

RAM

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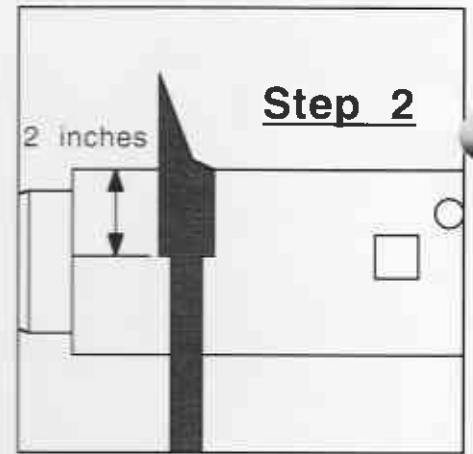
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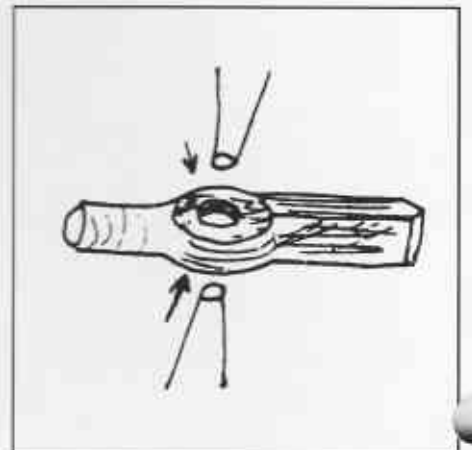
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Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri

Volume 10 No. 2

Our cover: J.K. Reynolds (right) and Pat McCarty team up at the cone during BAM's March meeting at Colin Campbell's forge.

Editor

Jim McCarty

Contributing Editors

Tom Clark
David Hoopes
Emil Bubash
Bob Patrick

Art Director

Jerry Hoffmann

Mailing Labels

Maurice Ellis

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MARCH—APRIL 1993

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

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: _____

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Phone: () _____ Zip: _____

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How did you learn about ABANA? _____

- Regular Member\$35 yr.
- Family Membership (One Vote).....\$40 yr.
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- Contributory\$100 yr.
- Library\$25 yr.

See reverse

BAM

Send this form in an envelope with your payment to:

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Doug Hendrickson

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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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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

Exp. Date (Required)

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

In April the swallows returned to Loose Creek. Unfortunately for them, they found I have set up a blacksmith shop where they built their nest last year.

Since I still don't have any doors on the place, we may be fighting for the building. My guess is the bumble bees that are nesting in the log walls will run us both out.

It's been quite a spring for fledgling blacksmiths like myself. The March meeting at Colin Campbell's was a good one, and I rushed right home to try a wizard as demo'd by brother Pat. Mine has a crooked nose brought about by the handle on my set hammer, which cracked the first time I hit it. It also has an interesting texture applied by my worn anvil face.

Somehow I have managed to steal enough time to forge a few things. I made the oolo knife from the last issue, and it looks and works pretty good. I also tried the rebar letter opener but ruined it when I made the splits for the guard. Gotta work on my hot cut some.

Ed Harper told me at the forge building workshop that the editor should try all the projects first to test their suitability for the readers. With that in mind, I tried Bob Patrick's tong techniques just before the Ozark Conference. (See the article in this issue.) I managed a crude but effective pair in just under four hours.

Suffice it to say, Ed, we won't have any gate articles for awhile.

I have been running an ad in Rural Missouri looking for blacksmithing tools, and in April I struck pay dirt. A farmer who lived just a couple miles away called to say he had a couple of shears for sale. When I pulled up a 4-foot cone was pointing out of the pile of junk. I bought the cone cheap and also picked up two shears, the mother of all post drills, and a wagon wheel tire upsetter.

My shop keeps getting smaller.

I have been getting letters from all over the state from people with stuff for sale. Most of it is too expensive but if you are interested check the



Hand Forged Boots

These hand-made boots were made for me by Joe Patrickus, a master boot-maker who runs JP's Custom Hand Made Boots in Camdenton, Mo. These are the second pair he has made for me. They are made from tough black bullhide that still shows the graining it had on the cow. The BAM logo was hand cut and stitched on by Joe. All Joe's boots are individually fitted to the feet, so no two pair are alike. The soles on these boots are pegged on and all the seams have been scarfed for a smooth fit. I've never had anything fit so well. This quality isn't cheap, but if you are interested in a pair give me a call and I'll tell you how to get in touch.

ads on page 7. Tell them Jim McCarty sent you so they don't wonder where you got their names.

Did anyone but me see the article on blacksmithing in the latest issue of *Smithsonian Magazine*? It is written by a fellow who enrolled in the Penland School so that he could forge the hardware for a house he was building. I think most of us beginners can relate to the problems he had.

The article has interviews and photos of Frank Turley, Francis Whitaker, Tom Joyce and several other ace blacksmiths. If you are searching the library for that issue, check also for the March 1992 copy of the same magazine. It has a story about Samuel Yellin (probably shows all the tools of Sam's that Doug has been selling lately!)

Speaking of Francis Whitaker, he will have a show at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C. this summer. I usually make a trip to D.C. in August and if the show is still running you can count on a write-up

about it.

Speaking of big Doug, someone sent me a copy of the Ironton newspaper that showed our Doug stuffed into a kayak. Apparently Doug made a run or two in the state whitewater championships. Doug, I think Clay Spencer is right — a real blacksmith would make the run in an iron boat.

On May 30 I head to Brasstown, N.C. for a course at the John C. Campbell Folk School courtesy of Clay Spencer, who paid my tuition. I've been looking forward to this for about a year. Will let you know how it was.

Many thanks to those of you who heard my desperate call for articles and responded. For you I predict a heaven where people pay you in accordance to the time you spent at the forge. For the rest of you I see only a hell full of large clinkers and Trenton anvils.

There's still time to repent — send me a story before it's too late.

— Jim McCarty

Dear BAM

Dear Dr. Iron,

Hey man, it just ain't so! When you said that the O.D. of pipe will change with the wall thickness you were wrong! (Shop notes, Jan.-Feb. BAM.) The O.D. of pipe and tubing both remain constant with varying wall thicknesses. The difference is in where the dimensions are called out from. A 1 inch tube has a 1 inch O.D. and whatever the I.D. is, is determined by the wall thickness but is not called out.

Whereas a 1 inch pipe has an O.D. of 1.315 or about 1 5/16 and an I.D. of approx. 1 inch. The ID varies from 1.049 for schedule 40 to .599 for double extra strong pipe. But the O.D. is not generally called out. And the I.D. is often not accurate to a fine degree. So when a designer calls out an "1 1/2 inch O.D. Pipe" you have to call and find out what they really want because there is really no such thing as what they asked for.

It's a contradiction of terms. You first need to remember that tubing sizes are accurate and pipe sizes are a generalization of commonly used material.

Paul DiFrancesco, Bonneville Forge Council, Murray, Utah

Dear Blacksmith Association of Missouri,

I want to thank you for the warm hospitality shown to me during my recent visit to the 1993 Ozark Conference. It is clear that the Blacksmith Association of Missouri chapter of ABANA has a high number of enthusiastic and energetic members, and this conference provided a perfect outlet for that enthusiasm by providing excellent demonstrators at a great site. Doug Hendrickson, Tom Clark, Steve Austin and all the others deserve a lot of credit for a very well run conference. Whatever it was, it worked.

Perhaps the highlight of the 1993 Ozark Conference was the unexpected presentation of ABANA's most significant and prestigious award, the Alex Bealer Award. The award may be presented every year, although it doesn't have to be. The purpose of

the award is to honor the recipient for service to the field of blacksmithing. Certainly the Alex Bealer Award Committee chose the right man as the 1993 recipient: Clifton Ralph, the "Hammerin Hillbilly."

Tim Ryan's performance at the auction was a spectacular show in itself, and helpoed to generate some of what it takes to keep a great organization like the Blacksmith Association of Missouri in the back.

This same enthusiasm and energy is apparently being applied to what will be the largest and best ABANA Conference ever held. All the unique talents of the individual members of the Blacksmith Association of Missouri are being brought together under the masterful hand of Lou Mueller, site chairman for the 1994 ABANA Conference. All things considered, the Blacksmith Association of Missouri has a lot to look forward to.

Thanks again for your wonderful hospitality.

Warm regards,
Clayton Carr, ABANA president

Uncle Tom,

Thanks for another great weekend. The froe is the most pay I have ever received for such little work and so much fun. It's so much I don't think I will cash it.

Keep Hammerin,
Clifton Ralph, Gary, Ind.

