

customer. We tell them what it will cost to do it right, so they won't have to come back in a month from now."

The shop's truck alignment and brake specialists keep customers' trucks operating at the manufacturers' specifications for safety and efficiency. According to Russ, transportation industry studies show that some 80% of tandem tractors and 90% of trailers could benefit from an alignment service. Palmer Spring's drive-on truck alignment machines make quick work of problems that can cost an owner money in premature tire wear and fuel efficiency if left uncorrected, he explains.

## Expert Repair of Broken Springs

Suspension specialists service and repair all types and makes of equipment. Repairs to broken leaf springs are performed in the blacksmith shop. A single new leaf can save the cost of buying a new spring assembly, observes master blacksmith Edgar Weidele, Jr., who started learning the trade as an apprentice over 22 years



Blacksmith Ed Weidele poses with an eight-pound sledge hammer he uses to shape the steel after it comes out of the gas-fired furnace.

The photo at right shows the shop as it appeared in 1930.



General Manager Russ Lamoureux (right) received Palmer Spring's "Coveted Golden U-Bolt Award" from Doug Palmer for 40 years of outstanding service.

ago. Expert blacksmithing has always been a trademark of the Palmer Spring Company. Today springs for antique cars, carriages, custom hot rods and other vehicles are commonly forged in the shop, which can perform just about any metalworking job, says Ed.

Ready-made spring leaves, hangers, bolts and other spring components are kept in stock, as are a wide range of leaf-spring assemblies, coil springs, parts for air-ride systems and other suspension parts, relates Bill Beach, parts counter specialist who

started at Palmer Spring 20 years ago as a mechanic, then worked as a blacksmith, before moving to the parts counter.

"A lot of times people get under their trucks, start taking off parts, then realize they need some help," says Bill. "They call us and we help them figure out what they need to

get the job done. We try to be as helpful as we can. I think that's why we've been around as long as we have," notes Bill, who schedules most of the service appointments for the shop in addition to working behind the parts counter.

## Gained Reputation Stocking Right Parts

A reputation for having the right parts in stock has helped the company develop into a primary source of replacement parts for area fleets, individual truck owners,

