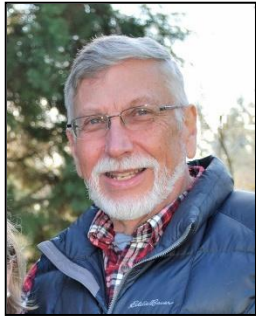**Wooden Artwork by Lee Eick – July 2020**

I retired "cold turkey" in the Fall of 2013 after 39 years with a great, great company. The first 3 months felt like an extended vacation. But, at the end of December that year, I was worried I might be heading for the longest, most boring year of my life. It was anything but that, thankfully. With the arrival of grandkids (seven now) and volunteer work, I struggled to say "No" – just like my workdays Vicki said. I volunteered to lead the renovation of our church's 1930s gymnasium (old Albany HS) where I spent the better part of 3 months leading volunteers on scissor lifts working walls and ceiling. Project management is still fun!
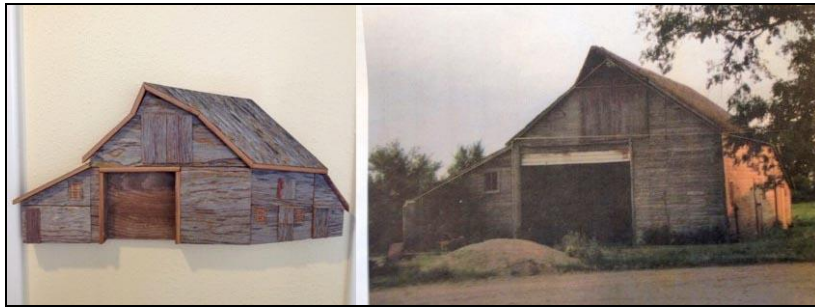
I have always enjoyed working with wood, although I classify myself as a wood artist versus a finished carpenter. I grew up helping my dairy farmer dad build barns in Western NY state, which got me interested in structural engineering. So last year, I took the step in adding a wood shop to a storage shed we have.

I learned long ago you hire out concrete work, but I called on friends for a barn-raising weekend. I also learned from George "Wideflange" Dotson as an E1, "When in doubt, go stout." That is why I doubled up studs at seams of

tung and groove T1-11 siding so I could nail the daylights out of the siding; ready for Oregon's overdue "Big One." The shop is a great place to hang out, but also serves to display memories like my now-outdated Nebraska, Colorado, and Oregon Civil and Structural License certificates.

Here is some of my wooden art. First is the farm I grew up on. Second is a replica of a family barn that I

assembled from boards from a friend's demolished barn in Nebraska. I made six for their siblings who wanted the memory.

Then, of course, doll boxes and planter boxes for four granddaughters. I was able to get two to help with the nail gun.

Covid has sure made this a challenging year. Vicki and I hope you are all well. It makes me appreciate my shop even more for fun projects.