

Former Loup City resident to demo blacksmithing skills at Museum Saturday and Sunday

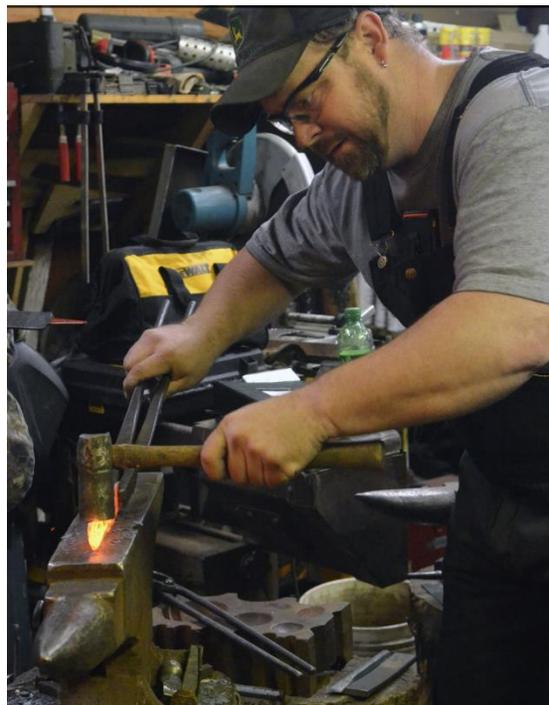
Bryon Soper, a former Loup City resident, has two of the early Depew hammers that he uses in his blacksmithing. The Depew hammer may be remembered as having Loup City roots, being invented by J.I. Depew, a pioneer blacksmith, in approximately 1905.

Bryon's interest in blacksmithing started seven or eight years ago when he needed a set of fire irons to hang a cast-iron Dutch oven over his campfire. With guidance from his father, Bryon was able to make just the tools he needed. His blacksmithing business is called Red Hot Iron Works.

Bryon has been learning blacksmithing and holding demonstrations at tractor shows and other outdoor craft shows for a few years. He started making knives two or three years ago, and has learned the trick to the rippling patterns in Damascus knives. He also makes metal roses and Damascus steel rings lined with sterling silver. Knives take about 20 hours to make; roses take about two hours to make; the rings might take seven or eight hours.

Bryon will be demonstrating his blacksmithing skills at the Sherman County Historical Society on Saturday after the parade until approximately 5 p.m. Sunday's hours are approximately 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.. He will have some of his finished products for sale.

There is a Depew Manufacturing booth at the Elsner/Clark Exhibit Hall at the Museum. Some of the foundry molds are on display. There is also a Depew disc sharpener in the Barn at the Museum. If you don't know what these pieces of equipment do, then by all means, come watch Bryon! Check out the Museum!



Left picture: the Depew hammer that Bryon will be using for his demonstrations.

Right: Bryon at work in his shop.

Photos:
courtesy of
Bryon Soper