Dear Jim,

Saturday, March 6 was a pretty good day here in Kansas. I had the honor of hosting a meeting of the Kansas Farriers Association at my shop and did a little demo for them on tool makin and heat treating. Aside from a little sloppy forging and a couple of missed welds it went OK and they were kind enough to buy me lunch and kick in a donation for BAM, which I am sending on to Steve for the coffers. He and Dan Siglar came over to help out and Steve reports he signed up a couple of new members. He also told me on the phone tonight that Steve Baker sent in \$80 from video sales.

Later,
Walt Hull, Lawrence, Kansas

Dear BAM,

Just got home to Iowa from the 1993 BAM Conference in Potosi, and I had to get this off as soon as possible. I've been gathering up the tools of the blacksmiths trade for a bunch of years, always with the idea of getting them all set up in a shop "sometime." I took a few weekend beginner's classes for basic smithing skills, and attended whatever events that were demonstrating blacksmithing. I even hauled out the forge and anvil on infrequent occasions and beat a poor piece of iron into a "kind-of" semblance of the idea I had in mind. But always, the full-time job and other day-to-day distractions kept getting in th way, and priorities got shifted.

Well, after seeing the work going on with BAM, and meeting the people that keep the forges glowing, sparks flying and hot iron working made me realize that "sometime" never gets here — there is only now, and now is the time to get going.

When I showed up Friday morning with some time on my hands and energy to burn and not being the least bit bashful all I had to do was introduce myself to that mustachioed, bald headed 40-plus year old kid running around trying to convince himself things were under control. Next thing I knew I was enlisted as general helper, odds & ends supervisor and master of miscellaneous. Kind of made a total stranger feel right at home. Things just got better once the conference started — top notch guest and BAM demonstrators, tailgaters with varied treasures, friendly people, dogwoods and redbuds blooming and sun mostly there, hot sparks and trained jumping anvils flying, music from the anvil chorus, a truly outrageous conman cajoling/ blackmailing/ and generally funning dollars out of pockets of poor, unsuspecting auctiongoers — what a weekend!

I know that a lot of lead and other minerals have been mined around Potosi — but if good people, good tims and blacksmithing skills were gold nuggets, then the 1993 BAM Conference was a mother lode of

richness. Be seeing you all again — count on it.

Mike Duss, Shellsburg, Iowa

Greetings from Brasstown,

Just a short note to let everyone know what is going on here at the Campbell Folk School Blacksmith Shop. Regular classes have begun with Elmer Roush teaching a full class the first week in March.

Every year we have a blacksmith auction. The items for the auction are donated by instructors and other smiths from around the country. Proceeds go to improvements in the blacksmith shop. This year's auction will be held Nov. 6, 1993.

Over the winter we have made several improvements in the shop using money from the auction fund. We have new hoods! Also we have new adjustable anvil stumps designed and installed by Clay Spencer, Mike Dowell, Burt Smith, Alan Krauss and Gary Thompson during a work week.

This year the Folk School started a new program of special winter classes. These classes are designed for smiths with advanced skills who are either professionals or have a serious desire to become a professional and are scheduled in January and Febru-

ary, a time when business can be slow. Look for more winter classes.

Our first instructor in this new program was Ivan Bailey of Atlanta. Ivan has a unique style using traditional forging techniques to produce a free, natural form of contemporary iron work. His railings and gates are not only functional, but are turly works of art. He uses nature as his inspiration with floral forms, grasses, fish, and all sorts of birds. This winter a congenial class of smiths from all over the country worked with Ivan.

On a sad note Oscar Cantrell, the first blacksmith at the Folk School passed away in January. He was 91 years old. Oscar served on the Campbell Folk School staff for 52 years. He will be missed.

If anyone has any questions or needs more information about the Folk School, feel free to write: John C. Campbell Folk School, Rt.1, Box 14A, Brasstown, NC 28902 or phone (704) 837-2775 or 1-800-FOLK-SCH.

Sincerely,

*Johnny Kierbow, resident blacksmith
Allen Mulkey, assistant resident blacksmith*

Classifieds

For sale: 10 inch flue pipe for forges. It is 1/8 inch thick. Going fast so call Tom Clark quick. \$5 per foot. (314) 438-4725.

Wanted: 50 pound power hammer, can take something that needs rebuilt or recently has been rebuilt. Contact Bill at Frabotta Brothers Welding and Metal Fabrication, Rt. 1 Box 184, Westville, OK 74965 (918) 723-4323.

For sale: Large iron forge with tempering tank on front, fire pot and material recess, measures about 27 inches long by 30 inches high. Has Tiger hand crank blower No. 997. Call or write Vance Myler, Rt. 1 Box 268, Buffalo, Mo. 65622, (417) 345-6356.

Position available: Assistant blacksmith at the Farmers' Museum, Cooperstown, N.Y. A living history museum of early 19th century rural life in upstate New York. Responsibilities include assisting with daily interpretation and production. Seasonal position of 35 hours per week May through October and reduced hours April, November and December. Candidate should have previous experience in historic interpretation and traditional ironworking techniques. Send resume, references and brief portfolio by June 17, 1993 to: Kathryn Boardman, Associate Director of Interpretive Programming, The Farmers' Museum, P.O. Box 800, Cooperstown, N.Y. 13326.

For sale: Post drill that has been electrified and fitted with a modern chuck, \$35. Winner Shear, very heavy, for flat stock. \$150 or swap for something equally large and rusty. I also have a tire shrinker (upsetter) that I'll sell real cheap or trade. May have some other wheel making equipment if you're interested. I'm also looking for attachments for my Gravely garden tractor. Jim McCarty, Rt. 1 Box 20, Loose Creek, Mo. 65054; (314) 897-4111.

(Continued on page 9)



School of Blacksmithing

INSTRUCTOR ROBB GUNTER

Announces the re-opening of classes
in our new facility at our new location

For information and class schedules
call or write

The Forgery
13 Imnaha Rd
Tijeras, New Mexico
87059
(505) 281-8080



Tom's Turn

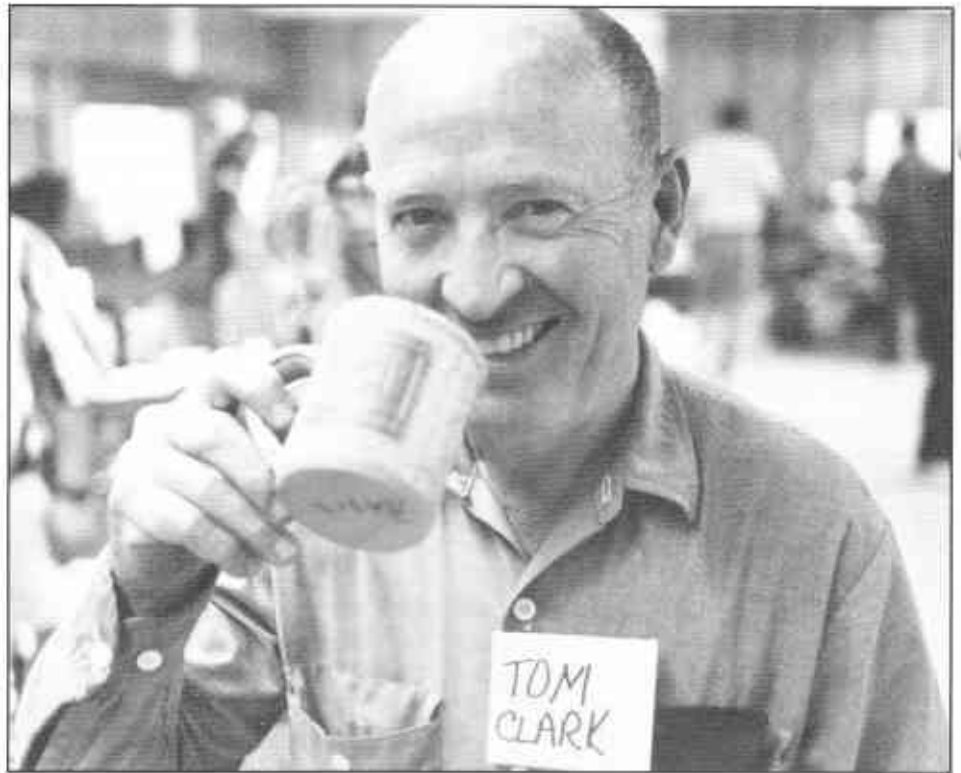
The 1993 Ozark Conference is now history. I thought it was a good one and I've had nothing but good reports from those who attended. Thanks for all of your nice letters.

When facing the challenge of a major promotion like this or the ABANA International it would be easy to be overwhelmed by it all. When the objectives are identified and delegation of responsibilities are taken by the membership things tend to fall in place. Such was the case with Doug Hendrickson chairing the Ozark and with Lou Mueller and the 1994 ABANA Conference.

