

RAM



NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

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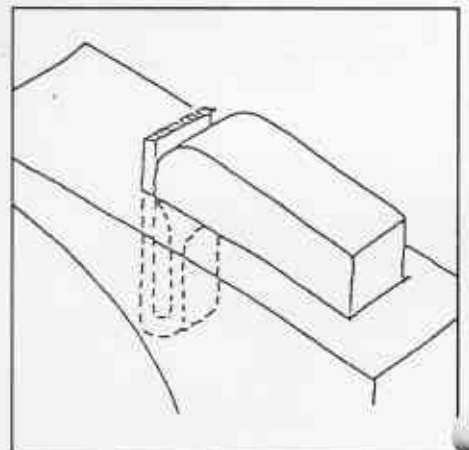
23 We head to Jerry Hoffmann's for what promises to be a meeting full of demos.



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Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri

Volume 9 No. 6

Our cover: A fine letter opener with whiskers, made at the last meeting by Pat McCarty (the wizard) and Bob Miller (the blade.)

Editor

Jim McCarty

Contributing Editors

Tom Clark

Art Director

Jerry Hoffmann

Mailing Labels

Maurice Ellis

The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri is published six times a year and is mailed to members of BAM. The annual fee for regular membership is \$20/year; a portion of this amount is for a subscription to this newsletter for one year. Editorial inquiries should be addressed to: Jim McCarty, Rt. 1 Box 20, Loose Creek, MO 65054 (314-897-4111). BAM membership inquiries should be addressed to: Steve Austin, 44 N.E. Munger Rd., Claycomo, MO 64119 (816) 781-1512. Occasionally some material will be copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written consent by 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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Phone: () _____ Zip: _____

New Member Renewal

How did you learn about BAM? _____

Memberships are for one year from receipt of dues. Dues are \$20, which includes a subscription to the bimonthly BAM newsletter. Please make checks payable to Blacksmith Association of Missouri.

ABANA Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: () _____ Zip: _____

New Member Renewing Member

How did you learn about ABANA? _____

- Regular Member\$35 yr.
- Family Membership (One Vote).....\$40 yr.
- Senior Citizen (Age 65)\$25 yr.
- Overseas Membership.....\$45 yr.
- Contributory\$100 yr.
- Library\$25 yr.

See reverse

BAM

Send this form in an envelope with your payment to:
BAM, c/o Steve Austin,
44 N.E. Munger Road,
Claycomo, MO 64119

Officers:

President
Tom Clark

Vice President
Pat McCarty

Secretary-Treasurer
Steve Austin

The Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri is a chapter of the Artist Blacksmiths' 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.

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I _____ hereby apply for membership in the Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America and enclose \$ _____ as my annual membership dues for one year.

MasterCard VISA Check/Money Order

Card Number

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Checks must be in U.S. currency

SEND RENEWAL TO:

ABANA

P.O. BOX 1181, NASHVILLE, IN 47448 (812) 988-6919

Dues Distribution:

1 year subscription Anvil's Ring: 68.5 % \$24

Adm. offices & other ABANA projects (Conferences, etc.): 31.5% \$11

Editor's Anvil

It's called the king of tools, and for the blacksmith no other tool is more important. I'm talking, of course, about the hammer.

Ever since I met Ron Baird, I haven't been able to pass one by at antique stores, flea markets and the like. Ron is the self-made King of the collectors of the king of tools. You might say he wrote the book on hammers. As a matter of fact, he did write the book on hammers.

Ron, who lives in Fair Grove, Mo. (near Springfield) has what may be the largest collection of hammers ever found outside the factory. His book "The Hammer, King of Tools" is a bible for hammer collectors like me. It's chock full of photographs and patent record drawings of hammers.

The other day I was thumbing through the Centaur Forge catalogue and I saw the most amazing thing — they sell new hammers.

I never knew such a thing existed. I still can't imagine why anyone would want one.

Can you imagine having to break in a new hammer, to chip the face and crack the handle all by yourself? Worse yet, can you imagine paying \$35 for the same 2 pound cross pein I bought for \$3?

I get around the state a lot in my job as editor of *Rural Missouri*. A few weeks ago I was in Macon, home of one of my favorite flea markets, which is located in an old grocery store.

Someone has a stall there that sells nothing but high quality, justifiably priced tools. Here I found a real gem — a boiler-makers riveting hammer with a mushroom head on one end and the other end shaped like a, well, large hot dog. Don't know what I'll do with it but when the time comes I'll be ready, as soon as I talk Tom Clark out of a handle to fit the darn thing.

Another trip took me to Poplar Bluff, which is in danger of becoming one huge flea market. My in-laws live down here and when they start talking I slip away.

There are at least a dozen stops here, and if you head a little further east Dexter has a stop that will tie you up all day.

I picked up another dandy in Poplar Bluff. It's a large square chunk of steel with a hole in it for a handle. That's the best way I can describe this one. Years ago I picked up another unique beater here — this one started life as a ball pein but had the flat end cut off and a curved strap of iron welded on.

On my way back from the Bluff I try to hit the St. Francis County Fairgrounds. My last stop here turned up a Cat's Head turning hammer — you farriers will know what this one is for. (I tried it on my cat with good results.)

Generally, I try to avoid the flea markets in Franklin County. With brother Pat, J.K. Reynolds and Colin Campbell lurking about, it's hard to find anything for the blacksmith here. When I do beat them to a bargain I like to rub it in.

Likewise, I have stopped many times in Ste. Genevieve but have yet to find a hammer. Stanley?

Most of the hammers I find lack handles, a fact that fuels further buying. When I find cheap handles I buy them, hoping they will fit a head I have. Later I buy a hammer head to fit the handle that didn't fit the head I bought last time.

It's a vicious circle. Tom Clark's supply of handles may take all the fun out of it.

You can't have too many hammers. Whatever you do, you are always going to find one more hammer that's not on the rack but would have made the job easier.

Ron Baird has no idea how many hammers he has, though his collection numbers in the thousands. His favorites are the ones made by blacksmiths to fit some unique need. His files hold 1,800 patent records dating as far back as 1845.

I'm going to assume there are a few more out there and keep looking for hammers.

—Jim McCarty

Blacksmithing and the pursuit of hammer heads

Dear BAM

Good job on the latest newsletter. One correction if you could: Page 8, middle of RH Column should read, "The hammer will be built to Clay Spencer's plans with coordination and logistics help from Bob Woodard."

