



Hot Iron News

CHAPTER OF ABANA

NOVEMBER, 1987 -- Voice of the Northwest Blacksmiths Association



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CID CEDOR FOLLE
Oct '87.

N. W. B. A.
Box 81041, Seattle, WA

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FALL CONFERENCE BOARD MEETING NOTES

Check into cost of increasing liability insurance?

At Spring meeting have a member questionnaire about blacksmithing interests? Workshops? Open Forges? etc.

*****'

Encourage more after hours instruction and participation at conferences on forging and techniques.

Board voted to increase dues from \$12.00 to \$15.00 a year.

Now we need membership approval for dues increase.

Vote by mail or at the Spring Conference.

CHANGE OF OFFICERS

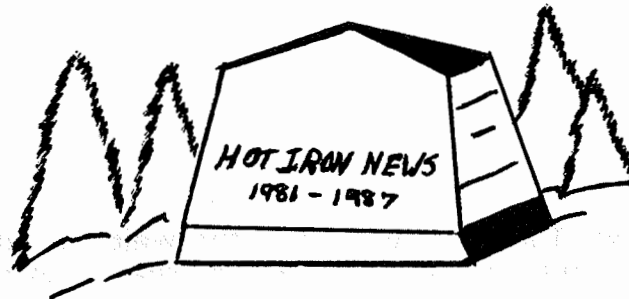
Darryl Nelson, president, Russ Jaqua, Terry Carson, Editor, and Howard Swanson, Secretary-Treasurer all have retired as of October. We extend our thanks for the many hours of time and the energy these people have contributed to the N.W.B.A.

The new officers are Jerry Culberson, President, Lloyd Hedglin, Vice-Pres., Gene Chapman, Secretary, Tom Graham, Treasurer, Karen Wagner, Newsletter Editor, and Bill Martinez, Board member. These people have been active participants and promoters in our activities. Please give them all the support they need to carry on with the gigantic job they have undertaken. The NWBA is one of the largest and most active blacksmithing groups in the country. Let's keep it that way.

Addresses and phone numbers of the new officers are listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Write or call them, tell them what you want or don't want.

1988 N.W.B.A. CALENDAR

Well it was a good idea but fizzled out. I only had two drawings submitted for it. Maybe next year.



DON'T LET IT DIE

If you want output, we need input. Share the tricks you have worked out in your shop, no matter how simple. They may solve someone else's problem. Share sources of tools, materials, information. Tell us what you are doing, what you want to do, gossip. We need photos, drawings, praise, bitchin', anything, BUT, DO SOMETHING!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The Fall Gathering at Fire Mountain Forge was a great success! Tom Joyce was his usual magnificent self, the food was outrageous and the auction was an unqualified success. But something ominous happened which should cause all of us in the NWBA to pause and reflect.

Darryl Nelson, the Head Guru of the North, resigned as President of our organization and since the brown stuff slides downhill, yours truly got intercrossed with the "presidency." Darryl resigned because he was finally overwhelmed with the fear of being president for life, and he was just plain burned out from the beatings he has taken over these past several years. I think everyone would agree that he has contributed more than his fair share to this organization.

What our organization needs is a transfusion of some new organizational blood, a few fresh ideas and, if I may dare to suggest, even a couple of you brave young men to step forward and pick up some of the load. This Spring will be election time again, and I, for one, would like to see some of you step forward, throw your hats into the ring and run for office in this great and glorious organization. If some of you do not soon get involved and pick up the slack, I greatly fear that our group is doomed to extinction simply for lack of interest. And that would be a bloody shame because this organization has been very good for all of us.

Personally, I very much enjoy hosting events at my shop and will continue to do so. However, we need more things for people to do, such as a few more open forges out there in the hinterlands. Let's see if we can regenerate some of that pioneer spirit which got this organization rolling in the first place. If there are any ideas, let them be heard; and if we are to prosper, let it be soon.

