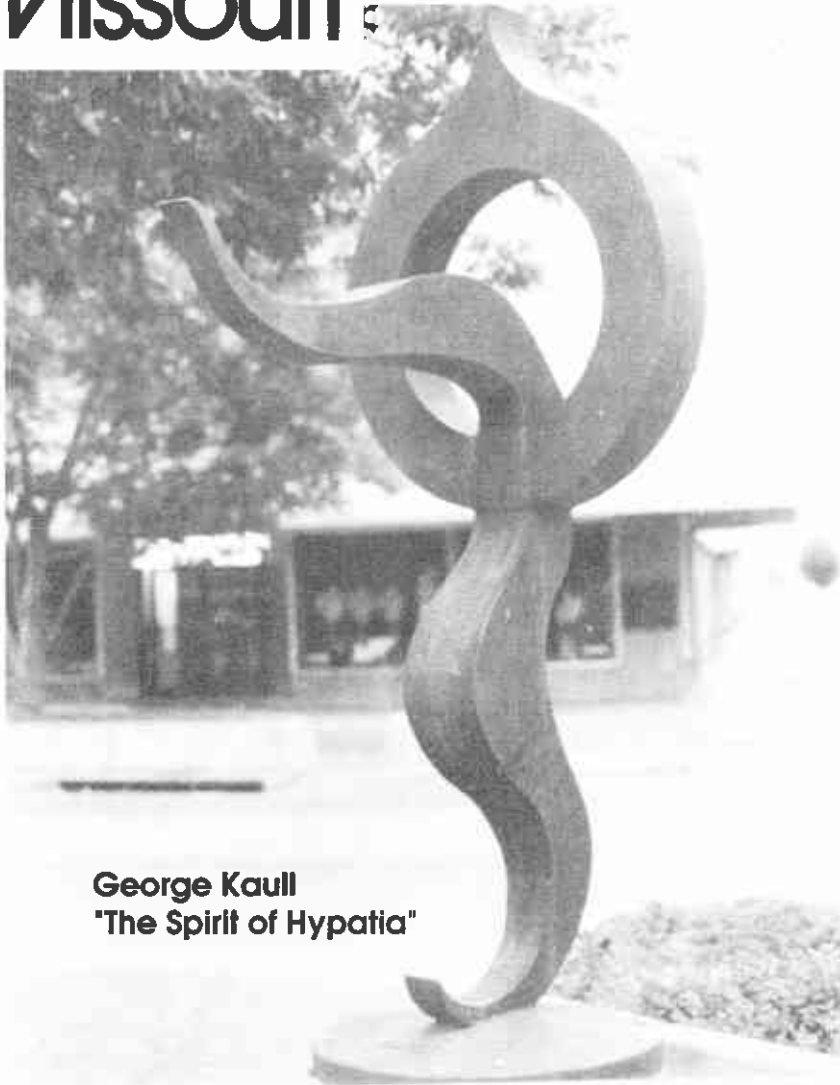


FEBRUARY / MARCH 1991

Newsletter ^{of the} Blacksmiths Association of Missouri



George Kaul
"The Spirit of Hypatia"

VOL. 8 NO. 1

The Blacksmith's Association of Missouri is a chapter of The Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America. This organization is devoted to preservation, advancement, and communication between blacksmiths of Missouri and surrounding areas. BAM's newsletter's goal is to support these ideas. Letters to the editor, tech tips, tools for sale, or any ideas which further these ends will be considered for publication.

Occasionally some material included in this publication will be copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written consent of the author. BAM welcomes the use of any other material printed in this newsletter provided the author and this organization be given credit.

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Steve Baker
519 Locust
Monroe City, MO 63456
(314) 735-4268

Vice-President

Colin Campbell
Rt. 1 Box 282
Union, MO 63084
(314) 583-3512

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44 N.E. Munger Road
Claycomo, MO 64119
(816) 781-1512

Editor

Walt Hull
2043 Massachusetts
Lawrence, KS 66046
(913) 842-2954

Art Director

Jacque Waller
5651 Heads Creek Rd.
House Springs, MO 63051
(314) 942-2529

Membership Renewals

Be sure to check the date on the label of your newsletter. This is your membership renewal date. We will include a renewal reminder in your copy of the newsletter when your membership is due to expire. If the date on your newsletter label is not correct, please notify Bernie Tappel as soon as possible.

