

Hot Iron News

FEBRUARY 1988 -- Voice of the Northwest Blacksmiths Association

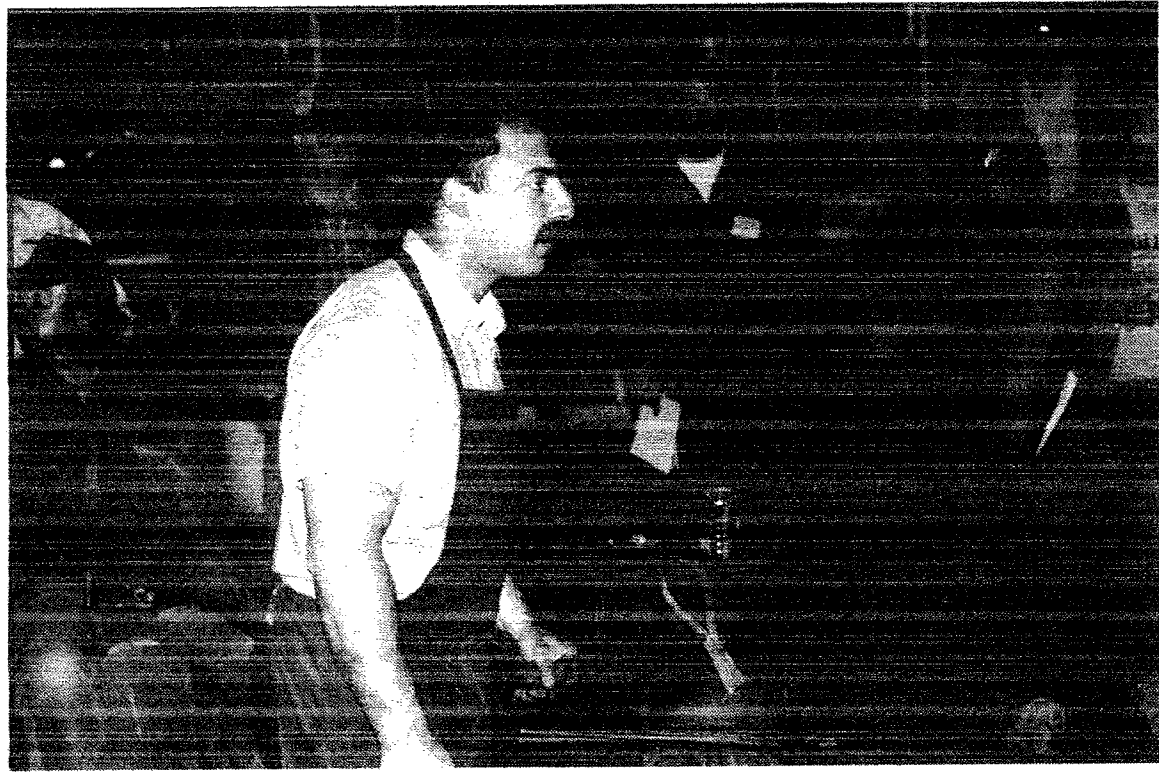


Photo by Lloyd Hedglin

NWBA presents a

Williamsburg Weekend with Peter Ross

and other added attractions!

March 12th and 13th, 1988 Saturday and Sunday
Bay View Farm, Hillsboro, Oregon
Demonstrations will start around 10 AM, Saturday
in Ike Bay's vintage, hand-hewn timber barn

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

1987 Officers and Board Members

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NWBA BOARD NOMINATIONS


Nominations for the 1988 NWBA Board will be taken March 12th or 13th at the meeting. Voting will be by mail and at the June meeting.

BOARD MEETING

Hopefully there will be time for an open board meeting on the 12th or 13th. All NWBA members will be welcome to attend.

The NWBA Board, the Bay's and others have put a lot of time and effort into the upcoming meeting with Peter Ross. Everything is set for a fantastic weekend. Now it's up to the membership to attend with enthusiasm!

I would like to thank Ike Bay and Gene Chapman for their invaluable help with this newsletter. See you in Hillsboro!


