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Ornamental & Miscellaneous Metal Fabricator (ISSN 0191-5940), is the official publication of the National Ornamental & Miscellaneous Metals Association (NOMMA).

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Editorial

Send story ideas, letters, press releases, and product news to: *Fabricator* at address above. Ph: (888) 516-8585. Fax: (770) 288-2006. E-mail: fabricator@nomma.org.

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Editor's Letter

Old dog, new tricks

When I accepted this job as editor of *Fabricator*, I was flying somewhat blind. Sure, I had years of editorial and magazine experience on my resumé, but what did I know about the metalworking industry? Actually, nada.

But Barbara Cook and Todd Daniel placed their faith in me, assuring me that I would learn... and that the NOMMA membership would be my best teachers. And you know what? They were exactly right about that.

I may have come into this job at a "well-seasoned" age, but I've become an enthusiastic student once again. With your help, I'm learning about your businesses, your products, your creativity, and your dedication.

And honestly, there's no better learning experience than METALfab! It is a week packed with opportunities to attend educational sessions, learn about the Top Job competition, meet suppliers and view their products, go on a shop tour, watch live demonstrations, and more. Most of all, it's an invaluable opportunity to network, share experiences, and make new friends.

After attending my first METALfab this year, I came home with new knowledge, a legal pad filled with ideas for articles, dozens of digital photos, and a profound respect for this industry. And I cannot say enough about the friendliness and courteousness extended to me by you, the NOMMA family.

So, my new friends, I would like to ask you to continue submitting your ideas for the magazine. Please let me know what you'd like to see on these pages — because, ultimately, this publication is for *you*.

Also, I'd like to remind you to think *way* ahead and mark your calendars now for METALfab 2008, to be held April 1-5 in Memphis, TN. As you know, this is NOMMA's 50th anniversary celebration. If you have not previously attended METALfab, this is the

one *not* to miss!

Speaking of METALfab, you'll find a recap of this year's convention, plus photos, beginning on page 40.

Also in this issue, Todd Daniel informs you about a major new NOMMA initiative — the launching of an independent research study on guard 'climability.' See his article in Member Talk, page 32.

Learn more about 3D modeling software and electron beam technology in our Tips and Tactics section. Our Shop Talk article focuses on the benefits of liquid electrostatics — the paint method you choose could save you time and money.

We have three creative and inspiring stories in our Job Profiles section. Our cover story features a gate fabricated by A.Y.'s Designs

in Iron for the Carillo Ranch in Carlsbad, CA, which is listed on the national register of historic places. Also, Dirk Brown and his crew at Blue Mountain Metalworks fulfilled their client's request for an exterior handrail that would fit in with the natural beauty of their vacation home in the North Carolina mountains. Finally, Michael Migala shares the tale of how his very small shop successfully took on a very large project, despite some initial "butterflies" in the stomach.

To round it all out, in Biz Side, we have three timely articles that run the gamut from tax audits to customer service to dealing with stress.

I hope you find this issue packed with useful information — and that you learn something new.

(By the way, you really can teach an old dog new tricks. As you can see, I'm a prime example.)

Thanks for reading!



Helen Kelley is editor of *Ornamental & Miscellaneous Metal Fabricator*.