PRE-REGISTRATION CARD

Missouri Knife Makers

Name _____

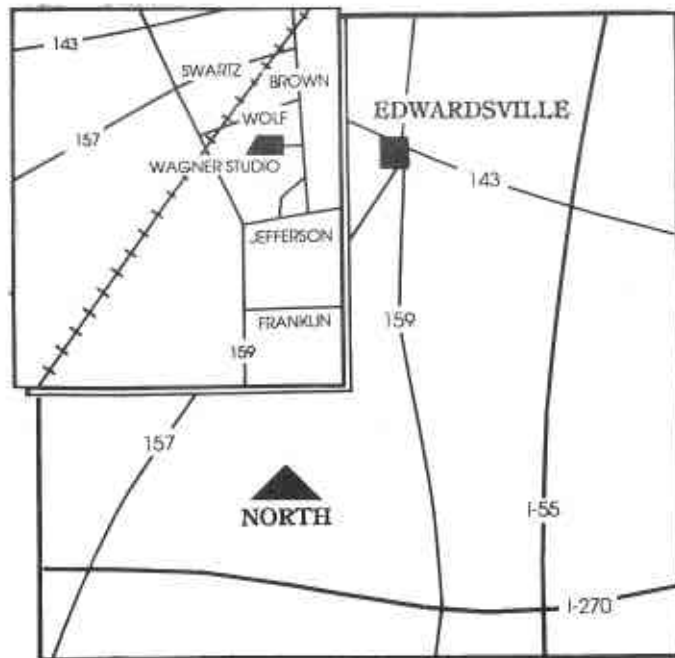
Phone _____

___ @ \$25. One Day*

___ @ \$40. Two Days*

Make checks payable to 'BAM'. Send to: BAM c/o Steve Austin - 44 NE Munger Rd. - Claycomo, MO 64119

* \$30. one day, \$50. two days at the door.
Family Members 1/2 price.



YOUR HELP NEEDED FOR A NEW MUSEUM

Construction of an International Museum of Blacksmithing is underway, in Nashville, Indiana. It is being built and will be run, as a non-profit trust, by Lee Nehrt, a retired professor, who is the son of a blacksmith, the last of eleven generations of blacksmiths.

The museum will have five exhibits showing the evolution of blacksmith "shops" from the beginning of the iron age to the 20th century. It will also have exhibits of items made by blacksmiths, in different parts of the world, over the past 2500 years. And, it will have a museum shop to sell items made by blacksmiths or related to blacksmithing. This will be the only museum of its type in the world and should be a unique contribution to our craft. Nashville has about two million visitors per year, so it should have good visibility.

Lee would like to hear from any blacksmiths who would be interested in working with him to:

- (a) make items to be sold in the shop, such as candlesticks, shoe scrapers, door knockers, skillets, spoons, book ends, etc.;
- (b) make replicas of ancient items to be part of the exhibits;
- (c) make donations to the museum of existing blacksmithing tools, equipment, and objects made by blacksmiths. For such items, a tax-deductible valuation contribution certificate would be issued and a sign would specify who contributed the item.

Any interested smiths should write to:

Lee Nehrt, Director
International Museum of Blacksmithing
550 Birdie Galyan Road
Bloomington, Indiana 47408

Future Meetings

Tom Clark will host the May meeting, on the 11th. He's trying to put together a two-day power hammer workshop. Stay tuned.

The July meeting will be in Lesterville. It will be a hands on beginning blacksmithing demo with 2 or 3 forging stations and experts manning them to deal with your welding, drawing, punching and other blacksmithing problems. More on this in future newsletters.

Ken Markley from Sparta, Ill. will be our host for the September meeting. Mark the 28th on your calendar.

