

HOT IRON NEWS

NORTHWEST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 9203

SEATTLE, WA 98109

FIRST OF ALL.....

There seems to have been some sort of confusion about membership and the March 30th meeting at Enclume! The \$7.50 sent to Enclume was for DINNER (the little form at the bottom of the last page in the last newsletter marked REGISTRATION). Membership in NWBA (little form at the top of the last page of the last newsletter marked MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION) is \$10.00 and was orig to be sent to the secretary. If you did not do this you are not listed as a member. This is IMPORTANT as this is the LAST newsletter that will be sent to non-members. We do not have the money to send newsletters to the world for nothing (as regrettable as it may seem) and it is unfair to those who have joined. SO....'nuff said. Get your memberships in.

SECOND.....

The Board of Directors has decided go with the proposal by Fred Holder and Steve Roecker made at the March 30th meeting. (Unless there are serious objections from the membership). For those who weren't at the meeting or don't remmember it concerns the publication of The Blacksmith's Gazette. Members of the NWBA will receive it as part of their membership. Since we will subscribe as a whole it will cost us only half the regular rate. Other benifits are: we will get a computerized list of members with address and membership renewal date; we will have our own columns for news, dates of meeting, etc.; NWBA will also have a listing for membership information.. who to write, dues, etc. PLUS 10 or 12 pages of good articles, stories, photo's of help and interest to Northwest Smiths and friends. In addition the initial circulation will be 6,000. This wide exposure will certainly help increase our support and maybe get some people who haven't heard about us into our august assemblage. All this is covered by your membership fee, don't send any more money (unless it's just gathering dust). Smiths (both professional and non-professional) will have a place to advertise, a forum for ideas, tools, books, and so on. The Gazette will be published beginning July. If you were at the March meeting you saw the first page. Looked really nice!

ALSO... Blacksmith's Gazette is looking for Items, stories, photo's, and/or tips, etc. about blacksmithing. They can't pay yet, but you will get a byline or photo credit and contributors copies.

For further information on advertising, submitting articles or photos, or just to tell lies, contact:

Steve Roecker  
Editor  
Blacksmith's Gazette  
P.O. Box 1268  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

/s/ Charles Powell  
NWBA Sec'y/Treas.

### WE'RE OFFICIAL!

The NWBA charter has been duly notarized and sent off, and we now have an official address. As Chuck Powell points out on Page 1, the membership drive is proceeding nicely, but there are still some of you out there who have not sent in your dues, so get that check off today! Please note that you should continue to send NWBA-related items (meeting announcements, etc) to us and not directly to the Gazette. They are providing us space, but it's too much to ask of them to keep our business straight. Articles, etc may be sent directly to the Gazette as Chuck points out.

### COLUMBIA LIVES!

Plans are now being drawn to hold the second annual Columbia River Metal-smiths Conference at Camp Rilea near Astoria. Those who attended last year know what a great success it was, and with a little work this year can be even better!

A date in September is planned to avoid conflicts with the Santa Cruz conference. We're now looking for suggestions/volunteers to help plan the conference. If you have any ideas or would like to help, please get in touch with Dwight Irish or Jack Slack.

### MEETINGS!

We are now trying to prepare the summer schedule of meetings. The anvil repair clinic has had to be pushed back, but we will try to have it soon. Meanwhile if you have any suggestions for meetings and particularly if you can host a meeting or an Open Forge, please contact Jack Slack.

### YEA, STEAM!

Harry Robinson will be demonstrating at the Antique Power rally the last weekend in July, first weekend in August, held at Brooks, OR (near Salem).

### FIRE BUILDING TO FORGE WELDING!

Fire Mt. Forge is offering an intensive weekend workshop June 28-29. Class is limited to four students; tuition is \$75.00. Subject matter will be tailored to the individual students needs, from beginning to advanced. For more information contact Terry Carson or Daryl Nelson at 206/832-6280.

