

**OWNED, OPERATED BY "WORLD'S ONLY FLYING ANVIL SALESMAN"**

## Shoe Store For Horses Is World's Largest

By Wally E. Shulz

"So far as we know, we carry the world's largest, most complete supply of horse shoes, nails, farrier tools and blacksmith equipment," says William Pieh, owner-operator of Centaur Forge, Ltd., Burlington, Wis.

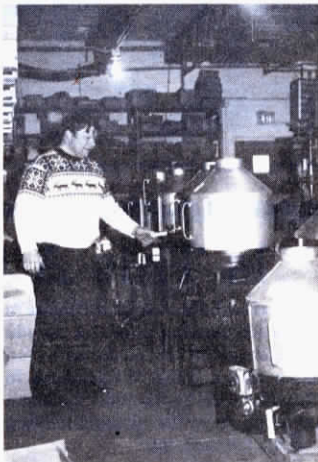
His customers include cowboys, rodeo riders, farmers, ranchers, farriers and horsemen from all 50 states, Canada, and many foreign countries.

Many of his customers come to buy special anvils, portable forges, work benches, vises, foot stands, and shoe-shaping devices which Pieh himself designs and makes. He's well known throughout horse shoeing circles for redesigning the old rubber anti-snowball pad, and the Phoenix style polo plate.

Pieh is a farrier graduate of California State Polytechnic Institute, and has a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he earned his way through college shoeing horses.

To get to national conventions and shows, Pieh simply hops in his own plane. "I often take along my cargo consisting of 1,000 lb. anvils, forges and farrier supplies. I guess I'm the world's only flying anvil salesman," he quips.

Centaur Forge carries a regular inventory of about 500 anvils, 20 tons of blacksmith coal, 25 tons of horse shoe nails, and 100 tons of horse shoes of all shapes and sizes, some of which are made in foreign countries.



**"If I don't have the tool or shoe a customer wants in stock, I can usually get it for him," says Pieh.**

For customers who can't shop in person at Centaur Forge, Pieh has put together a catalog so they can shop by mail. "If I don't have the tool, shoe or other item a customer wants, I can usually get it for him. And, if nobody has it, chances are we can make it right here in our own shop," he points out.

For a copy of the catalog, send \$2 to: FARM SHOW Followup, Centaur Forge, P.O. Box 340S, Burlington, Wis. 53105 (ph 414 763-9175).

## IT'S NOW BEING USED TO DEVELOP AN OVER-THE-ROAD VEHICLE

### Test Car Gets 1,595 Mpg.

If you think your new foreign import gets good gas mileage, take a look at this experimental car built by students at the University of Saskatchewan. It recently attained a record 1,595 miles per gal. in the Society of Automotive Engineers' fuel economy competition at the Eaton testing grounds in Michigan.

The Saskatchewan team shattered the previous record of 1,344 mpg in a cigar-shaped auto sculpted from lightweight steel tubing covered with heat shrinkable plastic film. Student advisor Professor Barry Hertz says the car has almost no wind resistance and slices through the air with "an almost eerie lack of sound."

The Ultra V, as the car is called, weighs only 66 lbs. Its bicycle tires were inflated to 180 lbs. and its 2 hp. Briggs and Stratton engine was totally redesigned, with displacement reduced from 109 cc. to 77 cc. Construction costs were about \$1,000. The

students also built a second car, the Zeppelin, which finished second at 1,159 mpg. The third-place car came in at 739 mpg and the collective average of the 18 cars competing was 575 mpg.

During the competition, cars must average 15 mph in their laps around the 1.6 mile oval track. Hertz says that 90% of the time the cars' engines are turned off and they simply coast. The Saskatchewan car, however, could be equipped with higher gearing capable of reaching speeds of 80 mph. At that speed, its mileage would still average 440 mpg. In fact, the University's next project is to transfer the knowledge they gained in the high mileage contest to a super high mileage two-seater over-the-road car.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Professor Barry Hertz, College of Engineering, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada S7N 0W0 (ph 306 343-3101).



Mendez first paints entire skull with coat of white paint.

## He Paints Pictures On Cattle Skulls

Wisconsin artist Martin Mendez, of Rochester, is winning fame and recognition for the cattle skulls he turns into beautiful art objects.

"I stumbled onto this rare art being done by a craftsman in Texas," says Mendez. "I was fascinated and decided I'd like to try it. My painted cattle skulls became an immediate hit with all that saw them."

Mendez buys cattle heads at local butchering plants. He uses a "secret process" to quickly and easily clean off the meat.

"I have the butcher save only those heads that have horns on them" he notes. "If they have curved-out horns, they're even more appealing to buyers."

Once the meat has been removed from the skull and it's as dry as those found on a western desert, it's ready for decorating with colorful acrylic paints.

Mendez first paints the entire skull with a coat of flat white paint inside and out. Even the teeth are given a coat of white paint. The horns also are painted white, except for black trim on the points.

One of this favorite skulls has a bright red background and has the figure of an Indian chief painted on the forehead. "The Indian was

enough decoration for this particular skull," says Mendez. "I blended and faded the dominant red color to appear like the sun's rays protruding from it. It gives the painting an interesting effect."

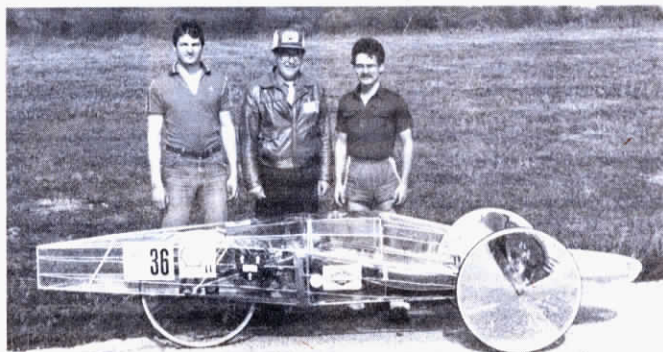
Another popular choice with Mendez's customers is a bright yellow skull. The figure of a buffalo, reproduced from the buffalo off an Indian head nickel, decorates its surface.

A favorite with youngsters is his "Rhinestone Cowboy" skull. It's painted entirely sky-blue and measures 20 in. from the top of the forehead to the tip of the nose. Small holes drilled into the surface of the skull have colorful jewelry stones cemented into them.

Another popular skull depicts an Indian warrior carrying the body of his dead squaw in his arms and gazing towards heaven.

Mendez sells the finished art pieces for \$150 and up. "The cost for each depends on how many hours it took to complete, and how difficult it was to do. I don't charge as much for those I can do quickly," he told FARM SHOW.

For more information, contact: Martin Mendez, 2340 N. Brownslake Rd., Burlington, Wis. 53105 (ph 414 534-3426).



Team members, from left, are Darcy Thomson, Prof. Barry Hertz, and Bronie Ewanchuk, driver.