Karen Wagner

Announcements

WILLIAMSBURG WEEKEND

Peter Ross - featured demonstrator

Peter Ross is the master of the Blacksmith's Shop at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia. He has demonstrated blacksmithing on the national television series 'The Woodwright's Shop' with Roy Underhill. Peter Ross forges traditional colonial ironwork such as hardware for houses, tools and utensils. He will take us through various projects using drawings and hammer-in-hand demonstrations. NWBA will have a coal forge ready for Peter as well as a propane rig if we can persuade him to use it. Peter Ross's demonstrations are a must for the professional, advanced and beginning blacksmith. Just a few of his magical and mystical hammer techniques will save you hours of trial and error learning.

Whether it be barn hinges, axes, box joint pliers, froe or timber scribe, Peter has 'done it all' to become the master of the Williamsburg Blacksmith's Shop. This is one master blacksmith you don't want to miss, as Peter Ross uses the simplest forging tools for the most complex forged iron works.

Gene Chapman

REGISTRATION FEES

Current NWBA Members - \$25.00

Spouse and Kids - \$12.00

Non-members add \$12.00 for 1988 membership dues

NWBA is sorry that there will be no workshop with Peter Ross. He is coming out in March so he can spend some time with his brother who is a student at the medical school in Portland.

UNOFFICIAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The craftsmen at Colonial Williamsburg are responsible for restoration work, research and demonstrations for the public. We can look forward to a wide variety in Peter Ross's presentation demonstrating the versatility required of him. In a letter to Peter Ross, Ike Bay suggested the following projects: a chisel, a hacksaw, an ax and hatchet, a box joint, a spoon, fancy hinges, a cooper's compass and a nail making tool. Peter may not take us through complete projects but instead focus on important details and major steps. There should be something for everyone.

SPECIAL SURPRISE!

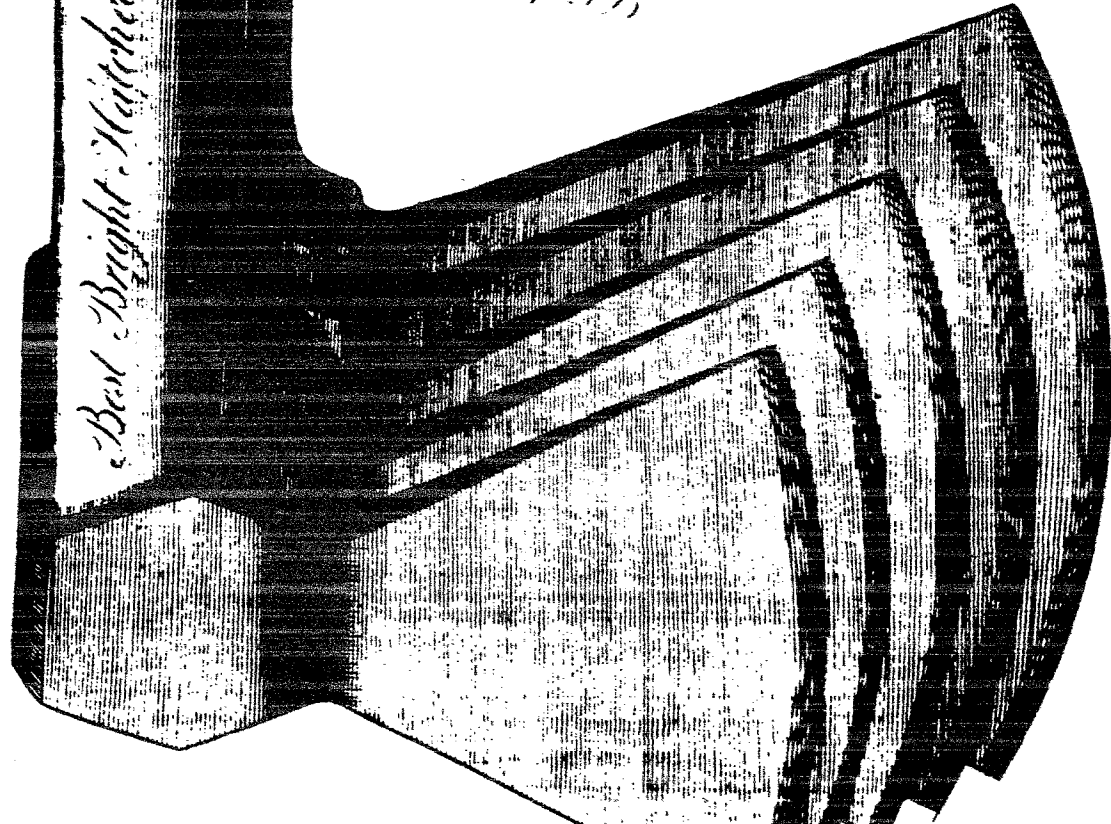
"WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF EXCUSES GAS FORGE"

