

# Estwing Tour

Friday, April 3, 2009, 10:00 am



**Closed toe shoes and long pants required**

**No cameras or cameraphones allowed**



## History

The Estwing Mfg. Company was founded in 1923 by Ernest O. Estwing. His idea was to provide the strongest possible construction for striking tools. Therefore, he patented a one-piece solid steel hammer which eliminated dangerous loose heads and the necessary head and handle neck connections.

The early prototype hammers were manufactured in his basement. He knew his idea was sound but received little or no encouragement from the trade since he had to sell his hammers for \$2.00 each, while top quality wood handle hammers sold for \$1.00 each.

Not easily discouraged, Mr. Estwing ran his first ad in 1925 in the Carpenter Magazine. The response was overwhelming. Confident that a market existed for his tools, he began to buy his own plant and machinery. Employees were added and trained in the quality tradition that has been the foundation of Estwing products. High carbon, forging quality steel continues to be used for all Estwing tools.

Naturally, the Depression slowed the growth of the company, but no married Estwing employees had to join the list of unemployed. This remains a point of pride for Estwing Mfg. Company to this day.



After World War II, Estwing really began to grow. Many new striking tools were added to the Estwing line; consequently, plant facilities were expanded. This expansion is still continuing to handle the ever-increasing popularity of the Estwing line of quality tools.

The introduction of Estwing's exclusive nylon-vinyl grip marked another Estwing innovation. This blue grip is the most durable grip put on any striking tools and it perfectly complimented Estwing's beautiful laminated leather grip line. Now, after more than two years of independent laboratory testing, Estwing's new **Shock Reduction Grip** has been perfected and made ergonomically correct. In 2001, all the Estwing nylon vinyl grip tools were converted to the new material that reduces vibration caused by impact by 50 percent!

Estwing hammers are sold throughout the world, with some of our strongest international markets being Canada, England, Germany, Norway, New Zealand and Australia. Estwing rock picks are used in explorations in the most remote parts of our planet and were even used in the U.S. lunar missions. Estwing tools are known as the world's first and finest line of solid steel hammers, axes and lapidary tools. With this recognition, the company has grown from a one-man operation to a leader in its field. The history of Estwing Mfg. Company reflects the promise of the free enterprise system that success comes to anyone who can "build a better mousetrap".