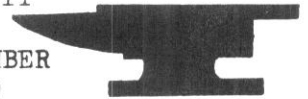


METALSMITH

VOL. III
#6
SEPTEMBER
1979



"The lyf so short, the craft so long to lerne"

A NEWSLETTER OF THE GUILD OF METALSMITHS: an organization to promote appreciation & study of the Metal Smiths' Art; serving Smiths in any form of metal smithing.

Next Meeting

The OCTOBER 10th General Membership Meeting & potluck supper will be held at HISTORIC FORT SNELLING. The potluck is at 6:30, business meeting at 7:30 & presentation to begin at 8:15. Demonstrations in forge welding will be done by MARK NICHOLS, resident smith. He will weld a chain link, demonstrate shoulder welds & share other tips picked up at the ABANA workshop in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. A discussion of early American blacksmithing & a history of the shops at the fort will follow. The shops have a good variety of old tools representing the different crafts in use in the 1820's. Hopefully, Dan Kral, the previous resident smith for 5 years will be there to contribute to the discussion although that has not been confirmed before this printing. The Minnesota Historical Society has graciously accepted to open the shops to us so care must be taken in these buildings. One rule we must strictly follow is NO SMOKING IN ANY BUILDINGS. Outside is okay. Parking is by the Round Tower, the door in the Main Gate will be open & we hope to see you all there. Look for the well marked signs of "Historic Site" or "Historic Fort Snelling".



Historic Fort Snelling is reached by the Fort Snelling exits on Minnesota Highways 5 & 55. It is located between the Mississippi River & the Twin Cities International Airport.

Connections

JOB OPENING at Heritage Hill State Park, 2640 South Webster, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301, c/o Nick Clark. The park is 60 acres on the Fox River near Green Bay. They have moved an 1895 blacksmith shop to the park & want a full-time blacksmith to restore & work in the shop. The salary is negotiable (suggested \$4.50) with free fuel & steel. The smith would receive 50% of the money made on his work. A free apartment goes with the job.

Susan Sutkowski needs a rocking chair spring made (788-3389)

Carol Voss also needs a rocking chair spring made (724-7589)

If anyone is interested in helping these two, call Bob Walsh (825-2193) for spring steel & heat treating information.

CRUCIBLE STEEL (Specialty Metals Div.) 2911 Como Avenue SE, Mpls. (331-6320) is selling many of their specialty steels with no minimum order. Ask them about overstock & closeout steels. It you're into making tools, this is your opportunity to sidestep the \$50 minimum problem.

HELP WANTED Guild members to supply newsletter articles, tips, stories, anecdotes, fair articles & address changes. Remember, its your newsletter & the quality reflects your contributions. **JEWELERS**, where are you?

*Then the Almighty will be
your gold and choice
silver to you.*

Job 22:25

ANVILS FOR SALE

145 lb.	\$175	Good condition
100 lb.	125	Excellent
85 lb.	110	Excellent
50 lb.		Negotiable price, rough

Roy Philblad (457-1962)

Choice of 100 or 140 lb. \$100 (only one for sale) Norman Anonson 777-9647

FORGE & TONGS Bruce Sandberg 1-235-5401

This information is reprinted from the ABANA newsletter THE ANVIL'S RING who reprinted it from the California Blacksmiths Association newsletter

FERRO FINISHING FORMULAS

About a year ago a suggestion was made to publish iron finishing formulas developed or improved by CBA members. Seven smiths sent in their favorite finish, which may be useful in your work too. If you wish to share your formula, please send it in for future publication.

BARRY BERMAN, Goleta, Ca.

Taught to me by Russ Le Croix Van Norden, an 82 year old blacksmith and a fine friend.

Take an old tin can and melt some beeswax in it — then pour in some turpentine and mix it up, about two parts wax to one of turpentine. Be careful pouring turpentine into can, so it won't explode. When the mixture hardens, you have a good paste. What Russ did was to rub the paste on the piece with his fingers, using an old tooth brush for the hard to get spots. He then would rub the whole piece in very fine Humboldt County dusty dirt. Then he'd take an old nylon stocking and rub the piece down, it would look like it was 300 years old. I've seen some of the pieces, 10 years old, they still looked fresh, like he just finished them. You have to have the fine dirt, I haven't found any here in Santa Barbara, guess I'll move.

