

OCTOBER 2021

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Carvers,

Our monthly second Tuesday programs continue. I encourage you to attend and register for the November 9th one featuring Eric Owens of Boise sharing **Carving Tips and Techniques** from his teaching experience. The October pyrography program was great; and the recording and handout are on our website's Video Gallery, [click here](#), along with all previous programs.

We are skipping December, but for January Chuck Rinehart will present a series of slides about his recent Grinling Gibbons UK tour with Mary May. Besides his carving expertise, Chuck is an excellent photographer. Grinling Gibbons died in 1721, so why should we care? Come find out. Could he be the greatest carver of all time?

If you are interested in purchasing a hard copy of the Leroy Setziol retrospective catalog from his 1991 U of O exhibition, please [contact me](#). (You can already [download it for free](#).) The U of O museum needed to make space, and we were able to get their remaining inventory.

I am happy to say that Roger Crooks agreed to create a sharpening class for beginners. It is in development and will include a handout, pre-class videos, and a hands-on workshop. There is more information below.

I'm also happy to report that Ray Curtis agreed to research Gouge Chip Carving as a possible new beginner module. Most of us never heard of this style, but it has considerable appeal.

You will quickly see that this newsletter has a very long article showing the work of a contemporary carver named John Zipprich, who has done a lot of restoration work at Timberline Lodge. Thanks to Jim Spitzer for "discovering" him and taking the time to research, photograph, and write the article. Jim has an eagle eye for carvers and carvings as he travels the region.

Wishing you well as we all wait for opportunities to meet and carve together in person.



[Larry Wade](#), President, 503-312-7745

On behalf of the Board

[Roger Crooks](#), Vice President

[Terry Burnside](#), Secretary and Webmaster

[Diana Groseclose-Larabee](#), Treasurer

[Jim Spitzer](#), Sponsor Coordinator

I encourage you to subscribe to the national club's Chip Chats magazine for \$20 by going to <http://www.chipchats.org>, or sign up for their new monthly newsletter.

**Our Mission: Encourage carvers at all levels through education, fellowship, and mentoring**

## Upcoming Programs

➔ **FREE Carving Tips and Techniques — NOV 9, 7:00 PM** [Click here](#) to register

**NOV** Eric Owens is a carving instructor and a leader of the Idaho Woodcarvers Guild. His day job as a high school science teacher translates naturally to teaching carving at the Boise Woodcraft store, club classes in Idaho, and some in Oregon and Washington. Eric will share tips, techniques and biases on a variety of topics including caricature carving, modified flat plane techniques, idea generation, drawing, safety, sharpening and creating prototypes. There will also be bits of demos and of course time for Q&A.

He has two articles on caricature carving in Woodcarving Illustrated (issues 83 & 88), and has a hundred YouTube videos covering a dozen projects (search “Eric Owens carving” on YouTube).



➔ **Reminder No December program because of holiday busyness**

**DEC**

➔ **FREE Grinling Gibbons - UK Trip Report— JAN 11, 7:00 PM** [Click here](#) to register

**JAN** Chuck Rinehart travelled to the UK on an eight day trip organized by Mary May to view the stunning carvings by arguably the world’s best carver. Chuck is a talented photographer and will share some of the jaw-dropping works they viewed and enlighten us with some of the history and background of these works produced circa 1700.



➔ **Candidate Programs are**

**FEB** Programs we’re considering are:

Kelley Stadelman on how she designed, modeled, carved and painted a five foot crucifix.

Roman Chernikov on chip carving — demonstrating his methods & patterns

➔ **FREE Weekly Carving Conversations - Mondays 9:00-10:00 AM, online**

**WEEKLY** You can join an unstructured weekly carving conversation. A small group has been meeting for over six months and welcome others to join. Originally the participants were former Mack Sutter relief carving class students; but it is evolving, and you are welcome to join. The weekly agenda is “no agenda.” Most of us are somewhat surprised that this format works and provides value. [Click here](#) to be added to the weekly email notice and join the conversation, regularly, or whenever you feel like it.