I, like Darryl, do not relish the idea of being president for life. Therefore, I am hopeful that suicide will not be necessary. I will do my best to aid this group, but will need all the help I can get from everyone. Please feel free to offer your contributions of time and expertise with gusto.

Thank you, but not forever yours,

Jerry Culberson

P.S. TO DARRYL NELSON: Thanks to you I feel the weighty deposit the Great Seagull in the Sky has descended upon my head. You shall forever be indebted to me and may the foo bird of happiness fly up your nose.

Best regards, JERRY

The Tom Joyce Clinic
19-23 October, 1987
Old Cedar Forge, Allyn, WA.

Kevin Donahoe
17 November, 1987

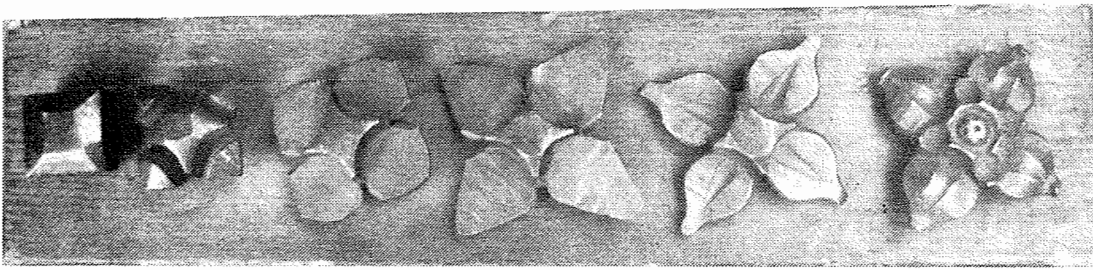
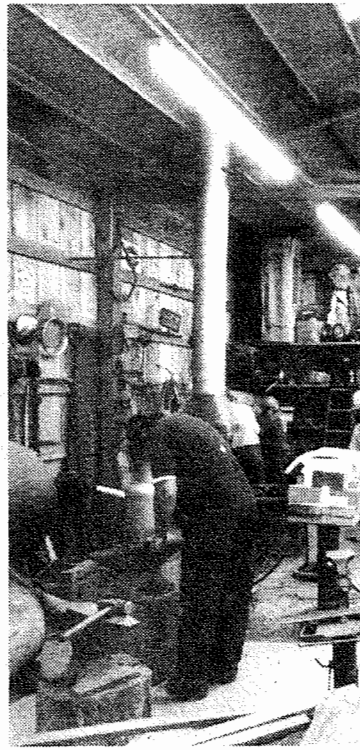
Under the direction of Tom Joyce, eleven blacksmiths attempted the crafting of a bed headboard of Tom's design. The group's skill level ranged from novice to professional, but was weighted a bit too heavily on the novice side, as the end of the week came too soon to see completion of the headboard. The consensus was one more day of fitting and finishing would have seen the finished product. What a tease! Several of us agreed to another session in the unnamed future.

Tom's patient and relaxed manner allowed us exposure to the lessons of our choosing. His occasional comments on appreciating the variety and asymmetry of form the iron takes hinted at a relaxing of perfectionism. The intensity of his attention to detail and aesthetics, the precision of skill and cleanliness of his work, and of course his vernier caliper attested to his standard of perfection. And to this novice his splintered and taped hammer handles were a refreshing assurance of his humanity.

