



**James Barr
Santa Gallery**



Santa Carver James Barr

Woodcarver: James Barr

Born: 1962 - St. Joseph, MO

Lives: Savannah, MO with wife Linda and two sons Denver & Morgan

James Barr's father, Lowell, was a carpenter-cabinet maker and James was quick to follow in his footsteps. He developed many skills that help him in his woodworking today.

While in High School James was given a book by Harold Enlow on Carving Ozark Style Caricatures and an inexpensive set of carving tools. He was instantly hooked.

One year later James was attending a local college studying architecture designs when by chance one of his instructors, David Baird, brought in a mountain man that he had carved out of Walnut. after a zillion questions he told James if he was serious about woodcarving there was only one person to talk to, a man by the name of Peter Engler who had just opened up a new shop in Branson, MO.

Off to Branson He went.

After a short visit with Peter, and sharing some of his recent carvings, Peter told James to come back when he had the time and he would share some pointers with him.

A few weeks later James was back. Peter put James behind a work bench and said he would be right back. Three days later Peter returned (to this day James isn't sure whether this was a test of patience or if he just forgot he was there), but Peter did return with his knife and quickly showed James how to put expressions on faces with just a few simple cuts.

Time went by and James became a regular in the Branson shop. Englers workshop developed into "Engler Block" featuring one of the biggest woodcarving shops in the country. There James was able to work with and look over the shoulders of the best of the best like Peter, Richard and John Engler, Jon Henry Thompson, Jesse Kuhs, even Bob Robertson would stop by as well as so many others.

James would carve something and then the "Pros" would critic it often having him recarve parts several times. Although this

method was hard to take from time to time James is so thankful for it now ... and his beautiful carvings display this tireless work ethic.

After Peter sold the "Engler Block" James started selling his woodcarvings through different galleries including Silver Dollar City, J Kuhs and Assc, and Engler Designs. He also markets and sells his work through various shows and events.

Today James specializes in Large Santa log carvings. He prefers to carve catalpa but also creates his art from basswood and butternut when available. He also designs and builds furniture including arch top trunks with relief carved lids. James doesn't use patterns preferring to draw the design as he works.

James may have been stranded at Peter Engler's workshop for three days, but for a woodcarver, that can be a pretty nice place to be.

