



BIG DEAL

A Green Monster

Finding a home for a 1-ton relic isn't light work.

THE OBJECT OF DESIRE

An antique cast-iron band saw that stands more than 8 feet tall and weighs close to 1 ton. After advertising on the Old Woodworking Machines website (owwm.com), the seller let it go for \$500, exactly what he had paid for it when he bought it in 1976.

THE SELLER



Stephen Cabitt, 53, purchased the hefty machine in Charlestown, where he once had a live/work space. "I was able to live there for \$150 a month," he recalls.

"You can probably get a parking ticket for that there now." Today the cabinet-maker is based in Rowley. Cabitt wasn't using the old saw much. He says it's better suited for someone like a furniture maker, who handles larger pieces of wood. "I was holding onto it not so much because I was so fond of it but just because it was part of me." But when he saw a smaller and newer band saw at auction, he knew he had to clear space for it. Cabitt initially had difficulty selling the old saw, which he estimates was made around 1910. "Some machinery dealers saw it and said, 'Good luck.' . . . I was afraid I might have to bring it to the junkyard."

THE BUYER



Furniture maker Peter Benedict, 33, had been looking for this kind of machine for about a year. "I was psyched, because it's so hard to find these

big old machines in New England," he says. "There are a lot in California, Texas, and the Midwest, but when you add shipping, it ends up costing about \$2,000." A graduate of Boston's esteemed North Bennet Street trade school, Benedict recently opened a shop in Natick. He says that after spending about eight hours greasing the saw and repainting it green (its original color), it's a perfect complement to his workshop, which also features a 60-year-old table saw and a 100-year-old jointer. "I definitely had some concerns about the floor of my barn holding up," he says. "I've been trying not to eat any big lunches." — Patrick Gerard Healy