Along the way other objectives or ideas pop up. Some are set aside, others are pursued, some are accepted as was the case of why doesn't ABANA and the *Anvil's Ring* come to our local or regional events. The reason is quite simple: There is no budget for this activity. After all, the president and other board members volunteer their time and while the editor of the *Anvil's Ring* is a salaried person there just isn't any budget for the expenses incurred to cover regional and local events. The solution was to provide funding for them and ask them to attend. That's what we did and both Clayton Carr and Robert Owings accepted.

It gave all attending the Ozark a chance to meet and talk with these people and vice versa. The expense was well worth it and we thank Clayton and Robert for taking time to come visit with us. It was also possible for them to visit Washington University and inspect the facilities for the 1994 ABANA Conference.

With BAM hosting the 1994 ABANA Conference there was some concern over whether or not to have an Ozark Conference the same year, because of added expenses and work load on the membership. After the dust settled all agreed we should have our Ozark Conference, but there will be no conference fee to BAM members. Anyone else wanting to attend will simply have to join BAM for one year. That amounts to a very inexpensive conference fee and they get our much-in-demand newsletter



Tom takes a sip from an Ozark Conference coffee mug made by Doug's Peolia Valley neighbor.

for the next year. Details about this will be forthcoming, but put the last week of April 1994 on your calendar now.

This being the year of the crafts and ABANA's 20th anniversary, Jim Wallace of the Metals Museum in Memphis thought it would be a good time to have a special promotion and asked ABANA to share half of the cost. A great idea but no budget to see it through. I contacted the other officers of BAM and we agreed to help get things going. BAM would donate \$250. To show their personal support Pat McCarty, Maurice Ellis, Steve Austin, Doug Hendrickson and I gave an additional \$25 each. When Lou Mueller heard of this he pitched in his \$25 making a total of \$400 to get the ball rolling. Any other members who would like to help can do so. Make a check payable to ABANA and send it to me. I'll send it in.

Remember I said I would let you know how we were going to start thanking Charlie Schultz for his great help to the treadle hammer work shop. Well we are giving Charlie one of the three forges that our forge building crew built for the Ozark Conference. That crew was Jerry Hoffmann, Maurice Ellis, Pat

McCarty, John Murray, Lou Mueller and I. The people who built treadle hammers are pitching in to pay for it. Thanks Charlie. I'll bring it down in a month or so.

Thanks to all who helped make the Ozark Conference a success. It was good to see Janelle from the ABANA office and a special thanks to Bill Peik and Centaur Forge for coming and bringing their goods and air hammer.

BAM has extended thanks to five people in the way of life membership for their help in making BAM a more successful group. These people give us a special type of inspiration and our lives have been made richer for having known them. A special thanks to Bob Patrick, Fred Caylor, Clifton Ralph, Mr. Floyd and Miss Cordelia Daniel and Tim Ryan.

Perhaps the highlight of the conference was the awarding of the Bealer award (ABANA's highest award) to Clifton Ralph and the Bob Patrick award (BAM's highest award) given to Doug Hendrickson. Both were great choices of people who have made blacksmithing better for so many. Thanks to both.

— Tom Clark

More Classifieds

If you need tools see Harry Stoeckle. He has been buying for years and now he's decided to sell. Call (314) 449-6363, or write 2226 Sheperd Blvd., Columbia, Mo. 65201. Last report he had 6 vises, 3 big forges and 1 gas forge, 300 tongs, punches, hardies, fullers etc.

For sale: 2 outdoor (filling station) fluorescent lights plus one for parts. Also forge blowers, metal shear, post drills, leg vises, more. John Wilding, Red Barn Craft Shop, 523 West 9th, Hermann, Mo. 65041. (314) 486-5544.

Wanted: More classified ads for this newsletter. They are free to BAM members or people who buy from or sell to BAM members. Send your stuff to the editor, Jim McCarty, Rt. 1 Box 20, Loose Creek, Mo. 65054.

For sale: DeWalt 12 inch radial arm saw, excellent condition, factory stand. \$500. I'd like to keep using it but I am too little to handle it. Colin Campbell, 1350 W. Springfield, Union, Mo. 63084. (314) 583-3512. *(Please buy this before I do --Ed.)*

Wanted: Triphammer for sheet metal — Yoder, Pettengill, or Tripinease. These are 2 piece hammers that bolt to a post or I beam. Will buy or trade blacksmith equipment. Steve Woldridge (317) 758-6076.

For sale: 2 cones both 48 inches. One is rare with the top 10 inches removable, 2 inch tong slot. \$325 for this one, \$225 for the other. Also have a swedge block for \$175. Bill Gill, 225 E. Wanda, Jackson, Mo. 63755. (314) 243-1319.

Blacksmith castings, including anvil swedges (\$15), spoon swages for the vise(\$10), turning hardie (\$8), anvil cones 11 inches long (\$25), bicks (\$15), shovel molds (\$20), much more. For a catalog write Robert Poling, 165 Marks Ave., Lancaster, Ohio 43130. (614) 658-9199; or Norman Wendell, 180 Marks Ave., Lancaster, Ohio 43130 (614) 654-2040.

Welcome new members

John Medwedeff, 1915 Brown Pl., Murphysboro, Ill. 62966. (618) 687-4304.

Howard Clark. RR 1, Box 74, Runnells, Iowa 50237. (515) 966-2126

Ron Token, 2029 South St., Lincoln, Neb. 68502 (402) 474-3225

Nick Nietfeld, 229 E. Ashton, Grand Island, NE 68801. (308) 384-1088

Bud Redmond. 3701 Elmwood, Wichita, KS 67218. (316) 682-7676

Mark Adams, 457 E. Ridgeway St., Jackson, MS 39206. (601) 362-9068

Edward Fennell. 108 Kappell, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503 (712) 322-5220

Bob Bergman, Rt. 1, Blanchardville, WI 53516. (608) 527-2494

Mike Duss, RR1 Box 39, Shellsburg, Iowa. (319) 436-2861

Herb Graham, 613 E. Spruce, Jerseyville, IL 62052

Kevin Allenbrand, 218 S. Cherry, Olathe, KS 66061. (913) 829-1925

Thomas Price, Jr., 34600 W. 135th St., Olathe, KS 66061

Phil Cox, Rt.2 Box 252B, Hamilton, MO 64644.

Roger Guthrie. RR 27, NW 45 Hwy., Parkville, MO 64152.

Robert E. Gerner, Rooker Hill Rd., Becket, MA 01223.

David Bulk. 3900 W. 97th Ter., Overland Park, KS 66207. (913) 649-2060

David Swinney. 35012 East Shores Rd., Lone Jack, MO 64070. (816) 566-2963

Darrell W. Clymer, 318 W. Broadway, Plattsburg, MO 64477. (816) 539-3853

Roger Dardinski. 180 State St., Newburyport, MA 01950. (508) 465-5767

Stephen O. Clary, RR4, Box 282, Decatur, IL 62521

James T. Piper, 382 Village Creek Dr., Ballwin, MO 63021.

John R. Derge. RR 2, Box 72, Gilson, IL 61436. (309) 876-2343

Kenny Young, R-2, Box 1A, Ladonia, MO 63352. (314) 373-5512

Ralph Macey, 1556 Jobe Ave., St. Charles, IL 60174.

Henry Papenhausen. 20898 McLouth Rd., Tonganoxie, KS 66086. (913) 845-3790

Stan Tracz. 5224 Goodman Ln., Overland Park, KS 66202. (816) 262-3481

Robert A. Maes. 5344 Ringer Rd., St. Louis, MO 63129.

Ron Hill, PO Box 924, Canton, MS 39046. (601) 859-6282.

BAM

March MEETING

by Jim McCarty

A perfect spring day no doubt kept many Bammer's from making the March meeting at Colin Campbell's forge/woodworking shop in Union. That's probably all that prevented a new record topping the one set at Jerry Hoffmann's in January. As it was, about 50 people showed up to see vice president Pat McCarty wow us with wizards.

There was a time when Pat sat in the back of the room at BAM meetings soaking it all in and staying way from the anvil. He did most of the demonstrating in March, starting with a simple bearded wizard that became a new poker for the host.

A variation on the theme resulted in a cowboy that went into the iron in the hat.

We also had a tremendous demo by Tom Clark, who put a point on a 1 inch bar that rivaled any of Lou Mueller's machines. Many other Bammer's gave it a whirl, but nobody got close to Tom's point. The idea was to forge four 45 degree facets on the bar — in one heat — and end up with a perfect 1 inch square.

A second contest was held to see who could draw out the longest piece in one heat. Us novices learned a valuable point — use the horn and the cross pein to draw out and switch to the face for the final shape. Don't



Above: Pat McCarty leads the demo at the March BAM meeting. He showed us how to make wizards and cowboys.

think this one had a winner — to be continued next meeting.

