



stopping at a few of the pallets that have been piled with dies outside. The plan is to eventually clean and refurbish these 100- to 150-year-old tools.

"It would take an entire lifetime if we had to remake them," Quinn explains.

They have a list of immediate goals, including installing an overhead door to provide forklift access and supplying utilities, such as water and compressed air, to the blacksmith shop. To get the old large hammers running again, they will have to spend around \$250,000.

Quinn figures it could take 10 to 15 years to get the large hammers functioning, but he is hoping to restore the shop to its full capacity. Funding is a priority, and the center is currently partnering with other organizations to pursue that goal.

In the meantime, the Center for Metal Arts has quickly grown, and the school is equipped with eight personal blacksmith forging stations. This year, the center plans to launch a new jewelry/met-

alsmithing studio, too. During weekend and extended courses, students focus on producing a specific tool or item, such as a coat rack, bottle opener, padlock or knife.

The partners have also been working on five- and 10-year plans to turn the three shop buildings and rectory into a blacksmithing campus, with each building serving a different function. In addition to classes, they want to host demos, conferences and events open to the public. They also plan to sponsor emerging artists-in-residence, who will be given personal studio space to work.

"I want to create a scholarship program where artists can apply to use the shop," Quinn says. "There are blacksmith artists out there who would like to translate their work into larger pieces, and they can't with their current facilities."

To build up the school, they have initially focused their efforts on forging the tools needed by their students. Professional tools make all the difference in

the world, Quinn says.

"Right now, few in the world have access to forge machinery like this," he says. "Blacksmith artists hunger for a place like this—a world-class forging school and environment."

The only other school like it in the world is in Australia, he notes.

The rebirth of the blacksmith shop is also helping to revitalize Johnstown, according to Burkhardt.

"People are coming from all over the world to attend this school," he says. "The fact that we can restore this shop and reuse it for its original purpose is special." ♣

—Cindy Ross lives in New Ringgold, Schuylkill County.

WHEN YOU GO

The **Center for Metal Arts** is located at 106 Iron St. in Johnstown. It offers blacksmithing and metalsmithing classes. A spring tour is being scheduled for the general public. centerformetalarts.org; 814-418-0409