

# 1988 World Championship Blacksmiths' Competition

## *This Is Not Just Another Contest*

by Bob Peacock

The World Championship Blacksmiths' Competition held at the Calgary Stampede in July was not just another contest. It was the best sponsored, planned, and organized competition attended by the best talent that this horseshoer has witnessed in 15 years. There was a lot to be learned by observing how this first-class event was run.

The Championship was sponsored by Mustad, who offered total prize money of \$7800. The committee that organized the whole affair really had its act together, which was evident from the opening of registration. The committee consisted of Robin and Don Whenham, Ian Irwin, Marylyn Pelletier, John Cook, Marshall Iles, Hans Kollwyn, Maureen McGregor, Bill Pratt, Judy Pratt, MaryAnn Sheridan, Hilary Stewart, Ron Tucker, Hartley Yuffe, Keith Marrington, and Bonnie Fisher.

Each competitor was handed a pack-

et that included engraved name tags and passes to events. At the agricultural building, each registered for an international badge. Here there was a plush lounge where all competitors received first-class treatment. With the international badge came entry to all events, the clubhouse, etc.

The judges for the competition were Jack Miller from Texas and Tom Allison from England. With the talent present in Calgary, these men really had their work cut out for them. More than 45 blacksmiths representing eight countries gathered for the event.

The 1988 edition of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede got under way with the Stampede Parade. This was not just *any* parade—all stores were closed and *everyone* was at the parade. It lasted from early in the morning until late in the afternoon.

While the parade was still going on, the contestants who had registered for the competition got their first chance to

practice. The equipment was set up outside the Big Top where the actual competition would take place. Each blacksmith unit was on a skid that could be moved with a forklift, and all units were identical, making conditions the same for all contestants. Each unit had a coal forge, an anvil, a portable vise, and a wood block. A water bucket, coal, fire tools, shovel, and poker were also provided. All equipment with the exception of hand tools was supplied. Contestants drew for units before each contest.

After the practice session, shoes for the forging classes were selected from the pool. No one knew the shoes until this time. The selections were made by the Pool of Shoes Selection Committee and remained a secret until this contestants' meeting. The committee made their selections based on approved criteria of 1) cross-section of country specimens, 2) time allowance, 3) availability of materials, 4) compatibility of shoes, and 5) test of skills.

G. E. Forge & Tool hosted a welcome party for all contestants after their meeting. The all-around great get-together was held at the Elbow River Inn and featured all kinds of fun, food, and festivities. It was a great way to relax before the competition began on Saturday.

G. E. Forge & Tool also sponsored the Hospitality Suite which swung into high gear on Saturday morning. A delightful light lunch was offered before the actual competition began. The main topic of conversation was the pool that got started—pay your buck and pick the top ten and the overall champion of the competition, winner take all.

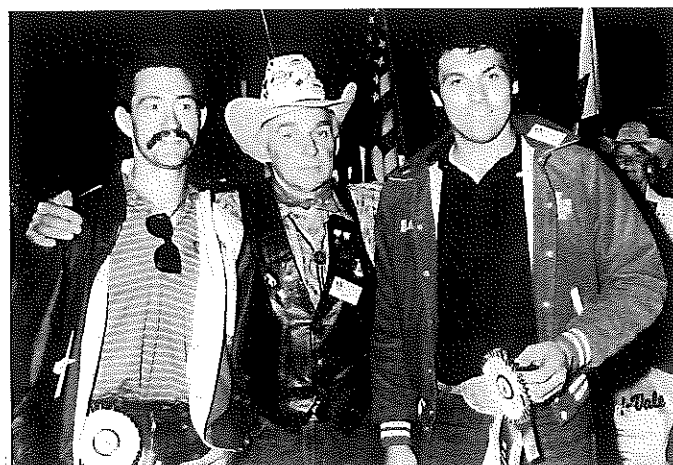
The competition got under way with



Contestants in the World Championship Blacksmiths' Competition gathered for a group photo with the judges.