### BLACKSMITHING AT OTCC!

Courses in Farriery (Bill Miller) and Basic Blacksmithing (Dorothy Steigler) are offered at Olympia Technical Community College. Next classes are scheduled for the Fall 1980 quarter. For more information contact the Registrar, OTCC, Olympia WA.

For those who have not heard, or for whom important details are lacking, here is up to date information on the ABANA-CBA Joint Conference coming up in August, this year. The dates are 21 through 24 August, with registration the afternoon and evening of the 20th. Registration packets have been mailed to the most current memberships of the Calif. Blacksmith Assoc. and ABANA, the joint sponsors, and should be in your hands by now. While we have attempted to obtain mailing lists for all non ABANA and non CBA members, none emerged, so many who may wish to attend the Conference have not been reached by our direct mail packages. If you have not received your registration materials and information, please write to Reb Monaco, Joint Conf. Treasurer, 6991 Southside Rd., Hollister, Calif., 95023, and he will respond immediately with your packet. The packet contains all the housekeeping details of lodging, eats, transportation, some university rules, and the call for early registration; a number of questions have been anticipated, so we hope you can find your way fairly easily with what will be sent to you.

Ah, yes, the program. It was decided by the Joint Conference Committee to make a conference out of an impressive range rather than out of spectacle and big names, so here is a bit of what is in store; panel discussions on metallurgy, blade-making, damascus steel, making business agreements, and working non-ferrous metals are to be held, as well as marketing and survival for the individual smith. Not just all panel talk, either - these are participation seminars, and experience has shown them to turn into pretty lively discussions, indeed. You will be introduced to Steve Rosenberg, Chris Ray, Joel Schwartz, John Dittmeier, Jud Nelson, Dorothy Stiegler, Darryl Meier, Tom Gipe, Dwight Irish, Wayne Potratz, Phil Baldwin, George Martin, Karl Schroen, Dave Reis, Toby Hickman, Fritz Hagist, Joe Anderson, Doug Carmichael, Genero Calabrese, and others, as they talk about or demonstrate iron casting, forge work in iron, steel, and other metals, drawing iron with pencil and sketchbook, historic ironwork and trip hammer maintenance, plus arc-welding for the blacksmith shop, and even some shoeing. If any of these names are familiar, it is probably more because you are acquainted as freinds than because they are prominent names. Where the names are recognizable, they are most apt to be talking about or demonstrating something not readily associated with them. The common characteristic of the list, so far, is that they have been picked to share things with us that they know well, and can get across, and this they can be counted upon to do to your sizeable enjoyment.

All the while, the Yoshihara Brothers, of Tokyo, Japan, will forge a Japanese Blade. (There are 2 things every metalworker must see in his/her lifetime- a steel mill in operation and a Japanese Sword being made) Alfred Shmidt, from Germany, and Simon Benetton, from Italy, will be sharing attitudes, designs, and techniques with which they have had long experience.

Thus there will be a great deal going on, and you will have to manage your schedule well to see it all, but it is being staged so you can, whatever your interests. So come prepared to be kept quite busy with all that is to be presented. It will be a little exhausting, perhaps, but when you leave, you will KNOW you have been to a conference.

## BLACKSMITHS HAVE A BASH

March 30 finally arrived. After many long nights of rushing to get the shop put in order, the 300# hammer was running, the steam whistle in place, the spit was greased and ready, and the doors were thrown open to 90 eager smiths and friends and the program began. Jim and Stuart led us through the mysteries of power hammers, starting with tools and techniques for the 50# and 100# Little Giants. After a break for a group picture and a look at Andy Bennett's slide show, and a (mercifully) short business meeting, everybody headed for the chow line where 60# of barbecued baron of beef, innumerable baked potatoes and loaves of bread, and gallons of salad and soft drinks started to disappear.

Once sated, we all headed back out to the shop where the demonstrations continued on the 200# air and 300# steam hammers. Jess Spromberg and Dick Day of Bremerton Navy Shipyard showed us a thing or two on the big hammers, not the least of which was working 10# of steel with a 1# pair of tongs. (Why should the tongs weigh more than the job does?) Harry Robinson and Russell Maugans gave us a talk on making swages, and Jim and Stuart drew 7 feet of ribbon out of a piece of railroad rail which they then rolled up into a tight scroll using Stuart's giant sardine can opener.