The Blacksmith's Association of Missouri is a chapter of the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, and is devoted to the preservation and advancement of blacksmithing and to communication among blacksmiths in Missouri and surrounding areas. BAM's newsletter's goal is to support these aims. Letters to the editor, Tech Tips, tools for sale, or anything else which furthers these ends will be considered for publication.

ABANA

Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America



P.O. Box 1181, Nashville, Indiana 47448
Executive Secretary, Janelle Gilbert

Office Hours: 7:30-11:30am & 1:30-4:30pm
Phone: (812) 988-6919

FROM THE ABANA OFFICE & LIBRARY
January 1991

MATERIAL FOR *THE ANVIL'S RING*

Due to a change in the editor's position for *The Anvil's Ring*, the Anvil's Ring Committee is requesting that all material for the Spring issue be directed to the ABANA Office. If your chapter has already sent regional material in, it would be a good idea to send another copy to the ABANA Office to avoid a delay in meeting the Spring issue deadline for printing.

CONFERENCE GALLERY PICTURES AVAILABLE

The ABANA Library is offering prints of gallery pieces from the 1990 ABANA Conference at Alfred, NY. This offer is for a limited time only and will end December 1991.

The majority of photos are black and white, glossy with a choice of 5x7 or 8x10 sizes. Orders should be sent to the ABANA Office for processing and will be forwarded to Library Director, Peter Happny for shipping. Turnaround time will not be guaranteed for filling orders.

PRINT PRICES & ORDERING DIRECTIONS:

Single prints - 5x7 \$6.00 each
8x10 \$8.00 each

Four or more of each print size per order -
5.7 \$3.00 each
8x10 \$5.00 each

Add \$2.50 for shipping and handling. US currency only. VISA and MasterCard accepted.

Send your name, address, phone number, and a brief description of each piece of work in the show that you want a picture of indicating the size (5x7 or 8x10) requested on each item. Enclose prepayment amount including the shipping/handling charge.

Mail all orders to: ABANA, P.O. Box 1181, Nashville, Indiana 47448.

January 19 at Big E's

by Dr. Iron

The holidays' ice and snow still lay thick in Earl's lane as about 50 smiths slogged their way to his smithy. Earl had cleaned the shop for the meeting and everything was convenient and in its place. Well, one end of the shop was. The other, however was packed with treasures that only Big E could fully appreciate. We all milled around, checked out Earl's place, gawked at his horse and generally nestled in for Hank Nickmeyers demo. We'll get to Hank in a moment, but first Earl's horse needs a mention. This is the worlds largest horse, I mean he's so tall you would need a ladder to cut him. Earl feeds him 25# of grain and who knows how much hay a day and he needs every bit of it. How many horses do you know that carry cinder blocks around in their mouths? Or that have an old Oldsmobile in the paddock to play with? Anyway, it is a big horse.

Hank began the day's demo by explaining his clever gas forge. (Walt - I've asked Hank to draw and write up his forge, give him a call if it doesn't come forthwith.) Editors note: Hank? Oh, Hank!

See elsewhere for the details. After discussig his forge, burner and construction, Hank fired it up so J. T. McCrackin could forge a knife blade from a leaf spring. McCracklin is one of the talented knife makers who will be conducting our two day knife making workshop at Edwardsville in March. Several of the knife making demonstrators were at Earl's meeting and set up quite an impressive display of their wares on the layout table. Hank stepped up to the forge after McCrackin finished his blade with

one of the weirdest stacks of metal welded to a porter bar I have ever seen. Hank had tack welded up a billet of old motorcycle chain and 1095 carbon steel. It appears that motorcycle chain is made up from a variety of steels. That can be forged welded and turned into pattern welded blades. Hank had several of these bizarre blades for show and tell. Maybe we'll see more of this wizardry at the knife workshop. After Hank's demo we milled again as Big E and his helpers brought out platter after platter, and bowl after bowl of BBQed chicken, pork, and beans, potato salad and more. We needed no demo as to how to deal with this spread. Somewhere, mid-feed Steve Baker conducted our business meeting. After this fantastic feed our afternoon demo began with Bert Francis-Elliott, Jerry Hoffmann and Doug Henderickson doing a poker. Bert did the forging end by folding back 6" of 1/2" square stock, welding it, cutting the loop, drawing the two ends to points and forging the final form. Jerry lap welded an 8" piece of 3/4" square on the other end so Doug would have enough stock to forge a twisted and thread the needle motif handle. Jerry's weld was efficient, crisp, and flawless, Bert (working while standing on one foot, as the other was broken) did her share of the job with energy and enthusiasm and Doug, with Jim Waller's help, fumbled through to finish the piece. Jim noted that Earl had no coal shovel at the forge, and commenced to forge a handle for a blade that Earl had lying around. All in all it was a pretty good day. Let's do it again sometime.