CARL JENNINGS, Sonoma, Ca.

The following is a rust finish for decorative iron work. Iron tends to return to its natural state, iron oxide, if it isn't protected. If left alone to do so on its own it isn't always too attractive. I prefer to control the rusting and speed it up. I do it with a solution of copper sulphate. Brush it, hit or miss, on oil free steel. Allow to set overnight, preferably outside. Rinse off next morning. After the work is dry, warm and apply Johnson's paste wax or polyurethane.

DOUG CARMICHAEL, Petaluma, Ca.

My most used finish for iron work I learned from Carl Jennings. It is very satisfactory for interior work.

Powdered Blue Stone (copper sulphate) ¼ cup
Water 5 gal.

Strong solutions on clean, wire brushed iron will do a light copper plating effect. Weaker solutions left for short time will just darken the iron; left for longer periods will turn the iron red. Waxed rust.

ROBERT OWINGS, Point Reyes Station, Ca.

1) Clean metal with electric powered wire brush or sandblast.

2) Warm, using rosebud tip torch to a heat that is comfortable to touch, but uncomfortable to hold for extended periods. This evaporates the moisture on the metal surface and down in the pores and aids in the finish to flow across the surface allowing excellent penetration.

3) Apply finish directly onto the metal while the metal is still warm.

4) Wipe off excess with rags.

5) Finish may be later repeated cold to cold iron to build up coats. Avoid heating metal too hot with rosebud, it will:
a) cause temper colors to appear. b) burn finish materials, change chemistry.

Finish mixture:

Approximately ½ boiled linseed oil and ½ marine type polyurethane. You can supplement this mixture with Johnson's paste wax or beeswax or plain paraffin, clear shoe polish, etc.

Be generous in applying the finish, excess is easy to wipe

off. Be sure to get down into all the cracks and crevices. Try different mixtures, experiment and maintain records of what works best for you in various conditions. You'll have to go back over your work from time to time with this finish. It's easy and quick. It's an easy recipe for your customers to learn and maintain their own iron. With age and the building of layers of the finish, the metal takes on a beautiful antique-patina.

GEORGE ERB, Frazier Park, Ca.

I learned the following formula from a 72 year old blacksmith. Bring your iron to an even 600° F and quench in pure raw linseed oil. Let it soak for awhile, then wipe off. Now dip in the water for proof and watch the water bead on the iron as though it were a duck's back.

The iron at 600° should absorb enough oil to give its own iron texture and water resistance that will last, according to the 72 year old smith, forever. I have been using this technique for some time with success, but I doubt it will last forever. I've discovered it is important not to be too much over or under 600° F in order to get maximum absorption of the oil.

JIM CONVERSE, Grants Pass, Oregon.

The formula I use is made up with diesel engine lub oil (Delo) or equivalent 30-w; not any mixed weight class. Cut with 10 to 15% kerosene, no substitutes. Bring work to temperature warm to the touch, but not hot. Brush on light covering of oil mix with paint brush, allow to stand ten to twenty minutes, then wipe off excess with-cotton rag. This is good for non-salt air climate on most items in shop or under cover.

Ask a body and paint shop operator to mix ½ pint of clear automotive enamel, cut it with some flatter to reduce the gloss, add a little dryer or retarder to allow 1½-2 minute brushing time. Experiment with a couple of mixes to get the effect you want. Brush only, do not spray. Brush on completely a thin coat, set aside or hang on a wire to dry. This finish is excellent and strong, brings out the beauty of the iron. It hides nothing. The mix soaks deep into the pores and scale. After some trial and error you will get just the right amount of flatter in your formula to give petina elegante. Have your metal at 'warm to touch' temperature and clean.

E. A. CHASE, Ben Lomond, Ca.

For my traditional finish the following works very well; 1 lb. beeswax (paste Tree Wax or Simonize can be substituted), ½ pt. of turpentine — this amount depends if you brush or wipe — heat wax and turpentine together slowly, mix as required, do not overheat, maintain enough heat to keep mixture fluid. Heat your iron to 200-300° F, brush or wipe mixture on, buff with soft rag when cool. This finish is good for indoors only.