Thanks, **Bob Woodard, Cape Girardeau**

This letter is in reference to the local workshop that Tom Clark started last month. He called me the Saturday before the workshop was to begin. I've known Tom for years and knew he was a blacksmith, but I didn't start taking an interest in it myself until this past year. I went to the workshop not knowing what to expect. Tom asked me what I would like to learn, so I said I would like to watch the colors run on a piece of steel. I had read about it in a blacksmithing book. So we had to learn how to build a proper fire. The day went on and we ate lunch. After lunch we went back to the shop and started our first project. Each of us made a poker and rake for forge. This took the rest of the afternoon. And we said goodbye and went on our way. This Sunday it's time for another workshop and I'll be there. I think if a few of the smith's would put up their shops for the new people in their area I think BAM would get a few more members. Because people can see if they are really interested in beating iron. I thank Tom for his hospitality and the use of his shop and tools.

Sincerely,

Rick Aden, Mineral Point

I am just dropping you a note to let you know of a very enjoyable day I was able to spend at Tom Clark's open-house workshop in November.

Not wanting to sound selfish, the small turnout that day proved to be in my favor. Knowing I was an inexperienced novice, Tom was more than willing to start with the basics. By the day's end, we left not only with some valuable knowledge, but also had in hand our own fire poker and rake. Topics discussed and demonstrated that day included fire starting, proper

hammering techniques, tool tempering, and many more. Tom showed us many of his favorite anvil helpers and explained their uses.

Not only were we blessed with Tom's sharing and caring, but Mrs. Clark shared a pot of her delicious homemade chili for lunch. I hope that others will come and share in next month's upcoming workshop.

From a very grateful new member,
Bob Alexander, DeSoto

On Sunday 12-7 I attended my first "Hammer-in" at Tom Clark's in Potosi. As a budding blacksmith without forge or anvil this was my introduction to making something out of raw material.

Under Tom's directions myself and four others made pokers with twist handles as our project for the day. Everyone did a fine job and seemed very pleased with their finished projects.

Tom's wife provided homemade soup and ham sandwiches for lunch. Great!!

During the day Tom also showed us how to make a simple door hook (to keep his shop door closed), a flower pot hook and a handle design called the Hawaiiin pineapple. I look forward to attending many more "Hammer-ins."

Craig Schmidt, House Springs

Thank you Tom! Being a new member of BAM I learned that Tom Clark opened his shop the first Sunday of every month. I jumped at the chance to observe and work with someone that had experience. I was surprised so many other members showed up and would like to give a special thank you to Tom and his wife for having us. For the past 1 1/2 years I've read many things about blacksmithing, and have worked my forge (on the patio) with a little success. But in the few hours we had Sunday, I learned more of the trade than I could reading books. There's a lot to be said for "Hands-on Teaching."

I would like to see more of the members open their doors in the future. There are a lot of guys new to the trade who don't have shops of their own yet, wanting to learn the right way. I promise when I get my own shop built, the doors will be open!

Thanks again,
Jim Kendzora, Sunrise Beach



Tom Clark coaches Rick Aden on the fine points of poker making at one of the hammer-ins he hosted. Tom's informal gatherings are held the first Sunday of every month at his shop in Potosi.

Tom's Turn

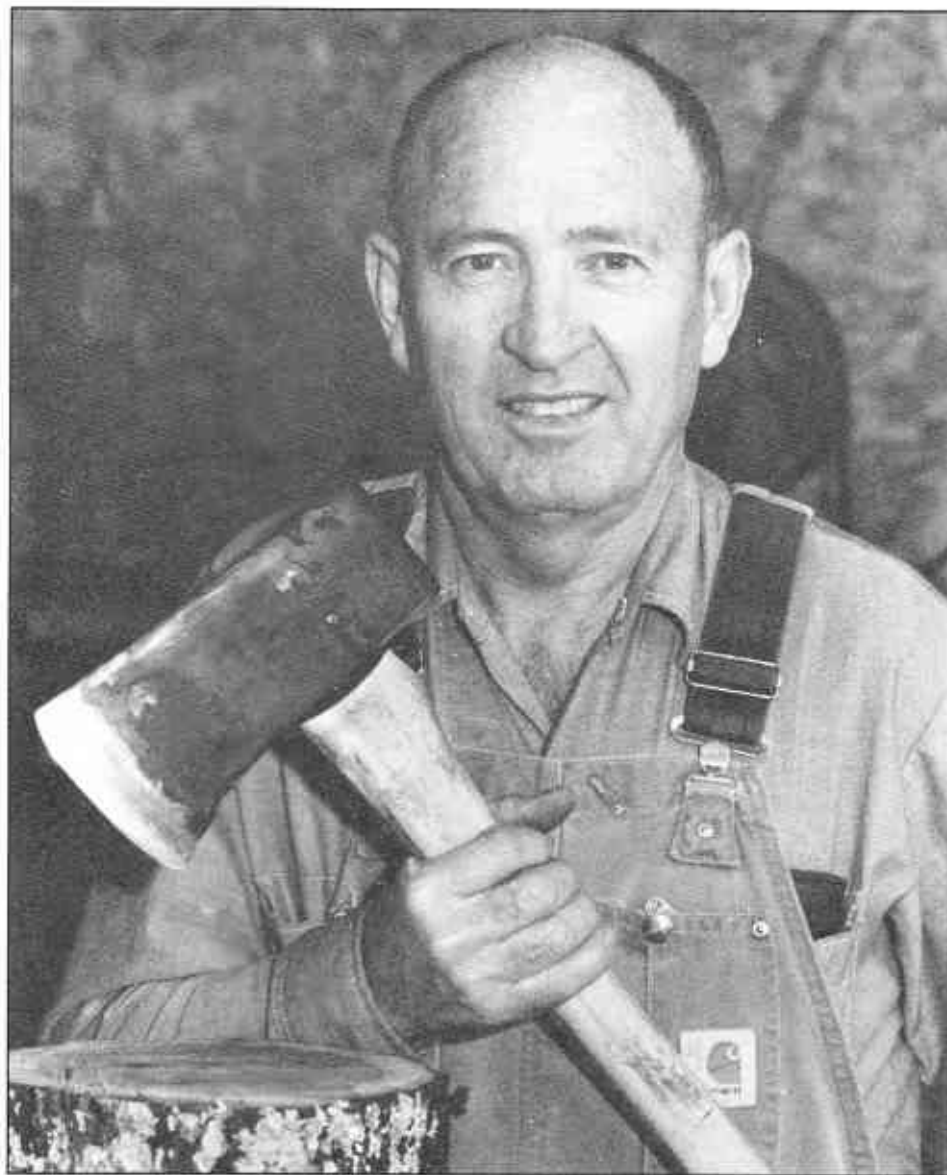
As I write this we have just about used up another year. A lot of water has gone under our bridge or is it smoke up the chimney this year? We have had six great BAM meetings, including the Ozark Conference, accepted the challenge of the 1994 ABANA Conference, planned a treadle hammer workshop (this project has brought a lot of BAMers closer together) plus planned a forge building workshop (if you are not tuned in on this one be at Jerry Hoffmann's meeting Jan. 30, 1993, for an update.

