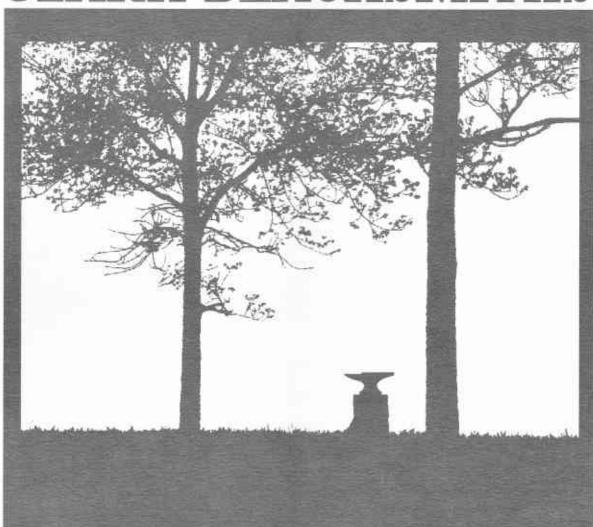


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OZARK BLACKSMITHS



1993 CONFERENCE

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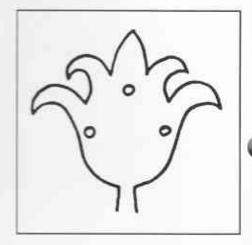
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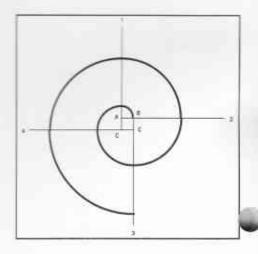
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Our cover: Make plans now to attend BAM's big event, the 1993 Ozark Conference in Potosi April 24 and 25.

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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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Editor's Anvil

Since the first leaves started falling in late September. I've been dragging my little rivet forge and 135-pound anvil out of the garage whenever I can steal time from what I should be doing.

It gets a little cold standing in ankle-deep snow trying to pump enough air to the coal to compensate for the wind chill. And the lack of a vise put a real damper on what I could make.

Happily, I am now moving in from the cold. I took advantage of the February thaw to clean out a 100 year accumulation of dust and junk in the old log cabin lean-to I had pegged for my blacksmith shop.

I wish those old mud chinked walls could talk, for it's obvious a blacksmith once used the place. Everywhere you look there are little hand-made hooks and pieces of iron probably thrown aside in disgust.

There are at least four holes purposely left in the poured concrete floor, though I can find no clue to their use.

The old work bench is what really intrigues me. As a bench, it should be drug out and replaced with something more practical. I won't be doing that however.

It's made of a single piece of oak, 4 inches thick and a good 18 inches across and 10 feet long. A home made leg vise (wood) is mounted on one end. It has two broken rasps for jaws.

On the other end is a wooden device that looks like an upside down shoe, with a whittled pin that sticks in the table. The hardest thing to explain are the hundreds of holes bored in every square inch of the workbench

I mounted a real post vise on the old relic, but can't seem to part with the wooden one

I'm still waiting on the fire pot for my new forge, so I'm still dragging the old one out the front of the shop. It's an easy step inside to the anvil or the vise though.

I'll have a pretty nice shop when I get some electricity and a pair of

doors on the front. Before I get around to it though summer will be here and the long days and the heat will make both unnecessary.

Just in case it gets cold again, I may need to host a hinge making session. Wanna come? Bring a long extension cord.

Next issue

I'm getting closer to getting the newsletter back on schedule. But I could sure use your help.

Surely you have some burning issue, helpful hint or great project you would like to share with the rest of the membership.

All you have to do is put your thoughts down on paper and send it my way. You don't even have to worry about correctly being grammatic or spelleringl it rite.

I'll take care of that.

Some things I would like to add to the newsletter include:

- A page just for beginners. This might cover a particular topic or include a question and answer format where the beginners ask the questions and I find someone to provide an answer.
- A gallery section for showing off pieces made by you.
- Safety tips, like Walt's old Perfessor Safety page. (That's a hint.)

To get this started I could use some input, especially from some of the new members.

Got a topic you would like to read more about? Are you an expert at something (or can you fake it)? Is there some problem you are having (but are too afraid to ask in public?) We can withhold names to protect the ego!

BAM has plenty of experts, and this newsletter can serve as a forum to get solutions

Please take some time, a pencil and at least one piece of paper and drop me a line.

I'm also in need of some photos of member's work. I have just about enough stuff to print a gallery for next month, but that's it.

Let's see what you got. It would be

nice if a few people sent in some really bad stuff so I could run something I made. It's just a thought.

Many thanks to those of you who have sent me stories -- V.J. McCrackin, Doug Hendrickson, Tom Clark, Bob Woodard. . . have I missed anyone?

It really gets tough filling all 24 pages by myself, especially when I know there are people more qualified on this subject.

Keep those stories, tips, letters, ideas and encouragement coming.

— Jim McCarty

Dear BAM

Dear Jim,

I am a new member having attended one meeting and now, one hammer-in at Tom Clark's shop. Both were most interesting to me, however the reason I write is to express my delight with Tom's open forge that December day.

If ever there was a proverbial "kid in the candy shop" it was me. In every direction I looked I saw not only the friendly faces of other members but hardware and tools, that up to now I had only seen pictures of.

But the best thing was yet to come. Tom furnished those who wanted, raw stock and declared the forge open, the project for the day was to forge pokers. I eagerly got in line.

Avoiding tiresome detail, let me say that after some careful instructions from Tom and a few reheats I am now the proud owner of my very own hand forged poker, complete with twists and curls (even though I did twist one of them backwards.)

Mid day Tom's gracious wife warmed our shivering bones with some hot soup and sandwiches after which we viewed some films and toured Tom's wood lot operations.

In a moment's time, it seemed, all the hours were gone and it was time to start home, arriving well after dark. I assembled all in the family to show off my poker — my first attempt at hot iron and anvil. What a good day this had been.

Yours truly, Joe Wilkinson, Leslie, Mo.

Dear Bam,

Two years ago I attended a custom knife show in St. Louis. I came across a table full of crude looking knives forged from old railroad spikes. In comparison, these knives were rather ugly and rustic looking, but there was something about them that clicked with me. This was my first interest in blacksmithing. After doing some reading and making inquiries I happened to run across some info about an organization called BAM (thanks to Colin Campbell).

I attended my first BAM meeting in November 1992. I walked into Pat's shop and witnessed a demonstration by two BAM members making, of all things, a knife out of a railroad spike. Believe me, this knife was neither crude nor ugly. I knew I was with the right group.

A week later I attended Tom Clark's first Sunday workshop and after two years of waiting I got to take a hammer to a piece of steel and I made my first forged item.

I learned a lot in Tom's shop that day and came home with a hunger to learn more. A week later I took a short drive to Lou Mueller's shop to buy coal. Lou invited my kids and I into his shop to look around answer questions and to show me how to start a fire. Within an hour I had my own fire going and I was on my way.

Since then I have made a lot of trash and have a pretty good pile of scrap going, but every once in a while my finished product remotely resembles my intentions.