## Upcoming Classes

### Floral Relief Carving Class — online (possibly hybrid)

Saturdays Jan 8 - 22, 9:30-12:00  
 Taught by Larry Wade, [click here](#) to register

This class will carve a slight variation of the fourth of the 12 projects originally taught by Mack Sutter for forty years. Our version will use hardwood instead of basswood, be a bit larger, and not have a carved frame. Tuition and loaner tools are free, but a totally optional and free-will donation to the club is requested upon completion. Your materials cost will be \$15-25 for the hardwood blank (depends on species) and a pre-sawn basswood version for practice. A \$15.50 shipping charge will apply if you can't pick up wood and tools near Beaverton. You will need a strop and a carving hook. To see all the patterns created by Mack Sutter and the three original articles he wrote for Chip Chats, [click here](#).

This workshop will be taught online with Zoom, but some in-person options might be possible depending on the pandemic at the time.



Floral Relief

### Incised Carving Class (free) — online (possibly hybrid)

One Saturday 1:30-4:00 PM, repeated monthly  
 Click on a date to register for one session [Nov 20](#), [Jan 15](#), [Feb 19](#), [Mar 19](#)

This one-session, 2 1/2 hour class is for those new to carving or those who want to try incised carving. The same class repeats each month.

The incised style carves lines into the surface of wood and can be done safely with one tool.

This workshop is for those who have never carved or for carvers who have no incised experience. It is hands-on but over Zoom. If safe from the pandemic, the class might be available simultaneously online and in person (hybrid). You will be provided with free basswood, a loaner tool, patterns, and a carving mat.



Students will carve the DogsWelcome sign shown, then a second project will be started. Students will use a parting (V) tool, and will be shown how an Xacto knife or equivalent can also be used.

### Beginning Sharpening — Interest List

by Roger Crooks, [click here](#) to register

One of our main charters is to preserve the art of carving and to do so requires teaching beginners. We all know sharpening is critical. There are many articles and videos online, and they often show contradictory ways to sharpen. For a beginner with few tools, figuring out how to start sharpening is daunting.

Our philosophy is to start with good tools and keep them sharp with stropping. Reshaping tools, power sharpening, and using stones will be future classes. This beginner's class will be hands-on, as there is a fine line between getting a sharp edge and rolling over the edge making the tool duller. Correcting your technique in real time will start you on the right path to building muscle memory for sharpening.

A paper and several short videos will be available for the class.



Smooth side up or down? Or both?

## New Brochure

The images below show the final stages of our new trifold brochure for use at sponsoring stores and events. What do you think, how can we improve it? The front cover is the right panel of the first page with the image of the head, carved by member Bryan Goad. The second page can't include photos for all carving styles, so our goal is to be attractive enough to motivate a reader to take action and contact us.

**Our Instructors**

We teach introductory and intermediate courses, tailored to the interests and skill levels of our members.

Instructors and monthly speakers include nationally renowned professional carvers such as Mary May and highly experienced amateurs who have developed their craft and art over decades.



Mary May, nationally recognized carver



Chuck Rinehart teaching

**Free Monthly Programs**  
Online, and when practical, in person; educational and recorded

**Newsletter**  
Emailed and available online

**Website**  
Resources, photos, and videos to inspire and teach

**Beginner Classes**  
Relief, incised, and other styles

**Tool Library**  
Try before you buy - an inexpensive way to learn if carving is for you!

**Library**  
Carving reference books, magazines, DVDs, and examples

**Our Location**  
Multnomah Village and other metro Portland area venues - classes also offered online

**Discounts**  
Sponsors offer discounts on selected tools and supplies



Carving by Bryan Goad

**Looking for something?**

No matter how you slice, carve, gouge, chisel, or pare it

**Carving is FUN!**



**Our Mission**  
Encourage carvers at all levels through education, fellowship, and mentoring

oregoncarvers@gmail.com  
[www.oregoncarvers.org](http://www.oregoncarvers.org)

### DESIGN CHALLENGE

We would like to produce a few carved, attractive brochure and business card holders. Can you help with the design?


We have default holders now, so how can we improve on them? How can we start from scratch? Imagine being in a store or at an event - what would be functional, clever, and beautiful?

Email ideas to [Jim Spitzer](mailto:Jim.Spitzer)




Learn carving while creating a variety of attractive designs.


Architectural



Relief




Caricature




Pursue your interests: whimsy, abstract, festive, scenic, or practical!


Classical




Bowls



Whimsical



Signs



Projects and experience will bring out the artist in you!