Rumor has it that Darryl Nelson has been experimenting with a lightweight, portable forge. Its reputed to be hotter, faster and more amazing than Gene Chapman's old standby, 'The 8 Brick Special.' Gene's only words when he heard about it were "I gotta see it to believe it." What's next? Forge building contests?

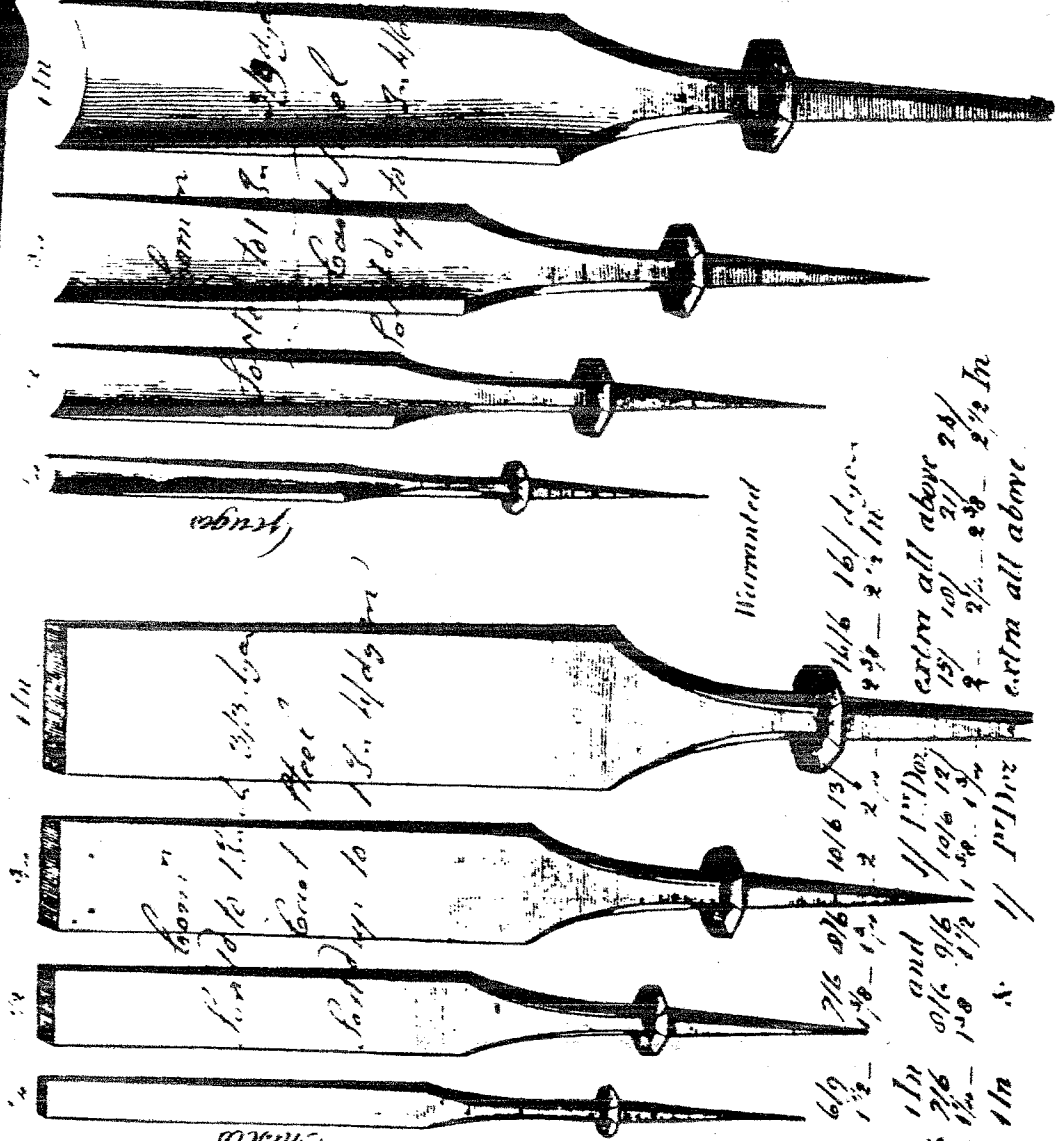
NWBA AUCTION

Don't forget to bring that special forged piece, iron, flux, book or Montana honey for the NWBA Auction Saturday night. This will be our third auction. The first two auctions have been not only great moneymakers for our organization, but they have also been among the highlights of our meetings. Any auction donation will be accepted - Big Screen T.V., old tools, artwork or ... whatever.

We are fortunate to have a few more original Samuel Yellin blueprints, donated by the Yellin Foundation, for the auction again. These are authentic prints by the old master of American blacksmithing and among the last available to ABANA chapters.



Best Bright Hatchets 15 17 20 23
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 20/4 6/1000
 1034



Chisels
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 92/6 94/6 96/6
 98/6 100/6
 extra all above
 20/6 21/6 22/6
 23/6 24/6 25/6
 26/6 27/6 28/6
 29/6 30/6 31/6
 extra all above

THE PIG ROAST

Saturday evening will feature a pig roasted on a spit by Larry Bellamy, the 'master pig roaster.' Other than the pork, dinner will be pot-luck, so please bring your favorite dish or two. If your last name starts with A through H, bring a salad or hot dish. If your last name starts with I through Z, bring a dessert or hot dish. Left-overs will be used for Sunday's lunch.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

As usual, zany forging performed by NWBA members and all who want to dazzle us with tricks of the trade or just want to try forging, will occur sometime late Saturday. There will be a surplus of instructors for midnight madness. So grab some iron and GO!

LODGING

There is plenty of room for camping at Bay View Farm. You may also bring your sleeping bags and the enjoy the comforts of the barn's loft. If roughing it is not to your taste, there are several motels in Hillsboro. Of the following the first three were listed by AAA. The fourth may be more convenient to find since its right off the freeway, and the last motel is the only other motel listed in the Yellow Pages.