Grant Moon was named World Champion Blacksmith in center-stage ceremonies. Christian Mustad made the award assisted by the Stampede princesses.



World Champion Blacksmith Grant Moon (right) and Reserve Champion Blacksmith Shayne Carter (left) are shown with Hans Nilsson of Mustad.

the Diamond Centennial Celebrity Challenge Forging Competition, perhaps better known as the VIP Challenge Forging. The World Championship Blacksmiths' Competition Committee together with the Partners in Agriculture Committee challenged invited celebrities to test their skills at turning a horseshoe. Each personality was assigned a blacksmith "coach" and was provided with a Diamond horseshoe to forge. Great fun was had by all as six personalities with no experience turned the heels and drew a toe clip on a #1 Diamond plain shoe. Mary Carlson, wife of Bob Carlson of St. Croix Forge and coached by David Wilson, Jr. of Scotland, gave it her best shot, but the class was won by Perry Beragam, a Canadian hockey player coached by Lars Berg of Sweden. Jack Wrigley of the Diamond Tool and Horseshoe Company presented Perry with a commemorative silver dollar that was minted to mark the 250th anniversary of the Saint Maurice Ironworks in the province of Quebec. The design on the coin is the work of Ralph and Robert Carmichael of Ontario and depicts two ironworkers striking an 18th century anvil. The coin is a limited edition—only 500 were minted. This coin is the only one of its kind that has displayed blacksmiths, and it is truly a work of art.

Saturday evening's competition began with the World Championship Eagle-Eye Competition. All contestants looked at the same horse, for ten seconds, and were instructed to make a bar shoe with six nail holes to fit the hind foot with the outside toe wall missing designated by the judges. The shoes were constructed from supplied bar stock. Judging was based on the accuracy and fit of the shoe. Some contestants made the mistake of making their shoes with five nail holes to accommodate the damaged hoof, but the judges had called for six nail holes and so those shoes were disqualified. The time limit for this class was 15 minutes, and the competition was very close. Urs Wuersch of Switzerland was the Eagle-Eye winner.

World Championship Forging Competition "A" followed the Eagle-Eye Competition. Two shoes from the pool of shoes, the Australian Sideweight Shoe and the Light Draft Front Shoe, had been selected to be made in this class within the 40-minute time limit. Both shoes were to be hammer-finished only. Each shoe was judged individually. Grant Moon of the United States prevailed in both divisions of this class.

Sunday's contests started with the World Championship Four-Man Team Shoeing Competition. Four competitors

worked in relay, each shoeing one foot of the team horse and forging a Swiss Navicular Specimen Shoe. Each team member had to finish before the next one could begin. The three highest point scores on each team were totaled to determine team placing. The Bob Marshall Senior Perpetual Trophy was awarded to four men from Scotland—James Ferrie, Allan Ferrie, Sandy Beveridge, and David Wilson, Jr.

In the World Championship Speed Forging Competition, contestants were required to forge a Three-Quarter Bar Shoe in a 15-minute time period. Hot rasping was permitted. Grant Moon and Bob Pethick of the United States were the top two in this event.

World Championship Forging Competition "B" was the first event of the day on Monday. The Hunter Front Shoe and the Swedish Mushroom Bar Shoe were selected to be made in this class. The shoes had to be forged within a 45-minute time limit, and hot rasping was permitted. Each shoe was judged individually. Shayne Carter of the United States crafted the finest Hunter Front Shoe, and Grant Moon of the United States won the Swedish Mushroom Bar Shoe division.

Next on the docket was the World Championship Potluck Forging Compe-

## Calgary

tition. Each blacksmith created his own work of art from his length of potluck metal drawn the evening prior to the competition. The time limit was 30 minutes, and hot rasping was permitted. The finished products were judged on originality and quality. Allan Ferrie from Scotland won the class with his sheep's head poker, and Sandy Beveridge of Scotland came in second with his hasp.