We had a small turnout for the trade item, which was a sign bracket. Some of the more unusual interpretations were Bob Woodard's pointed circle, Pat's copper-winged bat and the host's fancy scrollwork design.

Colin has a neat shop that also supports his woodworking business. He has a masonry forge that drew real well. There was something not quite right about his anvil though. It was sort of high for BAM's president.

Two members of the Upper Mid-

west Blacksmith Association, Joe Baer and Russ Kremer drove down from Wisconsin for the meeting. Joe is a BAM member and we're working on Russ.

There was a lot more forging after our business meeting. The editor even stepped up to the anvil and made a coal miner's candle holder from a railroad spike.

All of the demos were videotaped and played live on a TV monitor in another building so we didn't have to leave the keg. That was a pretty neat trick and I hope it continues.



John Sherwood checks out the trade items on display at the March meeting. The trade was a sign bracket. Nine people made the swap.

Minutes:

March 1993 meeting

BAM's March 1993 meeting was held at Colin Campbell's forge in Union, Mo., with 48 people attending. President Tom Clark called the business meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Nine people made trade items — a sign bracket — and the exchange was the first order of business. Taking part were Pat McCarty, Dan Whitmore, Kevin Fallis, Andy Wilding, J.K. Reynolds, Colin Campbell, John Wilding, John Murray and Bob Woodard.

Tom polled the members about interest in binders for the newsletter and the *Anvil's Ring*. They would hold a year's worth of each and cost BAM \$4.19 each in 500 lot quantities. Tom proposed selling them for \$6 to members and \$8 for non-members. Treasurer Steve Austin said BAM lacked the funds for the project unless they could be made in time to sell them at the Ozark Conference.

The matter was tabled for more research.

The next item discussed was delinquent dues. Tom said 64 members were behind at that time.

Tom read a note from Francis Whitaker. Francis was invited to the Ozark Conference and really wanted to make it but his duties at the John C. Campbell Folk School will keep him away. He donated a set of candleholders for our auction.

Thanks were offered to Bob Woodard for his work on the treadle hammer workshop. Several members expressed interest in another workshop and also a workshop on using the hammers.

Praise also went out to Doug Hendrickson who is in charge of the Ozark Conference. Tom reported that a work crew consisting of Rich Obermark, John Murray, Lou Mueller, John Sherwood, Tom Clark, Doug Hendrickson and Maurice Ellis installed a fan to vent smoke from our forges out of the building where the conference will be held. Registration to date stood at 45.

The Ring Project for the ABANA Conference is moving forward with Tom and Jerry Hoffmann's help. The plan is for all chapters to make rings and then have Francis Whitaker pick six for a special project. The rest of the rings will be used for other projects.

Tom also has a letter drafted that will go out to all living charter members of ABANA inviting them to the 1994 conference.

Steve reported we have \$2,800. Lou Mueller turned in \$400 from sale of coal and \$250 in dues were paid that day. The iron in the hat brought in \$89.

In new business, Bob Miller asked about another treadle hammer workshop. Anyone interested call Tom Clark.

Tom brought up giving lifetime memberships to BAM to those who

have made a significant contribution to blacksmithing in their lifetimes. He mentioned Fred Caylor, Tim Ryan, Clifton Ralph and Bob Patrick. A motion was made and passed to let the president be in charge of granting lifetime memberships.

Tom mentioned that the attempt to get other chapters to exchange newsletters between presidents resulted in only six exchanges.

There was some discussion about holding our meetings at a central location where we would have more room for demonstrations, especially in the wintertime when we can't bring in outside forges. No decision was made on this.

We recognized two visitors from the Upper Midwest Blacksmith Association in Wisconsin (UMBA), Joe Baer and Russ Kremer.

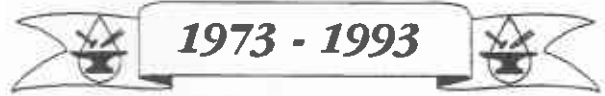
The meeting adjourned to the forge for more demonstrations by Tom Clark and Pat McCarty.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim McCarty
(for Doug Hendrickson)

**Thanks to the
Campbell's for a
great day!**

ABANA

The Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America now proudly celebrates its 20th year!



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

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

May, 1 993
Dear ABANA Chapters,

The long awaited ABANA Newsletter will be mailed to the membership around the middle of May. We are delighted that we are able to supply this exciting new service at no additional cost to you. This newsletter is the most visible indicator of the ABANA Board's commitment to continuous improvement in our services to the membership. As with any new service, we will be closely watching the reaction from the membership. The format is not cast in stone. We expect to add sections such as a calendar of events. Certainly, the ABANA membership will have everything to do with the content of the new ABANA Newsletter, just as the membership has everything to do with the content of the *Anvil's Ring*. Best to hang on to your copies as there will be virtually no back issues available. As a result, these early newsletters will be highly collectible. Let's all give ABANA's newest editor Jim Ryan our complete support in this important new endeavor. He deserves a hand!

This month, members of the ABANA Board will be contacting the Chapter Presidents as a part of our regular Spring Calls to the Chapters. We want to know how we are doing. There are other, more specific questions that Chapter Liaison Committee Chairman Ron Porter is lining up as well. If the month of May goes by without your hearing from the ABANA Board, call me. We want to hear what you have to say!

All around the country, regional conferences are under way. Age old techniques are being rediscovered over and over again by those just beginning in our ancient craft. Surely the techniques you may have long since added to your own arsenal are a major "find" to those aspiring smiths on their way up. Your knowledge of the craft is one of the greatest gifts you can give to these people. The ABANA Chapters have made that environment available to everyone who wishes to come, through meetings, conferences, and the many open forges. The regional conferences are wonderful places to share that information with a large number of aspiring smiths. Through your selfless sharing of what you know, you help to guide the blacksmiths of the future. Think about that for a moment — who showed you the way? Who was your inspiration? You may be standing now where he was then.

Nothing feels quite as good on your feet as an old comfortable pair of sneakers! Unfortunately, just about every pair of sneakers on the planet are combustible. That can lead to some very unhappy feet in our craft. Purchasing a good pair of leather boots would be a wise investment, if you haven't already got them. If you have got them, but simply choose not to wear them, please reconsider! As is the case in most other crafts, we lead by example. It is hard to suggest that someone wear a good pair of leather boots if you yourself are wearing your PF Flyers. Besides that, it's difficult to concentrate on your work when your shoes are on fire. Let's hope that your next forge-in is full of happy feet!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clayton Carr".

Clayton Carr
ABANA President

ABANA Liaison

SO YOU WANT TO BE A COLONEL: The Alabama Forge Council (AFC) will offer a Scholarship in 1993 called The Tim Ryan Auctioneer's Scholarship. Another great opportunity offered by the AFC. Looks like the price of blacksmithing tools will go up again. Wouldn't it be neat to have dueling auctioneers at the 1994 Conference in St. Louis.

ABANA RINGS COMPETITION FOR THE '94 CONFERENCE: Plans are in the works for each ABANA Chapter to make a ring. Design requirements are still in the planning stage but should be ready soon. This will be a great Chapter project that everyone can participate in.

PROFESSIONAL BLACKSMITH CHAPTER OF ABANA: Anyone interested in more information on this group should contact Charley Orlando, Ackerman Hill Road, P.O. Box 37, Belmont, NY 14813. At present this organization is in the planning stages and they are looking for interested individuals.

CHAPTER WORKSHOPS: The Blacksmith Association of Missouri just finished a side draft forge workshop where 25 members went home with new forges. This was quite an undertaking for BAM seeing as how they just finished a treadle hammer workshop. At this rate the BAM group will be the best equipped chapter in ABANA.

The Guild of Metalsmiths has just completed 3 classes for interested blacksmiths. A Beginning Chisel and Punch workshop, Women's Beginning Blacksmithing and Beginners Tong Building Workshop. Plans are under way for an extensive series of workshops to begin in the fall of 93. Way to go Guild of Metalsmiths!

FIBER AND METAL EXHIBITION 1993: The Minnesota Craft Council will sponsor the 8th Annual Juried Exhibition October 2nd and 3rd, 1993 at the Fine Arts Center, Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Deadline for entries is June 1, 1993. For information send a SASE to Fiber Metal '93 c/o Sandra Stephens, 16029 Baywood Lane, Eden Prairie, MN 55346.

RAFFLE TICKET MANIA: Watch for Louisiana Metalsmiths Association members selling tickets for a Damascus knife (by Chris Marks) and Accent Table (by David Mudge). Total value of these prizes is

\$800.00 and the drawing will be held Sept. 26, 1993.