Clifton Ralph Tapes

This is the updated shipping list for BAM's copy of the Clifton Ralph power hammer tapes. To keep them moving you must ship to the next person on or before the date under your name. PLEASE BE PROMPT. Remember, the next person loses if you ship late. Also remember to insure the tapes for \$200 when shipping.

Jim Waller
5651 Heads Creek Rd.
House Springs, MO 63051
314 942-2529
March 16

John Dearing
1569 Flucom Rd.
Desoto, MO 63020
March 30

Ken Markley
R 1 Box 346 C
Sparta, IL 62286
618 443-5284
April 13

Emil Bubash
3151 Lin-Tel Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63125
314 892-4086
April 27

W. C. Stausse
1651 Burley Rd.
Festus, MO 63028
314 937-7585
May 4

Pat McCarty
Rt 1 Box 247 A
Washington, MO 63090
314 239-3814
May 25

Steven Baker
519 N. Locust
Monroe City, MO 63456
314 735-2758
June 8

Gary Tash
3229 Tennyson Sq.
St. Louis, MO 63143
314 644-2599
June 22

Walt Hull
2043 Massachusetts
Lawrence, KS 66046
913 842-2954
July 6

Bill Miller
810 Oerhake
Florissant, MO 63033
July 20

Lou Mueller
224 Benton St.
Valley Park, MO 63088
314 225-3252
August 3

Doug Hendrickson
R. R. 1 Box 16 D
Lesterville, MO 63654
314 637-2576
August 17

ABANA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE January 1991

Dear Friends,

I trust you all had a very nice Christmas --we certainly did! It snowed here in the Pacific West, something we rarely have, and it was slippery but nice.

The Anvil's Ring Committee has not been able to come to a contractual agreement with the current Editor Al Anderson for 1991. Therefore, the Committee will take over the responsibilities of The Anvil's Ring until we have a new editor. It is important that the ABANA Board set down guidelines for The Anvil's Ring, now and for the future. The Winter issue has already been mailed out, so be looking for it in the mail fairly soon. We have a good start on the Spring issue and it looks as though we will not skip a beat in the process. We will keep you informed of any changes.

Please send all correspondence and articles for *The Anvil's Ring* to the ABANA Office until further notice.

In view of the higher cost of air travel, the ABANA Board is looking into alternative ways to have the Spring Board Meeting. It is important that we have one, however, and it is also important to stay within the budget to do it. I will get back to you on this issue as well.

Have a wonderful New Year, and we will get back to you in the February chapter mailing with some answers.

Warm regards,

Dorothy Stiegler
Dorothy Stiegler
ABANA President

Kirk Sullens
Rt. 20, Box 225
Springfield, MO 65803

Walt,

Sorry I missed the meeting at your place. I got to do a demo at a restoration here that day (a new experience for me).

Here are a couple of pictures from the Rocky Mtn. Smiths workshop I went to at the Colorado Rocky Mts. School Aug. 23-26.

Bill Brunner's solar forge was pretty neat, and recorded temps. over 1000 degrees (but not forging temp) while there. He says he needs to figure out how to focus the rays on a smaller spot (more intense).

Ryan Thomson, the kid in the picture with Francis, is 17 years old, and has had his own blacksmithing business since he was 13 (mostly knives). He does a lot of pattern welding. Anyway, poor kid (read: lucky Dog) is stuck in Carbondale for the next 9 months with nothing much to do but work with Francis.

