tidey's inability to locate an example to send on to the PTCO. His mentioning this fact probably quickly clued the PTCO in that they were dealing with a dude who possessed some hairbrain ideas. His letters alone would be proof enough that he was a walking pool of mental quicksand.

-----  
Patrick Leach  
Just say Wait! Things go downhill quickly from here.  
etc.  
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| 11753 | Patrick Leach <leach@i...> | Jan-10-1997 | Battle for the Tidey Bowl... |
|-------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
|-------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|

Here's letter IV, which proves to be just as terminal as the previous letter.

" Ithaca Nov 17th 1856

J.B. Anthony Esq.  
Providence

Dear Sir

There has just been suggested to my mind another important idea relative to my improvement in bench planes which I wish you to consider.

It is that the throat case may be manufactured as disconnected with the plane stock and be an accompaniment of the iron only should this plan be adapted the sale of the case would be as soon as regularly introduced almost as general as is the demand for irons.

There would be found equally advantageous disposition of the cases in that way both with planemakers and common hardwares.

The fact is no mechanic after being posted with reference to this improvement will think of having a plane without it and very shortly I venture to say should these cases be acceptable (I mean to be procured at common hardwares with plane irons) will almost every mechanic have them applied to his present planes.

My mind has been brought to this consideration by already frequent applications for cases for this purpose. I have been offered \$4.00 to apply the cases to a single set of planes which had become some worn. In fact many in our village who have lately purchased new planes have requested the construction of the cases therein. Now you see one very important feature in favor of this new provision is that those planes which are nearly or quite worn out (as their wearing out is occasioned by the enlargement of the throat) may be renewed by the application of said case and thus rendered 500% better than they ever were before and the construction of the case to a common plane may be accomplished by the most common of workman. It is my idea however that it would be best for at least some years to connect the case in its manufactory with the complete plane as I am fully satisfied that it is sufficient to warrant the project of a complet monopoly of the

article at least so far as I have introduced it which has been generally in our vicinity this opinion is general.

Please pardon me for suggesting as I did in my last that you might credit me with a part of the availles of those articles sent you. I lacked apprehention at the time that you might be to some considerable trouble in exhibiting the same to my benefit. You are welcome to all that they may meet you after payment of charges. Just detach from the stock of the plane sent you the throat case and apply the iron and wedge there to and you see the complete arrangement as I should propose furnishing to both plane makers and common hardwares instead of the irons alone. Should that method of disposition be considered preferable the fase part of the case need only be emerced upon the common emery wheel which will be all the finishing required for the ordinary article. It of course wants a nice articl of casting much nicer than that sent you. The mill head screw I think I told you before I consider of little or no importance therefore in the case of the omission of said screw that portion of the case above the stock should be dispensed with. Please to inform me in your next where I may apply for some malleable castings to order refer me to the best establishment you know of if you please. I wish to make some of those saw gages.

Yours Obedt. Servnt.  
M.B.Tidey"

Luckily, Tidey decided to keep this letter a bit shorter than the previous one. It's also a bit more comprehensible.

Tidey hasn't given up hope in trying to have the PTCO manufacture his 'great' idea. He makes mention that the cast iron insert can be made and then retrofit into existing common wooden bench planes. While that is certainly true, one must doubt his claim that the plane is made 500% better (how does one quantify such a claim?).

His idea, then, seems that it would be best to make the insert and then sell it to planemakers and hardware suppliers, the latter of which can offer it to those craftsmen who make their own planes and get their irons from the hardware vendors, which was relatively common occurence back then. However, Tidey later contradicts himself by saying he thinks it best, initially, to limit the availability of his insert by making it the exclusive of planemakers. He then contradict this contradiction by going back to his initial plan.

He finally tells the Co how the insert is machined and that the final product should be of a better casting quality. He wants the Co to refer him to a foundry capable of casting malleable iron.