One highlight of my personal activities was a trip to the Studebaker homestead in Tipp City, Ohio to attend my first ABANA board meeting. Emmert and Jane, strong supporters of ABANA, the Ohio Blacksmith Roundup and blacksmithing in general, have hosted this annual budget meeting since the beginning. More about ABANA another time.

The Blacksmith Organization of Arkansas (BOA) had its first meeting December 12, 1992. Doug Hendrickson and I attended. The meeting was held in Mt. Home, Ark. at Larry Cox's shop (Metal Specialties Co.). They do fences, gates (one large set of gates were just completed and ready to deliver). They also do custom furniture. There were no planned demos but everyone had a great time looking at the shop and playing with the air hammer. It was a good meeting, well worth the trip.

We have now had three first Sunday of the month meetings at my shop in Potosi. There were about 12 people at this month's meeting. It seems a good time was had by all. It was cold so we could not use the outside forges. Spring is coming and there will be more room at the forge. These meetings are especially good for beginners with little or no experience. I hope this will encourage other shops around the state to open once a month. Pick any day you like and let the word out. There can be two or more happenings on the same date with no problem.

It's time to start thinking about the 1993 Ozark Conference. Doug pre-



Tom with Buster, his pet axe. This picture ran in Rural Missouri.

planned things well and will be calling on some of you for help. We need a work crew to install the exhaust fan that John Murray got for the Lion's building we are going to use. It will be nice to be inside.

Lou has just about completed all plans for the 1994 ABANA Conference. There are a few loose ends but it seems all is well. Lou made a presentation at the ABANA board and everyone was very impressed.

If you missed the last BAM meeting you missed a good one. There was a large turn out, lots of good demos. Pat McCarty made a great wizard head on a railroad spike and Bob Miller forged a knife blade on it. We had a good iron in the hat and 12-15 trade items. I finally got Pat's

piece. I always like his work. I had my new 300 pound anvil and a couple of others in my truck. None of them were for sale but the interest around my truck was high.

Many people seemed in need of an anvil, so I got to tell you that for the past few years I have been buying a few anvils. I keep telling myself that it's part of a plan to try and get the anvil I want for myself, but I guess the fact is I just can't pass one by. So with all this interest or need for anvils I am going to bring at least five to sell at Jerry Hoffmann's meeting on January 30. I will try to bring a few other tools like post vices, etc.

I'll see you at Jerry's. Try to bring something for iron in the hat. The trade item is a kitchen utensil.

BAM

NOV.

MEETING



Above: Jerry does his demo. Below: Al Thompson, Pat McCarty, Colin Campbell and J.K. Reynolds share a cup and swap lies in Pat's "museum" shop.



Good weather brought one of the largest crowds ever to BAM's meeting held Nov. 28 at Pat McCarty's forge in Washington, Mo. The 60 or so blacksmiths that turned out saw what was probably a record for demonstrations too.

Pat's self-made rustic brick forge got a lot of use, starting with the host who knocked out a quick wizard from an old railroad spike before the frost had fully burned off the ground. When Pat finished with the top half he turned it over to knife man Bob Miller, who hammered the point into a nice letter opener with whiskers.

BAM President Tom Clark came to the meeting without a trade item, so he took his place at the forge and showed us his specialty, a leaf. Tom's leaf opener was finished by brushing it while hot with a brass wire brush (Centaur Forge sells them if you want to try it.) A real nice touch.

Tom's project brought the total of trade items to 15, not bad considering last meeting we only had four.

When the forge opened up again Bob and Lou Mueller decided to try something Lou had seen done in Ohio. Lou dug four quarters out of his pocket and he and Bob went to work to turn it into a billet of copper and silver. Lou had tried it without success leaving the billet in the tongs and hammering the tongs together. This time Bob heated the quarters, then threw them out on Pat's Hay-Buden where Lou did the pounding.

It took three tries before Lou got what he was looking for under the flatter.

We were all scratching our heads to come up with a use for the result — maybe an inlay on a knife handle or a pendant?

Before the fire had died down we talked Jerry Hoffmann into showing how he made his letter opener. Jerry had us all guessing until he was almost finished. He started with two short pieces of 1/4 inch round which he welded to a piece of 1/4 by 3/4. It was a little hard to follow, but using Pat's Dillon torch he welded the round together leaving just an inch or two of round stock showing. More than one person wondered why he used round at all since so little was left.

He drew the end out in a long taper, then wrapped it around to form a wild S. What remained was a piece of 1/4 by 3/4 that would be the blade, then two pieces of 1/4 round an inch long, then the graceful curve wrapped around itself. If you hadn't seen it done you would never figure out how to do it.

John Murray rounded out the demos by making a letter opener under the power hammer. Hope to see more of this when John hosts the September meeting.

At lunch time we saw a demo from a master chef, Pat's wife Mary Jo. She whipped up enough Cajun rice to feed the next two meetings, and topped that off with plates of brownies and poppy seed bread.

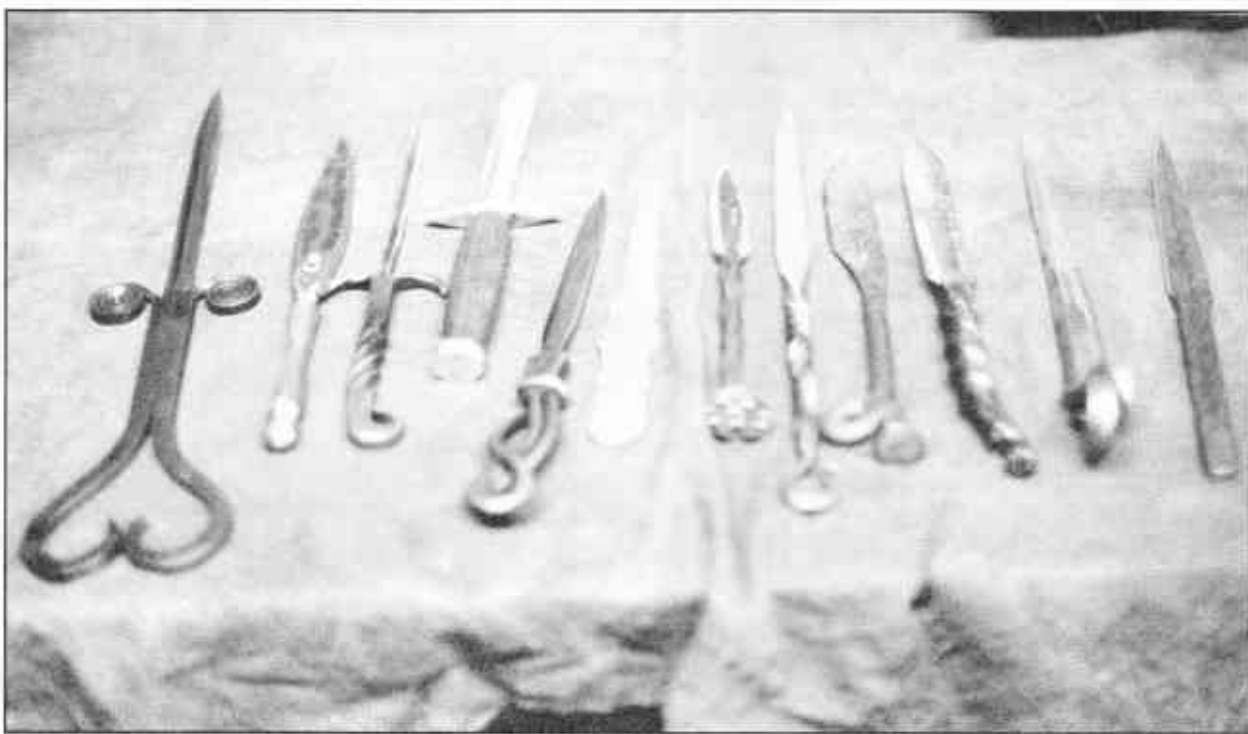
We also had a quilting demonstration for an interested crowd of non-blacksmiths put on by Evelyn McCarty, Pat and Jim's mom.