Evening classes got started Monday with the Country Challenge One-Heat Shoe Contest. Each country participating in the World Championship Blacksmiths' Competition selected one blacksmith to represent them in this event. Each contestant was given a piece of bar stock. He was allowed to heat it only once and had to forge a shoe of his choice. There was an international gift exchange among the winners. James Findler of Canada, Mark Preece of England, and Magne Delebek of Norway

were the top three finishers.

The World Championship Team Shoe-Forging Competition held next was a two-man team event. Each team forged a pair of American Saddlebred Front Shoes. The competition required coordination and accuracy, as team members used only one blacksmith unit. Hot rasping was permitted, and the teams had 45 minutes to complete their work. Shayne Carter and Dave Carter of the United States showed how well they work together by coming in first. Grant Moon's father, Brian, a hotel owner, struck for Grant in this event, and with only one hour of practice in Texas before leaving for Calgary, this pair managed to come in second.

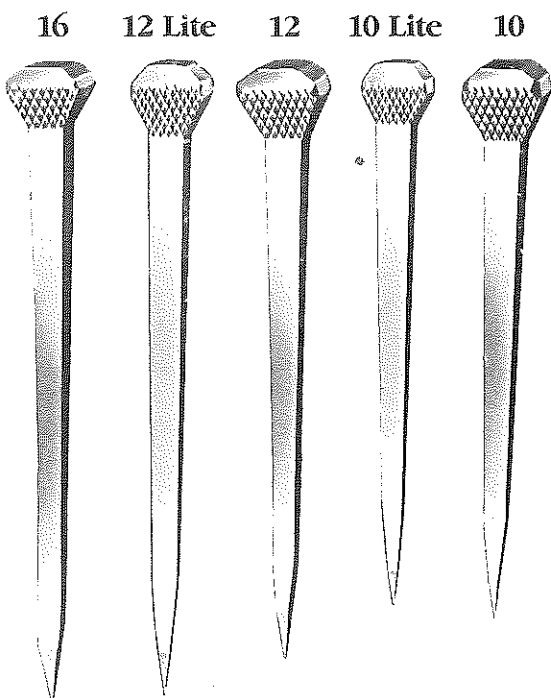
Tuesday was the final day of competition. World Championship Forging Competition "C" required the blacksmiths to forge a Norwegian Front Trotter Shoe and a British Hunter Hind Caulk and

Wedge Shoe. They had 45 minutes to complete their work, and hot rasping was permitted. Each shoe was judged individually. William Carruthers of Canada and Grant Moon of the United States were tops in the Norwegian Front Trotter Shoe division, and Allen Ferrie of Scotland and Grant Moon were the top two in the British Hunter Shoe division.

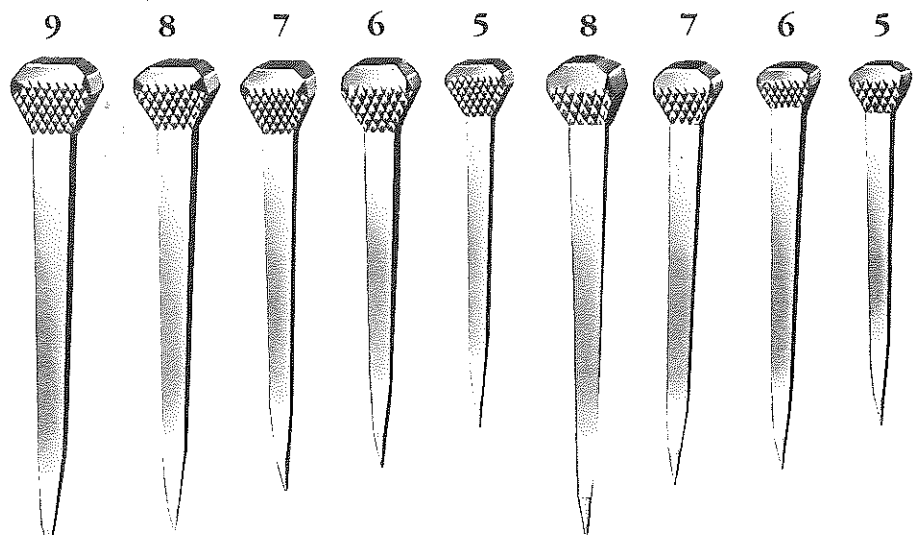
The last class, the World Championship Horseshoeing Competition, consisted of the ten nominated contestants who had accumulated the most points (using the point system used to determine the World Champion Blacksmith) during the competition. Each contestant who qualified was required to forge two front shoes for the horse he drew. The judging was based on foot preparation, fit of the shoe, nailing, and finishing. Hot rasping was permitted. The contestants had to complete their work in 60 minutes and were required to finish shoeing their horses.