Best Western Hallmark Inn - Hillsboro Airport

3500 NE Cornell Rd. (503) 648-3500

Dunes Motel

452 SE 10th Hillsboro (503) 648-8991

The Park Dunes

622 SE 10th Hillsboro (503) 640-4791

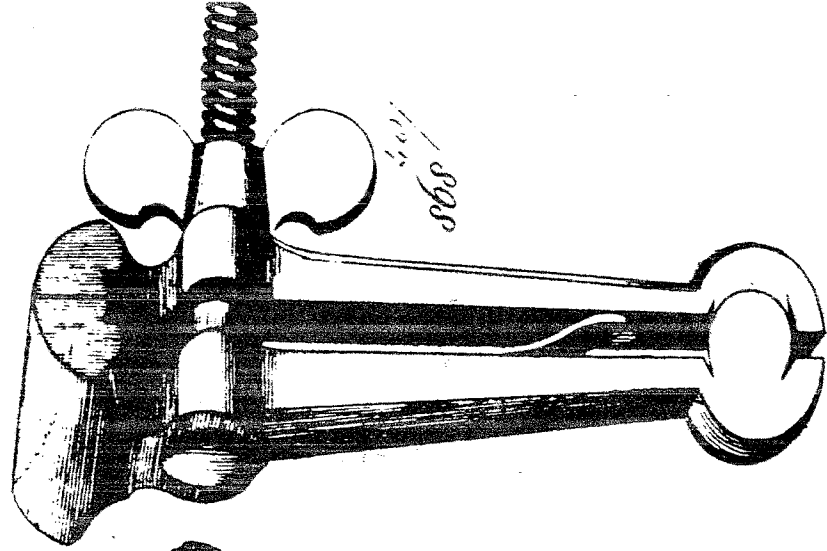
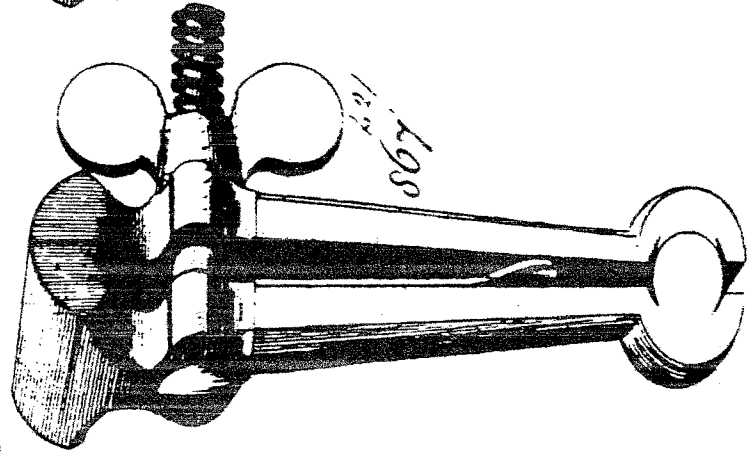
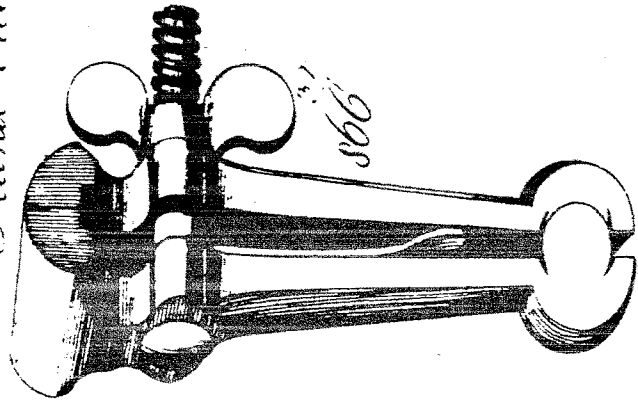
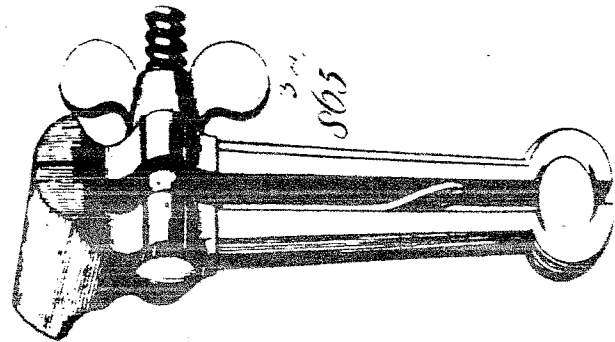
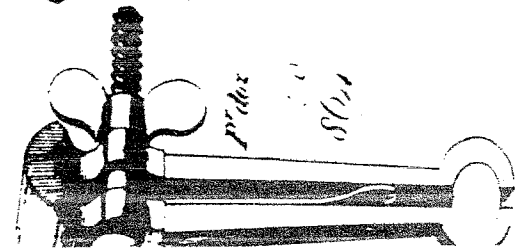
Lamplighter Motel (Cedar Hills exit from 26 at 217)