Tom called the business meeting to order while we were still wiping our chins. He reported on his first ABANA board meeting, where he let the rest of the board know his feelings about ABANA and the *Anvil's Ring*. It's Tom's belief that ABANA is taking care of the professional smiths and forgetting the amateurs.

One thing that came out of the meeting is a supplement to the *Anvil's Ring* that will be edited by Tim Ryan. Hopefully the new newsletter will



Above: Roy Warden and Ken Markley talk knives. Right: Bob Miller and Lou Mueller team up for an expensive demo, forging quarters into a billet. Below: The trade item was a letter opener.



cover some of the things missing from the magazine.

Tom also talked about the new Arkansas chapter and invited BAM members to attend their first meeting with him on Dec. 12.

He also suggested we donate some money to the Joe Humble Scholarship Fund when our chapter picks up additional money.

He reported on progress towards our Ozark Conference to be held in Potosi in April. Chairman Doug Hendrickson said the auditorium needed a ventilator fan and asked members to look around for one.

Doug had a coffee mug with the Ozark Conference logo made by his neighbor the potter.

Lou Mueller reported on the forge building workshop he is hosting. He said 24 signed up at the last meeting but some indicated they didn't want forges, just wanted to help out. For this reason he had a new sign-up. If you didn't make the meeting give him a call.

He said the forges would be a two piece side draft model following Jerry Hoffmann's design. He expects it to cost each person about \$300 -- \$62 for metal, \$120 for a fire pot and \$70

for a blower. If you already have a blower and a fire pot or want to add this part later you can get by pretty cheap.

No date has been set but Lou is shooting for the first part of February.

Lou also reported on the ABANA Conference. He said \$5,000 seed money is on its way and more is available as we need it. He said the only difficulty so far is the location of the gallery.

Before the meeting adjourned Tom challenged everyone to make something for the auction at the Ozark Conference.

ABANA News

President's message December 1992

Dear ABANA Chapters,

The November ABANA Budget meeting held at Emmert and Jane Studebaker's homestead in Tipp City, Ohio went off without a hitch. Hat's off to Emmert and Jane for once again making their remarkable facility available for our use. Their warm hospitality and excellent facilities provided the perfect atmosphere to help make the annual budget meeting a success. Thanks, Emmert and Jane, we are in your debt once again.

ABANA is in the best shape it has ever been in. From all indications, we are headed for some real good times. ABANA has been lucky enough to have the advice of some very savvy financial minds. One of them, Joe Harris from West Virginia, is now back on the ABANA Board. Joe was a Board member some years back. His banking background and sound advice is one of the reasons we are in such good shape today. He will be the Chairman of the Finance/Audit Committee.

The reason Joe Harris was able to come back to the Board is that Jim Ryan, current Board member, has gone on a special assignment that required him to relinquish his board position. Our sincere thanks go out to Jim for his service on the ABANA Board. We can expect great things from him in the future.

Louis Mueller, Site Chairman for the 1994 ABANA Conference, was in attendance at the November Budget Meeting. The Conference Committee is already hard at work planning all the details for the 1994 conference. Louis gave us a look at some preliminary work done by the Site Conference Committee. No detail will be overlooked by these folks — we can look forward to a super conference in 1994. As time goes by we will get more specific details from them.

Safety tip for the season: It is easy to do. A lot of times you don't think about it when you do it. What is it you may ask? It is laying a piece of hot iron on the table and walking away. I learned quite a while ago that unattended hot iron belongs on the floor. It was a lesson taught to me by a master smith. Some of his students have even handed him the hot end of the iron (a mistake that happens only once per student. ". . .and you should know them by the lumps on their heads. . .") If you are working with more than one person in your shop, make sure you don't set up the other guy! That also goes for putting tongs back in the rack. He might need those fingers for something else.

Have a very Merry Christmas,



Clayton Carr
ABANA President

ABANA Liaison

ABANA Office Update

If you call the ABANA office and hear a strange voice "DON'T HANG UP," it's just Janelle's new office assistant. Her name is Sheila and she will be happy to help you in any way she can, so be sure and welcome her to our organization.

New ABANA Chapter

A new ABANA chapter is being formed in Utah. On October the 9th, the first meeting of the Bonneville Forge Council was held in Salt Lake City, Utah. There were 11 members present and they were treated to a demonstration by a Russian blacksmith (Boris Matkoviski) who now lives in Salt Lake. Please share your newsletter with this group and welcome them to our organization. Contact: Paul Venema (president and editor) 3729 Brandy Buck, Bennion, UT 84118.

Demonstrators

ABANA is in the process of updating the National Demonstrators List. Anyone wishing to be included on this list should send their requirements and description of demonstration to ABANA board member John Pollins III, RFD 5 Box 154, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Young Blood

The Indiana Blacksmith Association has set into action a plan to contact trade/vocational schools and youth organizations to let them know about chapter hammer-ins and conferences so they will have the opportunity to learn about blacksmithing. This seems to be a good way to get the word out to the youth in your area and create some interest with our young people. Way to go IBA.

Back to School

Want to become more proficient with welding, learn more wood working to complement your

iron work, or learn how to do machine shop work? Check with your local vocational schools. Many schools are offering evening classes that are very reasonably priced and only take up a few hours of your time each week. We are never too old to learn new techniques and improve on our skills.