Today I forged a pretty nice pineapple scale handled knife from a railroad spike and yeah, it's kind of crude and ugly, but I made it myself and I am so proud of that ugly old knife that I just had to tell someone about it. Thanks BAM.

Randy Barringhaus. Leslie. Mo.

Dear BAM,

Fantastic! That's how I would describe the treadle hammer work shop. Things seemed to start off a little slow Friday morning, but by lunch time everybody got into the swing of things. I was really impressed with the quality of the work done, and when people finished a job they went looking for something else to do.

I really believe that everyone pitching together on such a project helps build the comaraderie of the group. Personally, I got to know a few BAM members a little better than before, and as a plus, I ended up with a treadle hammer that I probably would not have finished on my own. Maybe I am a pessimist but I was really surprised when the last hammer was finished a little after 3 o'clock on Sunday. After that came the hard work of loading them. It took me 2 days to round up enough people to unload the thing and even though there were three of us we still had to scoot it out of the truck. Anybody out there have any idea how much one of these hammers weigh? It really was a big undertaking and it would not have been possible with out Bob Woodard getting everything lined up and also Clay Spencer keeping us on track. I know there was a lot of prefabrication done ahead of time and those involved deserve a lot of credit also. It is involvement like this that has caused BAM to grow and prosper.

Sincerely, Dr. Kevin Fallis, Troy, Ill.

Dear BAM Members,

Greetings, at our last monthly meeting Doug Hendrickson gave a letter he received from Paul Moffett in Indiana offering information on how they set up their library. I called and talked to Paul but have not received anything at this time.

We also had two donations of videos to the library at the last meeting. A workshop video at Jerry Hoffmann's (unedited) and Knife Making by Bob Morgan, donated by Jim and Jane Kendzora.

Here is a list of what we have in our library at this time.

Books

- 1. Heartland Blacksmithing by Richard Reichelt, donated by Velvet Hammer
- 2. Edge of the Anvil by Jack Andrews, donated by Velvet Hammer 3. Blacksmith Source Book by James Fleming, donated by Ray Altholz
- 4. Anvil Magazine Feb. 91 through Jan. 92 donated by Ray Chaffin
- 5. Knives '93 donated by V.J. McCrackin
- 6. Lawer Metal Product Catalog donated by Ray Chaffin
- 7. Art of Blacksmithing by Alex Bealer (copy) donated by Ray Chaffin 8. Cast Iron donated by Ray Chaffin
- 9. Step by Step Knifemaking by Jim Boye (copy) donated by Ray Chaffin

Videos

- 1-5. Power Hammer Forging by Clifton Ralph donated by BAM
- 6. Eastham Forge (15 min.) donated by Lance Clautier
- 7. Ozark Conference BAM '92
- 8. Workshop by Ivan Bailey
- Workshop by Bob Patrick

(Continued on next page)

Tom's Turn

I heard someone say once that winter is here, so it is time to put out the fire, lay the hammer down and reflect on the past summer's work and plan next year's projects at the forge. Fat chance that will happen in Missouri.

BAM started its year off with the Clay Spencer treadle hammer building workshop at Stan Winkler's shop. In three days no less than 24 hammers were completed. BAM's own Bob Woodard was project coordinator. He put it together with Clay, made a plan, assigned advance work to several people, coordinated the shop layout and tools needed with Stan, and bought all the material needed — except for the anvils and upper and lower hammer heads that were donated by Charlie Schultz and Eastham Forge of Beaumont, Texas. Someone said how can we ever thank him enough? I'll tell you in the next newsletter how we'll get started.

The 24 hammers were completed on schedule without the use of a single band-aid. Thanks to all for a job well done.

January 30 meeting at Jerry Hoffmann's must have been the largest regular meeting ever. I never got a total attendance count but it must have been 80 to 100 people. Lots of tailgaters as promised. I brought several anvils and other tools, sold three and bought two. Will it ever end?

The much talked about forge building workshop held at Lou Mueller's shop in Valley Park is now history. 25 side draft coal forges were built from scratch. The only hold up was caused when the steel supplier failed to deliver some of the parts. A quick call by Lou put a crew to work on Saturday morning and the balance of steel was cut and picked up by



Tom leads the discussion at one of BAM's business meetings

early afternoon. As a result about half of the units were completed and the balance which only needed some final welding will be completed next weekend. Thanks to Lou and all the others who came only to help. More on this later.

Thanks in advance to Doug Hendrickson. Plans are complete for the April 24-25 Ozark Conference.

Some late news: Clayton Carr, president of ABANA, has accepted our invitation to attend our conference. He will give a demo with the Hossfeld.

We have acquired lodging in the

equestrian acreage at Sunnen Lake. This will be free to the first 80 who preregister. The lodging is primitive bunk house style with four double bunk beds to each cabin, mattress only provided. If some of you plan to bring spouse and children we will try to accommodate.

Now that we've had our winter rest we've only got to make something for the auction and we will be ready for the conference, that is right after the March 27 meeting at Colin Campbell's. Trade item is a sign bracket.

--Tom Clark

10. BAM Aug. 1, 1992 Meeting and Workshop

11. BAM Oct. 2 1992 Meeting and Workshop

12. BAM Jan. 30, 1993 Meeting and Workshop

13. Treadle Hammer Workshop at Stan Winkler's shop (7-13 unedited, donat-

ed by Ray Chaffin)

We had \$56 in cash donations at our last meeting for purchase of books, etc. I know that videos and books can't take the place of hands-on workshops, but later the video will help remind you of what you did or didn't see. Books give details that would take

weeks to demonstrate, so the combination will give you a scope you didn't think possible.

Well. I'll get off my soap box and close. I thank all the members for the library's sake and theirs too, for all of the donations.

Ray Chaffin, Warsaw, BAM Librarian

BAM

JAN. MEETING

Some people pay a lot of money for the pleasure of seeing Jerry Hoffmann demonstrate blacksmithing. If you were at the January meeting you got to see Jerry in action for free — just another benefit of belonging to one of ABANA's most active chapters.

As usual Jerry had two projects in the forge at once — a nice basket twist and a pair of tongs.

Usually the twist Jerry made is done by forge welding the ends of four pieces and welding the finished piece to a larger piece of stock. Jerry added a new twist by starting with a solid piece of square stock.

With some help from striker Tom Clark, he split about 6 inches of the stock by working from all four sides.

When he reached the middle he worked it into a nice round shape on the cone. I was impressed at the care

Jerry took to get the pieces perfectly proportioned and square. This makes a real difference in the finished piece. He had a vise jig that helped in this regard, but I won't try to explain how it works.

I have seen Jerry make tongs before but it's still impressive. A good skill for everyone to acquire.

The forge was left open following Jerry's demo but there were no takers. We did a lot of talking and swapping lies, and a lot of old rusty iron changed hands.

If you were at the January meeting and you aren't Tom Clark, then you missed a heck of a deal on Doug Hendrickson's anvil. I guess no one but Tom had the \$250 for this ready to go piece of Peter Wright. Doug swears it was Samuel Yellin's personal anvil, the one he brought over on the boat.

This makes the third time Doug has sold Sam's anvil. Wonder why he had so many?

