‘If these walls could only talk’
THE FOUNDRY

1969 ----- 1971
BENNI D’ENBEAU

TONY HODGES
NOVELTY FOUNDRY
ED NIELSEN

THE ORIGINAL FOUNDRY FOUNDER
THE BEGINNING

Dear Lord, what have we done to ourselves ?!
Now what ??!
All It Took Was Elbow Grease

By HAROLD HOSTETLER

What does it take to turn a blackened, junk-strewn and gritty old metal foundry into a picturesque modern arts and crafts center? Well, for one thing, it takes a lot of human grit, as has been proven by the two young men who have been laboring for the past three months to do just that. The work is now progressing toward a June 9 opening.

Anthony Hodges, 29, and Boone Morrison, 28, and their wives had discussed for several years the need for a new and different type of art gallery—one that would display a wide range of work by known and unknown artists, and one where the public could watch some of the work actually being done.

Hodges, a planning consultant and writer, and Morrison, owner of Pacific Scale Models, early this year discovered and subsequently leased the old Novelty Foundry on Wai-mau Street in Kakaako.

At first glance, the structure might not strike the casual viewer as a possible art gallery. It is a typical corrugated-metal building constructed in keeping with the usual Kakaako-type architecture.

"It was in an unbelievable condition when we signed the lease," Morrison said. "It was covered with 10 years of coke dust, and the floor was knee-deep in foundry sand. "The adjacent yard was so full of junk it was impossible to walk 10 feet without climbing over something."

Hodges and Morrison succeeded in getting a variance from the City Zoning Board of Appeals in March which will permit them to operate the Foundry as a regular art gallery, selling art objects that are both manufactured on the premises and created by artists elsewhere for sale in the gallery.

The 40-year-old Novelty Foundry had been used for casting in iron, bronze and aluminum, making such things as manhole covers, sugar-mill parts, traffic-light poles, brass belt buckles for the Royal Hawaiian Guard, the gate grilles at Punahou School, and a lot of decorative items.

The floor is of red brick which had been brought to the Islands as ship's ballast. According to Morrison, most of the machinery and foundry forms were still there when they took over—including machines with humming-sounding names like roll-over bump and jar machine, horizontal ram machine and shot bumber. All of it had to be removed before work on the structure could begin.

"We removed 36 tons of junk, scrap iron and old machinery," Morrison said. "Junk dealers descended on us, and whole families came down to pick through the stuff."

But two tons of the junk was so interesting we couldn't resist saving it," he said. "I bolstered by volunteer labor from friends and artists interested in getting the gallery established, Hodges and Morrison set to work cleaning up the building and yard.

Using tools and a high-pressure water hose, they removed six tons of black oily foundry sand from the brick floor (which they were happy to discover existed). Besides that, six truckloads of slag sand and coke was hauled away, along with a 40-foot-long shed that had to be torn down in the back yard to make room for a parking lot. (A condition of the variance they were granted.)

Then the 6,000-square-foot building was "washed inside and out with an industrial pressure wash machine, using 100 pounds of concentrated powdered detergent and 6,000 gallons of water," Hodges said.

"We dug" so much water, the Board of Water Supply sent an inspector down to find out where the leak was," Hodges said. "Because of the volunteer help ("Even complete strangers walked in and went to work," Morrison said), very little cash was needed to get the building in shape. So far, about $3,000 has gone into the renovation, including $500 to have the parking lot graded and covered with shale. Friends did the landscaping for nothing."

Much of the character of the building has been retained. The brick floor lends atmosphere, as does the overhead crane, which can be used to move heavy sculptures. Masonite panels have been installed to allow artwork to be hung.

Bob Flint, Stan Hayase and Murray Holt are building a done. The operation will be open to the public who will be done. The operation will be open to the public, who will be able to watch the glass-blowing through windows along one side of the gallery.

The Foundry's opening to the public has been set for Monday, June 9, preceded by an invitation-only preview on Saturday, June 7.

According to Morrison, "The quality and integrity of the work will be the essential criteria for showing at The Foundry. We will make the gallery available to unknown artists of talent as well as the best known.

"People coming to the gallery might be able to find a well-done ceramic sugar bowl, or an inexpensive original
art in a foundry

the gallery

HE FOUNDRY
900 Waialae St.
Honolulu 8-30-5 Mon.-Sat.
Ph 533-2606
Parking In Rear.
How They Found The Foundry

Two young men who met at Stanford University while waiting at a girls' dormitory for their dates to apply the finishing touches, moved to Hawaii and eventually became partners in the most exciting art project in town. The Foundry, located right in the middle of nearly all Kakaako.

