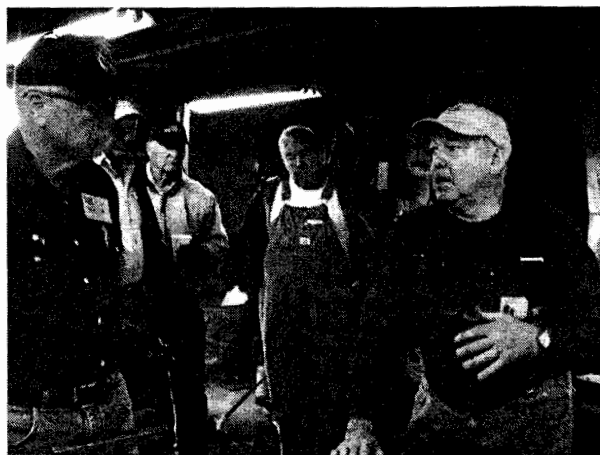


Work shop report

The hinge and handle workshop was held at the shop of Mike George in Alva, Okla. Mike made the hinges and handles for our 07' conference tool box and will be making the hardware for the 08' tool box.

The workshop participants was limited to 10 and it was full. Mike has a small shop, and it was close but we all managed to share the equipments and finish up a set of small hinges on Sat. The workshop was scheduled to continue on Sunday but most had to go home at the end of Saturday.

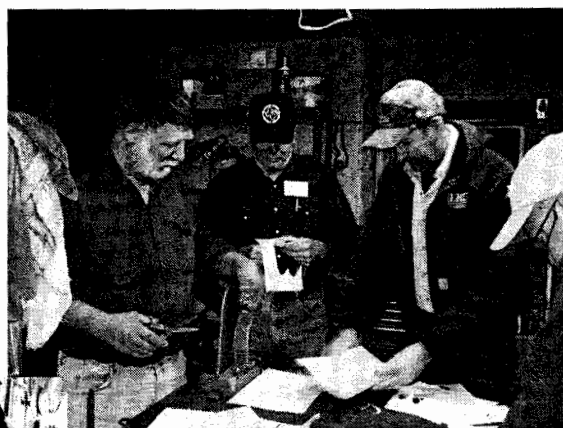


Mike started some of us out by having us clean and texture out metal. We were using metal about 22 gauge. To get a antique texture, we heated the metal in a forge fire until you have a nice layer of scale developed. If you hammer on it without removing the scale you can achieve a interesting texture effect. This is what we were wanting. This step was repeated across the surface of the metal. Next, after it cooled, we sanded the surface to remove the remaining scale and reveal the mottled look of the metal.

We also had to cut out the pattern. Then when the metal was ready, glue the pattern down to it. We could then cut it out using a band saw or metal shears.

While some were working with the sheet metal, others were making the fixture for turning the eye of the hinge. This is a block of metal that has a hole drilled in it that is large enough for the pin and 2x the thickness of the metal.

When the metal is all cut out you then need to do a lot of filing or grinding to get the edges smooth and refine any curves.



For lunch we all loaded up and went to the local Dairy Queen for a burger and fries. Maredeh provided coffee and desert during the day so all we had to do was go inside and help ourselves.



Those that had one brought a old saw vice. These worked perfect for hold the metal for filing. We also used an assortment of round and flat files.



Getting it all together....

Once we had all the parts ready, it was time to start the assembly process. Using the block that you made to fit your pin and thickness of metal you clamped the hinge in a vice and used the block to form the round eye of the hinge. This was repeated for each section. You then had to do some trimming to finish up the eyes so they would fit together. The final part was to put the pin in place and upset the ends so that it wouldn't fall back out.