-----  
Patrick Leach  
Just say Tidey is on his heels, ready to kiss the mat.  
etc.  
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| 11754   | Patrick Leach <leach@i...> | Jan-10-1997 | Escape From the Tidey Bowl... |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| <p>The last letter in the Tidey Bowl series (so far, anyway). Let us give thanks that this one is short, but it still meanders here and there, in typical Tidey-esque prose.</p> <p>"</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ithaca Dec 6th 1856</p> <p>Prov. Tool Co.<br/>                   Providence<br/>                           Gentlemen</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I am in receipt of your favor of 3rd inst.<br/> in acknowledgement of the rect. of check of \$21.00 by which I am<br/> advised that 'corrected bill sent me was \$29.00' which I do not<br/> understand<br/> as I have recd. no such bill. On my return home 30th Nov. I was in<br/> rect of three letters from you two having dates 15th and the others<br/> 20th<br/> Nov. accompanying one of the former dates written for D.A.Hines<br/> was bill of amt remitted by check the other letter however written<br/> by Mr. Anthony and having same date says "the manner in which you<br/> want the irons finished will make some extra cost" but this is not<br/> definite. Please inform me further in this matter and to any cor-<br/> rection that may seem plausible. I will of course submit.<br/> In the mean time to Mr. Anthony all me to say how stands<br/> the matter of Eureka plane?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours &amp;c<br/>                           M.B.Tidey"</p> <p>Tidey is obviously disputing a bill here, and then mentions that<br/> he'll accept whatever they tell him. He probably realizes that the<br/> PTCo. is about to wash their hands of him, but gives one last peep<br/> about his "Eureka", hopeful that they'll still make it for him.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Patrick Leach<br/> Just say Some guys just don't know when they've overstayed their<br/> welcome.<br/> etc.<br/> Check IT out at <a href="http://www.intool.com">http://www.intool.com</a></p> <p>-----</p> |                            |             |                               |

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| 11755   | Patrick Leach <leach@i...> | Jan-10-1997 | Beneath the Tidey Bowl... |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| <p>Letter III, and this one is terminally brutal, so brace yourself. You may need some toothpicks to prop your eyes open to get through it all. Read it all, if you dare!</p>   |                            |             |                           |
| <p>" Ithaca Nov 11th 1856</p> <p>J.B. Anthony<br/>Providence</p> <p>Dear Sir</p> <p>I do not expect to make satisfactory apolegy for neglect with respect to furnishing those models. I have been trying to procure one of the bev-eling planes but have failed. Hopeing however that those sent you today by express saw gauge and bench plane will be sufficient to satisfy you that I have something with the attention of manufacturers. I can only propose makeing and sending the bevel plane at some future time if desirable. The bench plane is doubtless destined to a monopoly of the trade of this class of tools of prosecuted with that intent and that too at a huge advance on the ordinary profit of the business. And in connec-tion with the bench plane trade the balance of the business may be conducted at pleasure. Neither of the models sent are perfect by any means and especially the saw gauge but they will be sufficient to demonstrate to your good mechanics their modus operandi. The board to which the gauge is affixed is designed to represent a section of the saw frame table to the right of the saw. The teeth or near edge of the saw should correspond in position with the end of the rule or center of the gauge. This gauge you will understand is a minature size the full size or ordinary prac-ticle gauge being in every respect about twice as large and consequently containing twice the length of rack haveing thereby double the distance of carriage within itself so that the thimbles in the table which receive the dowels of the bed piece instead of being 2 1/2 inches apart as in the present case will be in the full size twice that distance, 5". Also on the full size the dowels will be correspondingly further apart which provides better bracing and consequently is more permanent upon the table. The fase plate also which receives the guide or wood part is much longer so that a very long piece as guide may be attached. The greatest imper-fection of the gauge you have is the miscon-struction of the tongue and groove by which the top piece is guided. The patentable feature</p> |                            |             |                           |

of which is that the groove contracts partially at the bottom so that by a corresponding shape of the tongue which should be a trifle larger than the groove so that when acted upon by the nut and cam the tongue enters the groove wedge like therefore by which the top piece is bound to a fixed position. This is to obviate any play of the face plate or top piece which might otherwise accrue from an imperfection of fit of tongue and groove.

The advantages of this gauge are 1st its convenience of setting. 2nd its convenience of being removed from the table as it is important in many instances to unobstruct the surface of the saw table. 3rd its portability for applying to different saw tables by merely moving the thimbles and rule affixed to each. And 4th the convenience of removing the guide piece at pleasure so that a temporary guide may be applied of extra height or diagonal form &c. I have had made of these gauges 1 Doz all of which but the one you rec. I sold at once in our immediate vicinity at from five to six dollars. Some who are operating them are of Seneca Falls the Island Works Cowing & D. Young of that place will doubtless represent its operation as satisfactorily favourable. Also C Cook of Havana or Wm Rutter Carbuilder of Elmira. I have several orders standing at \$6.00 a piece.

Our machinists here will get them up for \$15.00 pr Doz. The pinion and standard should be malleable iron and cast together with the nut and crank should also be malleable iron and the form of the crank should be simplified to that of a handle but for convenience of casting this gauge is not objectionable at \$5.00 and there is not the least probability but what it will become generally in use at that price. Nearly all persons to whom I have exhibited it who use the article have been in favour of possessing it and in no instance have persons said on being interogated thereupon but what of such a convenience had been acceptable at the time of their construction of their saws they would not of thought of applying anything else. Now the facts relative to the saw gauge are it is important that there be a convenient device for that purpose and it is equally important that the article be accessible to consumers hence that it should by all means be in the trade. And the fact that there is nothing for this purpose in the trade is quite sufficing to warrant a good interest in the matter.