10207 SW Parkway (503) 297-2211

Town House Motel and Apartments

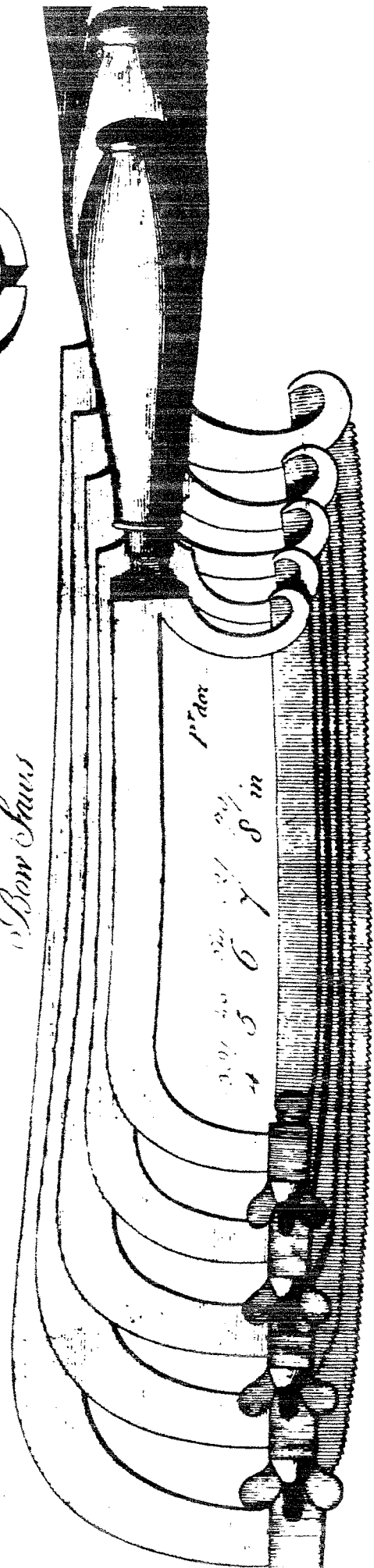
432 SE Baseline Hillsboro (503) 648-3168

Hand Vices



Lancashire Tools

Bow Saws

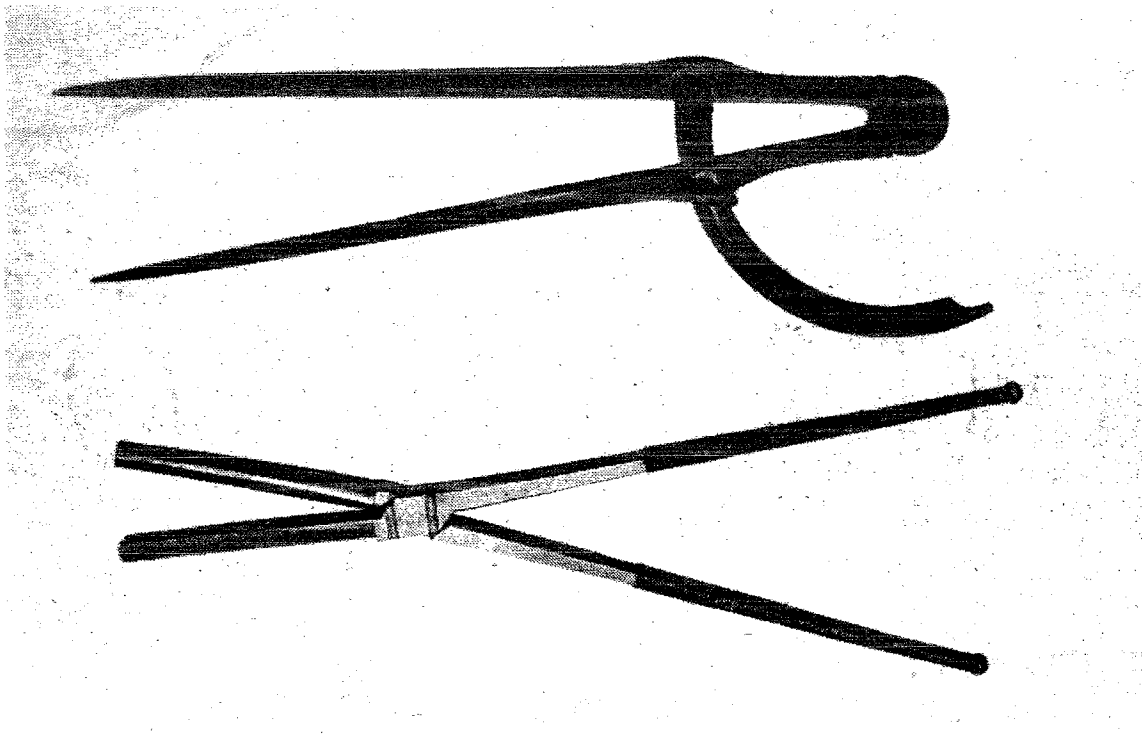




PETER ROSS OF WILLIAMSBURG

You have to admit that working as a full time smith, paid a living wage that is not tied to production and working in a place with lots of other crafts people to interact with, sounds like the perfect way to live. Peter Ross, master of the Blacksmith Shop at Colonial Williamsburg, lives just such a life. Peter teaches a discipline of economy of tools and materials in his work, and demonstrates exactly what hammer control really is.