See ya.
Kirk



Bill Brunner of Roaring Forge (Carbondale) with prototype solar forge.



Francis Whitaker and Ryan Thomson.



OLD COWTOWN MUSEUM

HISTORIC WICHITA-SEDGWICK COUNTY, INC.

January 18th, 1991

Dear ABANA chapters:

I am writing to let you know about a workshop we will be holding at Old Cowtown Museum in Wichita, Kansas in April. The event will be a wheelwrighting class. It will be a two day session and will contain as much about the subject as is possible in two days.

We have set the class for April 13th and 14th, 1991 from 8am to 5pm. The workshop will be conducted by blacksmith Joe De La Ronde whose residence and shop are in Glorieta, NM. If the response is large enough, we will also hold another class on the 19th and 20th of April, 1991, which is a Friday and Saturday.

The fee for each session is \$100.00. There is plenty of lodging available from motels to campgrounds in the area. For a flyer on this workshop, please write to Old Cowtown Museum, attn: Greg Franklin, 1871 Sim Park Drive, Wichita, Kansas 67203, or call (316) 264-0241.

I would appreciate the mention in your newsletter, if possible. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Greg Franklin
Greg Franklin
Blacksmith/Interpreter

ABANA

Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America



P.O. Box 1181, Nashville, Indiana 47448
Executive Secretary, Janelle Gilbert

Office Hours: 7:30-11:30am & 1:30-4:30pm
Phone: (812) 988-6919

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE February 1991

Dear Friends,

I have just received information from Mr. Serge Pascal of France. There will be a Repoussage Training Session in France, by the French Guild, Les Compagnons Du Devoir. It will be held just prior to the Aachen Conference, starting date April 22. It will be for American Smiths only, and came about rather quickly after the Alfred Conference. They are inviting ten American smiths to participate. If you would be interested, there are some fast arriving deadlines, so jump on it. The program starts Monday, April 22, and ends Sunday, May 5. This is 78 hours total. The Content will be Repoussage-Relevage in the XVII and XVIII centuries — French Styles.

COST: Alternative #1: Lodging in HOTEL, continental breakfast, lunch and dinner, and all domestic travel \$3600.00 US.
Alternative #2: Lodging in the House of Companion (two persons per room) includes continental breakfast, lunch and dinner and all domestic travels, \$26000.00 US.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT CONDITIONS: Registration deadline - Feb 29, 1991. 30% deposit at time of registration. 50% payment upon receipt of information package from France. Balance before arrival in France or the first day of session.

WRITE TO: Jean Wiarf, 8 Rue Louis Grignon, 51000 Chalons-Sur-Marne, FRANCE
PHONE: 201-279-3573

I am trying to get a little more time for us here. I have just been in receipt of this information and our process of alert will take an additional amount of time. Express Mail to France takes almost 10 days, so anything you respond to will need to be sent by AIR EXPRESS.

EDITOR OF THE ANVIL'S RING

As I indicated, we were not able to come to a contractual agreement with the Editor of The Anvil's Ring for 1991. Therefore, we are once more in the process of changing editors. With a little arm twisting, Robert Owings has agreed to take the job back for two issues. Therefore, if you have anything to send to The Ring, send it to Robert, 230 Keokuk St., Petaluma, CA 94952. If you sent anything to Al Anderson for the next issue, could you please send a copy to Robert. I am unsure that we will get it in time for printing if you do not recopy. Thank you for your continued support, as we make this switch. I will keep you informed about anything happening on this end.

Warm regards,


Dorothy Stiegler
ABANA President

DES/jgl

For Sale

Diazco #2 scroll bender. Call Phil Jailite at 913-842-2954.

Large Iron worker (50 ton ram force) \$1800
Phone Clay Heine at 913-843-7179.

Have Meeting, will host. John Murray
402 Marie Lane
Manchester, MO 63011
314-227-1840

Note: In last month's issue under 'Will host mini-meetings' please correct Stan Winkler's phone number to 314 883-7670.

