

## Manchester man brings Jersey Devil to life

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When Charles Cornell moved from Sayville, Long Island to Cedar Glen Homes five years ago, he began reading New Jersey folklore and history. He was particularly fascinated by the story of the Jersey Devil.

The accounts of this legendary beast are contradictory, so he read all the sources he could find to discover what the devil was supposed to look like.

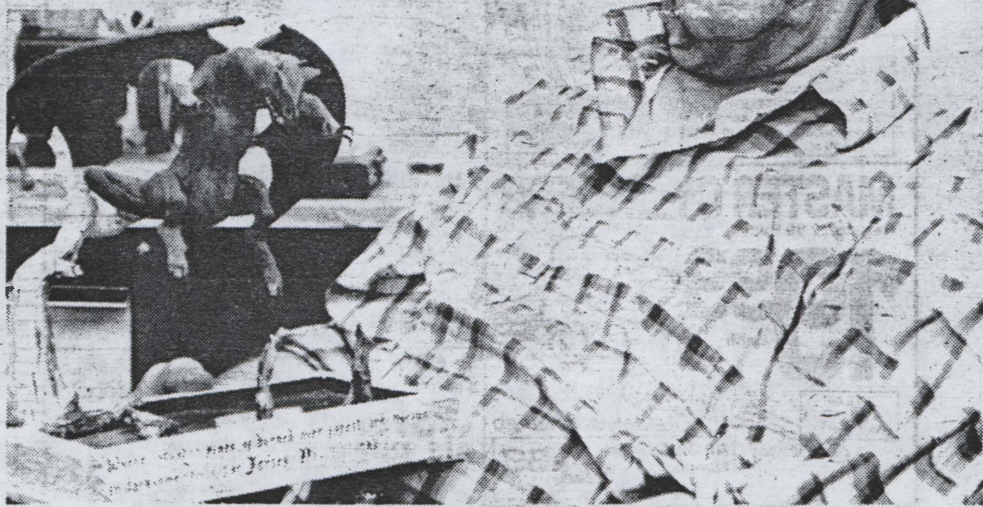
His research inspired him to carve a 3-D figure. He pointed out that others had composed poems about the devil or sketched him but he hadn't heard of anyone creating a three dimensional one.

Charlie thought he was the man for the job and no doubt about it, he was. For years he made models out of leather, metal and wood. He knows how to work with his hands. For example, two years ago, he began carving decoys which brought him recognition in what has become a crowded field.

His creation of the Jersey Devil is dif-

ferent and special. Indeed, it is the very essence of devilry, those who see it react to it with instant delight. Charlie said he wanted his creature poised to land in a cedar swamp with wings spread out as if he was ready to pounce on the viewer. It seems to be doing exactly what he envisaged and that is no small feat.

He carved the body out of tupelo wood  
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SHAWN GARRETT via COUD—I

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## Jersey Devil comes alive

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except for the wings, which he made of bass wood and bent them to shape before painting them black.

He soddered brass rods to make claws for the fore feet and the hind feet of course are cloven. He made the teeth separately, painted them white and inserted them in the devil's large red mouth. Charlie admitted that the dental work was rather tricky.

He decided to make the body green and anyone who looks closely discovers scars on both sides of the rib-cage. Why?

According to legend, the Jersey Devil was hit by a bullet or missile while Commodore Stephen Decatur was testing ballistics at Hanover Furnace near Browns Mills in Burlington County. Historians would de-

bate the presence of Decatur at the furnace during the War of 1812, but let's not spoil a good story. It shows how thorough Charlie was to include the scars.

Finally, Charlie inscribed the base with this sentence, which he attributes to 1920's author and preacher, Father Beck, who had traveled around the state:

Where stunted pines of burned-over forest are revealed in darksome pools, the Jersey Devil lurks.

Charlie's wife Frances thinks that her husband's enthusiasm for his hobbies keeps him out of mischief. We have all heard that the devil finds something for idle hands to do, but maybe Charlie got the best of him for once by carving him.