I propose your applying the gauge sent you to practical use. It is appropriate in size to an 8 or 10 in saw. I would suggest that as it is fitted to the board the quickest and best way to apply it as it is will be by cutting a section from the saw table corresponding with the form and thickness of the board and inserting it as it is being careful however for the preservation of the true measurement to set the board a trifle from the saw as there is a trifle taken off of the end of the rule. The gauge is not patented. I anticipated at the time of gett-

ing up the patens which was in March of its probably being patented in the month of May but as it was not convenient for me to attend to it I filed a covent 25th of April and so it stands.

As to the bench plane I am sanguin and satisfied in the opinion that if prosecuted with that intent it is destined to nothing short of a monopoly of that part of the tool business and you may know by informing yourself that the manufactory of bench planes comprises one half of the entire tool business which is conducted to my knowledge to the extent of \$500,000.00 pr annum in this country.

My claims upon the label are all correct but No 2 it does actully work easier than common planes on account of the point of fase which is subject to the most friction being iron (that amediately before the bit) but it does not work quite 100% easier. It will actually wear ten times longer than common planes for the reason that the point of fase which is the only material part subject to wear and to which point we reduce the common fase of the plane by planeing or as we term it fasing off being supplied with iron.

The tool you receive involves more expence than the common article should the object of the mill head screw and its accompaniments is only to adjust the throat case to the fase of the plane as it wares for which purpose there is little or no need of the screw for it can be done just about as well without the screw arrangement. The slots in the throat case you will understand provide for its adjustment to the fase as the plane wares which though if my ideas are correct will not be more than one tenth as fast as ordinary.

The two screws which secure the case to stock entering an iron nut will admit its security with great solidity to the stock so that it is not liable of being moved by knocking upon the end of the plane for the starting of the iron back though it is a more mechanicle means of loosening the wedge by tapping with a hammer on its sides. As in this plane the opening in the stock is uniform it may be worked completely by machinery thus fasiletating the business to an extent that if the ???? case be used I mean with the adjusting screw the plane can actually be made as cheap as common tools and they will made in that way superceed common planes at an advance price of 50%.

I have exhibited it to the extent that I have been able and the expression is innumeros as to its ultimate adoption.

For this tool I have also only filed a covent being dated Sept. 8th.

The fact is I begin to think that I am getting too many irons in the fire at a half heat and I have determined to suspend to suspend further inventive effort until I get my present operations in motion.

I propose my connecting myself with

a company capable of manageing my whole traps as thay are of one class. Expect to rely upon their merits for my own remuneration therefore have no patent rights to sell. Am corresponding with various establishments with whom I expect to find an interest in this matter for I am anxious for the makeing of amediate arrangements.

Please to inform me if you can as to the address of the Union Tool Co.

If sir you can do me any assistence in this matter I will endeavor to appreciate the same to you satisfaction.

Yours &c,

M.B. Tidey

PS You may dispose of the gauge and plane at your most convenient advantage and after deducting expences credit me with balance."

blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, etc...

Was this something, or what? Where do I begin to give the postgame report on this one? I think I'll sit this one out. For the most part.

There is one interesting thing to come out of this pitiful letter and that's Tidey's asking for the address of the Union Tool Co. almost as if he's threatening to go to them with his ideas since he seems to think he's getting nowhere with PTCO.

Now, Tidey is really showing his lack of business sense here since the Union Tool Co. was a mom and pop planemaking firm located in the one horse town of Goshen, MA. It's more likely that Tidey really wanted the address of the Union Factory, the planemaking juggernaut run by Hermon Chapin in Pine Meadow, CT. The Union Factory was the largest planemaking firm in the country at the time, and it's probable Tidey wanted to contract with that firm to make his planes, or at least make the PTCO think that that was his intent.

It can also be seen that Tidey mentions the two styles of his bench plane patent, where the adjusting screw can be removed with the idea still sound.

Tidey seems to be humming the sound of a cash register with his belief that his plane will monopolize the bench plane market. Someone shoulda told him that the cash register was gonna read "NO SALE" and spared him his misery.

-----  
Patrick Leach

Just say Seems as though folks in Ithaca are given to some very interesting twists and turns while writing.

etc.