Peters Valley News Release

Peters Valley is offering summer studio assistantships in blacksmithing. For more information and application write to: Peters Valley Craft Center, Assistantship Program, 19 Kuhn Rd, Layton, NJ 07851 or call (201) 948-5200. Application deadline: April 1, 1993. Peters Valley is also sponsoring a craft fair July 24-25, 1993. They expect 12,000-14,000 attendees. For more information on booth space and application send SASE to Peters Valley Craft Fair, 19 Kuhn Rd, Layton, NJ 07851.

Jurried Exhibition at Arrowmont School

Pattern: New Form, New Function will be the theme for this exhibit. The exhibit and competition focuses on pattern as an element in developing personal concepts of art. CASH AWARDS!! Artists may submit slides of three pieces. For entry fees and participation information call (615) 436-5860.

Computerized Blacksmithing

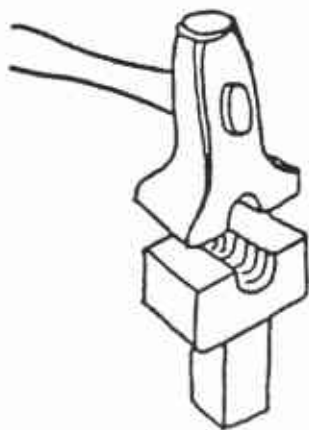
Paul Sperbeck, the editor of the Upper Midwest Blacksmith Association (UMBA), has set up a Blacksmiths Bulletin Board System. You need a modem to dial in and it is free except for normal telephone toll charges. The system is up 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Questions directed to Paul should be left on the SysOp page. The Data Line is (414) 544-1836 and Voice Line (414) 544-0784 (evenings).



Flea Market Wish List

These drawings and explanations were given to my wife, who is an avid antique store cruiser. They help her identify as "useful" items she may see in her travels that might otherwise be considered junk. Feel free to give this to your cruiser!

Reprinted from the Inland Northwest Blacksmiths Association by way of the Hammer's Arc.



Top Swage Comes in many different sizes. I am looking for 1/4, 5/16, 3/8, 1/2, 5/8, 3/4 inch. It is meant to be held by hand, will have a handle or hole for a handle.

Bottom Swage Looking for above sizes, it is meant to drop into the "hardy" hole of the anvil.

The Swages draw those little round tenons on the ends of bars.



Top Fuller Comes in many different sizes. I am looking for 1/4, 5/16, 3/8, 1/2, 5/8, 3/4, 1 inch. It is meant to be held by hand, will have a handle or hole for handle.

Bottom Fuller Looking for above sizes, it is meant to drop into the "hardy" hole of the anvil.

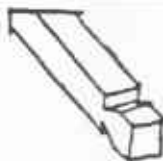


The fullers bring bar sizes down at different radiuses.

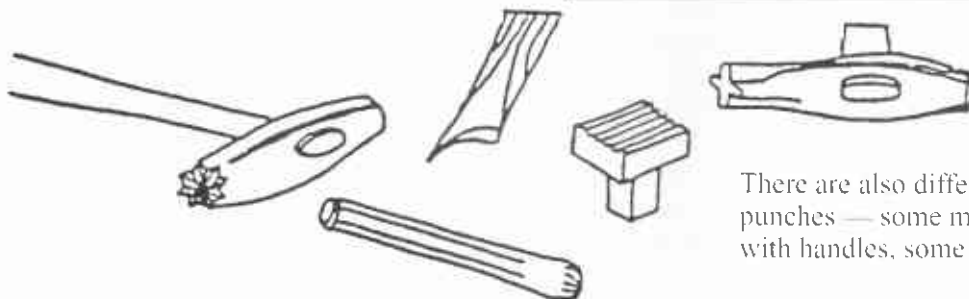


Side set or "Butcher" is a handled tool or will have a hole for a handle.

Bottom set or "Butcher" meant to drop in the "hardy" hole of the anvil.



The Butchers prepare the ends of bars for tenons, putting a square edge on.



There are also different types & sizes of decorative punches — some meant to be held by hand, some with handles, some fit in the hardy hole.

BAM

By-laws

*By-laws of the Blacksmiths
Association of Missouri
A Chapter of the Artists Blacksmiths
Association of North America*

Article I

The principal office of the corporation shall be at 44 N.E. Munger Rd., Claycomo, Mo. 64119. The Board of Directors shall have the power and authority to establish or make a change of office to another location.

Article II Section I

Officers

The officers of the corporation shall be a president, a vice-president and a Secretary\Treasurer. They shall have the duties as prescribed below.

Section II Election and Term of Office

The officers shall be nominated by the members at an open nomination to be held each year. The election shall be held by secret ballot. Said ballot being mailed to the members by the Secretary\Treasurer. There shall be no limit to the terms that the officers may hold.

Section III Removal

Any officer elected by the membership or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board with or without cause whenever, in its judgement, the best interest of the corporation would be served thereby.

Section IV Vacancies

A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation or other causes, may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section V Powers and Duties of the President

The president shall be the principal executive officer of the corporation and shall, in general, supervise and control all the business of the corporation. The president shall preside at all meetings of the board of

directors. He or she shall preside at all meetings held by the membership of the corporation. With the approval of two-thirds of the board, she or he may obligate the corporation to pay for supplies, etc., purchased for the use of the corporation. He or she shall have the power to authorize any checks that are written or signed by the Secretary\Treasurer for any proper corporate purposes. She or he shall have the power to appoint any committees or individual deemed necessary for the proper functioning of the organization. Any additional duties or responsibilities that may arise shall fall under the responsibility of the President, unless assigned to other officers by these bylaws.

Section VI Powers and duties of Vice-President

In the absence of the president, or in the event of the inability or refusal to act by the president, the vice-president shall perform the duties of the president; and so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the president. The vice-president shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the president.

Section VII Powers and duties of the Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary\Treasurer shall take the minutes of all meetings, both corporation and board meetings held. These shall be kept as a permanent record of the corporation. The secretary-treasurer shall handle all official correspondence for the corporation. The secretary-treasurer shall be custodian of all corporation records. The secretary-treasurer shall keep a record of all members of the corporation, along with their post-office address and telephone numbers. In general, the secretary-treasurer shall perform all duties incident to the office of secretary. The secretary-treasurer shall have custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the corporation, shall receive and give receipts for monies due and available

to the corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as are selected by the board of directors. The secretary-treasurer shall sign all checks authorized by the president for the benefit of the corporation.

Section VIII

Salaries

The officers shall serve without salary.

Section IX

Expenses of officers

The travel expenses and other expenses incurred by the officers acting in their official capacity, may be approved by the board of directors.

Article III

Section I

General powers

The business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its board of directors with the exception of specific powers assigned to the president.

Section II

Number, tenure and qualifications

The number of the board of directors shall be three (3) and shall consist of the officers of the corporation. The tenure of the board of directors shall coincide with the terms of the officers of the corporation.