Before all of you pack up and move to Williamsburg, Virginia, you might want to consider that all new apprentices in Peter's shop start out on nails to learn hammer control. An apprentice gets about two hours at the forge per day out of his normal eight hour work day. He needs to be able to make 50 nails per hour (about half the normal rate) before he can go on to other projects. The nails must be well formed in the heads, straight and well tapered, uniform and within 1/8 inch (plus or minus) in proper length. Depending on the skill level of people when they are hired, reaching this



Left - Peter Ross driving the eye on one half of a box joint plier. Above - Cooper's compass and box joint curling iron from Williamsburg shop. Photos - Ike Bay

competency level can take from six weeks to three months.

Files may be the best example of economy of tools. Each person in the shop has a canvas roll of files. The roll contains one each of $\frac{1}{2}$ round, square and flat of the largest bastard cut to be found (usually a 12 or 14 inch, Peter says these can't be too large), one each $\frac{1}{2}$ round, square and flat of the medium size bastard cut, and two 6 inch half round files, one fine and one coarser. A total of 8 files. The shop owns some flat draw files, some rounds and triangles but they don't get nearly as much use as the basic set does.

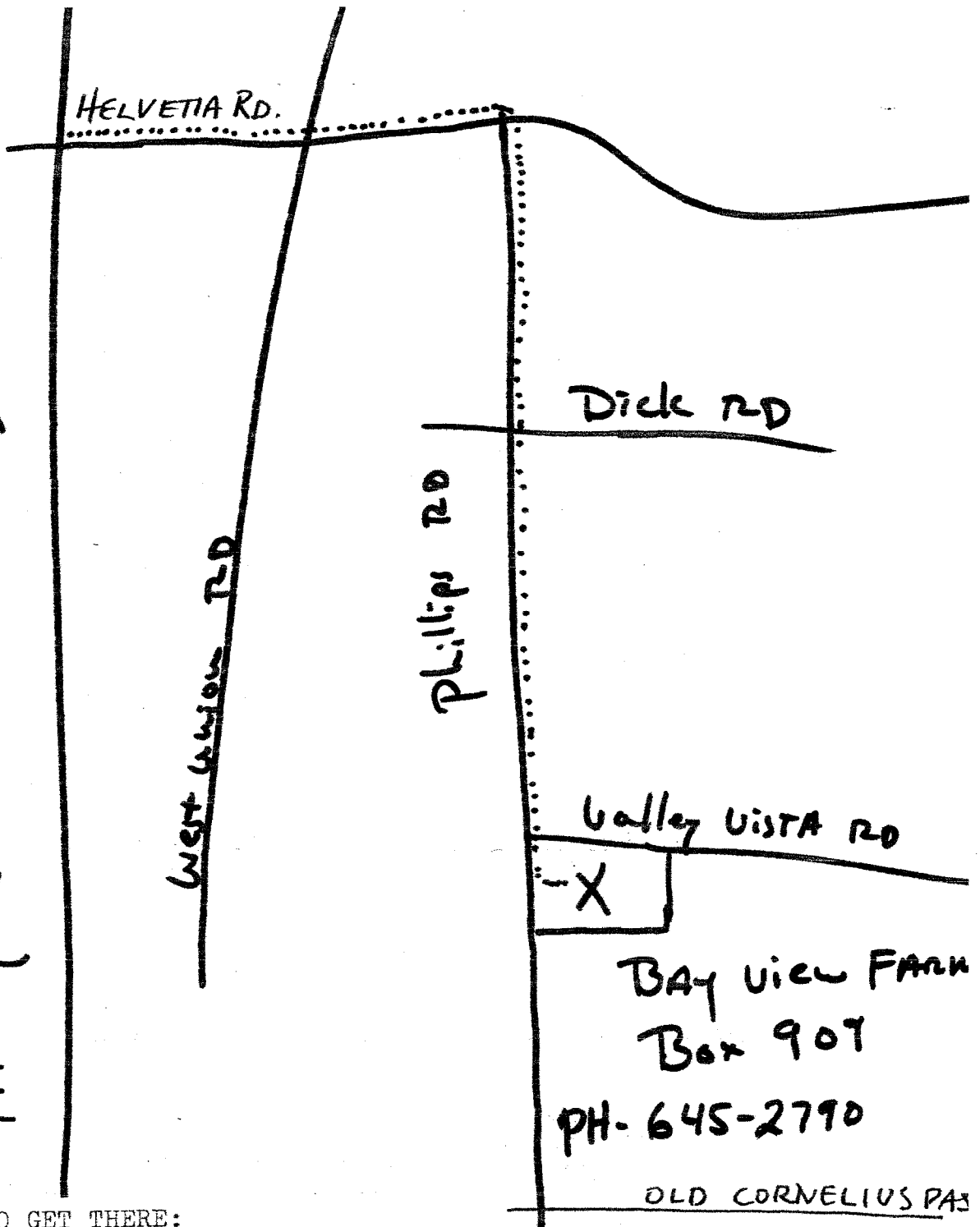
A key element of Peter Ross's job is researching his craft in the 1750 to 1780 period. This wealth of knowledge makes for some fascinating question and answer sessions. Because he deals with the general public in his work place, Peter is also an especially gifted teacher. For those that participated in last year's meeting with Peter Ross, it was an unforgettable experience.