## Upcoming Events

### Lincoln City - Journeys with Wood - now until November 7

Monica Setziol-Phillips is exhibiting her work alongside seven of her former students at the Chessman Gallery, Lincoln City Cultural Center, open 10 - 4, Thursday - Monday, 540 NE Hwy 101, [click here](#). This is an exhibit of works from the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology. [Click here](#) for a virtual tour, which includes Monica.

### Portland - Annual Sitka Art Invitational Exhibit + Sale, only Nov 6 - 7

This is at the World Forestry Center (Miller Hall). See the works of 130 nature-inspired Northwest artists, including Monica Setziol-Phillips, featuring a wide variety of art, including wood. For more information, [click here](#).

### Portland - Ed Quigley - Cowboy Artist Exhibit - through January 23

At the Oregon Historical Society ([click here](#)), Ed Quigley was one of the finest fine art carvers in Oregon's history. He specialized in horses and western themes and was a painter as well as a carver. This exhibit only has two carvings out of dozens, but they are worth seeing, along with his paintings. The Oregon Historical Society is producing an online catalog of all of his carvings by the end of this year, and we will link to those when available.



Ed Quigley: Photo from Oregon Historical Society



## Northwest Carving Academy

Kittitas Valley Event Center

Ellensburg, WA

July 11-15, 2022



The Northwest Carving Academy would like to invite you to spend a fun filled week with some of the country's top woodcarving instructors.



Wayne Barton  
Penny Burns  
Debbe Edwards  
Josh Guge  
Ryan Olsen  
Pat Moore

Charley Phillips  
Mike Reifel  
Bob Travis  
Rich Wetherbee  
Dick Wilk  
Jeff Phares



Check out our website for more information

[www.nwcarvingacademy.com](http://www.nwcarvingacademy.com)



INSTRUCTOR	CLASS TITLE	COST
Wayne Barton	Chip Carving (intermediate-advanced)	\$350
Penny Burns	Nantucket Basket Weaving	\$60/day
Debbe Edwards	Animal TBD	\$425
Pat Moore	Santa with Raggedy Ann Doll	\$400
Ryan Olsen	Barbershop Quartet	\$350
Charley Phillips	Basket of Illusion	\$325
Mike Reifel	Marionette TBD	\$300
Bob Travis	Caricature Carving from Roughout	\$300
Rich Wetherbee	Butternut-Mountain Man	\$325
Dick Wilk	Small Totem	\$300
Josh Guge	TBD	TBD
Leah Jewel	TBD	TBD
Jeff Phares	TBD	TBD
Quilters/Crafters	Bring your own Projects	\$75

NW Carving Academy - Current Instructor Roster

For registration form, [click here](#).

## Carving Nearby

### Capitol Woodcarvers — Salem

For information, [click here](#). Their annual April carving show is well known, and the club has a solid history and reputation. Their monthly meetings are now back in person at Center 50+, they have a class on Wednesdays and open carving on Fridays.

### Coastal Carvers — Lincoln City

For information, [click here](#). Their annual January carving show is a fixture in the state and well worth attending but they had to cancel the January 2022 show because the casino isn't taking reservations for group events. The club meets weekly on Sundays from October through May.

### Vancouver / King's Way Carvers — weekly on Thursdays

Thursday evenings 6:00 - 9:00 PM (summer 9:00 - noon). Contact Jim Mather at 360-931-0079, [jimmatherxx@gmail.com](mailto:jimmatherxx@gmail.com). This group has been meeting since 2007 in a first class art room at a large private high school at 3606 NE 78th in Vancouver (Hazel Dell). The facility is locked so call ahead for the access code. They are a friendly, experienced group of carvers with a variety of interests.

### Milwaukie Woodcarvers — weekly on Wednesdays, 8:30 - 11:30

This established group has recently restarted in-person carving sessions at the Milwaukie Center; walk-ins welcome, small fee of \$1 or \$2 fee per session. Support for beginning carvers provided. The address is 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr, Milwaukie, OR 97222 (off Hwy 224 near Rusk Rd).

### Central Oregon Wood Carvers — Bend

A group of carvers in and around Bend, for information contact [Scott Beyer](#).

### NW Carving Academy, Ellensburg, WA July 11-15, 2022

This is a long-established, week-long educational opportunity with multiple instructors from around the region and country. For information, [click here](#).

### Olympia Woodworkers Guild

They occasionally have interesting carving presenters for their monthly meetings. For information contact Bill Cogswell at [info@owwg.org](mailto:info@owwg.org) or see [owwg.org/blog](http://owwg.org/blog).