Section III

Regular meetings

A regular, annual meeting of the board of directors shall be held without notice other than that required in these bylaws. The board of directors may provide, by resolutions, the time and place for holding additional regular meetings without other notice than such resolution.

Section IV

Special meetings

Special meetings of the board of directors may be called by or at the request of the president and may be held at any place, either within or outside of the state of Missouri, as the president may determine.

Section V

Meetings of the members

Meetings shall be held 4 to 6 times yearly for the general membership. Seven members shall constitute a quorum.

Section VI

Notice

Notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given at least 24 hours before the time fixed for the meeting by word of mouth, telephone or written notice to each director. A director may waive notice of any meeting.

Section VII

Board decisions

The act of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the board of directors.

Section VIII

Quorum

A majority of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the board of directors.

Section IX

Action by directors without formal meeting

Any action required by law to be taken by the directors, or any other action which may be taken at a meeting of the directors, may be taken without a meeting at the discretion of the president.

Article IV

Section I

Accounts, minutes, etc.

The corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of the board of directors.

Article V

Section I

Fiscal year

The fiscal year of the corporation shall be from January 1st to December 31st.

Article VI

Section I

Members of the corporation

Any person may become a member of the corporation if they are interested in metal working, are approved by two-thirds vote of the board of directors and pay dues for one year.

Section II

Dues

Members shall be assessed yearly dues. The amount to be fixed by a unanimous vote of the board of directors. The board of directors may, at their discretion, alter the amount of the dues. Dues are payable January 1st for the following year.

Section III

Removal of members

Members names shall be removed from the rolls of this corporation upon non-payment of dues as of April 1st.

Section IV

Reinstatement of members

Members may be reinstated by payment of all past dues and by a two-thirds vote of the board of directors.

Section V

Honorary life members

Any person who has contributed to the advancement of blacksmithing and has given of his or her time and talents to the advancement of blacksmithing in the corporation may be made an Honorary Life Member by full vote of the board of directors. She or he shall be entitled to all privileged as a member, but is exempt from payment of dues and all assessments.

Article VII

Amendments to the by-laws

These by-laws may be altered, amended or repealed and new by-laws may be adopted by approval of all members of the board of directors.

The forgoing by-laws of the corporation were duly adopted by the board of directors upon the 7th day of July, 1985.

*Robert C. Patrick, president
Steve Austin, secretary-treasurer*

How I make Damascus

by V.J. McCrackin

I think everyone who makes Damascus makes it a little different. Anything you do changes the finished steel. This is the way I make it.

I am now using a gas forge to do all my forging. I used to use a coal forge, but I think gas is faster, cleaner, and easier to use.

I usually start out with three pieces of steel, some times I start with five or seven, it should always be an odd number. Most of the time I use one high carbon and two pieces of mild steel. You can use more than two kinds of steel. I use 01 tool steel and 1018, or 203E and 1095. Some times I use wrought iron also. I put it on the outside, I think it welds easy that way. I sand all the rust and dirt off the steel with my belt sander, stack it up with

the high carbon steel on the inside, the low on the outside unless I am using 203E. It is low carbon with 3 1/2 percent nickel. It welds better if it is on the inside. I tack weld the bars of steel on one end and weld a 1/2 inch rod on the other end for a handle. This is easy to hold when you are welding. It will be cut off when you are finished.

I warm up my forge and adjust the forge so a little orange flame is coming out of the forge. I put the steel in when it gets a dull red. I put Twenty Mule Team Borax on it. I put it back in the forge. I watch the Borax more than the color of the steel. The steel looks white to me but when the borax starts to bubble, wait a little longer. It will look like it is running on the surface of the steel, then it is ready to weld. Some people hammer weld it on the anvil with a hand hammer. I use a 25 pound Little Giant power hammer to weld and hammer it out to about twice its starting length. Then cut it in the middle leaving enough so when it is folded it will stay together.

Then I hammer the edges of the billet on the opposite side that I cut it on, this domes it so the center welds first and doesn't trap Borax on the inside. Then I wire brush it, put more

Borax on it, fold it, then back in the forge and do this all over again. It should be done as fast as you can.

For knives I think 300 to 500 layers makes the best cutting blades. Most of the time I start with 3 layers, weld it together and fold it 7 times — that will be 384 layers. There are lots of ways to make different patterns. For random pattern just forge the billet to the shape of the blade, then finish the knife. For twist pattern hammer the billet round, bring it up to welding heat, put it in the vice and twist it, then hammer it to shape. For ladder pattern leave the billet about twice as thick as the finished knife will be, grind or file groves about 1/3 of the way through, on the other side put the groves between the ones on the other side, then heat the bar back up and hammer it smooth. I finish the knife to 320 grit sand paper, harden it, clean it up making sure to get all the oil off, then etch it in acid for about an hour. You have to check it often as it may not take that long. If it is cold I put the acid jug in hot water for awhile. Then I take it out of the acid, wash in water, spray Windex on it, then sand it with 600 grit paper. Then I draw the temper with a torch, clean it with 600 grit paper, then put a little oil on it.

Photo #1 is a random pattern Damascus bowie knife made of 203E & 1095 steel, 384 layers.

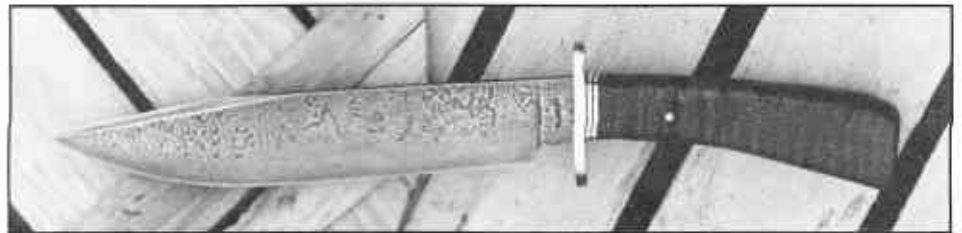


Photo #2 is a twist pattern, 320 layers of 203E and 1095.



Photo #3 is a ladder pattern Damascus, 384 layers of 01 tool steel and 1018.



All Photos by Kevin McCrackin.

Wood in the forge

John Wilding says customers often interrupt his forging at his shop in historic Hermann. When he leaves the fire he throws a chunk of wood in to keep it going — otherwise when he returns the fire is dead. "I come back and give it two turns and the fire's in good shape," he says. If you have a supply of cedar you get an added bonus in the sweet smell the fire puts out. That just might lead customers to your door.

Punch and chisel holder

This one comes from John Sellers of the Sorethumb Forge, Salem, Ill. by way of Maurice Ellis: Take a bolt, 5/8 inch or bigger and nut. Bend a 1/4 by 3/4 or 1 inch strap into a half

circle and weld on to the nut. Put the punch or chisel into the holder and tighten the bolt by hand. You can put a heater hose on the handle if you want to make a more comfortable grip.

