

Chain saw carver notes from Friday, July 19, 2002

Digital photos

Don Blanchard
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Don Blanchard was set up in the parking lot of Higgins Crab House in St. Michaels, MD. Higgins has some of his work in the restaurant, so they let Don sell his work from the parking lot.

He started off drawing in high school, and afterward took up painting. He has also worked in clay and stone, and has been carving wood with a chain saw for the past twenty years. Before he took that up full time, he worked as a photographer, taking school and baby photos.

He is from Bath City, Va., which he says is the least occupied place in Virginia. He travels to North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, and West Virginia to display and sell his pieces. They range in price from forty to two hundred dollars.

He carves many different subjects, but the most popular are his bald eagles, which he sells the most of. He carves with any type of wood he can get, buying it from a local sawmill or sometimes exchanges carvings for pieces of wood. Each carving takes between 15-20 minutes and an hour to do, and he spray paints them after they are carved.

He has a wife and two kids, one is in the military and one is in college. He thought about spending less time on the road and more time with his wife, but she doesn't mind the time he spends away, she has many other hobbies and activities to keep her busy.

He says that this style of carving is popular in the Pacific Northwest, but he was not influenced by anyone when he started carving, he just took it up. In the past couple of years he has been teaching this style of carving to others.