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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A SPLINTERED HISTORY OF WOOD

Belt Sander Races, Blind Woodworkers, and Baseball Bats

By Spike Carlsen

"Carlsen gives a solid history of wood as he travels the world, analyzing the vast number of uses of a mundane natural resource. In doing so, Carlsen also uncovers the wide variety of personalities that work with wood every day from the chainsaw artists appropriately named 'Wild Mountain Man' to the blind cabinetmaker who can 'see things with his fingers that you may not see with your eyes' ..."

– Publishers Weekly

What do Babe Ruth's fearless bat, Stradivari's priceless violins, Howards Hughes' ill-fated Spruce Goose and the roof over your head have in common? All are part of the dynamic history of wood; a remarkable substance with an equally remarkable story to tell.

In *A SPLINTERED HISTORY OF WOOD* (Collins; On-Sale: August 26, 2008; ISBN: 9780061373565, \$24.95, Hardcover) Spike Carlsen travels thousands of miles and interviews hundreds of woodworkers and enthusiasts taking us on a journey to the people and places that tell wood's complex story. Carlsen introduces us to the world's most extraordinary woods, including the 50,000 year old Kauri wood found in the bogs of New Zealand; takes us into the

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A SPLINTERED HISTORY OF WOOD/ cont'd

workshops of woodworkers ranging from former President Jimmy Carter to the world's greatest woodcarver; and has us join him as he competes at the world championship belt sander races.

We see the vital role wood has in our daily activities from it's common practical uses as pencils and toothpicks to it's creation of musical instruments including James Taylor's guitars and Steinway pianos, to sports equipment ranging from Louisville Slugger baseball bats, to golf tees, to tennis rackets. We learn about some of the world's most outrageous wooden structures from the Spruce Goose, the largest aircraft built in it's day; to the "Miraculous Staircase" in Santa Fe, New Mexico; to medieval catapults; to Livio De Marchi's Casa die Libri, where everything including the chairs, stove, table settings, and curtains are made from wood.

In the spirit of *Salt and Oranges*, *A SPLINTERED HISTORY OF WOOD* examines the singular commodity that is wood and provides us with it's most interesting splinters of history making the case that wood is one of nature's greatest gifts.

About the Author

Spike Carlsen is an editor, author, carpenter and woodworker, who has been immersed in the world of wood and woodworking for over 30 years. He is the former Executive Editor of *The Family Handyman* magazine where he wrote hundreds of articles on home improvement and oversaw the creation of dozens of books including the revised *Readers Digest: Complete Do-It-Yourself Manual*. He has written articles for *Old House Journal*, *Fine Homebuilding*, *Workbench*, *The Minneapolis Star Tribune*, and other publications. He has appeared on the CBS Early Show, HGTV and dozens of other television and radio shows. He currently writes "Ask Spike" for *Backyard Living* magazine.

About the Book

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