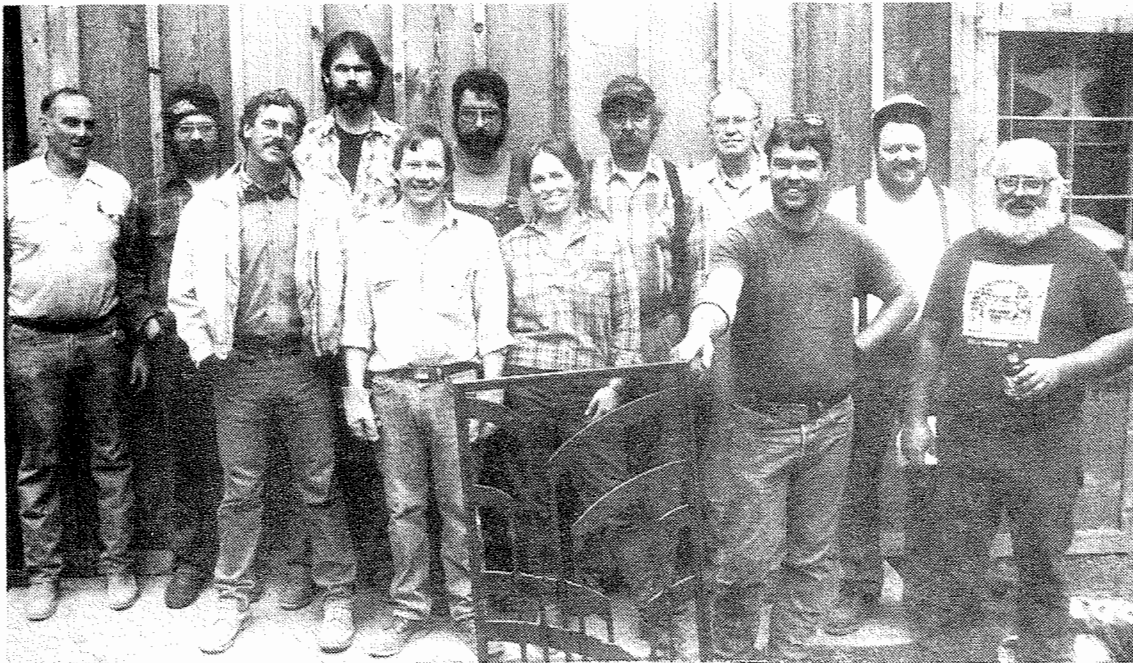
The variety and abundance of tools at Jerry Culberson's Old Cedar Forge made me feel like a kid in a candy shop. Aside from the thrill of getting to use a pneumatic hammer for the first time, the more simple tools stand out in my mind. Among them were a vise set for balancing the jaws of a leg vise, a monkey tool to sharpen the shoulder on a tenon, and the formula for determining the width of a hot chisel as $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the diameter of the finished mortise. The Harris oxy/propane torch also stands out but remains on the wish list, while the others are within my present means. The most valuable tool was the experience, guaranteed!

