Art Reflected in Wrought Iron by Hvale Forge

(Continued from page 1) now comes from all over the country for these inimitable products. It is a fascinating tale and we are going to tell it to you in James own

"My father and I started our busto work with tools. My hobby was able to see the fourth person. and surrounded by an idealistic aura. If anyone suggested that I turn my talents into profit I threw up my hands in horror at such a desecra-

My father was employed in a field that paid well but which was totally unsuited to his temperament and contrary to his convictions. After

a library. It was easy. Everyone was short of help in those days. In the six years I worked there I worked myself up to the position I had when I started. The friends I made at the library and my daily contact with the public are the two greatest treasures that I took with me when I left. One evening many years ago our little family was gathered about the fireplace when an idea came to me. For years we had wanted a weathervane for the peak of the roof on our home, but nothing had been done about it. Suddenly on that most fateful night (fateful at least for us) I jumped up. "I've got an idea for a weathervane!"

Dad got some sheet metal from the basement and I got my paints from my room. The metal was put on the floor and with my brush I laid out a design incorporating the family; father working with a shovel, mother watering a flower little sister had just picked and lastly myself in my most characteristic pose, reclined on the ground with head supported by an indolent elbow. Then father and I set to cutting it out. A block of iron, a chisel, and a hammer were our only tools. At about one-thirty that evening it was finished, truly a work of art if ever there was one. We proceeded to show it to mother, holding it up for her admiring gaze. Imagine our chagrin as one by one the figures toppled over. The metal was much too thin to support its own weight . . . truly a sad fate for our first effort. But my father is an ingenious man and forthwith came an idea, "Maybe we can make a sign

of it." The next night we made a wooden frame and set the would-be weather vane in it. Together with our name which was cut out like the figures. We bought a cheap bent iron bracket and hung it on a post down by the road at the entrance to our place. Some neighbors saw our sign and admired it, so, upon their request, we made them one. I remember how shocked I was when they insisted upon paying for it. Woe is art. Other neighbors saw the signs and wanted one. All of these of course were framed in wood.

"Jim, we could develop this into a paying business," said my father. "I want to be an artist, not a menial laborer," said I. So there it



the depression. My father's salary the most important question con- might be free. And so it was was cut, my pay was cut, but it cost fronting our "board of directors," named. Then came what was un- at Fort Sunday just as much to live. "What about mother, my little sister, father and doubtedly a most wonderful opporit, Jim; shall we give it a try?" myself, as we sat about the fire one tunity for us. The Eighth Annual asked Dad. Things by this time evening. had gotten into a pretty bad way The Hvale Workroom, Hvale was held at the Navy Pier in Chi- brook Club of Milwaukee on the periods. financially. So the pressure of cir- Workshop, The Vvale Iron Shoppe, cumstances forced me to doff my yes, we even doubled the P's in our smock and flowing bow tie and to desperation to arrive at something trim my flowing locks, that is sym- startling. Mother in her quiet way we were able to exhibit our work at bolically. My father arranged to said nothing but listened for a work half time for half pay, spend- couple hours to the brain-children iness as ahobby or as a combina- ing the extra time soliciting custom- of her men. Then in a soft voice had so many requests for designs, tains Greiner, Hutchinson, and Jertion of our hobbies. My father's ers and making signs. Out of the she said, "Why not call it the Hvale that I had to leave my job at the nigan. hobby was that of making things; first four people he saw, three or- Forge." playthings and gadgets. He loved dered signs, and he hasn't yet been drawing. I studied at the Art Insti- propitious start. In February 1934, tute as a child. When I grew older he left his old employment alto-I took summer courses there and gether and spent full time at the later I studied at night school. I forge. I maintained my job at the finally reached a stage where I de- library during the day and did decided that art was my chosen field. signing in the evening. I soon be-My art was not to be commercial, came reconciled to commercialism, it was to be spelled in capital letters for I saw that it was unfolding to me new fields in designing.

Valley, the Hvale Forge.

It brought to mind certain historical memories to all Americans, and most primitive, but we gradually it was here that we undoubtedly bought equipment to help us do the spent our most trying winter, like work better. Now, although we are Washington did at Valley Forge. still far from a perfect work-shop Where we were battling a thing yet we have gone a long way beyond celled the depression he was fighting our first chisel and hammer. Every business must have a name, the Hessians. He, that a country

rested. Then, thank goodness, came what should ours be? That was might be free. We, that a family "Rubber" Polo Game Garden and Flower Show of Illinois again meet the team of the Meadow- Field Artillery will play between cago in April. Through the cooper- north polo field at 3:30 p.m. on Sunation of Mrs. O. W. Dynes, the Gen- day, August 1st. eral chairman and her committee

library to tend to them. I might This game is the third of a series Then this was it, this was the way pause here to say that everyone which has been played throughout in which to show people how to pro- was glad to see me go, from the July. The first game was taken by nounce that impossible name. Hvale, head librarian down. They even Sheridan, 10-7, at Milwaukee on told me so.

As you see our beginnings were

The Fort Sheridan polo team will

The Meadowbrook team, made up of Kornitz, Ehlers, Wangerin, and Meiers, will oppose the Fort Sheri-

July 3rd. On the 10th, at Fort Sheridan, Meadowbrook emerged victorious in another closely contested game, 8-5.

This game will probably be the last of the series, for the members of the Fort Sheridan team will be away during August and the early part of September. Both teams are

anxious to win this, the rubber game, of the series. Horses of both aggregations are in fine condition and the players are worked to fighting pitch. The band of the 3rd

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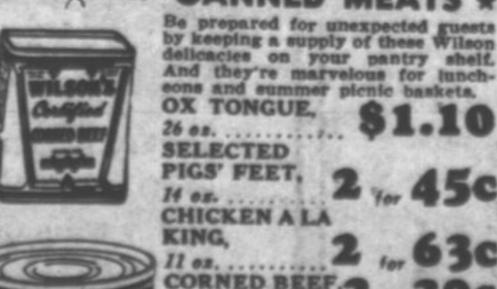
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