The big news at the January BAM meeting was a minor change in the by-laws that added a new spot to the informal board and officially split up the duties of the secretary and treasurer.

Maurice Ellis is the new second vice president/slag grinder. Pat McCarty moves up to the position of coal shoveler, and Doug officially gets to do what he has been doing. All very proper and according to Robert's Rules of Order.

There were so many trade items I

won't try to list them all. They were all nicely done kitchen utensils. A few stand out in my scrawled notes: J.K. Reynold's combo tool had a spoon on one end and a fork on the other — standard issue for French soldiers at one time, I'm told. There was a guillotine food chopper, a coping saw cheese slicer and a utensil rack made from a garden rake. Clever members we have.

We had two visitors from Great Britain at our meeting. Peter Hill and Hazel Moore not only came but also brought a trade item. We sent them home with BAM t-shirts.

This was unofficially the largest crowd we've ever had for a BAM meeting, with 80 plus people on hand. We took in \$126 from the Iron in the Hat. Special thanks to Doug Hendrickson (iron face), Pat McCarty (bolt head and tomahawk), John Wilding (S hooks), Bob Alexander (RR spikes), Randy Barringhaus (leather apron), Andy McDonald (anvil pin) and Jerry Hoffmann (demo piece) for their donations.

B.A.M. Meeting Minutes

President Tom Clark called the meeting to order at 1 pm. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. The treasurer reported that we have \$2,944.

Old Business:

Ken Markley showed the new Ozark Conference t-shirts and presented the idea of doing caps. No action was taken on the cap idea. Ken



Right: Jerry and Tom are making quite a team. Above: Jerry's finished demo piece looked like this.



NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI



said that he was looking into pins. **By-law change:**

President Clark presented the idea and need to change the make-up of officers by adding a 2nd vice-president and dividing the office of secretary-treasuer. After discussion, these changes were moved/seconded and passed. Maurice Ellis was elected 2nd vice-president and Doug Hendrickson secretary.

Jim McCarty noted the by-laws stated officers should be elected by mailed ballots, to this date this has never been done. Jim moved to change the by-laws stating that officers should be elected by the membership present at the July meeting each year. His motion was seconded and passed.

Tom instructed the secretary to rewrite these changes in the bylaws. Ozark Conference:

Report was given by the chairman, all is proceeding well. Tom mentioned that the Sunnen Lake camp site could possibly be a site for future conferences. Tom is also looking into renting cabins at the site to be offered free to the first 50 pre-registered.

Andy asked that a student discount be considered stating that he felt metals students at SIU might come if there was some price break for them.

President Clark and the conference chairman will consider both ideas (student discounts and free lodging for the first 50 registrants) and act.

Lou Mueller reported on the forge building workshop explaining it will cost about \$75 for metal plus blower and fire pot. Each participant will be responsible for their own pot and blower. The dates are Feb. 20-21.

New Business:

Lou Mueller brought up the idea of having body mikes and video monitors set up around the shop at BAM meetings. Many in the back can't see the demonstrations.

President CLark authorized Maurice Ellis to buy a large coffee pot and a log book and bring them to meetings. Maurice, our new 2nd vice president, said. "I can do it."

The meeting was adjourned and the members milled for several more hours.

—Dour Hendrickson, secretary

Above: Carl Buck, John Murray and Tom Clark look over the 35 trade items. Below: our British connection shows off their shirts



ABANA News

President's Message February, 1993

Dear ABANA Chapters,

For most of the country this has been a particularly cold and wet Winter. It is a good thing that we have a nice warm forge fire to stand next to! There are other associations that don't have that luxury. If you happen to know members of other groups, this might be a great time to invite them to share some of the warmth. You might be surprised to find out how many of your associates in other groups don't know about blacksmithing, or your Chapter, or ABANA for that matter. Casual contacts have even been known to be profitable upon occasion. Regardless of that, you and your Chapter might just start a tradition of friendship that will raise the awareness of all concerned.

I hope you noticed the expanded list of goods and services now available to ABANA members, listed in the back pages of the latest *Anvil's Ring*. Many of these have never before been available. For example, we now have an ABANA Library brochure that gives a detailed description of the video tapes and slides in the ABANA Library. We have a bibliography of blacksmithing books, graciously provided to ABANA by member Will Hightower. We even have low cost, high quality ABANA tee shirts in sizes going clear up to XXX-Large. (That shirt size was requested by an XXX-Large ABANA President...) I won't go into great detail about every item we have: suffice to say that we are offering more than ever before.

Plans for Spring activities are now underway in many Chapters. For some, this will mean large crowds in small shops. Now would be a good time to survey that shop for adequate fire protection, and have a contingency plan in place. Make sure that visiting cars and trucks park well away from fire lanes. If you have a fire extinguisher in service that has been used, be sure to get it checked by a qualified technician, since the powder can get under the seat and slowly drain the pressure! You might also want to check for dry grass or other combustible material around your doors. Once you start thinking about it, you will find other opportunities to help make your shops more fire resistant.

Speaking of Spring activities, *Anvil's Ring* Editor Robert Owings has just finished work on the Spring issue. It will be the official kick-off of the ABANA 20th year series of *Anvil's Rings*, and is due out sometime around March. If you have an idea for a good article. I'm sure either Robert or any of the Regional Editors would be glad to hear from you! Preparations are also underway for the production of the new ABANA Newsletter. Editor Jim Ryan, along with other members of the ABANA Board of Directors are working on finalizing the details required for the publication of this newsletter. I'd say we have a lot to look forward to, wouldn't you?

Have fun, think safety, and we'll see you in the Spring!

Clayton Carr ABANA President

ABANA Liaison

ABANA Scholarships

The Board of Directors of ABANA is pleased to announce the establishment of the ABANA Scholarship Fund. Financial assistance is available to members for pursuit of education in blacksmithing. Annual application dates are March 31st & September 30th of each year and must be postmarked by the deadline date. Partial funding requests are encouraged. To receive further information and application forms please write to: ABANA Scholarship; Committee c/o ABANA P.O. Box 1181, Nashville, Indiana 47448 or call 812-988-6919.

Chapter Scholarships

Does your chapter have a scholarship available? As a central resource center we want to have a listing of all scholarships offered through ABANA Chapters. Please send the ABANA Office your group's information right away so we can include it on the list for callers who inquire.

Forge to Loan

The Northwest Ohio Blacksmiths (NOB) have a loaner forge for new members to use while they are establishing a shop. From what I hear it is getting a lot of use. What a great idea that shows a desire to help new smiths and promote blacksmithing.

Studio Assistantships

Peters Valley Craft Center still has openings for assistantships in blacksmithing, ceramics, fibers, fine metals, photography and woodworking. Work/study exchange provides room, partial meals and studio space June through August. For an application write to Peters Valley Craft Center Assistantship Program. 19 Kuhn Road, Layton, N.J. 07851. Application deadline: April 1, 1993.

'93 Chapter Conferences

It won t be long until chapters all over the country will be hosting conferences and demonstrations. The Blacksmith Association of Missouri (BAM) has come up with a novel way of stimulating interest in their conference by giving each ABANA chapter a scholarship to the conference. What a giving thing to do and a great way to promote blacksmithing.

