

Metal Finisher for the Bufano Quail Awards

Duane Bowman

Curator Note

It is always satisfying to hear from readers who have visited our HP Memoir website. In this case, Duane Bowman saw Betty Haines' story which involved the golden quail. He remembered that it was his father, Cliff Bowman, who was a metal finisher in the HP Casting Shop, and had related the whole story when he was a boy. Duane told his dad, and both of them sent a message to the Curator. We are delighted to add some more interesting background to the Quail story, for example, that a total of 2500 were cast.

On Sat, Jan 28, 2017 at 2:55 AM, Duane Bowman <duane@bowmanmfgnw.com> wrote:

Hello,

I saw this story, and wanted to state that the gold plated quail story is real. My father Clifford Bowman was the metal finisher who did the polishing on the quails. I remember him polishing them and I still have one polished to this day. And yes, there were more than a 107 quails made. I saw the gold quail as a child and heard the stories about the gold one and the others from my father for many, many years. Betty Haines' Quail was done by first cutting and smoothing out all the gates from the die casting. After that it was painted black and my father used a course sanding belt on a polishing lathe to give it a feathered look. He also polished some of the wood mounting blocks as well. Just a update from someone who saw many of these as a kid and remember helping my father work on them. My father was a metal finisher at HP, Palo Alto. He also had a polishing lathe in our garage where he polished a lot of these Quails. Just thought I would let Betty Haines know. If you might want a picture I have my fully polished quail I can email a pic to you .



Thank You

Duane Bowman

On Sat, Jan 28, 2017 at 6:59 PM, cliff bowman <cliffbowman@hotmail.com> wrote:

Hi, my name is Cliff Bowman. I worked for the great Hewlett Packard from 1968 to 1980. I read the story on the Benny Bufano Golden Quail. After all these years I found out what happened to my bird. The story is a little wrong as we cast 2500 of these Quails. After they were cast, the die was destroyed so no more could be made.

The raw castings had a heavy gate where the metal was poured in. Originally they were going to have the casting shop clean up the gate and overflow. But management decided it would be too expensive to have them run in house, with overhead costs. I had a metal finishing lathe in my garage at home and volunteered to take them and prep them for basically no charge. I also did the finish work on maybe 300 or so for people. The first 25 were sent out to Bill, Dave and most of the vice presidents. They were sitting on a Rosewood block. The next 50 were set on a smaller piece of Rosewood. All the ones I did by hand, I made them look as though they had feathers. After they were grained, I had them black anodized and steel woolled to remove some of the anodizing.

Which brings me to the Golden one. Some guy that worked in the plating shop asked me to finish his Quail. In exchange he would take one of mine and gold plate it. I never found out how or where but about a year later it went missing.

What a treat to see it once again on your web site. There is a whole lot more information about those Bufono Quails, if you ever want to know.

Sincerely,
Cliff Bowman