FOR WOMEN ONLY: The University of Minnesota is sponsoring a conference entitled "Women, Fire and Iron", a National Conference on women in the foundry arts, May 21st thru 23rd, 1993. To register, write to the University of Minnesota, Professional Development and Conference Services, 214 Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455.

KEEP YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU: The Women of the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA) have created a group called WITS (Women Involved Together Successfully) and they will be creating a quilt to be raffled at the '93 Florida State Conference in October. Way to go ladies!

REPAIR DAYS IN ILLINOIS: The Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association will assist the Jefferson County Historical Society when they hold their First Annual Blacksmith Repair Day on May 8, 1993. Good Luck in this endeavor and we hope you have great success.

Jere Kirkpatrick's Valley Forge & Welding

NEW!

now offers

Claydon Knot Bender

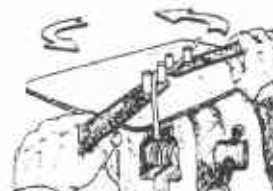
Add this beautiful knot to your products! Perfect for fireplace tools and cooking utensil handles. Handy bending tool simplifies construction.



**ONLY!
\$32.95**
Shipping included!

Complete Ready to Use!

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Ask about our fire place shovel head blanks.

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**Valley Forge and Welding
30-C E. San Francisco St.
Willits, CA 95490**

Can you name these tongs?

Tongs come in many styles. These tongs are standard patterns available from Vaughans, a British company I think. Use these patterns for the business end of your own tongs.

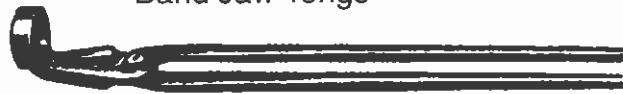
Art from the Tulie-Smith House Blacksmith Guild newsletter.



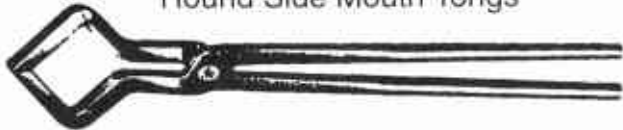
Farriers tongs



Band Jaw Tongs



Round Side Mouth Tongs



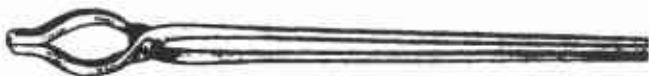
Road Wedge Tongs



Single Bow Tongs



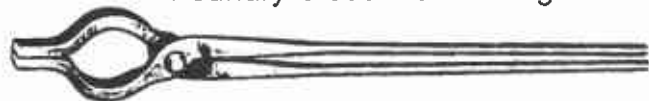
Pickling Tongs



Pot & Coke Tongs



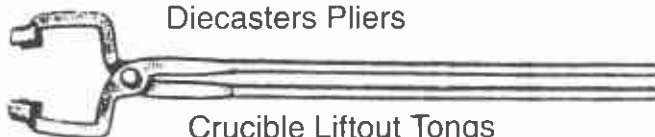
Foundry Close Mouth Tongs



Sandcasters Tongs



Diecasters Pliers



Crucible Liftout Tongs



Close Mouth Tongs



Open Mouth Tongs



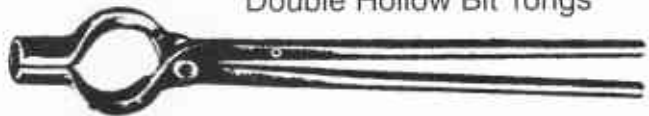
Hollow Bit Tongs



Diamond Square Tongs



Double Hollow Bit Tongs



Bolt Tongs



Pick-up or Dandy Tongs



Universal Tongs



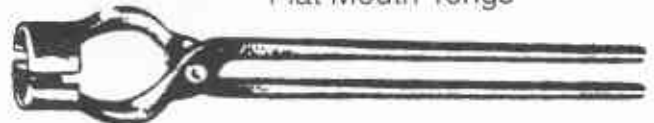
Square Mouth Tongs



Side Mouth Tongs



Flat Mouth Tongs



Round Mouth Tongs



Rivet Tongs

Your First Tongs

Made your first tongs yet? If not, Bob Patrick will walk you through the motions so that you never have to buy a pair again.

These tongs are patterned after a pair that my grandfather made around the turn of the century for shoeing his farm horses. The originals are somewhat crude, but they work well enough. These tongs will not hold up as well as a well designed pair made of alloy steel. What they will do is allow you to make a number of tongs to hold different sizes of work while you are beginning, plus they will give you valuable experience when you are ready to make better tongs.

Materials

2 pcs. 1/2 inch round mild steel 18 inches long
1 1/4 inch hex head machine bolt 1 inch long

Procedure

With soapstone, magic marker or other marker make a mark on your anvil 1 1/2 inches from the side fac-

ing you. Heat one end of a 1/2 inch round piece to forging temperature for several inches. Place on the anvil face. Flatten to an even 1/2 inch in thickness, then flair the end to about 1 inch in width. Repeat this operation for the other piece of 1/2 inch round.

Next, make a mark on the anvil face 2 inches from the edge opposite you. Heat the first bar so that the area past the flattened end is at forging heat. Be careful not to burn the forged end. With the bar in its original position, turn the bar counterclockwise 90 degrees, and placing the flattened end off the far edge of the anvil as far as it was flattened in the original step, flatten to an even 1/4 inch thickness back to the 2 inch mark. Now straighten the piece reasonably. Slightly cup the flattened end. Repeat with the other piece.

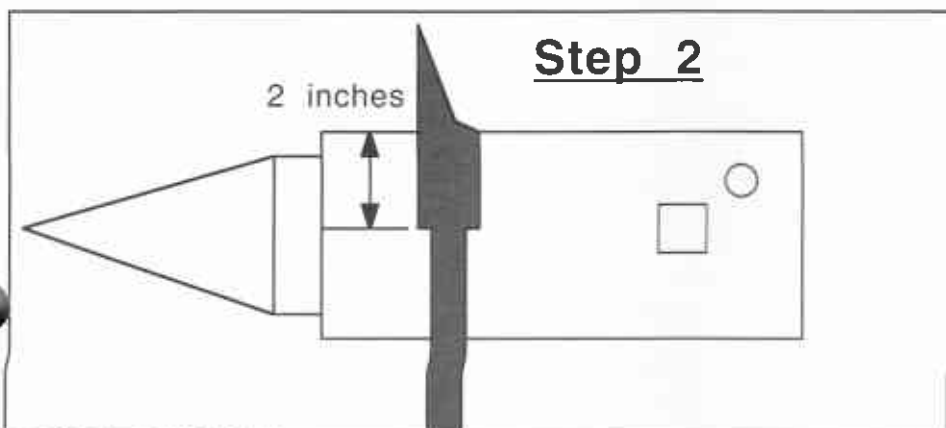
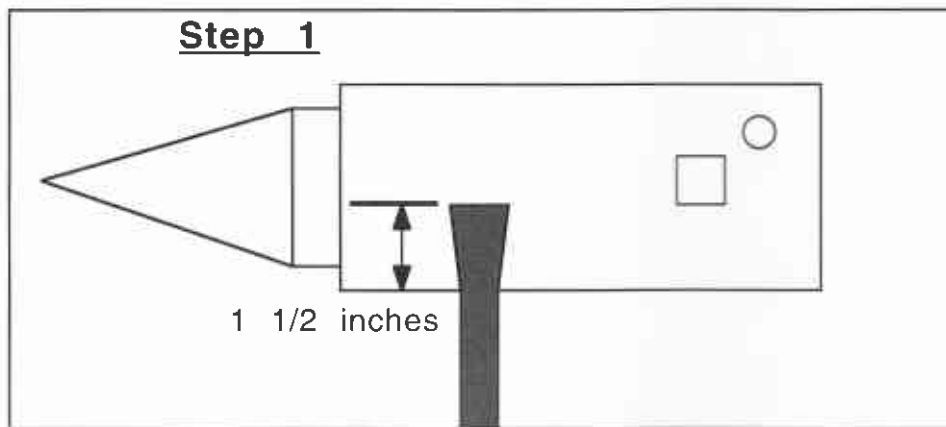
1 inch back from the shoulder,

center punch the piece as in the drawing for each piece. Both bars should be the same, not mirror images. Bolt the two bars together with the cups facing each other. Don't worry if the tongs don't match yet, but the ends should be approximately the same length. Heat the bolt and lightly hammer the end of the bolt over the nut. Heat the end of the tongs again and gently open and close the tongs. Place a short scrap of 1/2 inch round between the jaws and by light hammering and shaping in the vise, adjust the tongs so they feel comfortable. Remove the 1/2 inch round rod and very lightly close the jaws a bit further, so that they have a little bit of spring when closed on a piece of 1/2 inch round after the tongs have cooled. Let the tongs cool, and they will serve for holding both round and flat stock. Oil the joint of the tongs and work them back and forth when cold.