Demonstrator Jitters

Spring is just around the corner and a lot of

blacksmiths will be getting requests to demonstrate at public events. For those of you who are apprehensive about doing public demonstrations you might want to get a copy of the Demonstration Guidelines available through the ABANA Office.

New Blacksmith Shop

The Indiana Blacksmith Association (IBA) and the Fulton County Historical Society have teamed up to build a blacksmith shop. This joint effort will benefit both groups and help promote blacksmithing to the public. I wonder if they will be making the nails and hardware like in the old days?

Foot Hammer Madness

The Blacksmith Association of Missouri (BAM) just completed a weekend workshop on treadle hammers. Under the direction of Clay (Treadle Hammer) Spencer they were able to complete 24 hammers. This was no small feat in itself. What a fantastic way to fill the needs of the membership and promote enthusiasm in the organization. Way to go BAM!

Magazine Shortage

The ABANA Office reports they are running low on some back issues of the *Anvil's Ring*. Now is the time to fill in those missing issues before it is too late. For prices and availability contact the ABANA Office. A book containing the first five years of the *Anvil's Ring* is available with a lot of good tips and techniques from the early issues.

Couch Potato Cure

Are you bored, becoming a couch potato or need something to do to fill your spare time? Give us a call. We have committees that need your help. This is a golden opportunity to be a part of the national organization and help your fellow smiths. Contact Ron Porter for more info: (317) 689-8450.

Thanks

ABANA members in your chapter appreciate the reproduction of the monthly chapter mailing info in your chapter newsletter. Please continue to keep the avenues of communication open for those who are interested. If your chapter has information that you would like to share within our chapter mailing network, just submit your announcement to the ABANA Office and it will go out in the next monthly mailing.

It's Ozark conference time!

Spring in the Ozarks is wonderful with Red Buds. Dogwoods, wild flowers, crystal clear spring fed streams and the Ozark Conference. Make your way to Potosi, Mo. on April 24th and 25th and you can have it all.

The 2nd Annual Ozark Regional L Blacksmith Conference features Daryl Meier and Doug Wilson as the main demonstrators with Clayton "Perfessor Hossfeld" Carr as a special guest. Daryl is best known for his complex pattern welded steel. Frank Turley said "no one knows more about how and where metal moves when you heat and beat it than Daryl". Along with forge welding in general, fire control, and many other blacksmithing concerns, Daryl weaves endless stories and tales. Doug Wilson with a striker and the audience will design, forge and assemble a project which will utilize traditional joinery. Doug demonstrated at the California ABANA Conference last summer and has taught at Penland and John C. Campbell Folk School.

BAM members will be demonstrating at two other sites. Kenny Valdejo has put together a program of historic forging using period equipment. The team of Maurice Ellis, Pat McCarty, J.K. Reynolds, Al Stephens, Bernie Tappel, Jim Waller and Kenny will forge a complete set of door hardware. The hinges, bolt, suffolk latch and knocker will be auctioned. by Tim Ryan Saturday night. Walt Hull has organized another team of BAM Smiths whose goal is to address contemporary blacksmithing problems. Walt's team is made of Stan Winkler, Jerry Hoffmann, Grady Holly, Roberta Elliot and

Hank Knickmeyer.

The Demonstrations are the core of this conference but the other activities add to the over all experience.

Things to do

Debbie Bust, a local stained glass artist will conduct tours of interesting things in the Potosi area. Antiques. crafts, etc.

Tom Clark has assembled a group of crafters who will have an ongoing demonstration of their specific interests. The crafts will be spinning, weaving, wood carving and log eabin building.

Saturday noon

Grady Holley, Tim Ryan and Floyd Daniel will hold a triple anvil shoot. Mr. Floyd's experienced anvil, Tim's matched team of albino English jumping anvils and Grady's beat up old iron should be quite a sight as they float skyward.

Auction

Saturday night after the banquet Tim Ryan will preside over our annual auction as only he can. Tim's auctions are fast becoming an event in and of themselves and should not be missed. The auction is a very important part of the total conference and all are encouraged to bring their fine ironwork, tools, books and other blacksmith paraphernalia. Don't forget your checkbook because Tim will do his best to sell all this stuff right back to you.

Saturday night

After the banquet and auction Tom Clark will light the bonfire and present the rules and regulations for the evening contest. Bring your hammer. Fred Caylor will be the judge.

Tailgate sales

Dealers and individuals alike are



invited to bring their tools, materials and whatever to the tailgate sales area. Close to 60 vendors displayed their wares at last year's quad states round up. This figure gives you an idea of how important this aspect of regional conferences has become. Tailgaters will not be charged a fee, but we ask that each donate something to the auction.

Books

Centaur Forge will have for sale a large selection of blacksmithing books.



Rebuilt Little Giant hammers

Fred Caylor will be present at the conference with one of his rebuilt power hammers. Fred is an encyclopedia of information on the subject of Little Giants. This hammer will be for sale. Contact Fred (317) 769-6537.

Stoneware coffee mugs Conference t-shirts

Ozark Potter Lee Ferber has been commissioned to throw 100 stoneware mugs with the conference logo embossed on the side. The mugs

will be on sale at the conference or may be purchased at pre-registration time. Tee shirts with a two color conference logo screened on them will also be available.

ABANA booth

Abana's executive secretary will set up with back issues of the ANVIL'S RING and other ABANA things for sale. This would be a great time to sign up or re-new your membership.

Tom's autograph book

Tom Clark would like to start a collection of touchmarks, an autograph book in iron. Please bring your stamp, mark or touchmark.

Food and camping

The Potosi Lions will be cooking three meals for us-Saturday noon, the evening banquet, and Sunday breakfast. A \$10 meal ticket can be purchased at pre-registration. Potosi has several fast food and family restaurants. Camping on the grounds

are free. No hook ups are available.

Area motels

Sunnen Conference Center (314-438-2154) Ask for Jesus De Las Salas Single: \$51; Double \$72 remind Jesus you're with BAM.

Best Western Farmington (314)756-8031 King \$45.95; Double \$48.95.

Days Inn Farmington 1-800-325-2525 Single: \$37.95; Double \$39.95.

Austin Inn Potosi (314)438-9002 Single:\$27.00; Double: \$33.00.

