

THE DEFINITIVE WORK ON THE SIMPLE PLUMB BOB

THE PLUMB LINE CONTINUUM

NEWSLETTERS FOR THE PLUMB BOB COLLECTOR



VOLUME I - 2005
THE ORIGINAL 16 ISSUES
JANUARY, 1991 THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 1994
NEWLY INDEXED AND ANNOTATED

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Introduction

THE PLUMB LINE CONTINUUM

MILESTONES

Died Metaphorically. Bruce Cynar, 58, As the Author of the Newsletter and CEO of the Publishing Empire known as The PLUMB LINE, published 1991 – 2005, whose success was to be the repository of “known” and “sometimes speculative” information on the tool, The Simple Plumb Bob. He was born in Harlem, Manhattan, New York and grew up in Hempstead, Long Island, son of Helen and Bob. Bob, an Industrial Arts Teacher and Printer, had a printing press set up in the basement where Bruce learned to read upside down and backwards, by hand setting type, intellectual gymnastics he systematically applied to most questions he encountered in his life. As an adult, he took a Bachelor Degree from the New York Institute of Technology, majoring in Television Production which launched his “day job” in sales for a major television network. For entertainment, he started buying Plumb Bob Shapes at tag sales and auctions, eventually building a collection of great import. His innate intellectual curiosity led him to collect and interpret as much detailed information on the subject as he had Plumb Bobs in his collection. The PLUMB LINE was an avenue to that end. He is a member of MENSA and Intertel and a self taught machinist. He has been married to Kari for 36 years. He is survived by his wife (she must be a saint), his son, a physician in Dallas, his daughter, a 911 Operator for Allen County, and a grandson, Joey, to say nothing of all the Friends he made in the Plumb Bob Collecting Community.

EULOGY

To those who already know it, The PLUMB LINE has become like the Bible to the Believer, the Holy Word on the subject of Bobs to the Plumb Bob Collector. In fact, it remains to this day, the only book on the subject of Plumb Bobs. In a self conscious and modest way it sweeps from being a Primer for collecting Plumb Bobs by “shape” in the first newsletter, to introducing and outlining the big questions left for future research, in the later issues. We learn by reading The PLUMB LINE as Bruce was “learning by doing” the major work of The PLUMB LINE publication.

I met Bruce Cynar several years ago on the internet in order to arrange for the shipment of a Plumb Bob. Casually, I happened to ask a very short and, as I recall, a rather naïve Plumb Bob question. His response was in the form of no less than 250, kind, well crafted, informative, encouraging and witty words. This is the generosity of spirit of the Bruce Cynar that the Tool Collecting Community has come to know, rely on and respect.

Unfortunately, I have only met the man once in person, such is the distance from New England to the Mid West; but hundreds of exchanged emails have allowed me a fair picture of the man. As we exchanged correspondence, it became clear that I had met Bruce at that moment in time when he had accomplished his personal objectives concerning Plumb Bobs, and was on to other interests, Steam Engines and Whistles and GRAND CHILDREN. He was selling off the last of his Bob Collection, and The PLUMB LINE was coming on its 9th birthday as a self published book incorporating the original 16 newsletters.

Earlier this year, as I referred some new Plumb Bob acquaintances to The PLUMB LINE, I discovered that the stock of copies was gone. Having inspired so much of my own thinking on the subject of the Simple Plumb Bob, it seemed unthinkable that reprints would not be available to new and seasoned collectors. Attempting to be encouraging about keeping The PLUMB LINE in print, I confess to badgering Bruce to get the originals to a printer.

Two days later, I suspect in retaliation to my incessant prodding, I received a package from Bruce, sent Priority Mail (Plumb Bob material, to those who know Bruce, always warrants Priority treatment), which included the original 16 newsletters and the following document:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Re: THE PLUMB LINE

This document is to confirm that I Bruce Cynar, author and original publisher of The Plumb Line, do hereby sell all right, title, interest, and future profit potential, including future publication in any form, or amorphous; to Nelson Denny, of the Brush Hill Road Dennys, in exchange for the sum of one U.S. Dollar (\$1.00) and the promise of a future meal (anticipated); ever lasting friendship (appreciated); and the occasional cocktail (sometimes needed, sometimes over-served, but always enjoyed).

This document outlines the totality, sum and complete transaction, except for the things I may think of at a later date.

(signed)

R. Bruce Cynar, Party of the First Part.....Indeed The Sum of all His Parts

(dated)

(Witness)

Rainbow Bird

Bruce, once again, you have taught me a lesson, this time about Endings and Beginnings!

THE PLUMB LINE CONTINUUM – *The Immediate Future*

Having been tagged as the new Editor and Chief my immediate priority was to get The Plumb Line back in print quickly. In the form of THE PLUMB LINE CONTINUUM, the New Edition incorporates some “structural improvements”, a new Table of Contents, a sequential page numbering system linking all 16 issues, and an Index, all adding to the convenience of navigating the original newsletters. A new article and additional photographs supplement the content.

THE PLUMB LINE CONTINUUM – *What’s Ahead*

Operating in the spirit of the original newsletter, it is hoped that readers, will come to see the “CONTINUUM” as a repository for additional information on Plumb Bobs. Bruce’s *Original Three Goals* still stand, as my own. During my term as Editor, aside from keeping this New Edition in print, it is my personal goal that future volumes will appear, made up of New Newsletters on Advanced Plumb Bob Topics and feature stories on the Great Collectors and Plumb Bob Collections of the World.

The Editor