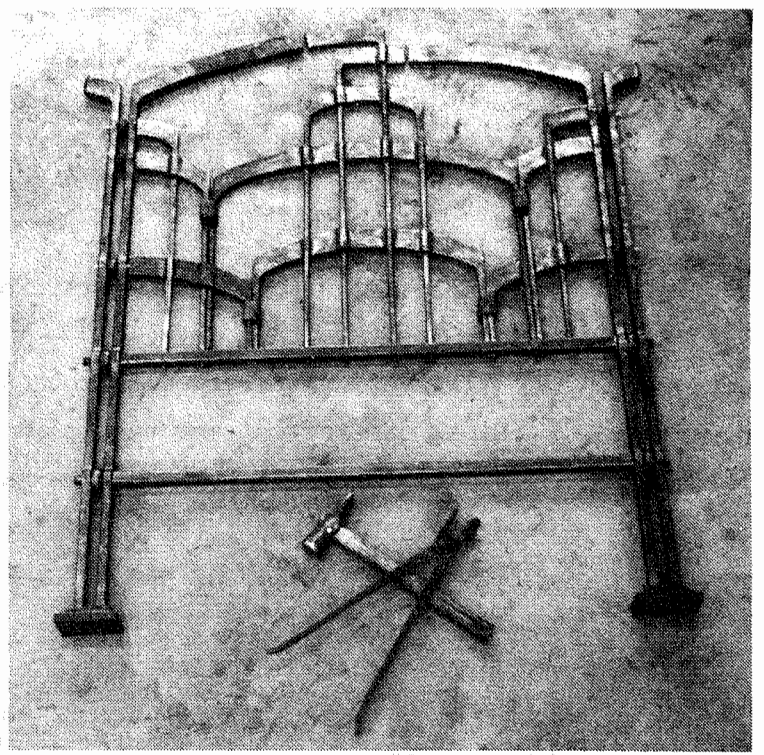
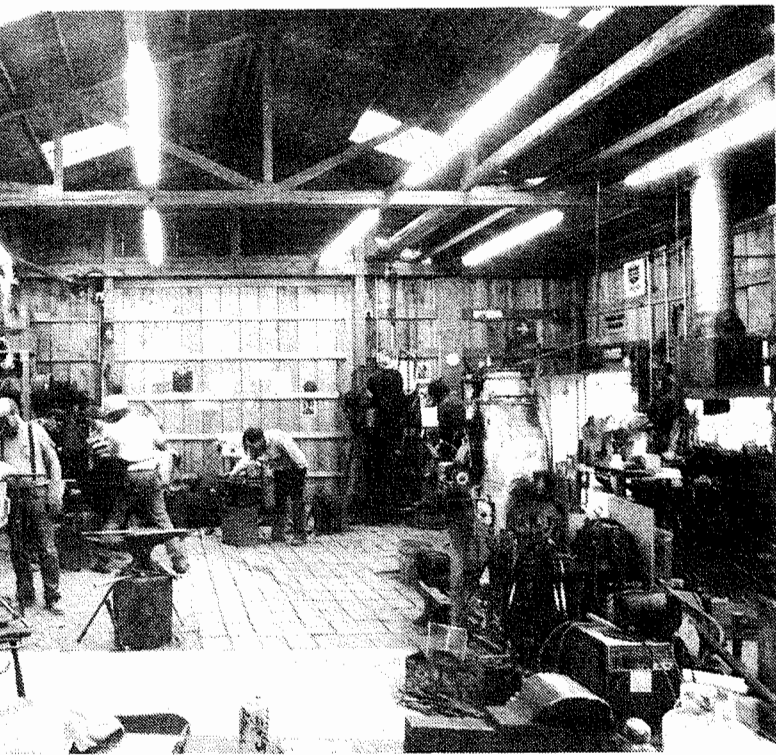
The shortest distance between two points is to go ahead and make the tool I know I need, or to at least think through some of my make-do-shortcuts with a bit of foresight. But then that comes from experience and the process of forging and fitting: a project of this scale was just that, an experience. Its lessons I may need to relearn on occasion as my head can be quite thick at times, but I am nonetheless appreciative of this latest opportunity.

Many thanks to Tom Joyce for his instruction, to Jerry Culberson for his hospitality, to Bill Martinez and Dorothy Stiegler for the sumptuous feasts, and to Monty Day for those jumpstarts from his high amperage coffee. And of course thanks to everyone for the comraderie.



Photos -
Lloyd Hedglin





TOM JOYCE WORKSHOP

Eleven N.W.B.A. members participated in the Tom Joyce bedstead workshop for five busy days.

It was held at Jerry Culverson's shop in Allyn, Washington.

Right off the bat one became aware this was no ordinary workshop. Tom laid out his tools, among them was a small machinist precision square and vernier caliper.

The bedstead drawing was enlarged and laid out on a large steel table.

Tom assigned different tasks to teams of two or three. Various bars of steel were cut, drawn out, weld.preped, upset, slit and drifted, collars made, etc.

Even after several days of this one night in particular stands out A bit of near midnight madness when Hugh Eddy's medium size Peter Wright anvil horn was reworked. It was wrapped upside down in chain and suspended by a pipe, then a heat was taken on the horn and the fun began, Tom Joyce and Jerry Culverson began reshaping the horn. After 3 or 4 heats the horn looked good as new. Clayton Carr and Jeff Holtby did the heavy work moving the anvil from forge to anvil via the pipe.

