36 P2 Plymouth Rear Brake Replacement

A Roland Sayward Recounting:

We (my son Dave and his son Ben) were successful in getting the drums off the rear axles.  Between our drum puller and your suggestion to use a sledge hammer and some judicious torch heat we got them off o.k..

Got some new hydraulic wheel cylinders, replacement brake shoes, and a new flex hose from the frame to the brass adapter on the rear axle housing from Mr. N. B. Pease in Palmer Mass.  The new flex hose wouldn't screw in to the adapter on the rear axle housing.  I measured the thread diameter and thread root diameter and found they were only .001 to .004 different.  I have a No. 72 Lufkin Rule Co thread gage (Patented Jan 27, 1925 with No. 8 to No. 80 thread pitch fingers, inherited from my Dad, and found my thread was a No. 20 pitch of 7/16 dia.).  So I dug out my Dad's tap and die for that size and was able to clean up the  adapter internal thread which was only buggered up for one thread or so deep and his die had a moveable jaw I adjusted to just fit the old flex tube thread and then ran the die over the thread on the new tube thread, and got the a nice fit into the brass adapter.  It turned out the coating on the new tube threads needed cleaning up

Had to destroy the 80 year old hydraulic lines across the axle housing, before I could get the old wheel cylinders and the brass adapter free from the axle housing.  Got some new long and short sections of tubing to go across the axle housing from Autozone which will have to be bent.  I marked the old destroyed tubing for a pattern to go by.  So if no hydraulic leaks after assembly We'll be in good shape.  I have a form  to bend tubes over and a fellow on the Internet said an old timer tipped him off about bending them by hand over a pulley assembly such as you might run a clothes line through.

The new linings bonded to the brake shoes may be a problem as they look kind of thick.  Am going to back off the brake anchor bolts and adjusting eccentric cams and put the new shoes in place to see with my large vernier caliper if there is a chance the shoes will fit in my old brake drums.