

The

# Forge Review

Fall, 1982

No. III

## PAST NEWS

Get-Together.....

Rick Ross and Harold Smith of the "Guadalupe Forge" and Ed Lewis and Jim Barfield of the "Village Blacksmith" hosted our second Blacksmith get-together this last August in Ingram. Demonstrations within the shop as well as "out back" went on through out the day with a standing room only crowd. Many examples of fine articles were on display. Thanks to the Ingram Smith's for a great "Hammerfest".

FRANCIS WHITAKER.....

October 17 thru 21 was an exciting time for 12 anxious smiths as we "oohed and aahed" watching Francis Whitaker, a 75 year old Master Blacksmith from Colorado. The class was a single project workshop covering the planning, forging, fabrication and installation of a railing and hand rail. I am sure it will take me a year to sort out all the demonstrations and tricks Francis passed along. Thanks to Joe Pehoski and Salado Smithery for making this possible.

## UPCOMING NEWS

Don't forget about Perry Cann's get together at his shop the "Red Lion Forge" on November 6th. Perry plans to start at 10a.m. with demonstrations by various smiths. Lunch will be provided and a hat will be passed to help meet expenses. Look forward to a good time and please bring examples or pictures of your work.

Perry Cann "Red Lion Forge" 910 Sagebrush Dr. Austin 512/836-3581

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SPECIAL FEATURE by Doug Garey

Editors' Note:

Doug Garey is a Blacksmith/Carpenter from Corpus Christi, which I regret many of you may not know due to his distance away.

Learning blacksmithing in the backyard from books with an improvised forge and a piece of railroad track for an anvil was fun. I learned valuable lessons and get a feel for hot iron; however, progress was slow and laborious. It was like trying to learn ballet from a book--alot was being lost in the translation to words and pictures. Watching another person go through the motions helped immeasurably.

Garey cont.

Several short workshops with Joe Pehoski and other accomplished smiths showed me several times over what I'd learned floundering around in the backyard-- hot iron in one hand, hammer in the other, and the book clamped in a leg vise.

So, applying the "IF a little is good, alot is better" principle, I decided to take frank Turley's six week course in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Turley combines information on twentieth century metallurgy with time-honored, traditional techniques-- and the product is gut-level, hard core blacksmithing. A decade of teaching hundreds of students with diverse backgrounds and reasons for wanting to learn blacksmithing has honed his teaching and demonstrating skills.

Turley works deliberately and purposefully, so that you can see what is happening to the iron under the hammer. He slows down so that all the steps in maing a beautiful suffolk latch can be recorded in copious notes and drawings. It seems foolproof...Then you are back at the anvil, spending as many days as he spent hours and are rewarded with something that looks like a tire iron with a thumb latch.

But alot was learned about dancing. Making the suffolk was only the first lesson. To perfect the dance, the steps must be practiced until they flow without hesitation. Rhythm, balance, timing, proper technique and control will yield clean, accuratè work in a material that so rapidly cools.

While attending Turley Forge on the non-deluxe tourist plan, I lived in my van and slept in the hills above and in parking lots. For ten dollars a month, I showered and swam at the public pool. It was truly an experience that will stay with me a long time.

For more information write: Turley Forge Rt. 4,Box 88C Santa Fe, N.M. 87501

#### REPORT FROM TEXAS BY JOE

Editor's note: Freddie otherwise known as Albert Haberman a Master Smith from Czechoslovakia and his short stay a few days in June.....

REPORT FROM TEXAS:

"Freddie" arrived refreshed from his stay in Florida to spend thirty six hours with us in Texas. His hosts here were Perry Conn and Sandy Briley at Perry's country home outside of Austin. Our interpreter was Roy Bellows of Fredericksburg. Other people composing our small group were Byron and Bess Wehner, Don and Debbie Morelock and Joe and Lynda Pehoski.

During his short stay, we toured the University of Texas Campus which had a fine collection of architectural styles ranging from Texas Primitive to Post Modern; visited Perry's shop where we received "Freddie's" critique on our work and listened to him philosophize, reflect and urge us on to new heights in our work. We spent hours pouring over the portfolios of his warm and earthy work that so strongly reflects his character. It was our great pleasure to just be around him and to absorb some of that almost tangible energy he radiates.