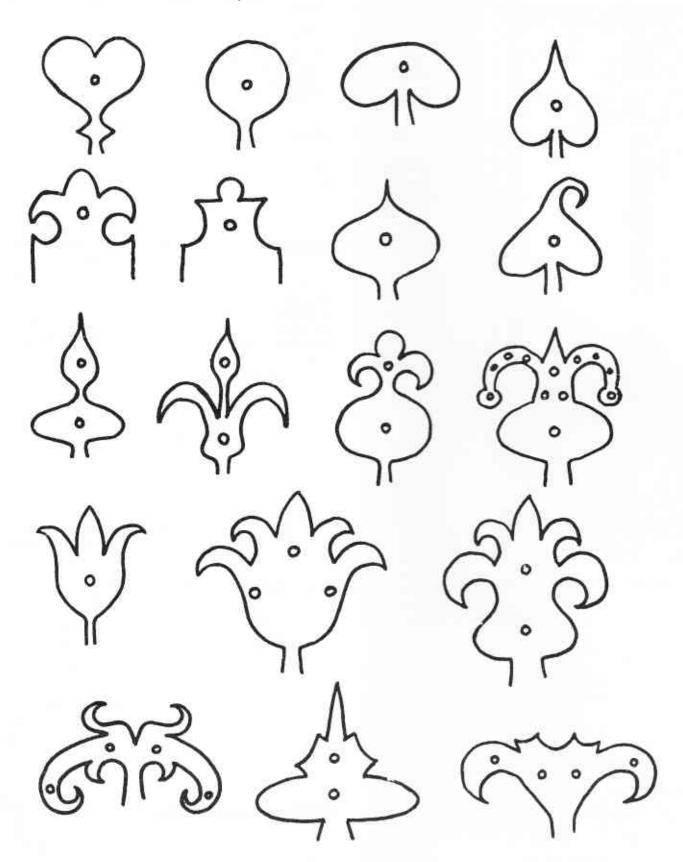
Pre-registration

BAM President Tom Clark has arranged for free lodging for the first 75 who pre-register. A YMCA Facility near the conference site has made available bunk hollses which sleep eight each. Showers and a bunk will be supplied by the YMCA, you must bring your own bedding. Privacy is limited.



Hinge Ends

Editor's Note: I am working on a pair of doors for my workshop and of course will need hinges. I stumbled on these drawings of late 18th and early 19th century hinge ends from an old newsletter of the Pittsburgh Area Artist Blacksmith Association. These ends would also work well on handles or as hardware for a wooden chest. Can't decide which one I like the best — I may have four different hinges!



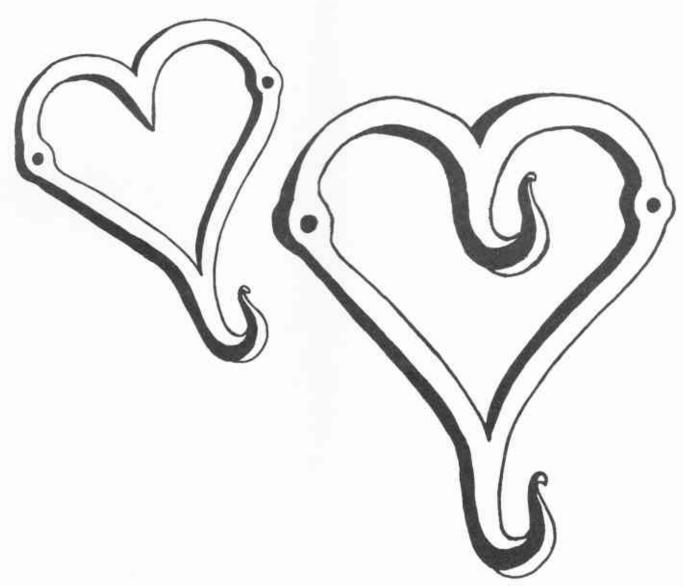
So you forgot Valentine's Day?

Maybe this project will get you off the hook.

This heart hook features a different kind of excersize in that two pieces of 1/4 by 10 inch round stock are forge welded on both ends (3/4 inch for the top and 2 inches for the hook end). Draw to a point and form hook. Heat and separate the two pieces — this will form an oval shape. Bend the top end toward the center of the oval. Heat and finish shaping over the anvil horn. Punch nail holes.

For the double hook, forge weld 2 inches at both ends and form the hooks (hooks will be facing opposite directions). Separate the two pieces of metal — this will form the oval shape. Bend one hook toward the center of the oval. Heat and finish shaping on the anvil horn. Punch nail holes.

Rainbo (Steve Clary), Decatur Ill. Reprinted from the Tuyere, Newsletter of the Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association



Building treadle hammers with Clay Spencer

by Bob Woodard

Way back at the July BAM meeting Tom Clark announced that BAM was considering a treadle hammer workshop. Plans were firmed up at the September meeting and the word went out in November.

Clay Spencer of Madison, Ala. was to head the workshop and be responsible for design, work layout and other work assignments. Bob Woodard was to act as coordinator of resources. Stan Winkler was to host the event at his "Muleskinner Forge" in Ste. Genevieve Jan. 14-16.

Clay's treadle hammer design is basically a modification of the ABANA Treadle Hammer by 1) incorporating hardy holes in both the anvil and hammer for changeable tooling, 2) adding the capability to adjust the height of the hammer over the anvil, and 3) mounting the complete machine on a baseplate.

The plan was to standardize materials as much as possible for all 23 hammers. This included the use of formed (non-welded) leaf springs with bronze bushings, and a spur gear and rack. The bill of material called for more than 54 separate items and these were collected during the weeks before the event. Three major components (anvil, anvil plate and hammer plate) were donated by Eastham Forge Inc. of Beaumont, Texas, courtesy of Charley Schultz, one of the participants. In late December, Tom Clark drove to Texas and picked up this significant contribution of nearly 6,000 pounds of iron. Eastham's valuable donation we a major factor in realizing a final cost per hammer of \$221.

Some components were fabricated ahead of time in the shops of members and a one-day "pre"-workshop with 5 members took place at Lou Mueller's excellent shop.

For the main event, all participants assembled at Stan's on Jan. 15. After

a quick orientation meeting where safety was stressed as a No. I priority, subassembly teams were formed for 1) Treadle, 2) Hammer, 3) Rear Column-Anvil Base, 4) Slider, 5) Rack & Pinion, 6) Adjustable Link and 7) Coil Springs & Tooling.

Then the shop started cooking and the hammers started going together. Some needed tools exceeded the capability of Stan's shop and were supplied by members. All together, much use was made of four welding machines (3 Mig, 1 stick) a mag drill.

a drill press, numerous grinders, two oxyacetylene torches, coal and gas forges, an anvil, power hammer, a portable band saw, two chop saws and several jigs and fixtures. This was in addition to innumerable hand tools, clamps, vises, hand trucks, files, etc.

At the end of the second day, several hammers had been completed and a lottery was held to determine the final distribution of 23 hammers by number.

The objective of building 23 hammers in three days without an injury was realized at 5 pm on Sunday. (During final loading Ray Chaffin slipped in some oil in the bed of his truck and tumbled to the ground Apparently, only the ground suffered!)

Some media coverage was accomplished by the local paper and numerous video and still photographs were taken throughout the process by various members.

My impression was that this workshop was a total success. I am particularly grateful for the skill, cando attitude, good will, hard work, spirit of teamwork and overall willingness to get the job done exhibited by each individual. We took our hammers, left Stan a clean shop looked forward to much needed rest and departed with a cap full of good memories. Well done BAM!

Below top: Charlie Schultz (left) and Kenny Valdejo at the anvil Center: From left, Tom Clark Bob Woodard, Stan Winkler and Clay Spencer gather around a completed hammer, Bottom The scene in Stan's shop was a busy, but safe one







by Jim McCarty

When BAM sets out to do something, we do it right. That was my impression after spending a weekend at Lou Mueller's shop helping to build 25 forges.

Fresh off the great treadle hammer workshop, a large group of members came to Lou's ready to work. Lou had taken Jerry Hoffmann's side-draft coal forge plan from the Blacksmith's Journal and revised it to have mercy on those of us who unload our trucks alone.