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| 11756   | Patrick Leach <leach@i...> | Jan-10-1997 | Conquest of the Tidey Bowl... |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| <p>Letter V appears to be a return to some semblance of sanity. Thankfully, it's much shorter than the previous two, and it's a bit easier to stomach.</p> <p>" Ithaca Dec. 1st 1856</p> <p>J.B.Anthony<br/>Providence<br/>Dear Sir</p> <p>A thousand apologies for so shameful a neglect on my part relative to our business matters. Two weeks ago today I was called away quite unexpectedly on business concerning my new inventions and was unable to return until Saturday last. Am in receipt of your favors of 15th Nov containing bill also that of 20th in reply to my enquiry for a maleable iron consern for the infomation given thereby except my thanks. Enclosed find check for amt. of bill \$21.66.</p> <p>The goods are also recd. with which so far as the grinding and polishing of the surface is conserved I am much pleased but with regard to the grinding of the cap as I term it that is the rounded portion of the lower extremity of which defect in common I have endeavoured to particularese to you I must say I am not altogether satisfied. Yours are ground too stout please compare with one in model sent you.</p> <p>Have improved an oppetunity to a considerable extent in introducing my Eureka and am pleased to say the prospect is flatering. It is without a doubt on my mind destined to supersede all other planes at an advanced price sufficient to warrant to manufactorers thereof a profit trebble that of the ordinary business. Am desirous of connecting myself with some good manufacturing Co. in behalf thereof as soon as possible. Could you do me any assistance in bringing my wishes about the same will be appreciated.</p> <p>Pleas inform me if convenient of the address of the Union Tool Co.</p> <p>Yours &amp;c.<br/>M.B.Tidey"</p> <p>Tidey seems upbeat in this letter, even going so far to call his plane patent "Eureka". His confidence in its success is obvious, and he thanks the Co. for sending him the irons and the name of a foundry. He's not 100% happy with the irons they sent him due to problems on their caps.</p> <p>He's still sniffing around for someone to manufacture his "Eureka" and once again "threatens" the Co. by asking for the Union Tool Co. J.B.Anthony, the Treasurer of the Co. scribbled "Union Tool Co. - Goshen, MS" on the top of the letter, so it can be assumed that they finally granted his wish.</p> <p>-----</p> |                            |             |                               |

Patrick Leach

Just say It was probably like siccing a rabid dog on them.  
etc.

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| 16038  | Patrick Leach <leach@I...> | Apr-01-1997 | More from the Tidey Bowl... |
|--|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| <p>I received an email on the day the Heaven's Gaters decided to "Just do it" (with the 2.5' of snow we just got, I should do the same - and you galoots are envious of us living in tool nirvana).</p> <p>The email illustrates what the internet usually is, when we have the TV talking heads telling us otherwise with all the babbling about the satanists, pederasts, and scam artists behind each and every email.</p> <p>Anyway, the email is from a living Tidey, who goes on to say:</p> <p>" Mr. Patrick Leach:</p> <p>It was with interest that I noted your article on Mr. M.B. Tidey on your company's website. I have done extensive research into the Tidey families that live here in the United States as well as our English ancestors. I know of the M.B. Tidey that you wrote about, however, I did not know about his patents, etc.</p> <p>The M. B. stands for Marcus Baker and he was born in 1829 in Canada. He still has descendants living here in the United States. They live in New Jersey, Michigan and Florida.</p> <p>I would be very interested if you have any other information on Marcus Baker Tidey. I will be sending the information from your website and anything else you may offer on to his descendants.</p> <p>Thank you for any assistance you my be able to offer.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Chuck Tidey<br/>CW4 (Retired) US Army"</p> <p>To my knowledge, Tidey's origins and his actual name have been unknown. There's no mention of either in any of the books that I have.</p> <p>-----<br/>Patrick Leach<br/>Just say It's comforting to me that Marcus B. wasn't American,</p> |                            |             |                             |

but Canadian, eh.  
etc.  
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| 24486   | Patrick Leach <leach@s...> | Aug-21-1997 | And you thought the Tidey Bowl was dead? |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|--|
| <p>Got the following email from a fellow the other day.</p> <p>Pretty interesting, this thing we call the internet...</p> <p>&lt;cut here&gt;</p> <p>My name is Bob Tidey, my brother is Marcus Baker Tidey III. Our great-grandfather was Marcus Baker Tidey - a manufacturer of woodworking machinery that immigrated from Canada to New Jersey in 1850. His son (my grandfather) was Charles H. Tidey - also a tool inventor that held serveral patents, including the Tidey Automatic Swing Saw Gauge and the Tidey Circular Saw Setting Machine. He owned a manufacturing company in Grand Rapids, MI, where I now live. The name of the company was The Grand Rap[ids Machinery Co. that was founded in 1904.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Patrick Leach<br/>Just say I'm hoping that the fellow has a photograph of M.B. The First.<br/>etc.</p> <p>-----</p> |                            |             |  |

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