As the afternoon waned to evening the social hour commenced, a case or two of refreshment appeared, everybody pitched in to put the shop back together, and we all drifted off lusting after a power hammer of our very own.

Special thanks to Jim and Stuart for the Herculean effort they put into making the meeting a success, and special thanks to the food crew and to all of those who showed up for the working parties. See you all at the next meeting!

/s/ Jack Slack

## FOR SALE

- 30 - 24" flat double pickups - \$18/pr
- 6 - 12# straight peen sledges - \$15/ea
- 30 - 1-3/4" cold setts - \$20/ea
- 9 - 3" flatters (no handles) - \$25/ea
- 5 - " " (with handles) - \$32/ea
- 20 - 1 1/2" hot setts - \$15/ea
- asst. straight (back-out) punches - \$12-14/ea
- 8 - #10 Edwards Shears - \$450/ea
- 1 - #15 Edwards Shear - \$500.

All tools are Brand New. To order, call Fire Mt. Forge, 206/832-6280 or -3185

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Brand new Stanley-Atha tools! Hot setts, 1/4" & 3/4" punches, 3/8" square punches, \$8/ea. Also: 50# anvil (like new) - \$50. 4" leg vice on portable mount - \$85. Forges - 1 with hand blower, \$50. 1 with Electric blower, \$100. Call Don Kuehne, 206/878-4936.

The Spring Conference of the California Blacksmiths Association was a very successful event. Organized and run under the always capable hands of Raffi Bedayne and friends, the conference was organized around the demonstration of the more skilled smiths and then a hands on attempt by the participants to duplicate the skills demonstrated.

Imagine if you will a blimp hanger about 150ft long and 75ft wide with a very high ceiling, nestled in the low hills of the California coast. The hanger is now being used as a horse arena so the floor is covered with a couple of feet of dirt. It appears as though a San Francisco Bay fog has invaded the interior as it is difficult to see clearly across the arena but the delightful odor that fills the space tells us the fires of the gods have been lit. There are around 30 forges and many more anvils filling the space. Resounding with the ring from the anvils and the thumping of a 100lb Little Giant trip hammer there is constant activity as participants of this experience improve their abilities. They are producing their own basket handles, animal heads, hammer heads, punches, hinges, leaves, flowers and horse shoes.

The always pleasant Al Bart explains the more practical aspects of chisels, punches and hammer heads. Karl Schroen involves people in the finer aspects of tool tempering and knife making. Toby Hickman, Eric Clausen and George Erb get into the ornamental aspects of smithing.

A highlight of the event was a jump weld performed by Al Bart and two strikers. Two pieces of 3/8" x 2 1/2" bar stock were welded with one piece at a 90° to the center of the other while the local TV cameras recorded the event for posterity.

The experience of the three days was very valuable with the fine techniques given by the demonstrators, the gallery exhibit and the comradary of the other smiths.

Another successful CBA event.

George Rolstad

#### NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

We have received newsletters from to other groups of smiths so far and have sent the Hot Iron News to them. They are ; the Appalachian Blacksmiths Association and the Appalachian Area Chapter of ABANA. Hope to exchange with more groups in the future. We've all agreed to steal from each others newsletters so if you see tips, etc. from folks from far off thats where we got them.