The bedstead was almost completed by Friday afternoon. Probably about 8-10 man hours from being completed. It is presently leaning against one of Jerry's walls for display and a mini workshop in the future will complete the project.

The workshop was well organized, even down to a menu for the meals.

WORKSHOPS

Again I want to stress the importance of workshops. Hands on participation builds your skills inventory farther and faster.

Most workshops are held in 3 or 4 N.W.B.A. member's forges. If any of you have the space and are interested in hosting a workshop, let a Board Member know.

What kind of workshops do you want? Please tell a Board Member.

HOWARD AND LIL

Howard and Lil Swanson were presented a Secretary/Treasurer retirement gift for their dedication to the N.W.B.A.

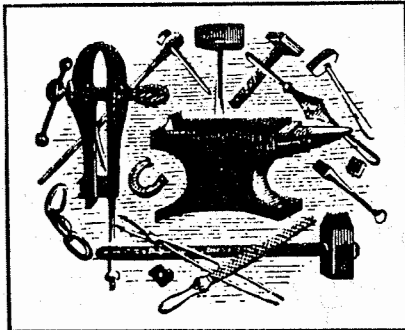
The gift is a Yellin Blueprint with a beautiful forged frame, and Mokume engraved plaque. It was built by Daryl Nelson, Jerry Culberson, Phil Baldwin, Dave and Babe Brandon, and Gene Chapman.

Thanks again Howard and Lil for all your time, energy and dedication.

THANK YOU

The gift we received at the fall meet will always be prominently displayed in our home. It will be a constant reminder of some of the warmest, most sharing people we have known. The members of The Northwest Blacksmith Association.