The following formula is for a rich greenish brown finish: copper sulfate 50% by volume, sodium thiosulphate 50% by volume, and water. Add chemicals to water and bring to boil. Apply the solution hot to preheated and well wire-brushed iron. Iron should be hot enough to boil off water. Brush solution on with successive applications, keeping metal hot, until desired color is achieved. Rinse thoroughly with water and let dry. Be certain all solution is removed, it is corrosive. After drying, wax for indoor use or varnish with a good quality urethane for outdoors. The color will darken with final finish.

Gilda





*A face often seen around
the festival site*



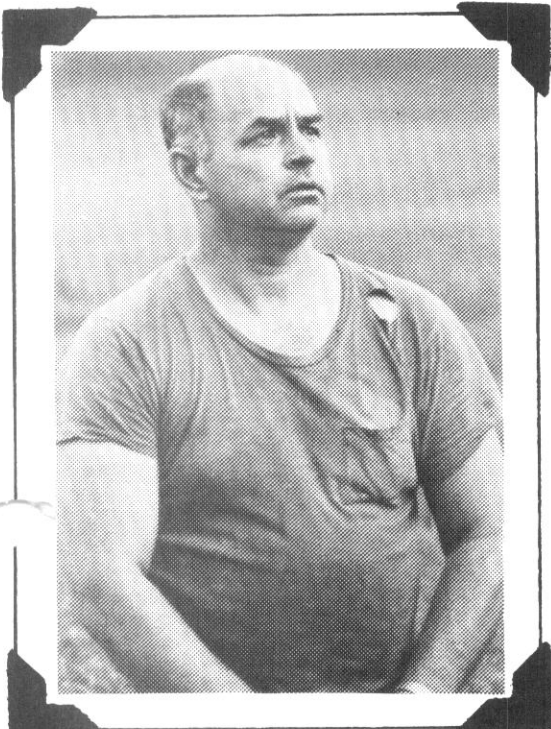
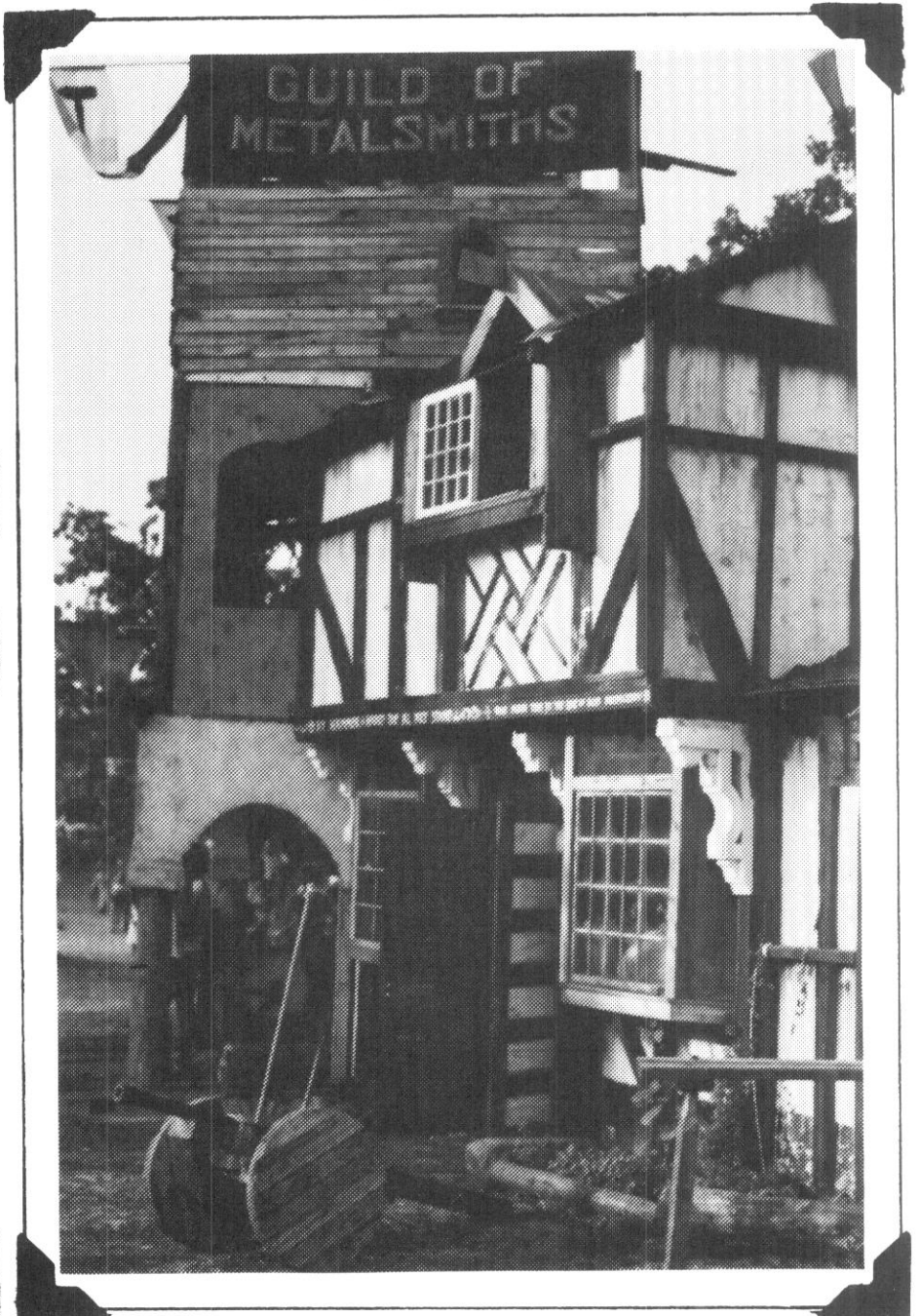
*Larry Garcia & one of
his many contributions*