### Port Townsend School of Woodworking

A very important regional resource that frequently has visiting carving professionals, including Mary May. For information, visit [ptwoodschoool.org](http://ptwoodschoool.org).

### Idaho Carvers Guild

This is a long-established group of carvers in and around Boise that have some meetings online and some in person. For information, contact Eric Owens at [idahowoodcarvers@gmail.com](mailto:idahowoodcarvers@gmail.com).

### California Carvers Guild (CCG)

This statewide umbrella organization supports over 40 clubs throughout the state and has a very long and deep history. Local clubs produce a variety of notable shows and events, while CCG produces a comprehensive newsletter called The Log, and trains judges for shows. [Click here](#) for their website.

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### Other Oregon or Regional clubs? —

To list others, [click here](#).

## John Zipprich

### Searching for a Great Oregon Carver — John Zipprich Found!

By Jim Spitzer

My wife Susan and I spend a lot of time on the road during the fair weather season - over 70 days this summer. We explore nature, small towns, and beautiful country. I am always on the lookout for inspiring woodworking and fine carving. I stumbled across a 'gold mine' early on our last trip; and I learned that while much of the carving work of this craftsman and artist is original, he has also reproduced many historically important works, and sculpted disappearing works!

At Government Camp, Oregon, on the flanks of Mount Hood, is a wonderful Visitor Center that honors fire lookouts, contemporary recreational activities, Oregon Trail settlers taking the Barlow Road (the last overland section of the Oregon Trail), and Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers who built the iconic and historic Timberline Lodge high on the mountain during the Great Depression.

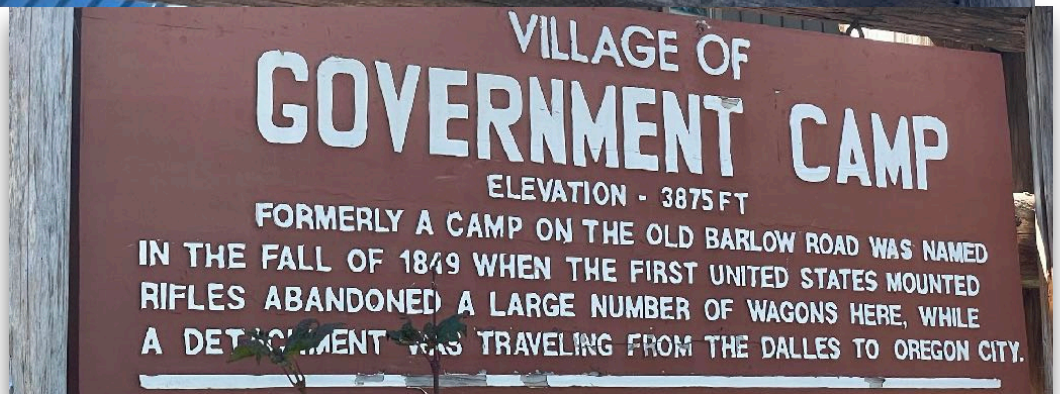
Above the stairway in the Visitor Center lobby is a large (about 3 x 6 feet), almost 30-year-old, scenic relief carving depicting recreation on the mountain: hikers, naturalists, skiers, and mountain bikers. Its title is "Elevated Conscienceness." The label names the artist: John Zipprich. Being a relatively new carver, I did not recognize the name. I enjoyed the carving and we moved on to camp at nearby Trillium Lake.



Government Camp Sign



Note: All photos are by Jim Spitzer unless otherwise noted



## John Zipprich

The next week we were in Tygh Valley, east of Mt. Hood. A day trip took us to the lovely little community of Maupin, a river runners' mecca on the edge of cliffs overlooking the Deschutes River. While walking about the town we noticed the library in a brand new City Hall building. As lovers of books we walked in and my eyes were immediately drawn to two large scenic relief carvings (each about 3 x 6 feet) on each side of the entry.

The friendly librarian sitting at her desk, under a carving of a salmon created by her husband, told us that Maupin had commissioned these pieces for this new building. A local log home builder had donated the wood.