Some of the highlights of the points that he made are:

- 1) That we Blacksmiths must establish a relationship with architects and designers because it is only through collaboration with these people that the survival of quality ironwork is assured.
  - 2) That we must make our work known. Only a heightened awareness of the public through exposure to our work will make a strong market.
  - 3) That perfection of technique and design comes through hard work and experimentation.
  - 4) That we should look to nature, not to copy, but as a source of inspiration.
- "Freddie" took a dim view of our concern with making a perfect rose.
- 5) That, "The greatest opportunity in the world for a creative renaissance of ironwork in architecture is in this country".
  - 6) That he would like to come back to the United States to teach within some established curriculum that he hopes we can set up.

COME BACK, "FREDDIE"!

Prepared by Joe Pehoski

# Smithies Hammer Out Fest

BY RICK RHODES  
Times Staff Writer

INGRAM — Due to the absence here of any spreading chestnut trees, the blackened ceiling of the Guadalupe Forge will have to do for shelter Aug. 28 when village smithies from across the state assemble for the first Annual Ingram Hammerfest.

"We've invited all the Texas mem-

bers of the Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America and are planning on having about 40 participants," says Rick Ross, Hammerfest organizer and full-time practicing blacksmith at the Forge.

Registrations have been received from Austin, Houston, San Angelo, Dallas-Fort Worth and numerous towns no larger than Ingram, and the

unusual entry fee is planned to create a permanent "endowment" to commemorate the Hammerfest. "The fee is optional but we're asking each person to bring a blacksmithing hammer, the older and more used up, the better. We'll make a permanent shop display out of them in recognition of the meeting's participants," Ross said.

Doubtless one of the state leaders in blacksmiths per capita, Ingram has two forges currently open for business and four blacksmiths of varying specialties. Ed Lewis and Jim Barefield of The Village Blacksmith are also hosts for the event, with Barefield and his unique design for throwing hatchets scheduled for the Hammerfest demonstrations.

The conclave is planned to be part clinic, part open house, and part flea market. Participants will be selling and trading equipment, exhibiting pieces of their work and taking turns at the open forge. One of the highlights should be the appearance of Roy Key, the former owner of the Forge, and a craftsman with skills untarnished at age 90.

"Mr. Key is probably one of the last of the true journeyman blacksmiths, who could make or repair anything anybody ever asked for," says Harold Smith, Ross's partner at the forge. Holding a rectangular metal bar about five inches long and two inches wide, Smith traced the almost invisible seam that showed where Key had welded two small pieces together with blows from his three-pound hammer.

Neither Smith or Ross apprenticed as a blacksmith, being drawn to the forge from other professions much as they were drawn to the Hill Country from, respectively, Fort Worth and Tuscaloosa, Ala. Smith still plies his former trades of welding and carpentry while Ross appears to have permanently forsaken his career in medical education.

Sparking similar affections for smithing in novices with latent talents and rekindling the interests of non-practicing smiths are among the chief goals of the Hammerfest. With visitors and kibitzers peering in through the Forge's doors and windows, Ross suggests the influence of Thoreau rather than Longfellow when he describes the price of a piece of his work "depending on how much I like it" and his trade as "a chance to make your own music."



**SONS OF VULCAN** — Ingram blacksmiths Rick Ross (left) and Harold Smith (right) are hoping to attract as many as 40 other Texas smiths to the first Annual Ingram Hammerfest beginning at 9 a.m. Aug. 28, at the Guadalupe Forge. Among the participants will be Roy Key, a veteran of 60 years with the trade and one of Ingram's founding fathers. (Times Photo By Rick Rhodes)

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LETTERS

To the members of ABANA:

An exhibition of forged ironwork is being planned in Houston for next June. Gallery space is being provided by Dave Folkman of Little Egypt Enterprises.

If you would like to present one or two pieces, please send slides of your work. There is no entry fee, although you will be responsible for shipping costs. If you would like to sell your piece, please indicate the price along with the other information. Size will be limited to passage through a normal doorway. Entries will be juried to accomodate space. Complete details will be sent to all who submit slides. The exhibition is open to all members of ABANA and BABA. Send your slides of photos to:

Michael Moore  
The Whistling Forge  
811 Oxford  
Houston, Tex. 77007

or

Dave Folkman  
Little Egypt Enterprises  
1401 W. Gray  
Houston, Tex. 77019

ETC.

We would like to get a group together to buy W-1 water hardening tool steel. If interested contact me with your deminsions and lengthes desired. Don Morelock

476-4326

EDITOR'S NOTE

This newsletter is dependent upon its members to pass along information and tips, please help out when you can!!!!

The Forge Review is a quarterly newsletter published in the interest of Blacksmith's and friends of the craft.

*crafts on hand*  
*Nancy* 321-6181  
*Ann Felts* 321 6735  
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*Delores Heatdalen* 321-6347  
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