**AMAZING
OPPORTUNITY!**
FEEL BETTER FAST!

YES, SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TODAY,
A STORY, LETTER, PICTURE, OR AD, to
THE BAM NEWSLETTER

you'll **FEEL BETTER** and,
more important, so will I.

Ed.

Notes for White Oak Forge

by Nol Putman reprinted from
Mid-Atlantic Smiths Association March 1989

Record Keeping, Bookkeeping, or How to Survive Economically Although You Wish to Be a Smith:

OK folks it is time to get rid of the shoe box approach. Many artists I know simply don't wish to bother themselves with the business end of their work. There is so much information to be gained from good record keeping--not the least is how to price your work. I am sure you have noted that all lawyers, doctors, accountants charge within a close range of each other. They have figured out what it takes to open the doors to their business. So here is what you do:

1. How much do you need (want) to earn this year? And how many weeks in the year are you willing to work for that? And then how many hours a day. There are 52 weeks--you need to take at least two weeks vacation for your sanity, your family's sanity. There will be at least another week lost for days off. Subtract one more for that special conference/show you want to go to. We are down to 48 weeks. You will work eight hours a day--but my experience shows that only 6 hours a day are really chargeable to a job. (A time sheet accurately filled out and done over six months will show you just how you do spend your time. So five days a week, six hours a day, for 48 weeks, to get your needed \$25,000 year means that you must have a starting figures of \$17.36.

2. What are the costs of your shop? Here you needed to add up your mortgage (if you are buying a building) or rent, electricity, water and sewer, telephone, insurance, shop tools (those written off in one year), mailing, transportation, advertising, travel, education, coal, hardware, welding gas, etc. Let's say that for the month the costs are \$2,000. Now this gets divided across the number of hours you work--that comes to \$16.67 for 30 hour week. Mind that I am not saying you won't be working a 48 or 60 hour week, only that you can't charge for that.

3. So now your shop rate is \$17.36 plus \$16.67 = \$34.03. This figure is only to allow you to stay still. It does nothing to help you upgrade or replace the equipment in your shop. You must add an arbitrary 20 per cent perhaps on some jobs you'll need to add more. And what of materials? Your shop figures is now \$40.84 round that off, upwards \$41.00.

I want to insert here and say again, how important it is to keep track of how long it takes you to do something: drawing out 1/4 square, 3/8 square, 1/2 square, etc to forge weld 3/4 square bars; to taper pickets of 5/8 square, to do a twist; to make a mortise and tenon joint to drill holes for tenons in a top bar, etc. This information can only be gathered by you keeping records on yourself. I keep a time sheet divided into 15 and 30 minutes increments--then several times through the day I record what I have been doing--answering the phone, cutting, stock, starting my fire, talking to tire kickers, clients and the like. You will be amazed where your day really goes.

4. So now you have a client who needs a poker with a basket handle and of course, they want to know how much. I am sure you have mumbled some figure only to realize that you just kicked yourself in the shin, again.

Break the steps down; basket handle, 30 minutes, weld to the shaft--15 minutes; hex the shaft 15 minutes; draw to ends of actual poker, 10 minutes, end scarf and weld to shaft, 15 minutes, clean and wax 10 minutes total time 95 minutes x your hourly rate (\$41.00 x \$1.58 = \$64.78). Your poker cost you \$65.00 plus the steel (say \$5)=\$70.00.

5. \$70.00 is the cost you must recoup to keep head and shoulders above water, to feel good about your work and keep the wolf from the door. Now, if you go to a craft fair how much do you sell it for? You have just entered the world of marketing. If a store buys from a business, you can bet the price is at least doubled and often tripled. Your fair cost should be \$140.00. Now when the buyer from the Ritzy Craft store comes by and asks for your wholesale price, it could legitimately be half or \$70.00. Actually I don't think I'd knock off 50 percent, how do you pay for your hotel room, travel, down time, etc. Time and again, when we don't mark up our item then the buyer asks for a discount from our base price of \$70 and we go down the tube.