Howard & Lilly Swanson

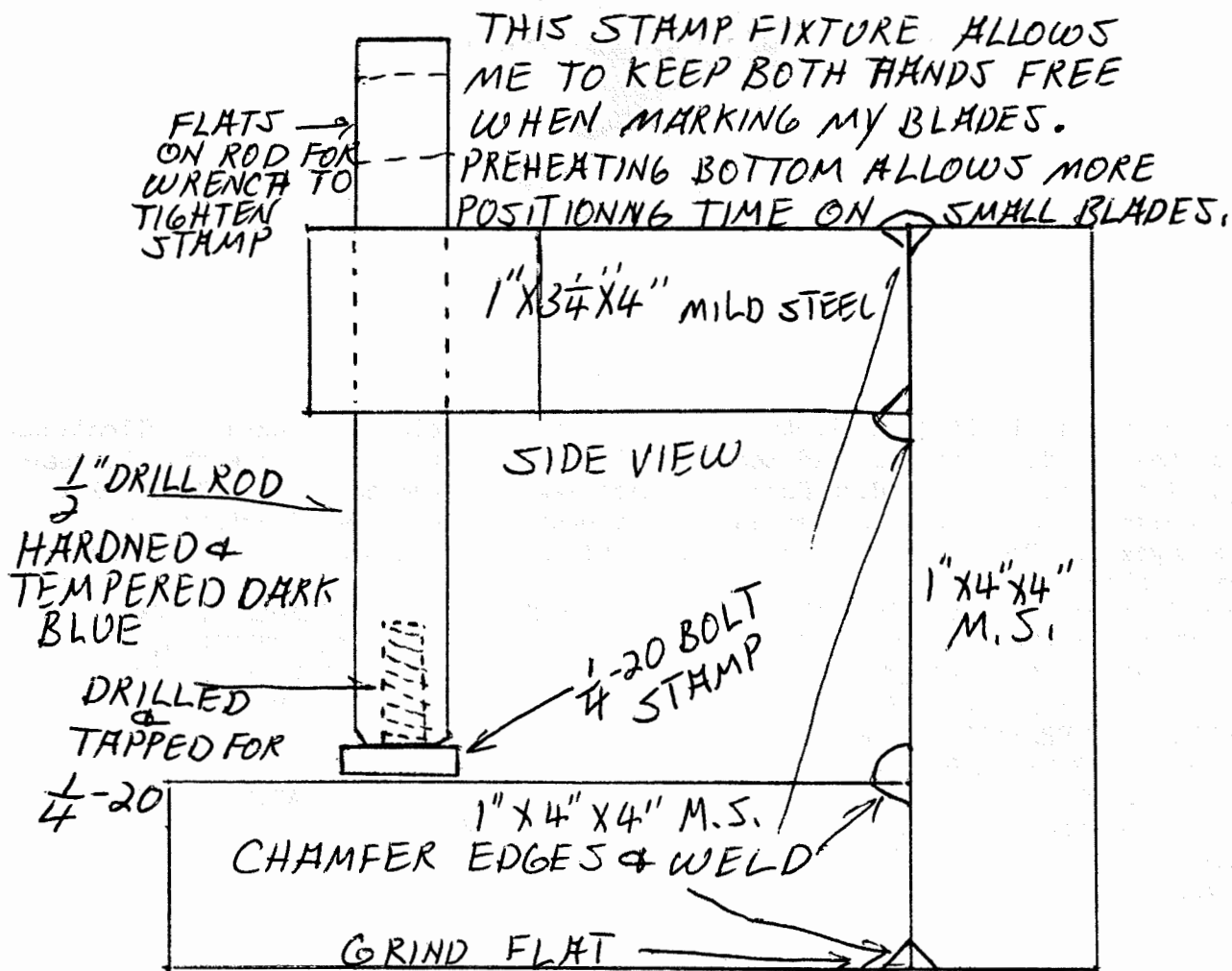
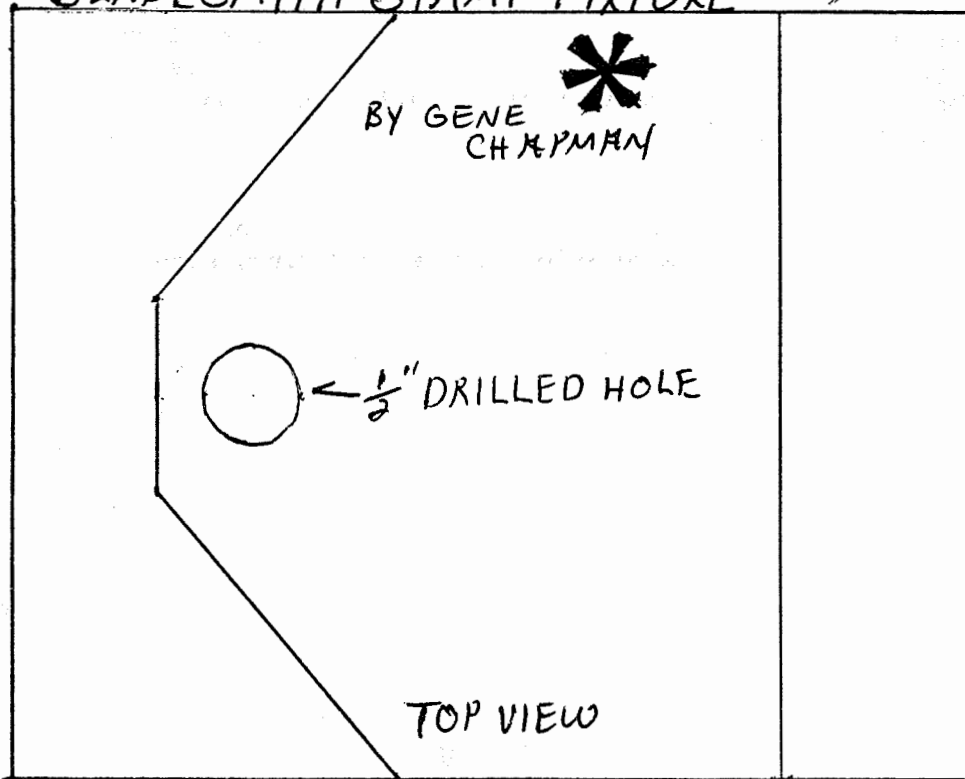