Renaissance '79 Photo Album of Guild Members

*Bob George &
Paul Hubler*



*The Guild site & Bad Manor
(the Christofferson cannon)*



Letters, Issues & Answers

Mouraine Hubler writes us...

After a weeks's vacation, I carried our mail home from the post office in a bushel basket. As Paul & I went through it, I found my newsletter from the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers saying that they would have a blacksmith giving a demonstration in front of their pioneer cabin on the State Fair grounds that same day at 11:00. I mentioned it to Paul & shortly we were on the road to the Fair.

After chewing the fat with Joe Delaronde in Heritage Square, we went over to the Pioneer Cabin to the demonstration. We got there in time to see a burly fellow with a beard & wire rimmed glasses setting up the forge. It seems the blacksmith was his wife, Terry Robertson, & she is a new Guild member who has been doing some forging at the Gibbs Farm.

Personally, we thought is was obivious she was female but I heard some old fellow right behind me assuring a friend that it had to be a boy - after all, aren't ALL blacksmiths boys?

The next time we hear about a blacksmithing demonstration, we will not assume the smith is a large man. Around Minneapolis it might well be a woman with as much skill as any of the fellows.

Message to Beautiful Blacksmiths Everywhere!

Gold is for the Mistress
Silver for the Maid
Copper for the Coppersmith
Cunning at his Trade
"Good" said the Baron
sitting in his Hall,
"But Iron, Cold Iron, is
the Master of them All".



BLACKSMITHING ANOKA STYLE

The week of July 31st to August 5th, Bernie, John & Pat Vevea plus Wayne St. John, Jeff Dexter, Greg Wichello & myself (Bob Walsh) demonstrated various techniques at the Anoka County Fair. Bernie has a permanent blacksmith shop set up on the fair grounds which is very nice. We demonstrated everything from simple plant brackets & animal heads to some real heavy hot cut basket handles, Wayne St. John being a striker. Because of the heat we all got a real refresher course in how to sweat, but the whole event turned out to be a real good time for all. Bernie, how do you feel about a Guild meeting in your shop next summer during the fair?? What an ideal time & place for some heavy duty demonstrating!!

Blacksmith Bob George (THE GEORGE FORGE) & jeweler Mara Niesen were Guild members present on Saturday, July 28th, for the folk craft fair held in conjunction with the Jazz Fest sponsored by the Stillwater Historical Courthouse Foundation in Stillwater. The day was lovely, the turnout was good & Mara commented that the music in the area was really enjoyable.

An anecdote from Marcia McEachron

This spring the HOT IRON DEMONSTRATION TEAM grouped at the art fairs & pounded out the message that blacksmithing is alive & well & intends to stay that way. The public response was positive & many people came up to talk & share stories about blacksmithing & blacksmiths they had known. While working I overheard one conversation that was a bit disconcerting: a little girl was talking to her father & said, "Daddy, what are those people doing?" "Oh," said the father, "they are blacksmithing, but those people really don't exist".