#### BLACKSMITH COURSES

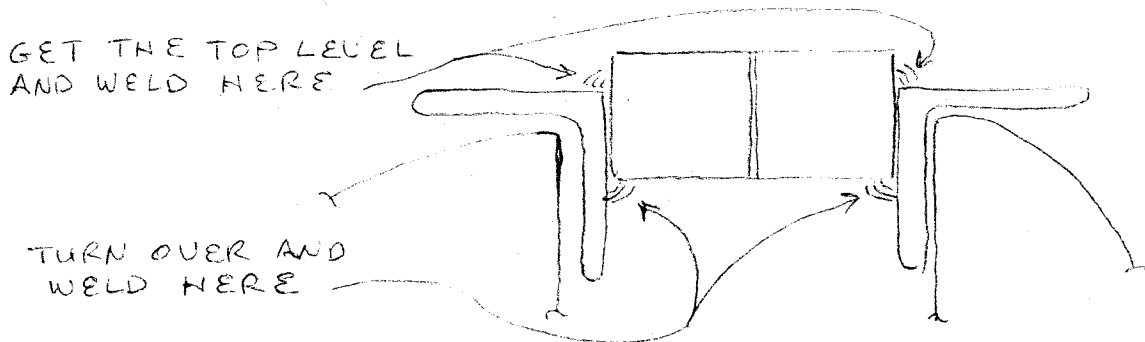
John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, North Carolina  
May 25-31 1980 Paul Lundquist, Instructor  
July 13-26 1980 Daryl Meier "  
July 27-August 9 1980 Robert Timberlake "  
Sept. 7-20 1980 Jim Koeplin "  
Nov. 2-15 1980 Francis Whitaker " (Advanced Course)  
(Francis Whitaker is a member of NWBA)

We were sorry to learn of the death of Alex Bealer, author of "The Art of Blacksmithing" and "The Successful Craftsman", and one of the founders of ABANA.

GETTING A GRIP ON IT by Jack Slack

I swore I'd never make another rivet as long as I lived, but now that my friendly rivet supplier has gone to a \$25 dollar minimum order (that's a lot of rivets!) I had occasion recently to make some long rivets for a large fire-place crane. The usual method of upsetting and heading in a rivet tool works OK, but is slow and clumsy when you need a lot of small rivets. Never one to let a good idea pass unnoticed, I had watched Grant Sarver upsetting some long 3/4" rounds using gripper dies like those used in upsetting machines, and I remembered a trick that Francis Whittaker showed us for drilling a centered hole in two pieces of steel to make tenon swages, so I set out to make a pair of gripper dies. What follows is for 1/4" rivets, but the principal's the same for whatever size you might like.

Cut two pieces of 1x1x1/4 angle and two pieces of 5/8 or 3/4 square, each about an inch long. Set up in the vise and arc weld, like this:

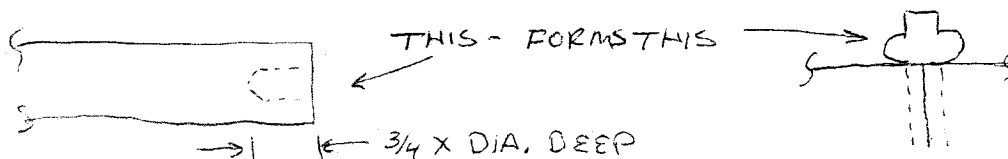


Transfer to the drill press vise, clamp a business card between the faces and drill through. The point of the drill will follow the card and your hole will be centered in each half (thanks, Francis).

Remove the card and run a 1/4-20 tap down through the hole. You won't get much thread, of course, but you get some nice ridges which help to hold the piece. Now set up the two halves so the holes are horizontal, and heat the threaded portion orange with a torch, sprinkle on some case-hardening compound, heat until it liquifies, and quench. Repeat twice more.

Cut your stock plenty long so you can make rivets on each end before cutting off. Grip the stock so 3/8" sticks up (1 1/2 x diameter) and heat with a torch. Hit straight down two or three licks to upset, thenpeen over. The dies will usually stick to the stock when you slide them out of the vise, so tap on the floor, cool the dies, turn the stock end for end and make another.

If you want a factory head, you'll need a rivet snap to form the head and an upsetting tool. Take up a piece of W-1 drill rod or what have you and drill a shank-sized hole in the end a little less than 3/4 x diameter. Harden and temper, then place the upsetter over the heated stock in the dies and hammer down; this will bulge the stock over the dies. Heat again and finish with a rivet snap.



