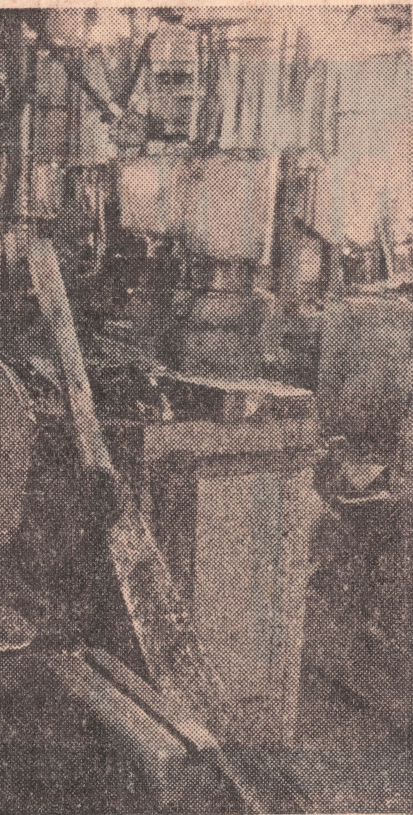


Bendigo firm is still going strong



atches as metal is shaped in the
opposite the Marong turn-off.
Walter, pictured at work in their
the blacksmith's shop at the rear

The Osbornes of Ironbark have a good old goldfields ring about their name — and so they should have.

The business of which they are a part has been around at least since 1855 when it was a general store, the metal-working factory being gradually built beside it.

And there is a funny thing about the three Osbornes: Two of them are brothers, and the third is a ring-in of sorts, with no established relationship.

But the funny thing does not end there, for it turns out that the ring-in is the descendant of one of the factory's two founders.

Confusing?

Well it goes something like this:

The founders of the firm were Osborne and Mitchell, and Mitchell soon left to open an agricultural implement making works for a Melbourne firm in Bridge St.

The business then changed hands a number of times until the Quartz King, George Lansell and several others bought it.

At this time Oscar Osborne, who was no relation to the original fellow, but came from Sedgwick where his fa-

ther was a partner in the firm of Osborne and Brennan (both names still very much alive in the Bendigo district), was in charge of the engineering side of Lansell's mines.

Lansell had him run the machine shop and foundry, and he eventually acquired it.

His sons Charles and Walter now run it together with Stan, the descendant of the original founder.

They reckon they can mend anything but a broken heart and day break.

Under shedding that covers about a third of an acre they have a bewildering array of machinery and tools, and claim nearly 200 between the three of them.

Says Charles: "We regard ourselves as three of the old school, and have a lot of rules and short cuts in our

heads which are now being lost or ignored."

Although they are not looking for more work — "we already have plenty" — Charles says he will not willingly retire.

"I enjoy it too much," he said.

Much of their work comes from Adelaide, but there is a constant demand from antique dealers for the casting of broken parts, and there are always ma-

chines and metal parts to be fixed.

The firm has, for more years than most can remember, been famous, among other things, for its beautifully tempered range of crowbars, and for the iron lace it makes for people restoring old homes or for decorating new ones.

Their old rambling works are in Eaglehawk Rd opposite the point where the Calder High-

way (Marong Rd) turns off.

Although they were not the first founders in Bendigo they are the survivors, the only others in the city being comparative new-comers.

And what will happen when they are gone?

Well, about all that anyone can say who knows them is, there's not much chance they'll go for quite a while yet.



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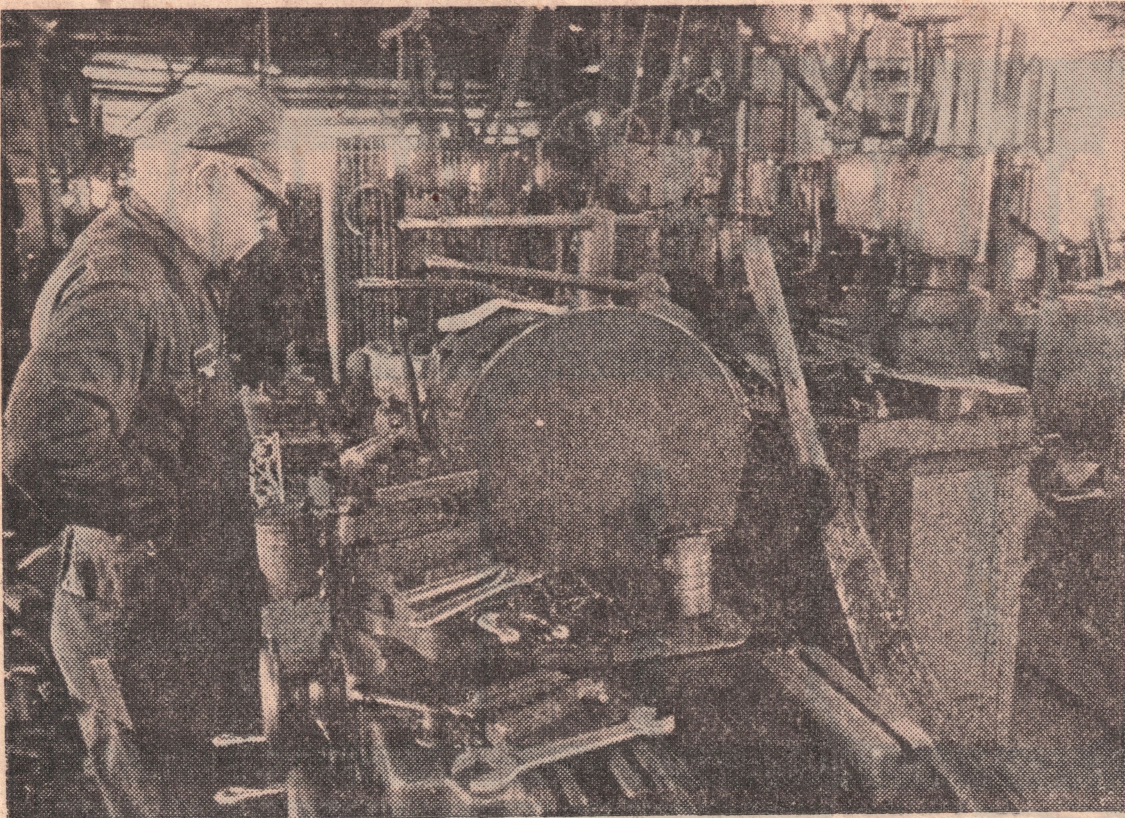
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Here Charles Osborne holds a knock-on tyne invented by his father, Oscar, for scarifiers. The tyne, manufactured in the family foundry at Ironbark, could be even more simply replaced than modern ones which are bolted on.

mart

Bendig



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Above: A picture of concentration, Charles Osborne watches as metal is shaped in the Osborne's foundry and machine shop at Ironbark. The foundry is a famous landmark in Eaglehawk Rd opposite the Marong turn-off.

Below: Stan, in the middle distance and behind him Walter, pictured at work in their famous and historic Ironbark foundry and machine shop.

The third Osborne, Stan, is out of sight working in the blacksmith's shop at the rear right of the building.

