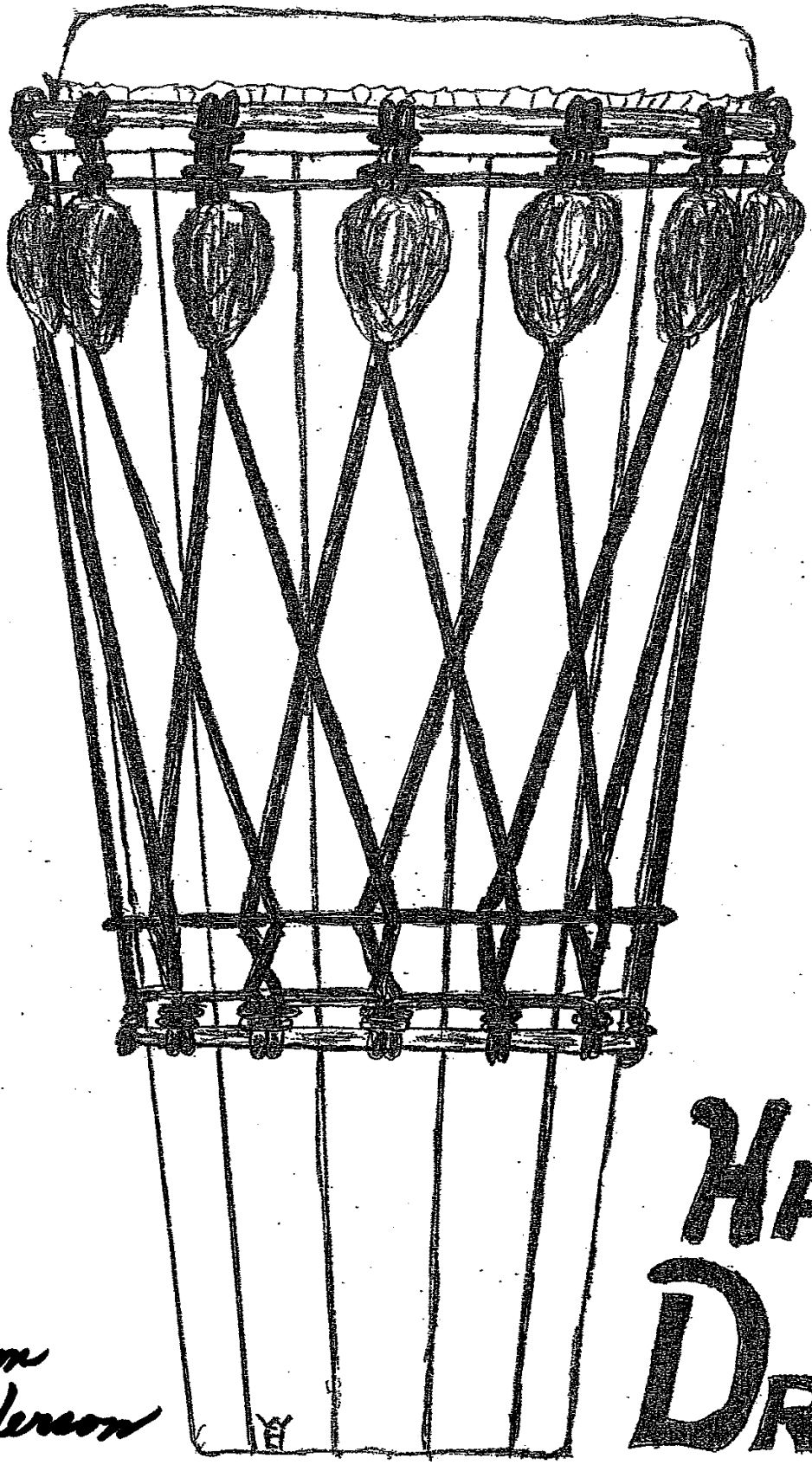


HAND DRUM

William Henderson

- DRUM BODY DIMENSIONS ARE FLEXIBLE. COMMERCIAL DRUM HEADS COME IN A WIDE VARIETY OF SIZES. BUY HEAD FIRST & FIT BODY TO HEAD IF YOU CHOOSE THIS ROUTE.

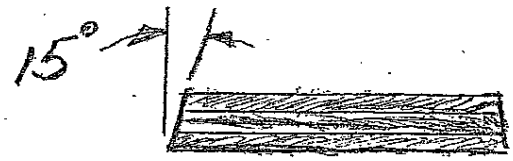
- RAWHIDE FOR HEADS IS AVAILABLE FROM "THE LEATHER FACTORY", COLUMBUS

- RINGS OF THE CORRECT SIZE ARE HARD TO COME BY. A CUSTOM METAL SHOP MADE THESE. EXPENSIVE!

