



THE MANGER SCENE

White Pine

Luke 2:7

*And she gave birth to her first-born son
and wrapped him in swaddling cloths,
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them
in the inn.*

This was my first Biblical sculpture of any significance. We were living in Baltimore, MD, at the time and I saw a simple drawing on a Sunday School hand-out sheet that had a nice design composition and looked like it might be something I could do, or at least try to do. I went to a local lumber yard and bought a piece of white pine, four inches square and about four feet long. That was the shortest piece the lumber yard would sell me, as it had to be cut from a longer piece which, I believe, was twelve feet long. I remember that I wasn't sure how I was going to get the star suspended.

In the drawing it looked simple. As for the tools used for this piece, I only had a set of Exacto knives and about three gouges. Looking back at this piece and some of the other earlier ones, I realize that I must have had good close-up eyesight, which favored the carving of small faces and hands.