**Mississippi Forge Council Blacksmith Conference
April 27 & 28, 1991**

**Location: Benny Crevitt's Shop
Rt. 3 Box 48, Meridian, MS 39301**

Guest Demonstrators: Bob Patrick, Clay Spencer, Chris Marks and Mike Roberts.

Floyd and Cordelia Daniel from Madison, Georgia will be with us to "Shoot the Anvil" to the heavens. This is an event you will not want to miss.

For more information contact: Grady Holley Jr., Rt. 5 Box 141, Vicksburg, MS 39180 • (601) 634-8803



**ARROWHEAD FOR BOYS
GLEN ARDEN FOR GIRLS**



POST OFFICE BOX 97
TUXEED NORTH CAROLINA 28784
(704) 692-8362

November 25, 1990

Dear Sir,

I operate a boy's summer camp in the North Carolina mountains. We are looking for a person to direct our blacksmithing program--primarily to teach campers elementary forging techniques. These campers are all beginners but are eager learners, and provide a marvelous opportunity for us to develop in them an interest in and an appreciation for blacksmithing. Our dates are June 4-August 22, 1991.

We have a well equipped post and beam shop with hand tools. There are two anvils, a forge with a Centaur Forge firebox and a hand cranked blower (the kids love to crank it), a couple of leg vises, assorted hammers, punches, fullers, flatters, a swage block, and assorted other hand tools. We also have a completely equipped woodshop with both hand and machine tools including grinders and a drill press.

We would pay room, board, and laundry, plus a salary depending on age and qualifications. We have a happy, relaxed atmosphere, a cool climate, and an extremely beautiful setting. We maintain a staff:camper ratio of about 1:4.

If you could post this information in a conspicuous place, or help in making it available to the smiths in your area, I would be most grateful.

We are interested in finding people who are capable teachers as well as reliable people with a love of children. A retired person or a student with the summer free might be happy answers.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph O. Bell".
Joseph O. Bell

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V. J. McCrackin
3720 HESS RD
HOUSE SPRINGS, MO 63051

(314)856-4201
04/01/91
James G. McHaffie
P.O. Box 97
Patterson, MO 63956

01/24/91
John G. McHenry
6365 Crosscreek Rd.
Cedar Hill, MO 63016

(314)938-5975
02/01/92
BILL MILLER
Blacksmith, Horseshoer
810 DERHAKE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63033

04/01/91
Bob Miller
236 Ramsey Lane
Ballwin, MO 63021

08/01/91
Larry Milligan
Route 1 Box 205
Naylor, MO 63953

(501)448-2279
08/01/91
Cate Moody
H C 29 Box 209
Marshall, AR 72650

02/01/92
LOUIS MUELLER
224 BENTON
VALLEY PARK, MO 63088

(314)227-1840
01/30/91
John Murray
102 Marie Lane
Manchester, MO 63011

(816)322-4094
10/01/91
Danny D'Brien
1816 E. 135th St.
Grandview, MO 64030

02/01/92
GEORGE T. PARY
1000 McCLURKEN LN.
SPARTA, IL 62286

10/01/91
Bob Patrick
C/O M. Wilhm
P O Box 477
Cotter, AR 72626

(417)741-7253
04/01/91
D. K. Pearson
R. R. 1 Box 114
Seymour, MO 65746

08/01/91
TIMOTHY POTIER
P O BOX 711
OBERLIN, LA 70655

(816)668-2371
10/15/91
Ken Rehmer
Rt. 3
Cole Camp, MO 65325

(314)583-5247
10/15/91
J. K. Reynolds
P.O. Box 452
Union, MO 63084

916-484-3372
08/01/91
MORTON RICE
RT. 1 BOX 76
RICHMOND, MO 64085

(314)687-3507
08/01/91
George B. Robb II
1451 W. Creed Rd.
Sturgeon, MO 65284

09/10/91
Francis W. Roberts
Route 1 Box 804
Seligman, MO 65745

512-367-4433
01/01/91
Richard Ross
Guadalupe Forge
P O Box 816
Ingram, TX 78025

566-2963
01/30/91
Dana Russum
Rt. 1
Lone Jack, MO 64070

01/30/92
FABIAN SCHILLY
6512 MOSS HOLLOW
BARNHARDT, MO 63102

816-584-3770
01/01/91
Al Scott
Rt. 1 Box 124
Higginsville, MO 64037

06/08/91
John Sherwood
4552 Schumacher
High Ridge, MO 63049

02/01/92 (816)231-6633
MELVIN SHOPTAW 04/01/91
11 S DELLWOOD Dan A Siglar
DELLWOOD, MO 63135 315 S. Lawn
Kansas City, MO 64124
01/03/92 AL SMITH
8842 OLDEN
ST LOUIS MO 63114