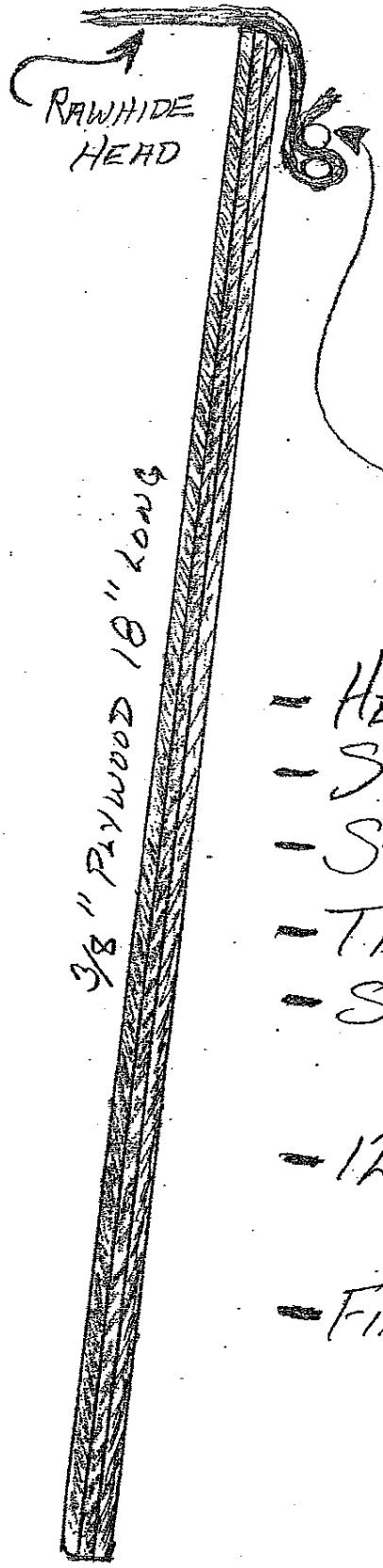
- CUTTING THE COMPOUND ANGLES FOR THE DRUM BODIES IS SURPRISINGLY EASY IF YOU HAVE A "JIG" I WILL GIVE YOU PLANS TO MAKE YOUR OWN IF YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR OWN DRUMS. TABLE SAW REQUIRED. WRITE:

BILL HENDERSON
1945 FAIRLANE DR.
LIMA, OH. 45806

STAVES TAPER FROM
APPROX: 2 1/8" TO 1"
18" LONG



1 of 12
STAVES



COMPRESSION RINGS
3/16 - 1/4" STEEL

- HEAD MADE OF RAWHIDE.
- SOFTENED WITH WATER.
- STRETCHED OVER RINGS.
- TENSION PROVIDED BY PARACORD.
- STAVE WIDTH AND TAPER WILL AFFECT DRUM DIAMETER.
- 12-STAVE DRUMS REQUIRE 15° ANGLE ON EDGES.
- FINE TUNERS MADE FROM "PIGEON EGGS", FLATTENED ON ONE SIDE, DRILLED LENGTHWISE TO ACCEPT 2-STRANDS PARA-CORD.

- WOOD "PIGEON EGGS" USED FOR TUNERS AVAILABLE FROM:

  WOODWORKS
  4500 ANDERSON BLVD.
  FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76117

  MUST BE FLATTENED ON ONE SIDE AND BORED ON AXIS TO ACCEPT TWO CORDS OF PARA CORD.

- SOAK HEADS IN LUKE-WARM TO COOL WATER. LAY OVER DRUM BODY, PLACE FIRST RING OVER SKIN. PULL SKIN UP OVER RING. TUCK INSIDE UPPER COMPRESSION RING. LACE UPPER RING TO LOWER RING. LACE TIGHTLY. LET SKIN DRY. TRIM EXCESS.

- UPPER EDGE OF DRUM BODY NEEDS TO BE ROUNDED OVER SO SKIN WILL NOT TEAR.

- FINISH SHOULD BE APPLIED TO BODY BEFOR HEAD IS STRETCHED.

Update:

Goatskins for the drum heads, and rings for stretching the heads, were purchased from:

Rhythm Traders
3904 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.,
Portland, Oregon 97212

Buying rings is MUCH less expensive than having them custom made!...particularly if you can buy then in a small quantity. They are available in a variety of sizes. The cost per ring drops to half the individual ring price. The same is true of the goat skins used for the heads.

Also note, the goat skins can be purchased with or without hair. If you purchase the skins with hair, the finished drum heads will require shaving. This way of heading a drum adds to a more "authentic" look, but shaving the heads requires practice and skill, as it is easy to cut the skin in the shaving process, and possibly ruin the head.