Lou's refinements made the forge a three-piece item. When the need arises the base, fire pot shelf and smokestack can be unbolted for storage or transport.

Like the hammer workshop, this was a tremendous undertaking. We were starting with plans and raw metal, with no holes drilled our cut and hundreds of steps to be taken.

Fortunately we were working in a shop with every imaginable piece of metal working equipment. We had three or four portable welders brought in by BAM members to supplement Lou's equipment. And we had Lou, who takes on challenges bigger than this one every day.

The big snowfall of the week before the workshop caused a delay in getting the steel to Lou, so our first job was to run down the raw material. While that was happening Lou got two crews working on cutting angle iron to length and long bars of aluminum into squares for the blast gates. Before long there were pieces for others to grind, file, mill and drill to careful tolerances.

There was little margin for error—in order to keep the costs down, Lou had calculated the materials down to the last inch, modifying the plans in places to take into account standard dimensions for raw steel. For this reason we were extra careful in our measurements, and frequently test-fitted parts before cutting a large batch.

One almost disaster was saved by Tom Clark's artfully wielded sledge hammer. Tom took a piece of 1/4 inch steel that had been bent in the wrong place and skillfully beat it flat on

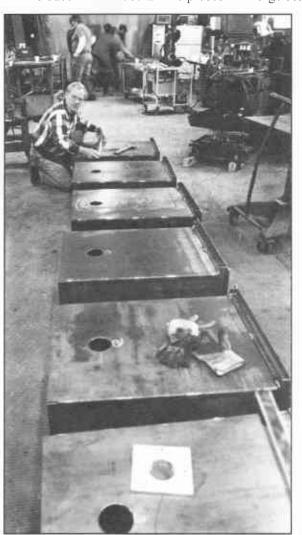
Lou's anvil — cold.

We worked from 7:30 a.m. on Saturday until about 7 p.m. with only a short break for lunch. That's when the magnitude of the project set in and we had strong doubts about our ability to finish the task.

By the end of the first day we had all 25 bases mostly complete, with angle iron welded to the base, blast holes cut out and mounting holes for the blast gates and arms drilled. Each hole required at least two drillings, once for the pilot and again to the finished size.

But we still had the entire smokestack to build. This required cutting an arched door, cutting and bending the sides, bending the smoke shelf, welding all the pieces together and fitting them with a back and a top. Then the top needed a ring bent and welded in place and a hole had to be cut for the smoke to escape.

The base still needed all the pieces



Bob Woodard surveys a line of forge bases.

The price of forges just went down!

to hold the fire pot in position and the stacks would have to be individually fitted and drilled for the bolts that held it to the base.

We were feeling a little overwhelmed, but got an early start again Sunday. By noon the task of completion fell to the welders in the group and all the rest of us could do was watch helplessly. It turned out we had more welders than Lou had 220 outlets, and the job of welding the backs together was a long one.

Those of us who took home forges owe a debt of gratitude to the welders who spent the entire weekend behind hoods laying perfect beads down the forge seams.

By 5 p.m. we had enough parts made that about a dozen forges went home as kits to those who could do their own welding. I took home forge number 5, so I know at least that many went out the door complete.

The rest were pretty close to completion, and plans were made to finish the job the next weekend.

I figure I will have about \$200 in my forge by the time I build the first fire. The forge itself cost \$92, and I picked up a blower at Hood's for \$13. Lou worked a deal with Centaur Forge so that we could buy fire pots for \$70, shipping included. I'm going to need about 13 feet of 10 inch stove pipe and I should be in business.

If you have an old forge you are trying to sell, I wish you luck. Twenty-five members of BAM just got a heck of a deal on a fine new hand-made forge. My guess is the used forge market just dried up.

The story of Daryl Meier's special knife

Editor's note. Daryl Meier is one of the featured demonstrators at the 1993 Ozark Conference. I thought you might want a taste of why Meier is so well respected in the knifemaking world. This article is reprinted from the November-December issue of the Fabricator.

Meeting a governor is a great honor and then meeting a president is really a special event.

Through a strange set of circumstances craftsman Daryl Meier had a governor visit his shop, was commissioned for a historic project

and ended up in the Oval Office

OK, is your suspense up now? Here is the rest of the story. Daryl Meier is a blacksmith and knifemaker in Illinois. His small hometown new spaper featured a story on him and the governor. who just happened to be visiting a nearby town, happened to see the article. It also just so happened that the governor likes handerafts.

A day later Meier received a startling call from the State Police. He was informed that the governor wanted to visit his shop in an hour. Daryl had just 60 minutes to

straighten up 20 years worth of accumulated tools, equipment, extension cords and hoses.

The governor arrived as promised and toured the shop. He shared how he liked to give dignitaries gifts from Illinois craftspeople. He told Meier that if he thought of something to let him know

Meier came up with the idea of a Bowie knife with American flags and "USA" incorporated into the patternwelded blade. The work was commissioned and the knife was finished 800 hours later.

On December 10, 1990 — only a month before the beginning of the Gulf War— Illinois Governor Jim Thompson and Meier presented the knife to President George Bush.

Through an arrangement with the White House the knife was on display at the National Ornamental Metal Museum as part of an exhibit called The American Art Knife." The exhibit ran from November 17 to January 17.

The knife is truly exceptional and represents some 20 year's of experimentation with pattern-welded (Damascus) steel by Daryl Meier. Each side of the blade features 13 waving U.S. flags and the crossguard is made from meteorite material from Texas. The handle is made from moose antler. According to the White House the knife will eventually become property of the George Bush Presidential Library.



Knife made by Daryl Meier for former President George Bush

Dr. Iron says:

Go to School.

by Doug Hendrickson

To learn the craft of blacksmithing is difficult. The apprentice programs and full time schools are few and far between. ABANA Conferences, regional conferences and chapter meetings along with their newsletters serve us well but there is nothing like an intense hands-on teaching situation to advance our skills.

Another problem with trying to develop blacksmithing skills is time. Not many of us have time to spend years at SIU with Tom Gipe or Brent Kington; however, we do have time to spend a week or two at summer

workshops like the Touchstone Center for Crafts or the John C. Campbell Folk School.

Start thinking about next summer's vacation. Why not take a week or two to study with some of America's best smiths?

The John C. Campbell Folk School has a large teaching facility with 12 completely equipped forging stations. The faculty at Campbell is a Who's Who of American blacksmithing. Here is an abbreviated list of the 1993 faculty: Francis Whitaker, Clay Spencer, Nol Putnam, Ivan Baily, Elizabeth Brim, and the list goes on and on.