Buy the Journal

The best shop tip anyone can give you is to subscribe to Jerry Hoffmann's *Blacksmith's Journal*. The *Journal* is a monthly publication of illustrated tips and techniques. The illustrations are clearly drawn and the text is easy to follow. Great for beginners and experienced smiths. Subscriptions are \$28 per year or \$50 for 2 years. Write to *The Blacksmith's Journal*, Rt. 1 Box 189, Lonedell, MO 63060.

BAM

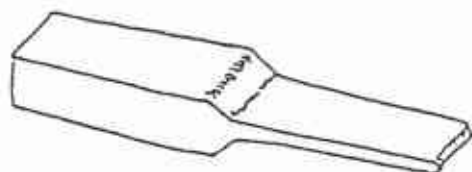
Shop Notes

Got a tip to share with BAM members? Jot it down and send it to Jim McCarty, editor, Rt. 1 Box 20, Loose Creek, MO, 65054.

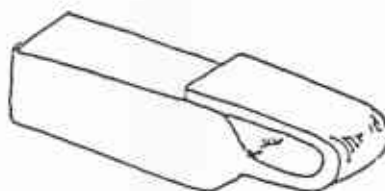


1 X 1 Inch Bar

Bob Patrick's Anvil Swedge

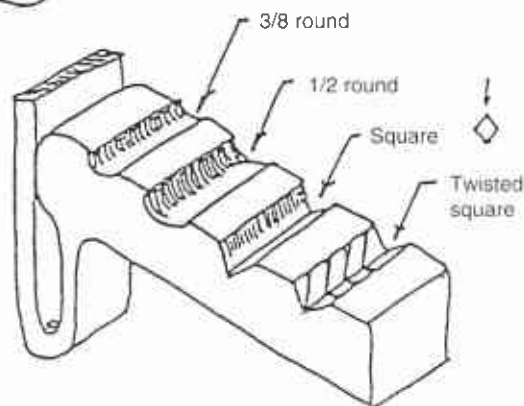
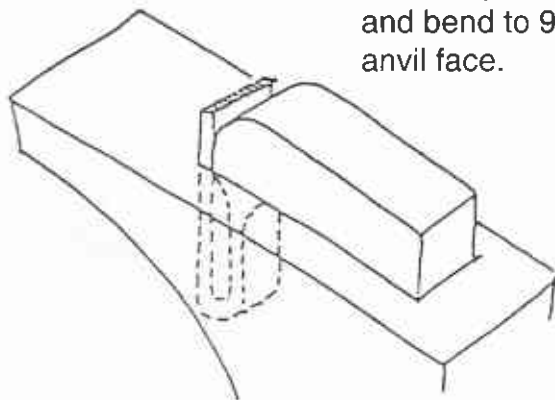


1. Fuller, draw out.



2. Fold over to fit hardy hole.

3. Heat, put in hardy hole and bend to 90 degrees to anvil face.



4. Heat again, and with cold bars, hammer in desired shapes — quench at a red heat and use.

Demo by Bob Patrick at the '89 Quad State Roundup. Drawing by Larry Corrigan, Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association. Reprinted from Midwest Blacksmith Association newsletter.

BAM NEWS

Hammer Rebuilding

Sponsored by the Automotive Inc./Little Giant, this seminar will teach you how to give new life to your old hammer. It will be held March 5, 6, & 7 in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Cost is \$65 paid in advance. The instructor is Fred Caylor of Zionsville, Indiana.

Fred is a full-time smith and a hammer rebuilder. He has taught and demonstrated throughout the Midwest and South. He is known for the quality of the hammers he restores and is very willing to share his knowledge with you.

A 25 pound hammer will be on hand that will be totally rebuilt at the seminar. Evaluation of a used hammer, teardown, rebabbiting, repair of worn parts, assembly and adjustment will be covered. The hammer will be totally operable before we leave.

Class is limited to 25-30 students. Cancellations allowed up to Feb. 22nd with full refund. Map and a list of accommodations sent upon registration.

As a little sidelight, a 500 pound Little Giant will be in operation for a little fun and games.

For more information write or call: Automotive Inc./Little Giant, 420 4th Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410 (402) 873-6602.

Classified

For Sale: Blacksmith coal and coke, \$25 per ton. This coal is low sulfur from Texas, not bagged but can be loaded on your truck or trailer. It comes from cleaning out rail cars and quantities available vary. Currently 100 tons on hand. Call or write John Webb, P.O. Box 141, Piedmont, Mo. 63957; (314) 223-4785, or after 9 am 223-2381, or weekends 223-4264.

Wanted: Small Anvil, 75 pound to 100 pound and portable forge. Call Craig Schmidt, 671-8763.

For sale: Swedge block, leg vises (2 or 3), hand crank drill (4), big Champion blowers, Edwards shear, many tongs and lead ladels. John Wilding, Red Barn Craft Shop, 523 West 9th St., Hermann, Mo. (314) 486-5544.

Need a cone mandrel? Give me a call. I found several with an ad in *Rural Missouri* but can't afford the price (\$300). Jim McCarty, (314) 897-4111 (nights).

BAM in the News

Two BAM members were featured in the January issue of *Rural Missouri*. Dana Swinney, a farrier from the Kansas City area and a new BAM member, was the cover story. Dana says she found out about BAM when she read the article I did on the group in *Rural Missouri* several years ago. Tom Clark, axeman, was featured in the same issue. Tom swings a pretty mean splitting axe which he invented. Tom was also featured in a recent issue of *Small Farm* magazine, a national magazine written for alternative farmers. A letter to the editor in the next issue invited readers to join ABANA and ask the group for the address of the nearest chapter.

Where's Bernie?

Several members have called me wanting to know how to contact Bernie Tappel. Bernie is building a

new post and beam house and has had to put blacksmithing on the back burner. Just to stay in touch I tried to contact him and Patty told me she had moved into a convent. She didn't say what caused her to join the order but I'm sure it had something to do with blacksmithing.

Just kidding, the convent is temporary. Looking forward to seeing the completed house, Bernie. For once you can forge something for yourself!

Iron in the Hat

Many thanks to the following members for their donations at the last meeting: Poker, Tom Clark, won by Steve Austin; Tomahawk, donar unknown, won by Bob Alexander; Wall hooks, won by Lou Mueller, Railroad spike cowboy, Pat McCarty, won by Dave Endres; Carved Santa, Dick Obermark, won by Ken Vallejo; Wall hooks, Pat McCarty, won by John Wilding; Power hammer cut off, John Murray, won by Al Thompson. We made \$109.