The first carving celebrates the railroad running through the canyon below Maupin (that connects communities along the Deschutes River to the mighty Columbia River to the North), rafters running white-water rapids, basalt columns on the rocky river bank, and a fly fishermen. The second carving celebrates the high desert above Maupin, with farmers harvesting wheat, ranchers grazing their herds on the rich rolling hills of loess deposited by winds after the last ice age, and sweeping views of the Cascades and Mt. Hood in the distance.

The librarian told me the name of the artist. I thought, "What was the name of the artist who carved the large relief at Government Camp?"

Sure enough, the same artist, John Zipprich! And the librarian knew he lived in Pine Grove, about a 15-mile drive toward Mt. Hood!



Maupin, OR Library signs





## John Zipprich

The next day, we drove a sparsely traveled byway to the tiny community of Pine Grove in search of John Zipprich. The Post Office, a last tavern, and a last general store were shuttered long ago. A few homes were spread out over a mile or so along the road. Who to ask? At the far end of town we finally saw a person at a heavy equipment repair shop. We asked for help finding Mr. Zipprich. Bingo! Mr. Zipprich lives about a half mile back. We pull into his driveway, and he walks toward us with a friendly Black Labrador named Teeko who was carrying an automobile tire in his mouth. After a '30 second elevator pitch' describing why we were here, he welcomes us. We spend over an hour in animated conversation with John, concluding with a farewell tasting of his 'high-octane' rhubarb wine.

Born in Los Gatos, CA, John grew up with a pocket knife in hand, always whittling. He recalled whittling the miles away in the back seat of the car during a long road trip to visit Midwestern relatives. A Cub Scout leader once took away his knife for making a cut (on wood) toward his body! In 1960, when John was in second grade, his family moved to Tualatin, OR, where his father became mayor. In 1967, the family moved to Welches, OR, at the western foot of Mt. Hood. During his teenage years John often skied on Mt Hood and was always being inspired by the craftsmanship, woodwork, and carvings at the iconic Timberline Lodge. His whittling advanced to several other styles of carving including this scenic relief carved when he was 19 years old.



John Zipprich and Black Lab "Teeko" welcomes us



Carved at 19 years old

## John Zipprich

John got a maintenance job at the Timberline Lodge starting with the restoration of furniture. Linny Adamson, the Timberline Lodge curator since 1979, discovered his carving talent and put it to work on creating signs and other wood projects. After 15 years John set off on his own as a woodworker and carving artisan. John moved to the more affordable eastern side of the mountain in 1992, where he has lived ever since. Over the years, he was awarded many contracts reproducing and repairing Timberline Lodge signage, structure, and carvings that had deteriorated in the harsh environment above timberline. For example, in 2009, he remade the iconic ram head corbels on either side of the main entrance to the Lodge and the 15 x 3 foot Thunderbird on the lintel above the entrance. One day restoration workers will find that under the new 700-pound lintel slab is the old weathered Thunderbird created by an unknown Depression era carver.

In 2020, John remade a life-size buffalo head corbel installed on an exterior wall.



Timberline Lodge entrance, Thunderbird and corbels above the stone entry doorway; Multnomah County Library archival photo



Original Timberline upper entrance with corbels; archival photo



Carving the new Thunderbird sign; photo via John Zipprich



Ram head corbels for the entrance; photo by John Zipprich



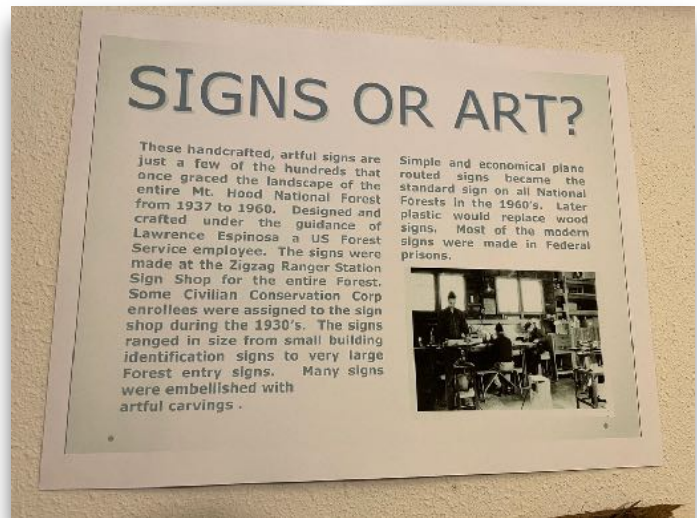
Buffalo head corbel; photo via John Zipprich