For a complete list of courses and

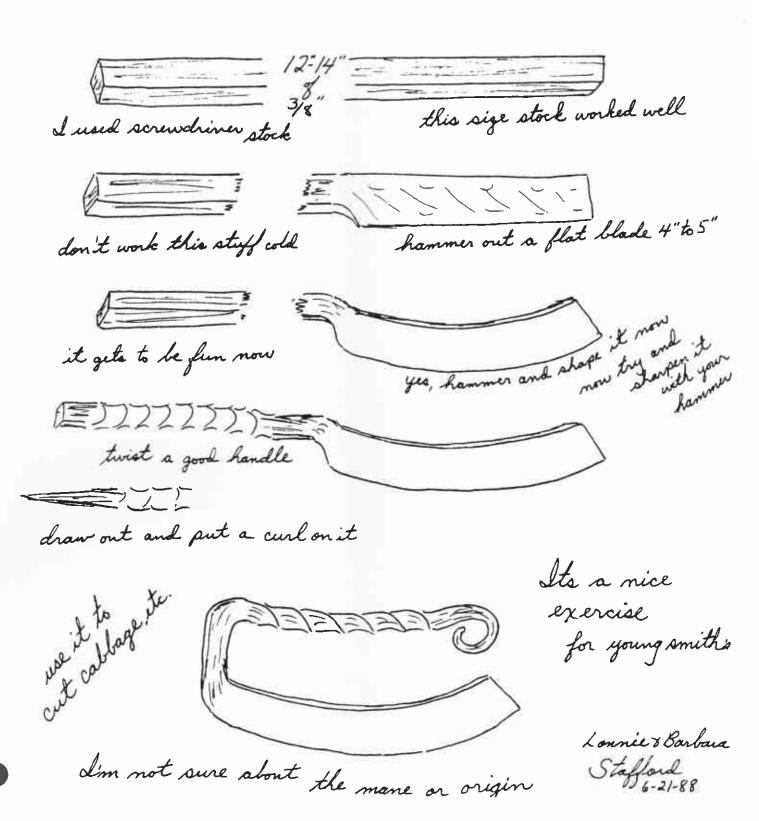
dates call the folk school at 1-800-FOLK SCH.

The Touchstone Center for Crafts is in the mountains of southwestern Pennsylvania near Uniontown. Touchstone's classes are taught by talented smiths ensuring a high quality learning experience. The faculty at Touchstone includes George Dixon, Glenn Horr, Joseph Bonifas, Hugh Bartrug, and others.

A call to (412) 438-2811 will get you a catalog.

One nice thing about these two schools is that should you have a traveling companion who is not interested in blacksmithing, many other craft courses are offered.

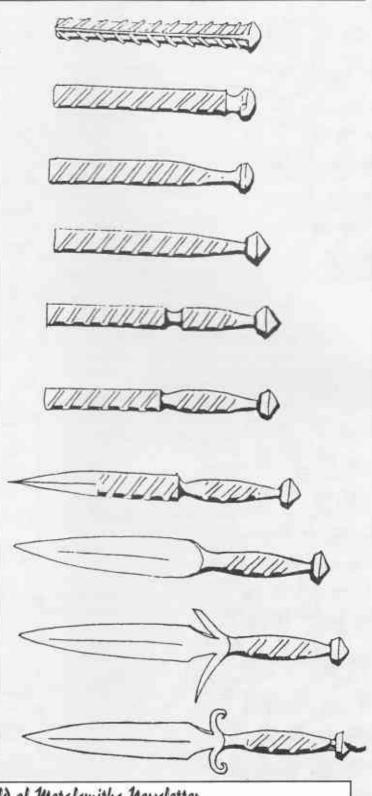
Eskimo's Seal Skining Knife called an OOLO pronouced like u-lu



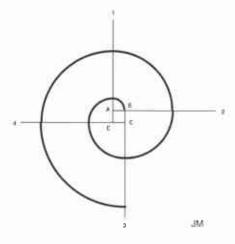
Recycled Rebar Letter Opener

The drawing shows the steps I used to make a letter opener from reinforcement rods from the Berlin Wall. Lots of smiths bought pieces at the past two Metalsmith Madnesses thanks to donations by Doug Johnson. The project can be done from any rebar or round rod. Round rod will not have the nice decoration on the handle. — Tom Latane

- 1. Upset end slightly
- 2. Fuller around and below upset
- 3. Draw down to fullered depth (do not reduce to less than 1/2 the original diameter.)
- Dress ball or knob on end over anvil edge.
- Fuller to define handle allowing slightly more than 1/2 bar length for blade.
- Draw down to fuller depth on handle side taking care to preserve a portion of ridges at center of handle.
- Point blade drawing squarely.
- Flatten blade in plane with continuous ridge on each side of bar (see Fig. 1).
 Spread with cross or straight pein for greatest width.
- Chisel away a portion each side of blade for guards. Draw guards to points.
- 10. Scroll guards. Dress with file.



Reprinted from the Guild of Metalsmiths Newsletter



How to draw a scroll

The scroll is most easily made by first making a square, A,B,C,D. Extend the sides to 1,2,3,4. Using the corners of the square as centers, draw 90 degree arcs. The first radius is equal to one side of the square. The radius of each successive arc is the distance from the next corner of the square to the terminating point of the previous arc. You can vary the size of the scroll by changing the dimensions of the square.

Start by putting the center of your compass at corner A. Using A-B as your radius, draw a 90 degree arc from B to line 1. Move your compass to corner D. Enlarge the radius to the terminating point of your first arc from that point to line 4. Continue drawing your scroll until you have the size scroll you need. Each time you draw an arc, enlarge it by the length of one side of the square. This will give you a well proportioned scroll that is pleasing to the eye.

—Dick Fackler, Northwest Blacksmiths Association

Lug Wrench Holdfast

A uto lug wrenches make excellent anvil holdfasts. Bend into a U shape as shown. Fuller in a groove in the cup in line with the anvil face to help hold round or square stock. These are tightened by hitting the bend at A and loosened by hitting the bend at B. Properly adjusted a simple tap should make the holdfast jump up a little as the tension within the pritchel hole is released.

Ken Scharabok, Dayton, Ohio

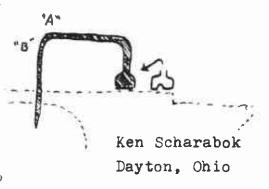
Dr. Iron prescribes. . .

Bob Bergman of Blanchardville, Wis. has a short piece of radiator hose slid over the spring on his powerhammer. If the spring does come apart the hose will contain the shrapnel. Should the spring come out the hose will probably dampen its flight.

The difference between a tube and a pipe is not common knowledge. A 1 inch pipe will always have a 1 inch hole. The outside diameter of a 1 inch pipe will vary with the different wall thicknesses but the inside will remain the same. The size of tubing is determined by its outside dimension. The inside will vary with different wall thicknesses.

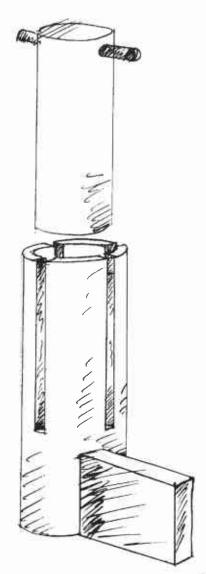
The device at right is for making small diameter rings quick and consistently. Use a thick wall pipe or tube and cut 4 kerfs as shown. A bandsaw or hacksaw works nicely. A chop saw will get the job done but it's very dangerous to rip with. Find a solid mandrel to slide into the kerfed pipe. This will keep the pipe from collapsing when wrapping the ring stock around it. A stop keeps the mandrel from dropping through. Clamp a length of stock on the device and use a torch to locally heat the stock. The device should be clamped vertically in a vice for this step. Wrap the stock tightly. After it cools drive the mandrel out and hacksaw the coil into rings. The kerf allows this procedure to be done while the coil is still on the pipe. After sawing squeeze the pipe and work the rings off. Close them up and you got it done.