Ike Bay

MAP to open forge —
 March 12-13 1988

Highway 26 to coast →

↑
 3 →



HOW TO GET THERE:

Bay View Farm is 16 miles west of Portland. Go out Sunset Highway (#26 West) to Helvetia Rd. Travel north on Helvetia to Phillips Rd. Turn east onto Phillips and Bay View Farm is just past the intersection of Phillips and Valley Vista. Yellow anvil signs will clearly mark the way once you turn off Highway 26.

ALTERNATE ROUTE:

If you're coming south on Highway 30 from Longview, WA, turn off onto Cornelius Pass Rd. Go to the top of the ridge, a long way up, then turn right onto Old Cornelius Pass Rd. Turn right onto Phillips Rd. at the Rock Creek Tavern. Bay View Farm is just a short drive further on Phillips Rd.

NWBA UPDATE

Arnold Abegg
5992 Kenwick Circle
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
() 848-5697

John Erskine - Shire Horse Co.
14410 High Bridge Rd.
Monroe, WA 98272
(206) 794-4037

Gary Guy
Rt. 3 Box 441-A
Hillsboro, OR 97124
(503) 647-5167

David T. Krauss
11629 Endicott Rd. SW
Olympia, WA 98502
(206) 352-5064

Steve Lopes
Port Townsend Forge
3132 Sheridan St.
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Jim Olds
East 720 Sunset Hill Rd.
Hartstine Island
Shelton, WA 98584
(206) 426-4141

Fife Forge (formerly listed under Bill Cooper)
PO Box 550
Sumner, WA 98390-0550
(206) 863-9570



Northwest Blacksmith's Association
P.O. Box 81041 • Seattle, WA 98108

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: NEW () RENEWAL ()

Annual dues are \$12.00. Please make check payable to NWBA.

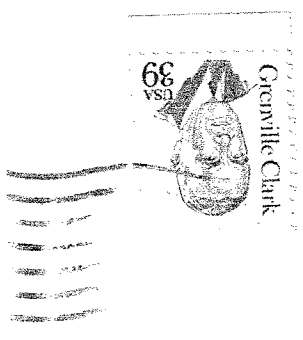
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FIRM NAME (optional): _____

ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: () _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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Northwest Blacksmith's Association
P.O. Box 31411
Seattle, WA 98188



Calendar

SPRING MEETING

June 18-19 Saturday and Sunday
Featuring demonstrations by
Richard Pozniak, Nahum Hersom and Darryl Nelson
To be held at the Old Cedar Forge, Allyn WA

NAHUM HERSOM REPOUSSE WORKSHOP

June 20, 21, 22 Monday through Wednesday
To be held at the Old Cedar Forge, Allyn WA
Details later

1988 ABANA CONFERENCE

June 16-18
Sloss Furnace, Birmingham Alabama