The same basic tongs can be adjusted to fit various sizes of round and flat stock. Make several pairs, and with the experience gained you will be ready to tackle a proper pair of tongs.

The biggest problem making this type of tongs is that beginners have a tendency to forge the metal too thin, and thus end up with a weak pair of tongs. Learn to make tongs that are cleanly forged and comfortable to use, and you will have taken an important step in learning the trade of blacksmithing.

— Bob Patrick



Is it possible that the Ozark Conference is just in its second year? Things went so smoothly at this year's event that it seemed like its hundredth year.

Over 200 people braved the wind, rain and lightning in Potosi for one heckuva weekend. There were demonstrations from nationally famous blacksmiths and BAM's own teams, a contest or two, the wackiest auction ever held, an unprecedented three-way anvil shoot and plenty of new and used tools to buy.

If that wasn't enough we had the world's second largest bonfire and nature's own display of fire and brimstone.

The editor did his best to be in all places at once, but I must confess I spent most of my time with BAM's own, who were working on something near to my heart, colonial hardware. Kenny Valdejo set up his bellows and Kenny, Maurice Ellis, Pat McCarty, J.K. Reynolds, Jim Waller and Al Stephens pounded out a complete set of door hardware the way the pioneers did it.

It was funny watching the "pioneers" reach for the blower switch when they headed for the forge. Guess the bellows take a little getting used to.

BAM had a second team going in the same area. It was composed of Jerry Hoffmann, Stan Winkler, Bert Elliot, Walt Hull, Grady Holly and Hank Knickmeyer. This group covered basic techniques, and made some nice stuff that ended up in the auction.

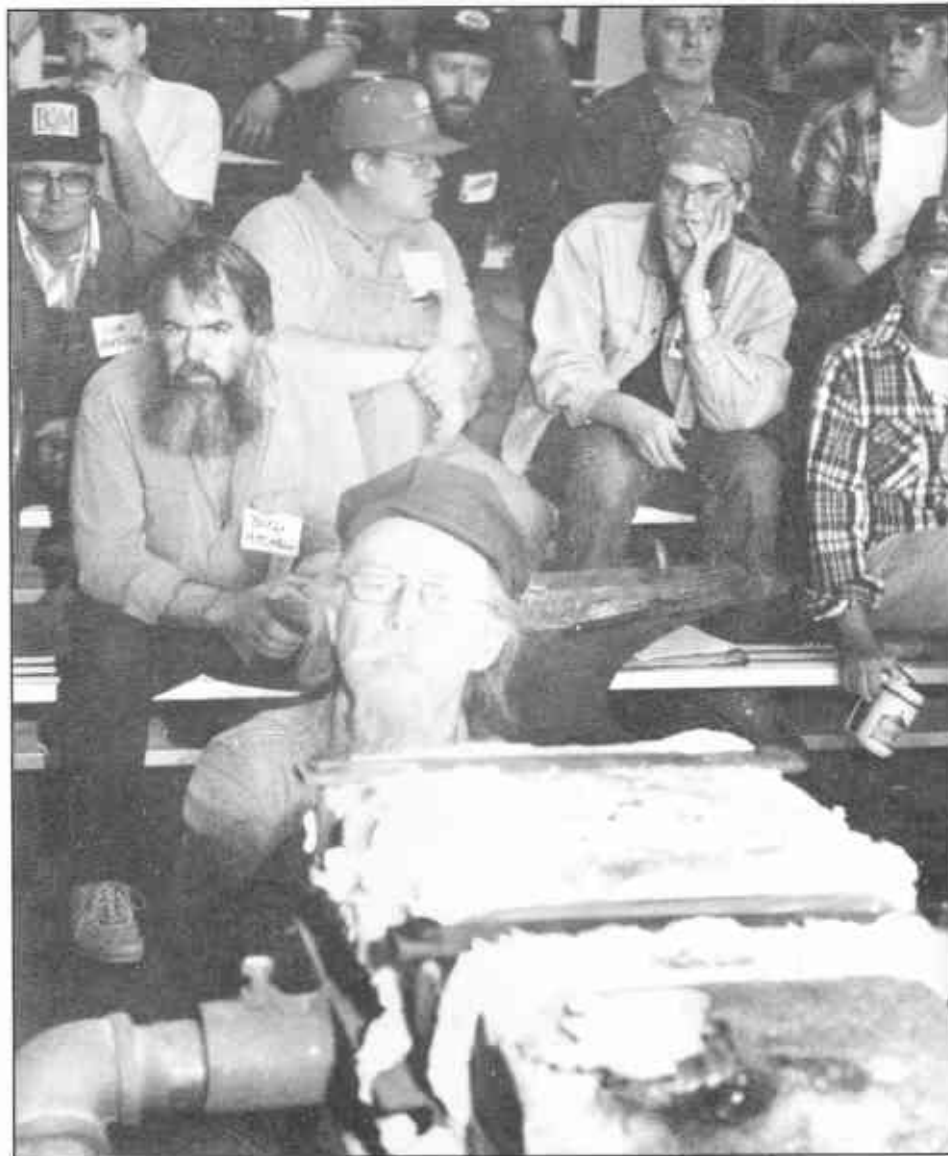
Doug Wilson, from Deer Isle, Maine, talked about design. He laid out paper on a table and let those present run wild with drawing pencils. On Sunday he took the ideas that were developed to the forge.

Doug spoke about the need to use the best techniques for the job, be they modern or traditional. Use this guide: If it doesn't detract from the appearance or make you feel bad, using the modern tools is OK.

He did his best to get us to leave behind preconceived notions about a piece. For example, if you set out to forge a candle holder, you automatically think in terms of a base with a

Ozark Conference

BAM's big event a big success



Daryl Meier checks the temperature of a piece of Damascus in the gas forge.

candle cup. He says he draws something, leaves it alone for awhile and then walks around it to get a different view. Sometimes he turns the work upside down and decides he likes that better.

Daryl Meier drew a huge crowd for his pattern welded knife demo. Of course everyone wanted to hear about the special knife he made for Presi-

dent Bush and Daryl was happy to oblige us. He had samples of what he did to forge the unique flag waving blade. (A chip from his knife brought nearly \$500 at the auction.)

Daryl worked with a gas forge and had the use of an air hammer brought down by Centaur Forge. (This time we got it unloaded.)

The anvil shoot is a traditional part



Top left: Anvils fly high in the three-way shoot. Note the blurry image caused by the photographer wondering where that thing is going to land. Bottom left: Tim Ryan and Floyd Daniel make peace after the question of whose anvil went highest was settled. Grady Holley was last seen riding his anvil into the sky. Above: Doug Hendrickson claims victory over this anvil which he claims to have brought down with the spud gun.



of all blacksmith conferences and this time BAM outdid them all with an unprecedented three-way shoot off. Tim Ryan showed up without the promised albino English jumping anvil—these ones were somewhat tarnished. Turns out they lost their virtue at the last event Tim attended.

Grady Holly and Floyd Daniels rounded out the field for the shoot off, which happened not quite simultaneously. Not to be outdone by the anvil shooters, Doug Hendrickson had his potato shooter on hand, which launched spud into the next holler propelled by hair spray.

The banquet Saturday night was quite an event. It started with a birth-

day cake for Clayton Carr, ABANA's president, who gave a fine demo on the Hossfeld Bender. Then came the presentation of the Alex Bealer award, ABANA's highest honor. A stunned Clifton Ralph was close to tears when he accepted the award, and he was speechless for about 5 minutes. When he found his voice again he took us on an emotional ride through his past that really made the evening.

The tribute was so good that we almost forgot BAM's highest honor, the Bob Patrick Founders award. Jerry Hoffmann, the first recipient, passed the bronze anvil on to conference chair Doug Hendrickson.

Then it was auctioneer Tim Ryan's turn. Tim wrung more money out of the crowd than the crowd had. He even got Walt Hull to buy his own punch and chisel kit (a coil spring).

When he was done he earned for BAM a whopping \$4,453. Clifton and Doug went to war over Daryl Meier's flag Damascus, but Clifton won out with a \$475 bid. A pair of Tom Clark tongs brought \$100, giving Tom some ideas.

The buy of the evening though was the arched door and hardware made on site which sold for \$160.

We needed more time Saturday night for all the activities. It was late when Tom touched off the bonfire, which is probably still burning. We watched the sparks fly for awhile, then moved inside for the forging contest.

Tom easily defeated the rest of the field in putting a perfect 45 on the end of a 1 inch bar in one heat.