Another good idea (although I haven't tried it yet): I've got a stout bench vise with removeable jaws, so I'll make up a set of oversize jaws with several different sized holes in them - might open up all kinds of possibilities.

NORTHWEST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION  
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APRIL 1980

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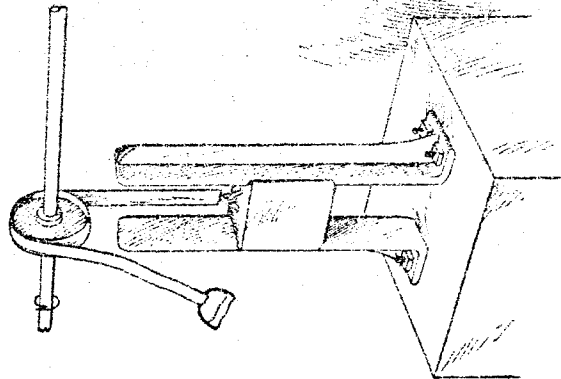
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## SHOP NOTES

### A Light Power Hammer

The accompanying sketch shows the construction of a power hammer for use in small shops, where the cost of an expensive machine is prohibitive. The guide and hammer are specially constructed parts. A little pull on the belt will cause enough friction to carry the hammer to the top of the guides.

When released, the hammer will strike a blow proportional to its weight and

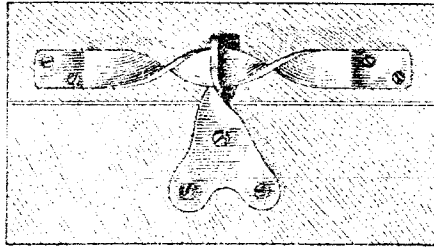


Friction of Belt Draws Hammer Up

height of drop. Different dies may be bolted to the anvil to make parts that will answer, in many ways, the same purpose as drop forgings.—Contributed by Urban A. Towle, Portland, Me.

### HINGE THAT CLOSES DOOR

The spiral hinge here illustrated automatically closes the door, gate, or other object to which it is attached. The moment the door is swung open it starts to rise on the spiral, and, when let go, closes by force of gravity.



### To Renew the Old Paint on a Buggy

The paint on a buggy soon loses its luster after it has been washed a few times. It may be brightened up, however, by the following method: Wash the buggy perfectly clean; then go over it with a rag moistened with linseed oil. Allow this to dry, then rub it with a soft rag.

Secure a pint of the best carriage varnish and a small can of paint of the same color as the original job. Add enough paint to the varnish to give it color, but not enough to cover up the stripes on the buggy when it is applied. Apply the same as varnish and allow plenty of time for it to dry. This adds much to the appearance of a buggy and protects the old paint.—Contributed by S. M. Hadley, Danville, Ind.

NORTHWEST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY  
APRIL 1980

MAY 1980

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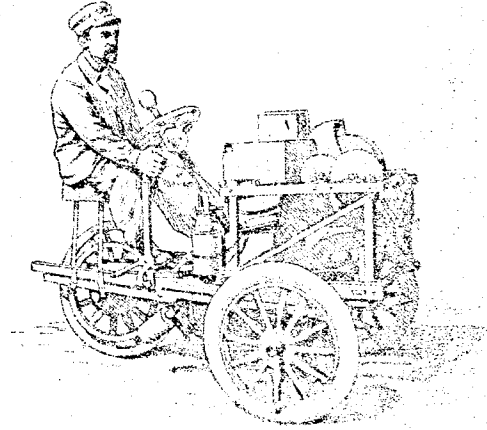
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## MOTOR TRICYCLE GRIND- STONE

That keeping abreast of the times in all kinds of industry, even though it be of a very small and humble order, is worth while, is demonstrated by the success of this scissors' grinder. The motor tricycle, which, by the way, he made himself, carries him from place to



An Up-to-Date Scissors Grinder

place and also furnishes the power for his grinding apparatus.

Ⓞ About 800 aeroplanes have been built in France, to date.