



PoPop Sam's Scraper

It's not an especially good scraper. Plastic, without a retractable blade, it was a Stanley and PoPop Sam's favorite. His garage workshop held a trove of tools—with them, his grandson thought, you could fix most anything. He taught kids how to carve bows from local trees; he could nock an arrow, then shoot it with a freshly hewn weapon of his own. On the Gulf of Mexico, he'd take his grandson fishing. For bait, they'd hook live crabs, cast into the currents, and catch sharks. (He knew all the best spots.) PoPop Sam beat a shark to death with a baseball bat—his grandson and fellow adventurer, remembers this fondly. No wonder his bedtime stories were the best you'd ever heard.