

# Mill Maintenance, continued

## Machinery:

### Millstone maintenance:

- When grinding, there should be no vibration or bumping of stones.
- Clean hoop regularly if not grinding daily—lift up and vacuum or blow out.
- Feel milled product as it comes out—it should be cool to the touch. If not, stones may be wearing and should be dressed.

### Dressing:

- Should be done with great care and by someone with knowledge and experience—easy to mess up stones if not experienced.
- Need proper tools—use hand mill picks (no power tools).
- Need proof staff or similar device, dye staff, carbide-tipped mill picks, greenstone grinding wheel for sharpening picks, pillow to sit on, whisk broom, eye protection, gloves, a steady hand, and extreme patience (It can take 25 hours to sharpen a large set of stones.)
- When lifting runner stone, use care and caution—stay out from under it!
- When stones are apart, inspect upper bearing for wear, clean and lubricate.
- Inspect lower step bearing and keep lubricated.
- Inspect bridgetree to see if it lifts properly in conjunction with tentering screw.
- Inspect small parts such as damsel, shoe, leather straps, etc.
- Check drive pulley/gears for wear or looseness.
- When reassembling, tram shaft and balance runner stone.

## Bolters:

- Check cloth and screens; clean periodically (check for clogging).
- Check brushes for bristle wear.
- Keep lubricated.

## Elevators:

- Clean heads and boots frequently.
- Check belt tension (not too tight) and bucket bolts; also belt tears.

## Mixers:

- Check for corrosion inside.

## Cleaners:

- Check for clogging.
- Inspect screens, fans, and belts.
- Run at proper speed and check for excessive tailing of grain.
- Check cleaned grain to see if trash is adequately removed (cleaner must have bottom blast fan for this to be effective).

## Breakdowns:

- Re-pouring babbit bearings.
- Splicing belts.
- Foundry and machine shop work.
- Woodworking.

## Safety of Visitors and Workers:

1. Need a balance between historical accuracy and safety.
2. Reduce chance of tripping by installing handrails, inspecting floors and walkways.
3. Caution against touching moving machinery.
4. Fire safety—check bearings, dust, etc. NEVER SMOKE AROUND FLOUR DUST! Keep fire extinguishers maintained and accessible.
5. Carry adequate liability insurance and record any incident, with names and address—no matter how insignificant it might appear.
6. Help overcome fear of operating machinery.

The winter issue of *OMN* will continue this series by Dr. Lovett and include a list of recommended tools/supplies for most mill maintenance work.