Somebody pinch me, please...are we really here...?

From Paul Hubler a TALE OF THE PIG

At the meeting on the 11th of July, we were talking about another pig roast at the Gibbs Farm Harvest Festival. Lou Chowen said he had just bought two baby pigs at \$25 each & was raising them to butcher this fall & he sort of volunteered to raise another one for the Guild. I promptly gave him \$25 to buy one. He did within the next day or two. So now Lou has 3 little pigs running around his place. One is yellow-orange with black spots, one is just yellow-orange & one is red. They weighed about 40 lbs. each when purchased. They now have gained about 20-30 lbs. more. They are working on the 2nd 100 lb. sack of feed & the feed costs about \$7 per 100 lb. sack. We will get the largest one for the roast. Lou estimates that will be about 200 lbs. live weight. Hopefully I will be able to talk my brother-in-law into butchering it for us & loaning his roaster again. We will need a supply of wood so remember as fall approaches & donate what you can.

GIBBS FARM HARVEST FESTIVAL
Saturday & Sunday, October 6th & 7th

Once again the Gibbs Farm has asked us to participate in their Harvest Festival. The Harvest Festival is similar to the Madness except it features many other craftspeople demonstrating other turn-of-the-century crafts.

The Guild has accepted the invitation & will be there in full force, roasting a pig & all.

If you'd like to demonstrate, sell or simply have a good time & feast on the roast pig, load up & come over. This will be the last event of 1979. Let's go out with STYLE. See you at the Gibbs Farm.

Address correction requested

THE GUILD OF METALSMITHS
11898 Knolls Path West
Lakeville, Minnesota 55044

From the President

It seems like every time I write about a previous meeting it always sounds the same. Nicey-nice. How boring! Well, the August meeting was simply horrible! We had four things working against us. One, it was one of the most beautiful summer evenings I've ever seen which was only enhanced by the surroundings of the Renaissance Festival site. Two, the meeting went like clockwork. Three, we had another one of those unbearable Guild feasts where there's simply more delicious food than we could possibly consume (and believe me, I tried!!) Four, after the feast we watched the longest & laziest full moon rise I've ever seen. Some nights nothing goes right. Oh, well, maybe the October meeting will go better.

A few notes on the brighter side. Bob Sharp volunteered to have some information at the next meeting on making some Guild T-shirts. I'm excited about getting this project in motion.

Once again David Christofferson has absolutely worked his heart out on the Festival site & it looks good! I'm sure I'm speaking for the whole Guild when I say that its nice to be a part of the finest structure out there. Thanks David from all of us.

At the meeting, Paul Hubler gave Maxine George a hand forged yard ornament for her

(The rather generous accolade that our President Bob Walsh gave me for my contributions as Secretary and newsletter construction are herewith CENSORED as I told him over the phone I would do in my capacity as Editor. I appreciate what you said, Bob, but I'd rather not have to type it.)

According to our by-laws at this time it is my responsibility to appoint a nominating committee to supply candidates for the upcoming Board of Directors vacancies. This committee will consist of Mouraine Hubler (477-5235), John Moriarty (699-9249) & Bob Sharp (522-0701) Any Guild member that would like to nominate any other Guild member should let one of these people know. Nominees can be any Guild member whether currently serving a term or not. The Board members whose terms are coming up are: David Christofferson, Bob George, Paul Hubler, Pieter Maas & Mark Nichols. Nominations should be in on or before the October meeting as there will be an election at the December meeting.

See you all at the Harvest Festival.

From a Guild member who works best with a pen...

THE ANVIL-GOD'S WORD (as printed in the June issue of the METALSMITH) 8½"x11"
Postage & handling included \$2

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH by Longfellow
10"x13"
Postage & handling included \$2.50

Both these poems are available in a limited number print made from original calligraphy by Maxine George. Each print is embellished with a capital letter gold-leafed by hand on quality paper & is in a presentation envelope separate from it's outer mailing envelope. If you want a gift for a blacksmith or one from a blacksmith or you simply like poetry or calligraphy, write or phone:

Maxine George
THE GRAPHICS GARDEN
11898 Knolls Path West
Lakeville, MN 55044
435-6649