The contest was going strong when I left for the horse camp. We weren't in bed long when the Mother of all Thunderstorms raised the shutters and drenched our sleeping bags. Despite the deluge Tom's fire was still burning at breakfast time.

(Continued on next page)

Ozark Conference

(Continued from page 16)

We had more Daryl Meier and Doug Wilson on Sunday. I spent some time listening to Jerry Hoffmann teach the basics.

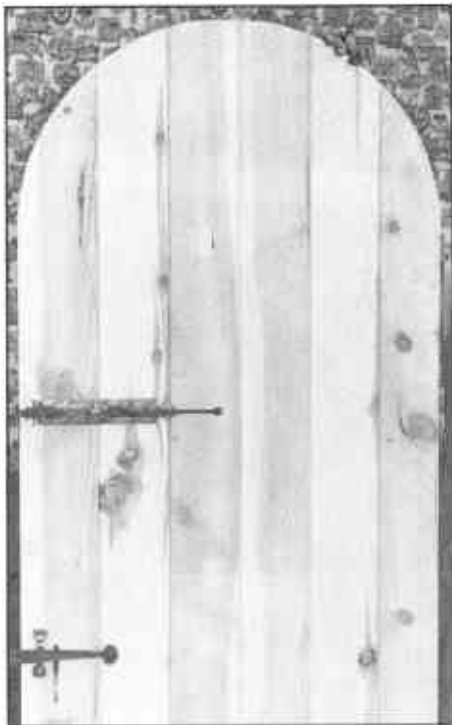
When it was all over a small but determined group helped Doug tear it down and leave the grounds in good shape.

We brought in nearly \$11,000, though a portion of that will change hands as the bills get paid. No doubt the '93 Conference was a huge success all the way around.

Many thanks to chairman Doug Hendrickson for a job well done.



Above: Tim Ryan does some arm twisting for a good cause. Below: A subdued Clifton Ralph accepts the Alex Bealer Award, ABANA's highest honor. Left: The door and hardware made by BAM's team was one of the better buys at the auction.



Right: ABANA President Clayton Carr shows a safe stance for using the Hossfeld bender, his specialty. Clayton made a pedal for a power hammer and donated it to the auction.



Dear B.A.M,

As you know the Ozark Conference went very well and I, as chairman, received many compliments and congratulations. This letter of thanks is to you folks (named and unnamed) who really made it happen.

BAM has a group of guys who are always there to see to the nuts and bolts of whatever we get ourselves into and make it a go: John Sherwood, Maurice Ellis, Colin Campbell, Mark Labien, Ken Markley and many others seem to always get the job done. Thanks to the anvil shooters, barn rakers, tailgators, soda icers, mug sellers, floor sweepers, and bleacher movers.

John Murray came through with a large exhaust fan for the exhibition hall and a crew consisting of Lou Mueller, Rich Obermark, John Sherwood, Tom Clark, Maurice Ellis and I joined John in mid March to install it.

Ray and Mrs. Chaffin have done a fantastic job with the BAM library. Their set-up next to the registration was attractive and attention getting.

Thanks to both our old stand-by teachers and the new ones who surfaced at this conference: Kenny Valdejo, Maurice Ellis, Pat McCarty, J.K. Reynolds, Al Stephens, Jim Waller, Walt Hull, Jerry Hoffmann, Stan Winkler, Grady Holly, Roberta Elliot and Hank Knickmeyer.

Thanks to everyone that I pointed to and said "Can you take care of that?" and they said "you bet". For example the Hossfeld needed bolting down, Todd just did it and when it was over, undid it and took care of the mounting studs too. Thanks.

David Hoops saved us all lots of time and trouble moving the air hammer in by pointing out the obvious, (which no one else had seen). "Turn the fork lift around," David said. Cedar Rapids Mike was everywhere doing whatever needed doing from start to finish, thanks. Wives, husbands, girlfriends, children and miscellaneous significant others pitched in and or sat behind desks performing valuable services. You know who you are, thanks. Personally, I'm electrically illiterate, so guys like George II, George III, Lou, Colin and other sparkys were greatly appreciated. George II even hunkered down and forged a copper



Above: Doug Wilson leads a design discussion. Below: Doug speaks softly and carries a spud gun.

fuse to get power to the air hammer. Thanks to Gina for spinning Doug Wilson's blower and thanks to Billy for bringing Gina.

We have the names of 77 folks who donated ironware, tools, books, and other stuff to the auction. I know late arrivals and other donations were also made. Tim Ryan worked his magic at the auction block and sold it all back to us. This phenomenon will always be a mystery to me. Tim's auctions lie somewhere between a revival, night club act and group therapy session and usually pay the bills for the whole show. Thanks Tim and all who brought donations for the auction. The set up and tear down is always a pain in the butt, but it has to be done. Our own BAM folks were joined by early comers and late stayers who really didn't have to be there but I'm glad they were. Every pair of hands made it that much easier, thanks to you all.

The real purpose of a conference like ours is to get together with teachers and learn something. Fred Caylor, Doug Wilson, Clayton Carr, Daryl Meier, the BAM demo teams made sure this happened big time. Information, tech tips, design ideas also came with each conferee and were shared freely with all. Strange isn't it, we all gather together to help our competition get better. In fact, we pay a conference fee to share our ideas.

Thanks especially to Tom Clark for dreaming up the idea of an Ozark Regional Conference and having the courage to give me the reins for the



1993 meet. Tom could have laid back and watched it happen but he's just not wired like that. He dug in and contributed a major portion of the ideas, planning and doing.

The Ozark Conference has already become something smiths look forward to and ought to be done again next April. A certain momentum has begun and for us to skip a year just because we have the 1994 ABANA Conference to contend with would be a step backwards. I'm hoping our Ozark meet will continue to improve to the point smiths all across the country will look forward to it and plan on a visit to our beautiful hills each April. Thanks again to all.

Sincerely,
Doug Hendrickson

Excitement at the Alexander Majors House



Trying to lose that egg shape.

by David Hoopes

Behind the restored 1856 home of Alexander Majors is a blacksmith shop. Terry Chapman, Ivan Risley, Mike Botts, Bill White, and myself (David Hoopes) volunteer there. We restore wagons and carriages for the museum. We are always on the lookout for ways to improve our skills, so several of us have joined BAM. We also decided to host a local Hammer-In.

Sunday April 4, was the first Hammer-in after our announcement in the BAM newsletter. We started at noon with a few hot dogs off of the wood stove. We had two guests, and three of our resident smiths on hand.

We decided to work on the basic exercises from the last *Anvil's Ring*. Exercise one was to put a point with a 45 degree angle on the end of a piece of 1 inch stock. I got elected to go first, since no one else would. I can't say that I was anywhere close to 45 degrees, but I did manage to get a point. After that everyone took a turn

at the forge. Most of us managed to come up with something reasonably close, except for the one that got offered up as a burnt offering.

After a short break, and fishing the remains of the burnt offering out from the bottom of the fire pot, we went on to work on exercise two. Exercise two was to work a piece of flat stock into a circle without using a jig. It proved to be rather difficult. Everyone kept making egg shapes. But we still had fun, and as we watched each other we started figuring out what we were doing wrong.

After we all finished exercise two, we discovered that a big part of the difficulty was that the tongs we were using had a crack in them so that they wouldn't hold the work tightly. By then it was late in the day, and we all decided that in May we would try making tongs. Our motto is "Learn along with us," so come on out and join in the fun. We will be meeting the first Sunday of every month. All BAM members welcome.

The Hammer-in was just the start of the fun we had this week. The rest of the excitement was started by a small notice of an auction in the *Kansas City Star*. In the middle of a long list of air compressors and concrete handling equipment, was a line that began with "blacksmiths anvil" and ended with "250# Little Giant pwr hammer; Bradley 150, 100, 40# pwr hammers." I am sure that my wife, Crystal, thought that I had gone crazy as I babbled at her for the next 10 minutes.

At the hammer-in, I brought the auction notice to the attention of the other resident smiths at the Alexander Majors Historical Museum. We all decided that we had to go to that auction, and if possible buy a power hammer. Phone calls started flying back and forth. One thing that we felt that we had to determine was how much was reasonable to pay for a power hammer. We decided to turn to BAM for help. So, we called Tom Clark, president of BAM, for some ideas.