A CATALOG REPORT

Are you unable to find the books you want in the bookstores, Lindsay Publications Inc. has a wide variety of old technical books, some published more than 80 years ago. I subscribe to The Home Shop Machinist magazine and bought a 1905 reprint on toolmaking and a book on mechanical movements, which were advertized in the magazine. The reprints have been helpful in building tooling and fixtures for my shop.

Here is a partial list from their catalog, POWER INVERTER TECHNOLOGY, HOW TO RUN THREE PHASE MOTORS ON SINGLE PHASE, CURIOUS MECHANICAL MOVEMENTS, DESIGN AND BUILD CENTRIFUGAL FANS, CHARCOAL FOUNDRY, SHEETMETAL BRAKE, DROP FORGING, EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS, BRASS FOUNDRY, BUILD A RADIAL ARM FLAME CUTTER, PATTERNMAKING, CUPOLA PRACTICE AND MIXING CASTIRON, ELECTROPLATING, HANDBOOK FOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, MOBILE HYDRAULICS MANUAL, WINDMILLS, MACHINE SHOP PROJECTS, FEWTER WORKING, STEAM ENGINES, MIRROR MAKING, DE RE METALLICA (How metal was refined centuries ago.) and BLACKSMITHING. Catalog price is \$1, Address is Lindsay Publications Inc. PO Box 12, Bradley Ill. 60915-0012 Phone 815-468-3668.

(BEEFY, WON'T FALL OFF YOUR ANVIL,
BLADESMITH STAMP FIXTURE)



Novice Workshop in January

The annual NWBA Novice Workshop will be held at Old Cedar Forge on January 16, 17, 18, 1988. The workshops start at 9:00 AM.

This workshop is an invaluable opportunity for those who wish to learn the basics of smithing without having to spend a lot of time reinventing the wheel.

Topics covered in the workshop are basic tooling, coal and gas forge use, hammer techniques, forge welding, heat treating, steel selection and a multitude of other ways to move and remove metal.

The instructors for the workshop will be: Jerry Culberson, Darryl Nelson, Russell Jaqua, Phil Baldwin and Gene Chapman. All are accomplished smiths with specialties that include Knife making, architectural work, tool making, hardware and animal carving. The students may concentrate on their special interests with a particular instructor or work on general smithing.

The tuition cost of the workshop is \$100, with an optional \$50 grub stake. This is a real bargain folks, you will burn up at least that amount of fuel if you learn the basics by trial and error.

To register fill out the form below and send a non-refundable deposit of \$50 to NWBA.

The balance of the tuition, \$50, is due at the start of the session on Friday, January 16, 1988. Class limit is twelve, so if you cannot make it please call so we can let someone else take your place.

See you there.

Call Gene Chapman: 1-206-297-2495

NWBA NOVICE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

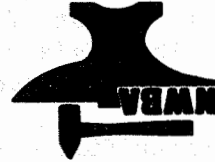
PHONE #: _____

Note: If you are not an NWBA member, please include a \$12 membership fee in your registration. You must be a member to take the workshop.

Please make checks payable to NWBA

Handwritten:
Jerry Callahan
Old Cedar Forge
Post 220 Evergreen
Allyn, WA 98524

Northwest Blacksmith's Association
P.O. Box 8141
Seattle, WA 98108



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Novice Workshop, January 16, 17, 18, 1988, at Old Cedar Forge, Allyn, Washington

Naham Hersom workshop May, 1988.