Two young men in Kona, owned by Pacific's Save More and Toys Shop, a book and cafe, who are now a fine art planning (art) and writer of movie plans.

The Foundry is an amazing example of their life goals: improvements and city beautification, and they are still working at what looks, every weekend nights, inside of the most interesting people, and the working of 111-grids has enough.

"We always had a hankering to open some kind of a fine art store -- out of like The Bailey in Kapalua," said Boone, whose grandmother started the winery project at the California School of Fine Arts, and who was nurtured in art. "But we didn't have any of anything like this. I was looking for a new location for my Cafe, which was closed. I stumbled into this old foundry at 199 Waimoku Street. Of course it was too big for my business, too expensive and the place was a total mess.

The name of the gallery derived from the emotional business. People would come in, check out the goods, and then sit and watch the world go by. You could do it here, too. It's a Reno.

We looked at it three times and costed off three times. Then one day in February 1969 and I walked in and 31 started working on the place. Cleaning it was a whole of a day. There was a host of it, black and on the floor, but it all added up somehow. But a funny thing happened. People drifted in and just started to work. The whole idea generated interest, and even shared by learning out of their weeks to see what the art was, until it came in and picked up. They gave us expertise and kept us busy.

"We removed six tons of any kind and 30 tons of junk -- they weigh up to 30 tons. One horizontal surface and there were three inches of dirt. To get to use a power wash. We used so much water that the water department sent a man over to see where the water man had a pump on a leak in Kakaako.

"We got caught up in the thing. One of those things you do for the fun of it. Not for fun. We can't maintain it. It became so exciting that every day I lived there and the last week before opening we didn't sleep. The Foundry opened as a gallery on June 15. First event the first month, the first display the week of 116 seats.

Please come to party.
The Foundry to be "home" to artists

By Beverly Creamer
Star-Bulletin Writer

A "generator" in the midst of Honolulu's Kaka'ako warehouse district is almost ready to generate. The Foundry -- the building of imagination -- will open its doors to the public at 9 a.m. Monday. On Saturday evening from 6:30 to 10, Hawaii artists and artisans will preview the work of 28 Hawaii artists.

The Foundry, at 160 Wainanui St., is a revolving "generator" of creativity that "makes things happen," according to Bonnie Morrison, one of its founders.

The 40-year-old premiere, a foundry which produces everything from manhole covers to bell towers, has been rebuilt and rejuvenated to display the best of the old with the most of the new.

Much of the original foundry machinery is intact, including an overhead crane policy and a rotating furnace complete with rusting iron slugs.

THE MODERN conveniences include a sprinkler system on the roof -- in lieu of the temperature -- instead of air conditioning.

The Foundry's opening night will be a work of art in itself. Morrison and her partner Tony Hodges, who dreamed up the gallery idea, say hat glass-blowing, plaster casting, and "pure individual art exhibits will be on view for the opening Saturday night. The exhibits are by Zwi Katz, Chloro Eurc, Harvey Delavy and Jerome Wallace.

In addition, there will be other paintings, ceramic, sculpture, metal and fabric displays.

"This is a gallery where you're welcome -- grabby or not," said Morrison, owner of Pacific Scale Models. Hodges is in planning stage. "It's not a brew and trinket shop," he said.

We may be young people, but we're doing something straightforward," he said.

Though Hodges and Morrison are both in their 30's, the gallery has attracted help from a wide cross-section of ages, types and occupations.

ENGINEERS, plumbers, students and professors have contributed time and materials to the gallery. And families -- both wives and a mother -- have gotten into the act.

Morrison's mother Bee, a spirited octogenarian and bespectacled little woman, has been the strong right arm of the effort.

"None of us are going to recognize each other Saturday . . . we haven't had clean faces for three months," she said as she put finishing touches on a display.

During the past two weeks Mrs. Morrison and everyone else has been putting 10 to 15 hours a day into the concentrated brainstorming before opening.

The Foundry, to the people involved, is an activity centered around creativity.

"There has been no place where people have been invited to see artists at work," Morrison said.

So he and Hodges have incorporated this into the gallery.

For example, people who wanted to paint a wall at the gallery were welcome. Hodges and Morrison will even supply the paint and the wall.

Hanging his Sniggle -- Tony Hodges, co-owner of the Foundry, puts his sign identifying Honolulu's second largest art gallery, which opens to the public Monday. Photo by Bob Young.