

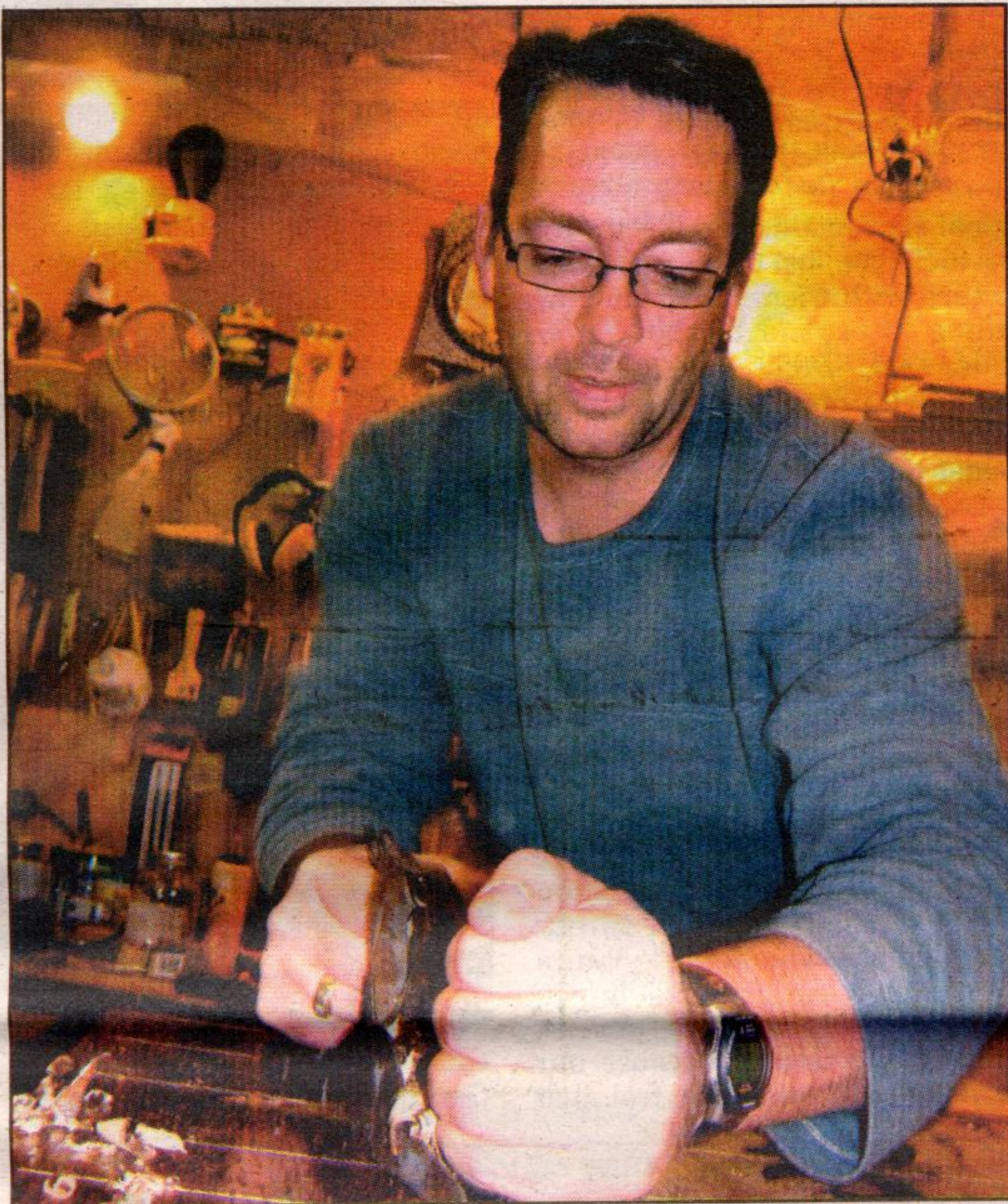
board & batten

ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME & GARDEN

'Tables in the Key of C'

Erin's furniture artist Cam Lavers

STORY AND PHOTO BY ANN KORNUA



Cam Lavers has a passion for strong beautiful pieces of furniture. At his studio in Erin he will sit down with clients to custom build a unique piece of furniture using traditional woodworking joints and hand carving to create his pieces.

There is no style that he cannot replicate. From tables inspired by music to the world's largest pepper mill, Cam is always busy dreaming up the next big project.

Cam first worked as a hobbyist, learning from his parents as they refinished old pieces of furniture. "My parents would take me on what I like to call 'The Festival of the Curb'. We would find discarded furniture and breathe new life into it. My mom had a great eye for finding things." Cam was in the telecom industry for 17 years before making the leap from technology to art. "After the telephone/internet boom, the last two companies I worked for went bankrupt, so I decided to do something else," Cam explained.

One of Cam's pieces is a table that resembles the elements of a guitar which he calls 'Tables in the Key of C'. "I saw some of work of a designer by the name of Brad Jenkins from New Jersey and was just in awe. I kept checking out his website, which is very modern. I wanted to

use a bridge theme in one of my tables, thinking of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge design. I just didn't know how to incorporate the wires in the piece until one night I thought of using guitar strings."

Cam's vision quickly changed from a bridge theme to a musical one once he thought of guitar strings. "I drew it out and built the prototype and started selling it through galleries. I still have plans to build a bridge table as well as a waterfall and blacksmith themed table."

Cam's goal is to make a full living selling his furniture in galleries, and in the meantime has achieved success building and selling pepper mills. Cam took home the award for the world's largest pepper mill at Erin's Fall Fair this year and everywhere he goes, people want his mills. "Between projects, the pepper mills keep the creative juices flowing and it is easier to sell pepper mills than furniture."

"My work has got to be 'original,'" Cam explains. "I love it when people see my work and say wow. I enjoy creating beauty out of thoughts and visions."

To check out some of Cam's designs, visit his online studio at www.camlavers-designs.com.

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