# The Great All-American

## Regular Head



## City Head



The ten eligible for this class were Grant Moon (United States), Allan Ferrie (Scotland), Shayne Carter (United States), James Findler (Canada), William Caruthers (Canada), Urs Wuersch (Switzerland), Luke Proulx (Canada), Bob Pethick (United States), Geren Conklin (United States), and Colin Smith (England). The six placings went to Shayne Carter, Bob Pethick, Allan Ferrie, Grant Moon, James Findler, and Luke Proulx, in that order. That moved Shayne Carter and Bob Pethick up in the standings for World Champion Blacksmith, but no one really had a chance to catch Grant Moon. After not placing in the Eagle-Eye Competition, Grant was on a roll and never looked back. He enjoyed a comfortable lead throughout the competition. This was Grant's third Calgary competition.

Grant Moon was named World Champion Blacksmith and presented the limited-edition bronze trophy by Don

Toney depicting a blacksmith at work. The trophy was sponsored by Mustad and presented by Christian Mustad, Director of Mustad International, Switzerland. Shayne Carter was Reserve Champion, and Allan Ferrie came in third.

Grant Moon was also the World Forging Champion, having accumulated the highest total points in World Championship Forging Competitions "A", "B", and "C" and the Speed Forging Competition. He was presented with a bronze belt buckle sponsored by Mustad and \$1000 in prize money.

Overall, the competition at Calgary was intense and real works of art were produced. Most people felt this was the toughest field of competitors and highest skill level ever assembled at Calgary. The feeling among the competitors was one of fun and friendship. The flavor was truly international, and no one felt badly when they were beaten, because they realized

it took the best in the world to do it.

If you have never been to the World Championship Blacksmiths' Competition in Calgary, mark it on your calendar for next year. The 1989 competition will be the tenth anniversary of the event, and it promises to be the best yet. My hat is off to the people who put on this event—it was more than worth the trip. ■

## Results of the World Championship Blacksmiths' Competition Calgary Exhibition & Stampede July 9-12, 1988

### Diamond Centennial Celebrity Challenge Forging Competition

Personality	Coach
1. Perry Beragam	Lars Berg
2. Ron Jones	Grant Moon
3. Gordon Pearce	Luke Proulx
4. Mary Carlson	David Wilson, Jr.
5. Jeff Michel	Urs Wuersch
6. Colin Patterson	Colin Smith