01/01/91 781-6555
Kirby Smith 01/30/91
P O Box 125 Roy Staton
Lesterville, MO. 63654 Rt. 1 Box 436
Liberty, MO 64068
01/30/92 WILLIAM C. STAUSS
1651 BURLEY RD.
FESTUS, MO 63028

(314)524-8467 (913)441-0009
02/01/92 08/01/91
AL STEPHENS James R. Stevenson
5613 PARCHESTER DR. R.R.2 Box 64A
NORMANDY, MO 63121 Bonner Springs, KS 66012
01/03/92 (314)285-5515
HARRY STOECKLE 08/01/91
2226 SHEPERD BLVD Fred J. T. Stock
COLUMBIA, MO 65201-6107 2017 Willoughby
Kennett, MO 63857
6195 N. Lakeshore Dr.
Hillsboro, MO 63050

01/03/92 417-833-9601
HARRY STOECKLE 01/01/91
2226 SHEPERD BLVD Billy M. Stone
COLUMBIA, MO 65201-6107 2017 Willoughby
Kennett, MO 63857
Rt. 20 Box 225
Springfield, MO 65803

(314)496-3793 (314)644-2599
04/01/91 04/01/91
Bernard Tappel Gary Tash
Patti Tappel 3229 Tennyson Sq.
Rt. 1 Box 81 St. Louis, MO 63143
Henley, MO 65040 St. LOUIS, MO 63138

(314)782-3433 (618)332-0883
04/01/92 01/01/91
JAMES A. THOMAS Charles Thompson
RT. 1 BOX 102A RFD 3 Box 128
LOHMAN, MO 65053 Fayette, MO 65248
1121 St. Bartholomew
Cakokia, IL 62206

10/01/91 (314)942-2529
Charles B. Wagner 04/01/91
Box 33 Jim Waller
Rolla, MO 65401 5651 Heads Creek Rd.
House Springs, MO 63051
01/24/91 Roy A. Warden
R 2 Box 138-2
Union, MO 63084

01/01/99 816-941-3243 (314)869-9992
Francis Whitaker 08/01/91
1493 County Road 106 BILL WHITE
% CRHS 625 E. 96TH ST
Carbondale, CO 81623 KANSAS CITY, MO 64131
St. Louis, MO 63136

01/30/91 04/01/91 (314)664-0554
John Wilding Mark Wilha
523 W. 9th P O Box 477
Hermann, MO 65041 Cotter, AR 72626
04/01/91
Ralph Wilkins
3651 Minnesota Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63118

314-888-3569 (314)883-7670
10/01/91 09/10/91
Lewis Wilkison Preston Williams
120 Pool St. Box 272 A
Kennett, MO 63857 Madison, MO 65263
04/01/91
STANLEY WINKLER
175 S THIRD ST
STE. GENEVIEVE, MO 63670

04/01/91 (816)658-3819
Charles H. Wise 01/01/91
5721 Horton Robert Wright
Mission, KS 66202 Rt 1 Box 263A
Cleveland, MO 64734

PETER WRIGHT ANVILS

Hugh Eddy

Peter Wright and Sons of Dudley, England made anvils and post vises from about 1700 to the 1940's.

For many years anvils were made by piling or building up, that is, made by welding together a number of separate pieces on to a central block of iron. In 1850 Peter Wright, the great grandson of the founder, patented the process of making anvils in two pieces, welded at the waist.

After 1850 the trademark shown was stamped on the side of each anvil. After 1910 the word "England" was added to the trademark.

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