

### Category Allegory

"All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream." - Poe

"If a tree falls in the forest," begins the philosophical riddle, "and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?" By extension we could ask, is it a joke if no one gets the punch line; or, for today's discussion, from *190 Duration* to *Quarter Inch Drive*, is it symbolism if it's not interpreted; is it a double entendre if both sides of the *entendre* (french = meaning) are not perceived?

Take the newsletter's name, *Quarter Inch Drive*. The ratchet in reference is small, compact and serves a specific purpose. It also indicates the frequency of the newsletter's distribution. But only a stick-in-the-mud wouldn't laugh at the many names people have given it: *Nut and Bolts*, *The Fix It, Bits & Pieces*, *The Inch Drive*. One female coworker asked about *The Screw*, and quickly assured me with a wrist-turning pantomime of no improper innuendo.

The glue people use to lock into new knowledge is past experience. Without direct experience with that ratchet, the reader uses the closest clue. Plato speaks to this in his *Allegory of the Cave*, where people are chained immobile to a floor and see only shadows of shapes reflected by a fire behind them. One escapes, comes back, tells the others what the world is really like. They think he's nuts. The cavers have no adhesive to attach the new knowledge.

Sure, the guy was kidding when *Nine Inch Nails* came e-mailing in, but there was a trigger (forgive a non-sequitur but you must see Johnny Cash's video of Trent Reznor's song *Hurt*. Unforgettable work by a man close to death).

My favorite: Jeff Clark, bombastic ambassador of English, whose cave shadows never included any tools, *What's Happening Now?* Jeff assures us that correctly decoding literary symbolism is secondary; personal internalization transcends author intentions. Poe would probably agree.



*Self-Portrait.*

*Flex-head quarter inch drive ratchet, wobble extension, eight-point socket.*

Until next issue,

*Tom Hull*

Tom Hull

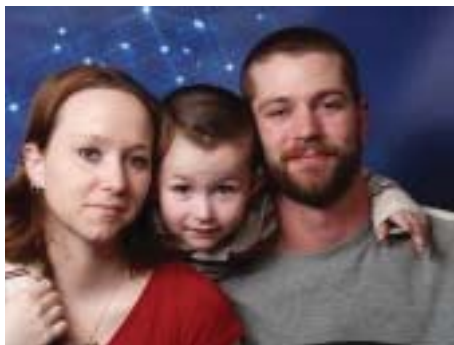
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# Success Story

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## Shawn Boqua



*Tell me, tell me, if you can, what is the color of the soul of man? ----Hillbilly Voodoo*

There wasn't much diversity in Myrtle Creek in the 90's; but if there were, I could imagine Shawn Boqua as accepting of those of different race or color and puzzled by the disharmony that diversity often breeds. Shawn was the silent type, contemplative but busy, intelligent but good-natured. And then there was that girlfriend. Wowser! Turboboost on. A great kid though, and I loved the way she would burst into the room looking for "my **man**." Very few high school girls can say that with conviction, but Melody could.

The girlfriend turned into the wife, and that led to two boys, Ryan and Joshua, 6 and 2 with "soon maybe a 3rd one down the road." Sorry the two-year-old got left out of the picture ...Melody, just tell him he wasn't born yet.

After high school Shawn went five terms to Umpqua Community College towards an associate's in criminal justice but decided to go for the income and benefits of Roseburg Forest Products after his first son was born. It was dry chain for a year until a successful bid on driving on the finish end. Shawn was a talented welder in class and asked the millwright if they could use help on weekends. This got his foot in the door for an application, testing and interview for the four-year millwright apprenticeship program. He now has a year and a half to go before carding out and becoming a full-fledged millwright.

Welding all those horseshoes in class paid off I guess. He also made a series of "Lazy Susan Welding Helpers" in class (see QID #30 for TIP). Guess where he found one? In the fab shop at work. "Yup" he told them, "I know how to use that tool. How to make it too." Small world as they say.

## Here's How: Tips from the Field

*Idea this issue from Bill Welshert*

### Making Do With What You Have

Making do with what you have is a long-standing American tradition. Using tools for jobs they were not intended for can solve problems but they often concurrently present dangers. Jack a Model T up and get the rear tires to drive a circular saw to cut wood ... you get the idea.

Bill has 40 years experience in the machine shop and presents the situation where you have a large drill whose taper is too large to fit the tailstock of your lathe. Making do with what you have, tightly clamp a large lathe dog on the bit and insert a live center in the end of the bit. Anchor the lathe dog against a solid bar off the tool holder as shown below. Now for the cautions:



1. Don't attempt this unless you are a very confident lathe operator.
2. Run the lathe slower than the charts recommend.
3. The key to success is to progress the bit in by advancing the tailstock with your right hand while running the carriage over with your left (since the lathe dog will come off the tool post holder if you don't).
4. Bill says that where he normally will step drill in 1/4" increments, it would be wise to keep it to 1/8" for this job.
5. Don't do this for copper alloys that pull twist drills in faster than greased lightning unless you know how to modify the bit properly!

This TIP is presented to you as an ingenious solution to a tool problem. Personally, I wouldn't blame you for just pulling out a boring bar and taking a little longer. That's what I'd do.