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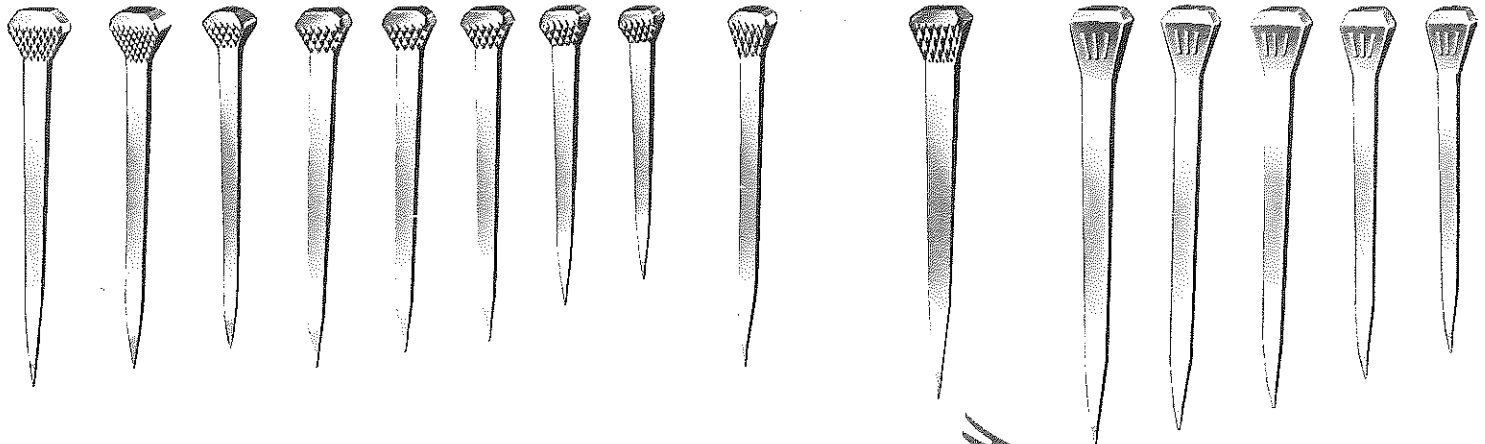
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**Eagle-Eye  
Competition**

1. Urs Wuersch (Switzerland)
2. Allan Ferrie (Scotland)
3. Geren Conklin (USA)
4. Allen Gideon (USA)
5. Dean Sinclair (Canada)
6. Lars Berg (Sweden)

**Forging Competition "A"  
Australian Sideweight Shoe**

1. Grant Moon (USA)
2. Luke Proulx (Canada)
3. Allan Ferrie (Scotland)
4. William Carruthers (Canada)
5. Denis Leveillard (France)
6. Bob Pethick (USA)

*Light Draft Front Shoe*

1. Grant Moon (USA)
2. Shayne Carter (USA)
3. Colin Smith (England)
4. Sandy Beveridge (Scotland)
5. Rod Harney (USA)
6. James Findler (Canada)

**Four-Man Team Shoeing Competition**

1. James Ferrie (Scotland)  
Allan Ferrie (Scotland)  
Sandy Beveridge (Scotland)  
David Wilson, Jr. (Scotland)
2. Shayne Carter (USA)  
Bob Pethick (USA)  
Geren Conklin (USA)  
Rob Pruitt (USA)
3. James Findler (Canada)  
Luke Proulx (Canada)  
Grant Moon (USA)  
Rod Harney (USA)
4. James Balfour (Scotland)  
Sandy Duff (Scotland)  
Alistair Duff (Scotland)  
Pat Balfour (Scotland)
5. Lars Berg (Sweden)  
Colin Smith (England)  
Denis Leveillard (France)  
Magne Delebekk (Norway)

**Speed Forging Competition**

1. Grant Moon (USA)
2. Bob Pethick (USA)
3. Denis Leveillard (France)
4. James Findler (Canada)
5. Urs Wuersch (Switzerland)
6. James Balfour (Scotland)

**Potluck Forging Competition**

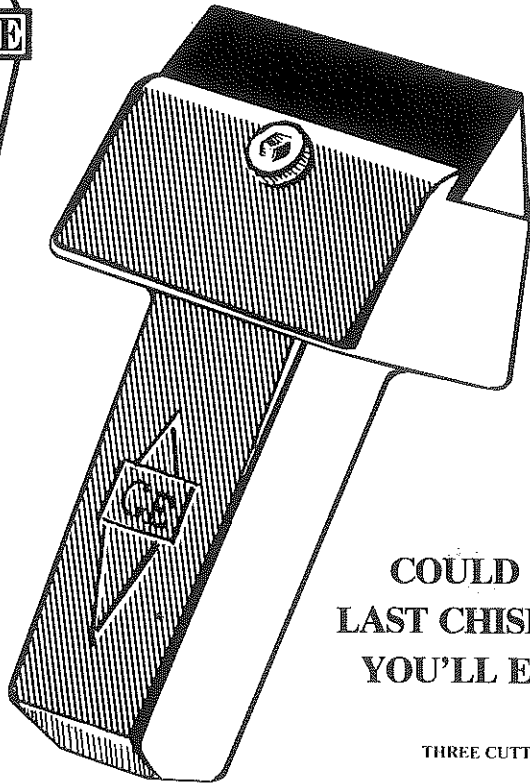
1. Allan Ferrie (Scotland)
2. Sandy Beveridge (Scotland)
3. Denis Leveillard (France)
4. Colin Smith (England)
5. Magne Delebekk (Norway)
6. Allen Gideon (USA)

