

# Cactus Needles

Newsletter of the Southwest Costumers Guild

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<http://www.southwestcostumersguild.org/>

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## From the Editor

Sorry for the thin issue this month. Costume-Con 30 is this weekend! Please send me your impressions of the con for the June issue.

## Grandpa Knew Jack

By Randall Whitlock



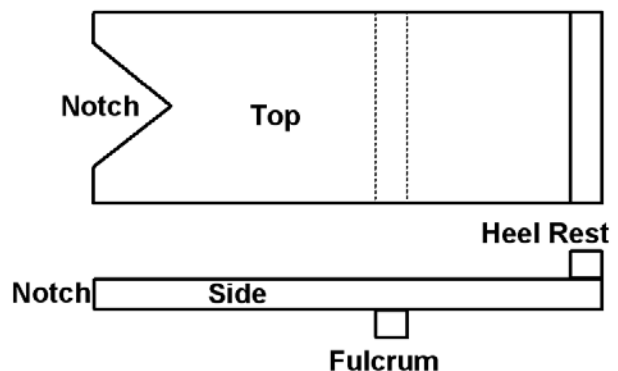
This is another of my treasured family artifacts. My grandfather, Lawrence Bates, made it while he worked for an iron foundry during World War Two. In the off hours, the employees were permitted to do a bit of sculpting.

It's a boot jack, used to remove tight-fitting boots. You stand with one foot on the beetle's back and

place the heel of your other boot between its antennae. This gives you enough leverage to get free of the boot when your feet are swollen from a long day's work.

These cast iron beetle jacks are still made. I've found listings for Chinese-made ones on eBay. I suspect Grandpa was working from a prepared template.

In the Midwestern farm country where I grew up, rubber boots were a necessity for winter snows and muddy farm yards. A common handicraft project for Cub Scouts or middle school shop students was to make a simple wooden boot jack, consisting of a notched board nailed to narrower boards to form a fulcrum and backstop or heel rest.



## On the Web

**Virtual Shoe Museum** at <http://www.virtualshoemuseum.com/> shows some of the stranger things ever put on the human foot.

**Pictures from LepreCon 2012** on Facebook from Geek Associated Press.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.184473701674166.39959.114502782004592&type=3>

**Make your own Dalek Dress.** IO9 article spotted by Mike.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.184473701674166.39959.114502782004592&type=3>

**Photos from Convergence 2011** from Zach Podany, spotted by Mike.

<https://plus.google.com/photos/104710826561491059686/albums/5624268438691389073?banner=pwa&gpsrc=pwr1#photos/104710826561491059686/albums/5624268438691389073>

## From the Mailbox

**ICG Newsletter** 11.2 – March/April 2012 – President’s message outlines offices to be filled at the annual meeting. Contact info for ICG chapters. Book reviews from Kathe Gust (Shibori: The Inventive Art of Japanese Shaped Resist Dyeing and What Clothes Reveal: The Language of Clothing in Colonial and Federal America.) Part 6 of Bruce & Nora Mai’s series on the ICG Archives and how to support it through Promotion, donations and data. Patrick O’Connor summarizes Bill Higgins’ revelation of one of the world’s oldest digital pictures – produced on a Jacquard Loom in 1841. *If you are a member in good standing of ICG, you received either a hard copy of this newsletter or an e-mail with link, username and password to download the digital edition.*

Costumer’s Guild West **Squeals from Da Ghodfuzzy**, April 2012 – Cover: Austin Strain and Vincent Pritchard have an excellent adventure as Bill & Ted. Fran Wasielewski brings news from over the hills and far away about their participation and teaching about the fur trade era. Tonya Clevenger’s Webworld with links about SF costuming and conventions. Matt Hedin’s Making Silicone Masks pt 1. Book reviews of Hat Shop, Fashion: Concept to Catwalk, Fashion Accessories, The Book of Kimono, Fighting Men of the Civil War: Rebels & Yankees. Eileen Smolenski’s Bits and Pieces on buttons. Valarie LaBore’s Down the Rabbit Hole column reveals many links about early 20<sup>th</sup> century costume. The Actor’s Lot - Tadao Tomomatsu tells us about his travel kit for being a background actor. Online Chatter – Serger doctor needed. President’s Message. Costume College 2012 and other upcoming events. Editorial Notes – Chaz thanks his team.