John Zipprich

Such restoration projects on Timberline Lodge are being done continuously under the supervision of the curator. Timberline is Oregon's National Historic Landmark owned by the US Forest Service. They must be true to the originals created by WPA artisans in the 1930s. [Click here](#) for a summary of Timberline Lodge preservation efforts in a variety of crafts and arts. One exhibit at the Government Camp Visitor Center asks if carved signs are craft or art? Examples of signs as art are numerous; for example, in many name boards on yachts and in creatively carved town and shop signs in regions of the country such as New England. John's current commission is a sign for the Timberline Summit Pass.



Sample historic signs



Text reads:

“These handcrafted, artful signs are just a few of the hundreds that once graced the landscape of the entire Mt. Hood National Forest from 1937 to 1960. Designed and crafted under the guidance of Lawrence Espinosa a US Forest Service employee. The signs were made at the Zigzag Ranger Station Sign Shop for the entire Forest. Some Civilian Conservation Corp enrollees were assigned to the sign shop during the 1930s. The signs ranged in size from small building identification signs to very large Forest entry signs. Many signs were embellished with artful carvings. Simple and economical plane routed signs became the standard sign on all National Forests in the 1960s. Later plastic would replace wood signs. Most of the modern signs were made in Federal prisons.”

## John Zipprich

While restoration work at the Lodge was important and challenging, this was not an opportunity for creating original works such as the large scenic reliefs that initiated our search for him, and which became his specialty. John also carved: Olympic skiers residing on a wall at Charlie's Mountain View, a classic Government Camp watering hole; the Tum-A-Lum Lumber Company's Indian head logo, a Gifford Pinchot National Forest sculpture commemorating an Native American Treaty, and numerous works in private collections.

Although he has been an excellent and prolific carver, other jobs have been required to pay the bills. For example, John worked a maintenance job at the beautiful Imperial River Company (an inn, pub, restaurant and river guide company) in Maupin which is the jumping off point for many white-water river rafting trips down the Deschutes. It also features one of John's large scenic relief carvings over the fireplace mantle in the lobby, a fly fisherman wearing cool sunglasses reeling in a large salmon.



Tum-A-Lum Lumber sign; photo from John Zipprich



Carving over the Imperial River Company lobby fireplace

# John Zipprich

While we visited John, he had just finished a work that was far smaller than most of his carvings. It was for the entry to a luxury bed and breakfast in the wine country of Dundee, Oregon. This deep relief carving on Claro Walnut depicts wine glasses touching in a toast on a background of grapes. I've included photos of his original design and the back of the work showing splines that stabilize the piece as it expands and contracts over the seasons.



John with finished sign



Original design on paper



Back of sign showing expansion splines



Finished sign

# John Zipprich

In the opening paragraph I noted John's disappearing art. While at Timberline, John got to know members of the Schnee Vogeli Ski Club which has had a rich history since its formation during the outbreak of World War II. Through contacts with various club members, John competed in snow sculpture competitions in many places, including: Russia; Sapporo, Japan (a sister city of Portland); Finland; and elsewhere. He won first place at a Breckinridge, CO, event where competitors started with a 12-foot high, 25-ton block of snow! Disappearing carving!

As a young professional carver, John was inspired by Leroy Setziol. Although they never met, John started carving more abstract images such as a recent large piece shown rising up to his shoulders, and many other abstract pieces. However, John realizes that his own style is not that of Setziol.



Snow sculpture, photo by John Zipprich



Contemporary carving



More Setziol-inspired pieces; photo by John Zipprich

## John Zipprich

John's shop was originally a one-car detached garage that has had many windows added. It is a pleasant woodworking environment. He uses it year-round for the messy jobs of roughing out pieces with router and chainsaw.

However, hand tool work during cold weather months is done in the South facing sun room just off the main entry to his home.



Sun room and work room

Many of his carvings are of the Cascade Mountains; especially Mount Hood, Timberline Lodge, and Government Camp. Therefore it is fitting to conclude with a photograph of John sitting on a chair from the Magic Mile chairlift, the longest chairlift in existence when constructed above Mt. Hood's timberline in 1938.



John Zipprich

Timberline Carver of the Mountains!

For a PBS video interview, [click here](#)

For Timberline Lodge, [click here](#)