—Doug Hendrickson, Lesterville



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.



BAM NEWS

New members

Add these names to the membership list published in the last newsletter. John Medwedeff, 1915 Brown Place, Murphysboro, III. 62966 (618) 687-4304 Howard F. Clark, RR 1 Box 74, Runnels, Iowa 50237 (515) 966-2126 Ron Loken, 2029 South Street, Lincoln, Neb. 68502 (402) 474-3225 New Address: James A. Thomas, 4239 St. Michaels Rd., Lohman, MO 65053-9709 New Phone: Dan Whitmore (314) 668-6839

1st annual SIU-Carbondale Spring Hammer-In

What: A collaborative ornamental iron workshop

When: Saturday, April 10 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Come and go as you please.)

Where: Pulliam Industrial Wing, Blacksmith Shop Rm 16, Southern Illionis Univeristy at Carbondale. (Look for the clock tower and the anvil signs pointing the way.) Cost: Your time only.

Food: Coffee, cold drinks and BBQ

provided.

Equipment: 6 forges 5 anvils, 2 mechanical ham-mers, one air hammer, welders, lay-out tables, etc. Please bring your own hand tools. Information: Andrew MacDonald, (618) 549-1954 (after 9 pm Tues., Wed. Thur. or Sun.) or Jorgen Herle (618) 453-3778 (10-12 am) Please respond before April 1.

Wanna Learn More?

incoln's New Salem Historic Site will co-sponsor a two-day workshop for active and hobby smiths from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, April 3 and 4 BAM's own Dr. Iron, Doug Hendrickson, will be the demonstrator. He will talk about everything from forging kitchen items to projects for beginners to advanced smiths. Cost is \$10 per day before March 20 (includes a free dinner). Late registration is \$12 (and you miss the dinner). There will also be a gallery so bring something you made to display. Also bring your checkbook and your old tools for the tailgate swap meet. For more info or to register write: Jim Patton. Blacksmith, Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site, RR 1, Box 244 A. Petersburg, Ill. 62675 or call (217) 632-4000. Make checks payable to New Salem Lincoln League:

Clay Spencer will be the demonstrator at the Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association annual Conference to be held in Pontiac June 12 and 13.

The Indiana Blacksmithing
Association will host their annual
June Conference June 5 & 6 at
Tipton, Indiana

Also from Illinois. . .

Traditional blacksmithing will be L taught to beginning and intermediate students at three 2-day workshops in May at rural Edwards. Ill. The workshops will provide a basic understanding of necessary tools and equipment as well as the fundamental procedures involved in heating, hammering, twisting. bending punching and shaping hot metal. Anyone over age 15 and with previous forging experience will be eligible for the intermediate classes. Cost is \$55. Enrollment is limited. For more info call Gary Jameson at (309) 673-2661.

More hammer-ins

Add John Lovin to the list of hammer-in hosts. He will have the coffee pot on and the doors open March 6 for anyone who wants to stop by For directions call (618) 756-2331 John lives in Belle Rive, Ill.

On the Kansas City side of the state is another hammer-in at the Alexander Majors Historic House, 8220 State Line Rd, Kansas City, Mo. The gatherings are set for noon to 4 p.m. the first Sunday of each month. For more information Call David Hoopes at (913) 333-9740 or Bill White at (816) 941-3243 or the Blacksmith shop at (816) 333-9740.

And don't forget Tom Clark still has his fire going in Potosi the first of each month for BAMers in East Central Missouri. For directions call Tom at (314) 438-4725.

We need someone to host a hammer-in in Central Missouri, North Missouri and the Bootheel. How 'bout it? Let the editor know and it shall be so!

Classified

For Sale: 10 foot by 4 foot layout table with 1/4-inch plate top — \$200. Doug Hendrickson, RR1, Box 16 D, Lesterville, Mo. 63654; (314) 637-2576.

For Sale: 2 rolls of 1/8 X 7 1/2 steel 6.500 pounds of the stuff. \$500 buys it all. Call Woudy (314) 637-2249.

Need something? Tell the editor. I'll print it in the newsletter, keep my eyes open for it and scan the other newsletters if you don't mind driving to Oregon for an anvil.

Treasurer Steve Austin reports that we added \$1,022 to our coffers in January broken down as follows: Total Dues: \$420; Donation: \$30; Coal: \$210; Iron in the Hat: \$126; T-Shirts and Hats: \$236

Next meeting: March 27

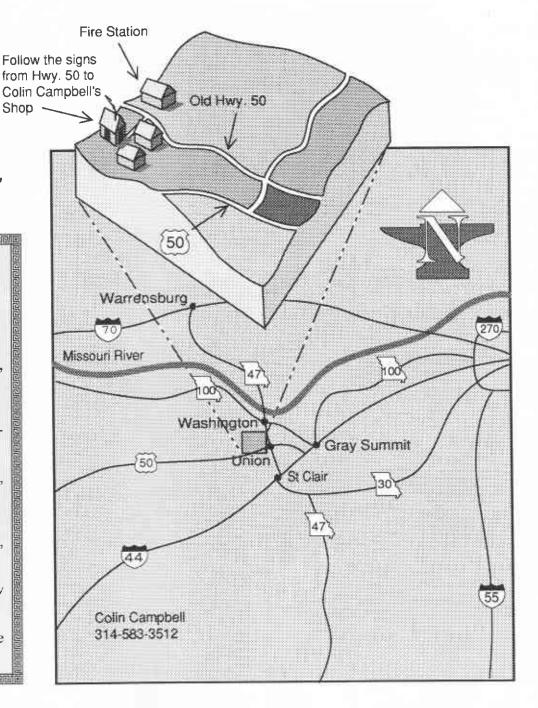
April 24-25, Ozark Conference, Potosi, Mo.

May 22, Walt Hull, Lawrence, Kansas
Trade Item: Key.

July 10, Doug Hendrickson, Lesterville, Mo.

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

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



The March meeting will be held in Union. Mo. at the shop of Colin Campbell, the wheelingest, dealingest member of the group. Be sure you bring something to swap with Colin since he loves to trade for new stuff.

Colin lives on the western side of Union off Hwy. 50 on what was old Hwy. 50. Follow the map above and if you get lost call (314) 583-3512.

The trade item is a sign bracket (with or without the sign). Remember — make a trade item and you get a trade item. Don't make a

trade item and — you get the picture. Last month we had one of the best turnouts yet with over 30 items for the trade. Let's make this one even better.

Also, try to make something for the Iron in the Hat. Last meeting we raised over \$120 that will go towards future BAM activities.

For the non Blacksmith, Colin says his daughter will be giving basketmaking lessons, so you don't have to come alone. See U in Union March 27.

BAM Members please note:

Our policy is "No Dues, No News." Please check your mail label to see if your dues have expired. Renew now or this is your last newsletter. Thanks.



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