Costumer’s Guild West **Squeals from Da Ghodfuzzy**, May 2012 – Cover: Whovian Oods and Adipose. Making Silicone Masks pt 2. Dani Crum on recreating the Edwardian silhouette. Karen Lavoie on Bonnets, BBQ and Living History. Farewell to Marjorie Hagar. Filet Lace. Tonya Clevenger’s links to inspiring fashions. Online chatter about heat-set crystals. Tadao’s Actor’s Lot column on garment bags. More from Valerie LaBore Down the Rabbit Hole. President’s Message. Costume College – Dean’s Corner, Roommate Matching. Upcoming events. Editorial Notes on reorganizing the table of contents.

Your editor passes the shared newsletters around our monthly meetings.

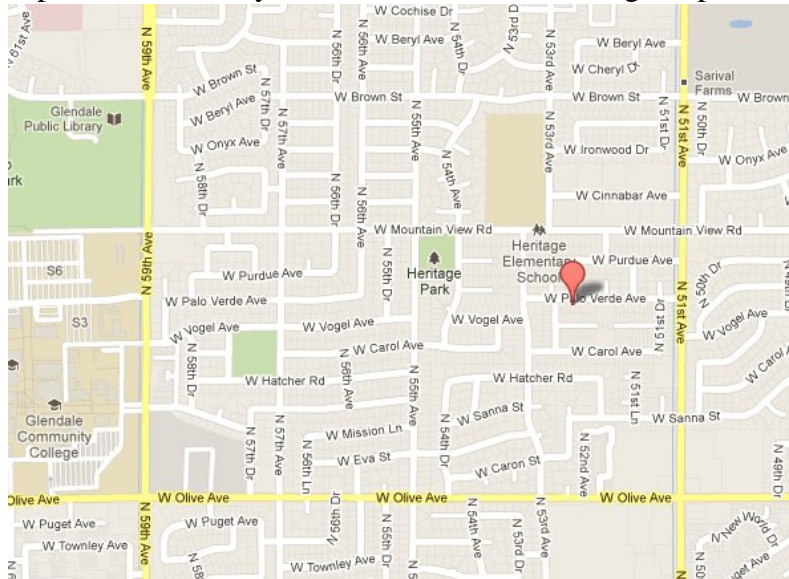
## Calendar

Do you know an event of interest to Arizona costumers? Please contact your editor with the details. **Red text and an asterisk\*** designate an SWCG-sponsored event. *Unless otherwise noted, our monthly meetings start at 1PM.*



May 11-13, 2012 – **Costume-Con 30\*** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona. <http://www.costumecon30.org/>

May 12, 2012 – **Superhero Supervillain Day** at Barnes & Noble Metrocenter, 10235 N. Metro Parkway East, Phoenix. Games, prizes, art and fun celebrating all things superhero and supervillain. Wear your costumes and enter for great prizes. (Not clear from the flyer or whether



this is meant as a children's event or not.)

May 20, 2012 – **Dead Dog Party\*** SWCG potluck social at Sharan's place **5221 W. Palo Verde, Glendale**. CC30 was last weekend. Let's relax a bit.

May 24-27, 2012 – **Phoenix Comicon** at the Phoenix Civic Center and Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Phoenix <http://phoenixcomicon.com/>

May 26-28, 2012 – **Wyatt Earp Days** in Tombstone, Arizona. <http://www.tombstonechamber.com/Wyatt-Earp-Days>

May 31-June 4, 2012 – **Highlands War** at Mormon Lake Lodge Campground, south of Flagstaff, Arizona. The SCA Barony of Ered Sul's annual get-together in the pines. This year's theme is "Battle at Hadrian's Wall."

June 24, 2012 – **Accessory Bag\*** SWCG workshop at Sharan's place in Glendale. Here's a cool pattern for a costume and accessory bag that fits over a clothes hanger.

July 6-8, 2012 – **Medieval Mayhem Renaissance Faire** at Mountain Meadow Recreation Complex, 1101 Woodland Road, Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona <http://www.azmayhem.com/>

August 31-September 3, 2012 – **CopperCon 32**, "Year of the Dragon," features guest author/game designer Ari Marmell. <http://www.coppercon.org/>

September 1-3, 2012 – **Saboten Con** Animé convention at the Renaissance Phoenix Hotel & Spa in Glendale, Arizona <http://www.sabotencon.com/>

August 2-12, 2012 – **Costume College** at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, California. A whole weekend of hands-on costuming workshops hosted by Costumer’s Guild West. <http://www.costumecollege.net/index.html>

August 31-September 3, 2012 – **Chicon 7** The 2012 WorldCon at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Chicago. <http://www.chicon7.org/>

November 9-11, 2012 – **TusCon 39** at the Hotel Tucson CityCenter features guest author S.M. Stirling and fan guest David Lee Summers. <http://www.tusconscificon.com>

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