**Forging Competition "B"**

*Hunter Front Shoe*

1. Shayne Carter (USA)
2. James Findler (Canada)
3. Allan Ferrie (Scotland)
4. Luke Proulx (Canada)
5. James Ferrie (Scotland)

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*Swedish Mushroom Bar Shoe*

1. Grant Moon (USA)
2. James Findler (Canada)
3. Sandy Duff (Scotland)
4. Urs Wuersch (Switzerland)
5. Denis Leveillard (France)
6. Ulrich Wenger (Switzerland)

**Country Challenge One-Heat Shoe**

1. James Findler (Canada)
2. Mark Preece (England)
3. Magne Delebekk (Norway)
4. Sandy Duff (Scotland)
5. Allen Gideon (USA)
6. Denis Leveillard (France)
7. Ulrich Wenger (Switzerland)
8. Lars Berg (Sweden)

**Team Shoe-Forging Competition**

1. Shayne Carter (USA)  
Dave Carter (USA)
2. Grant Moon (USA)  
Brian Moon (USA)
3. Bob Pethick (USA)  
Geren Conklin (USA)
4. Luke Proulx (Canada)  
William Carruthers (Canada)
5. Sandy Duff (Scotland)  
Alistair Duff (Scotland)
6. Pat Balfour (Scotland)  
James Balfour (Scotland)

**Forging Competition "C"**

*Norwegian Front Trotter Shoe*

1. William Carruthers (Canada)
2. Grant Moon (USA)
3. Lars Berg (Sweden)
4. James Balfour (Scotland)
5. Magne Delebekk (Norway)
6. Shayne Carter (USA)

*British Hunter Hind Caulk & Wedge Shoe*

1. Allan Ferrie (Scotland)
2. Grant Moon (USA)
3. Colin Smith (England)
4. Sandy Beveridge (Scotland)
5. Dave Wilson, Jr. (Scotland)
6. James Ferrie (Scotland)

**Top Ten Qualifying Blacksmiths**

1. Grant Moon (USA)—32 points
2. Allan Ferrie (Scotland)—15 points
3. Shayne Carter (USA)—14 points
4. James Findler (Canada)—10 points
5. William Carruthers (Canada)—9 points
6. Luke Proulx (Canada)—8 points
7. Urs Wuersch (Switzerland)—8 points
8. Bob Pethick (USA)—7 points
9. Colin Smith (England)—6 points
10. Geren Conklin (USA)—6 points

**World Championship Horseshoeing Competition**

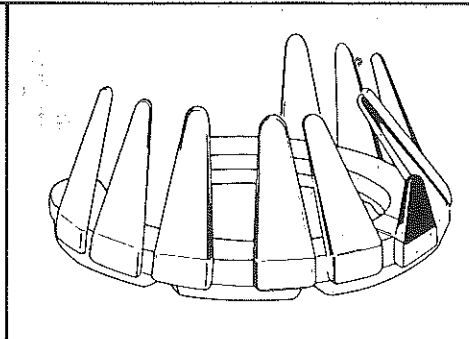
1. Shayne Carter (USA)
2. Bob Pethick (USA)
3. Allan Ferrie (Scotland)
4. Grant Moon (USA)
5. James Findler (Canada)
6. Luke Proulx (Canada)

**World Forging Champion**  
Grant Moon (USA)

**World Champion Blacksmith**  
Grant Moon (USA)

**Reserve World Champion Blacksmith**  
Shayne Carter (USA)

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