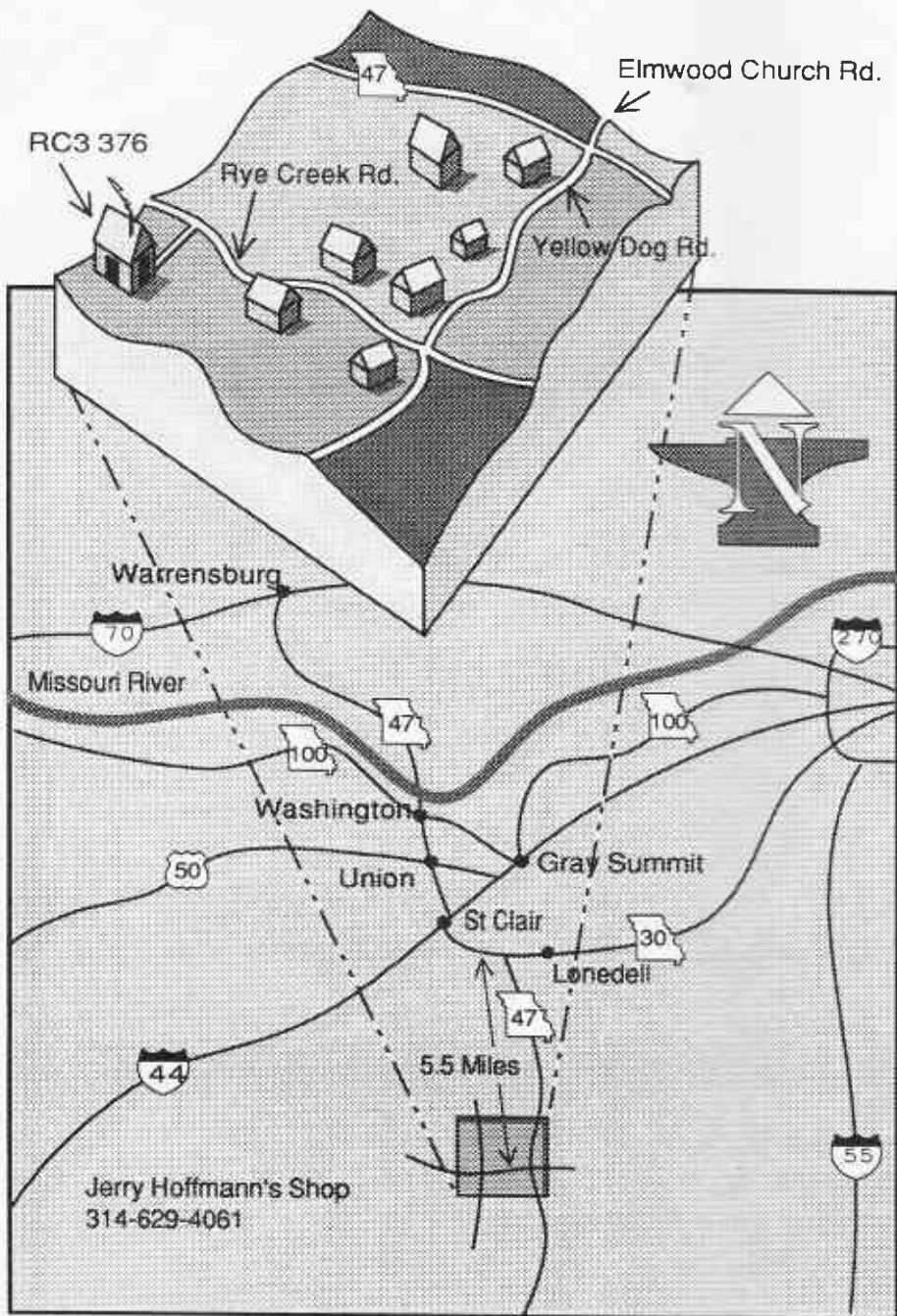
Trade items

There were 15 trade items at the last meeting, showing a wide range of interpretations on the letter opener theme. Making trade items were Ken Markley, Jerry Hoffmann, Maurice Ellis, John Deering, Doug Hendrickson, John Wilding, Big E, Roy Warden, Bob Alexander, Tom Clark, John Murray, Jim Waller, JK Reynolds, Pat McCarty and Kevin Fallis.

Library Donations

BAM's library grew by two donations made at the November meeting. "Knives '93" was donated by V.J. McCrackin. It features many beautiful pictures of knives, some made by our members. New member Ray Altholz donated a copy of the "Blacksmith's Source Book," which is a bibliography of books of interest to blacksmiths. If you have a donation send it to Ray Chaffin, BAM Librarian, RR3 South, Box 279, Warsaw, Mo. 65355.

Next Meeting — January 30 at Jerry Hoffmann's



The next BAM meeting will be at Jerry Hoffmann's Lonedell forge. Jerry has a nice shop and always hosts a great meeting. You can count on some excellent demos.

Trade Item: Any Kitchen Utensil

To find Jerry take Highway 47 south of St. Clair to Yellow Dog Road, then turn right on Rye Creek Road.. Watch for signs to Jerry's house.

Don't forget to forge something for the Iron in the Hat and for the trade item, which is any kitchen item. If you haven't participated in the past, here's how it works: Everyone who makes a trade item gets to swap for someone else's iron. It's a good way to learn a new technique because you can take it home and study it.

The Iron in the Hat is a raffle. Just make whatever you want and we'll raffle it off at the next meeting for \$1 a chance. Last meeting we picked up some good change for BAM this way.

If you don't want to make something think of something else a blacksmith can use in the shop.

Remember, all proceeds go to BAM.

BAM SCHEDULE

Jan. 30, Jerry Hoffmann,
Lonedell, Mo.

March 17, Colin Campbell,
Union, Mo.

April 24-25, Ozark Conference,
Potosi, Mo.

May ??, Walt Hull, Lawrence,
Kansas.

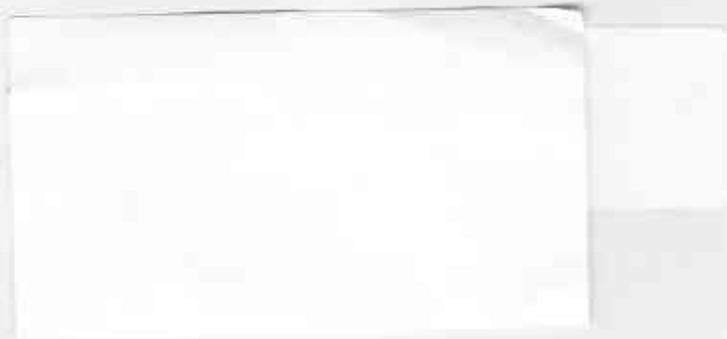
July 10, Doug Hendrickson,
Lesterville, Mo.

Sept. 18, John Murray, New
Melle, Mo.

Nov. 6, Todd Kinnigan, House
Springs, Mo.

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