

# Doc's Dugout - An Inning from our Past & Present

by Dr. Kent Kurtz, STMA Historian

## Our Heritage is the Key to our Future

The success of the recent STMA Conference & Exhibition is due to you - the members and the new faces that came for the very first time. It was indeed enlightening to see so many attendees and high caliber people in Mesa. It was a wonderful mix with the "old timers" and the "newcomers" and those who have been loyal supporters from earlier days mingling together all sharing knowledge, trade secrets and enjoying each others company and fellowship. This is exactly what Harry Gill had in mind when he conceived the idea of an association like STMA. The officers, board members, Trusty's and attendees made Mesa the best conference, show and annual meeting ever.

As your historian, I need your help in securing items from our past so we can carry on the legacy toward our future. Things of value would be old newspaper clippings, photographs or slides, material written or published, stories or quotes by past or deceased members, memorabilia, small hand tools, etc. Recently I talked with Fred Grau, Jr., son of Dr. Fred Grau, and he will allow me to come to Maryland next summer to look through his father's photos and material and make copies before they are sent to the University of Nebraska where these items will be permanently displayed. These are the kinds of things that STMA needs to piece together our history. *(Items can be sent to me at 1400 Carmelita Place, Arcadia, CA 91006, or call me at (626) 355-2209.)*

I would like to personally congratulate John Souter, our good friend from Braco, Scotland, who was presented the Harry Gill Memorial Award at the Awards Banquet in Mesa. This is the highest honor that STMA can bestow on an individual and John is very deserving of this recognition.

The Harry Gill Award is indeed

a spectacle to see. It was designed by Harry and the idea was taken to a friend in Milwaukee who built the trophy. It shows a horse and rider mounted on an old catchers mask. The horse's tail consists of wire brushes from an old motor and his head is an

old porcelain faucet. The rider is a groundskeeper armed with the tools of his trade: a rake of hope; a hose of determination; a shovel of passion; a hoe of dedication; and a smile of spirited uncertainty as he rides off into the unknown atop a horse named desire.

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