Tom came a-running. He drove all the way to Kansas City on Wednesday for the previewing of the auction. He looked over the hammers

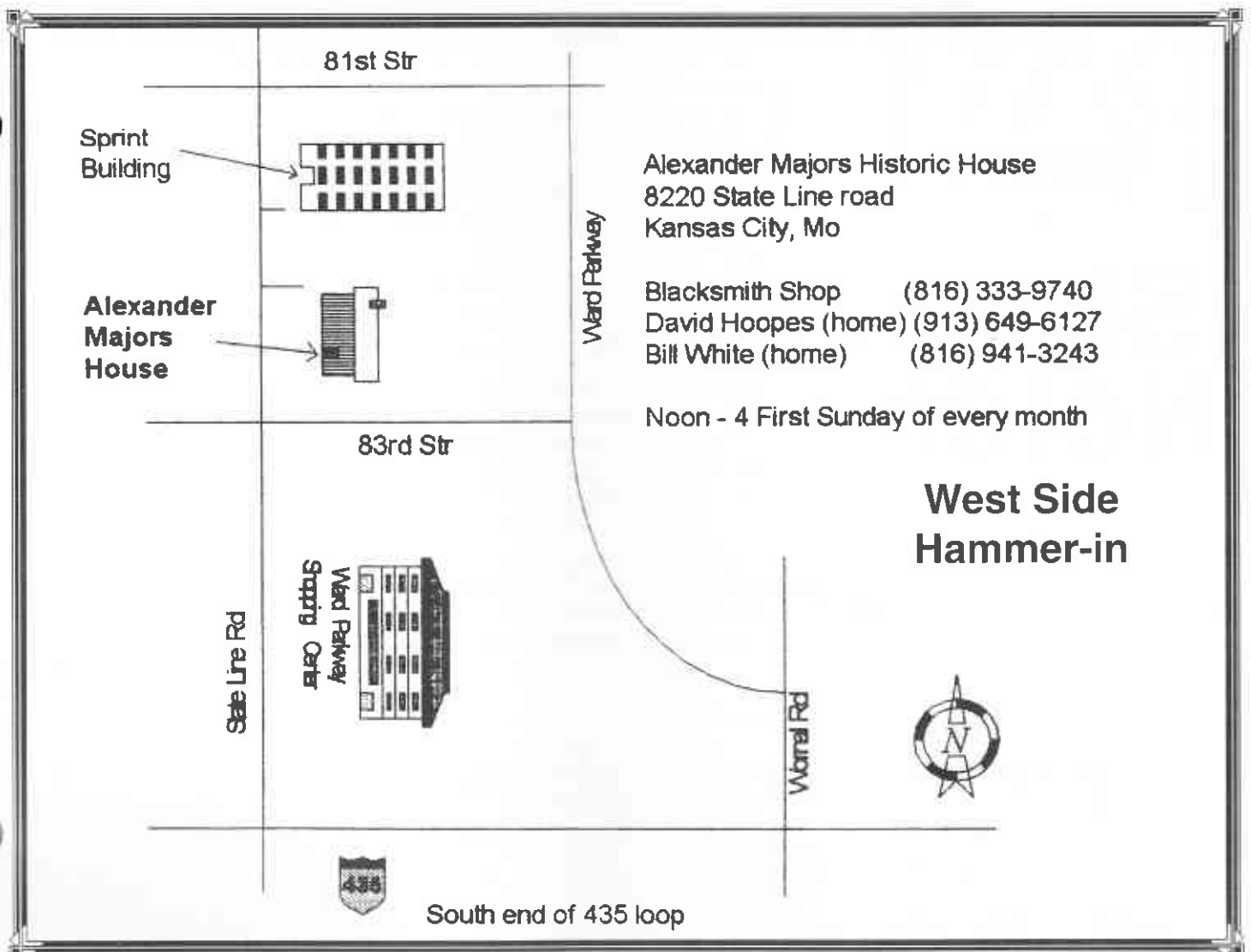
and gave us a lot of valuable information. Tom fell in love with the 250 pound Little Giant. He really wanted to stay for the auction, but he needed to be in Potosi on Thursday, the day of the auction. I talked to him at 11:30 Wednesday night and he was still trying to figure out how he could come to the auction.

The morning of the auction, the crew from the Majors House all decided that since none of us had any experience using a power hammer that the 250 pound Little Giant, and the 150 pound Bradley were a little too much hammer to start out on. So we would concentrate on the 100 pound, and 40 pound Bradley hammers. We were standing around discussing where we could put either of the hammers, when in walked Tom Clark. If you ever get a chance to attend an auction with Tom do it. Anyone who bids on blacksmithing tools. Tom tries to sign up for BAM. He signed up three new members that day.

While the auction was fairly well attended, there was only a small group that was interested in the blacksmithing tools. It was a lot of fun getting to know some of the other smiths that were there. Everyone was very cooperative and friendly, even though we knew that we were going to be bidding against each other. The power hammers were way down on the list of items to be auctioned. It was about 2:00 when the auctioneer finally got around to them.

When the bidding was over, we had bought the 100 pound Bradley, which we had decided would fit in our shop the best. Tom Clark was the new owner of the 250 pound Little Giant. The 150 pound, and 40 pound Bradley hammers were headed home with John Peterson, and Phil Cox. I think Tom had managed to sign up both John and Phil in BAM. Now that we had managed to buy a power hammer, we had to figure out how to get it back to the shop. Our best guess was that the 100 pound hammer weighed in at 3300 pounds, and Tom's new Little Giant weighed 5300 pounds.

Lots more phone calls were made. Arrangements were made for a crane



and truck to come the next day and load the hammers. When we arrived Friday morning to get the hammer ready to move, Tom and Phil were already there working on their hammers. We all pitched in and worked together getting everything ready. When the crane arrived at 1:30, everything was ready to go. We managed to get the 100 pound Bradley loaded, but the crane operator did not think that he could pick up Tom's hammer. More calls were made, and a big forklift was on its way.

I went on to the shop at the Major house to help unload our hammer, but Bill White stayed to help Tom and Phil. Bill said that when they set the Little Giant in the back of Tom's 3/4 ton pickup he wasn't sure if it would ever stop going down. Everything got loaded, and everyone headed for home.

What a week.



Tom Clark tries to figure out how to get his new 250 pound Little Giant back to Potosi.

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.

Splatter control

Before you fire up your stick welder, spray the area surrounding the weld site with ordinary no-stick frypan coating (PAM or equiv.) The weld splatter it normally takes a chipping hammer to remove will brush right off.

—*The Anvil's Horn*

See your way clear

Vern Fisher has a unique way of removing the fine metal fillings that collect on his safety glasses after wire brushing a piece on the grinder. He soaks them in Muriatic Acid, which he says cleans them right up, then rinses well in water before putting them back on. The fact that his glasses get this way shows the importance of wearing eye protection.

A fine finish

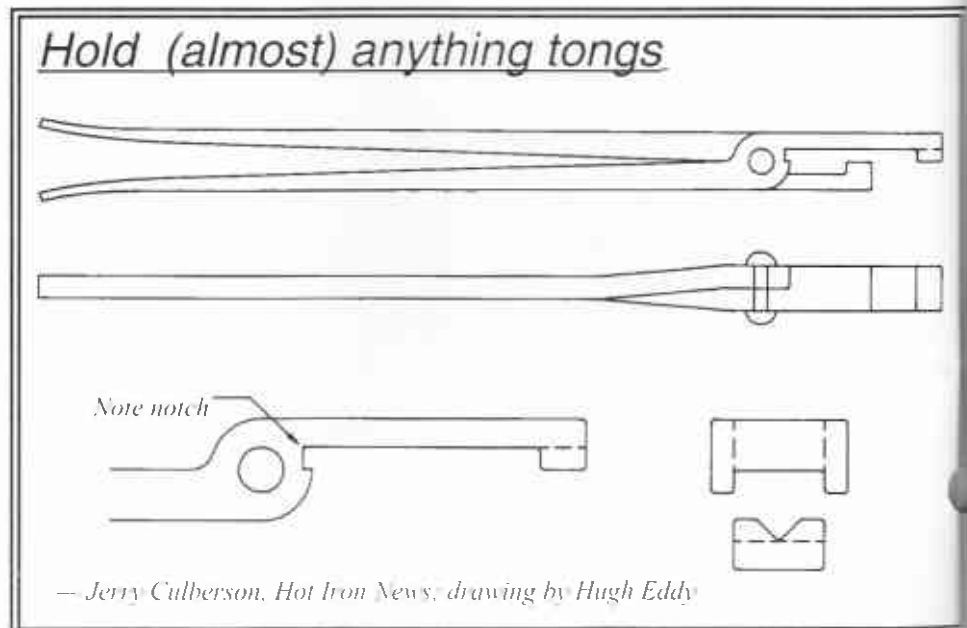
On a recent trip to Williamsburg, I had the chance to talk to Nick Vioncent from Uniontown, Md. Nick does a lot of wholesale work so the incentive to find a fast but durable finish is there. He takes a number of pieces that have been forged out but not wire brushed and puts them in an inexpensive cement mixer that contain ceramic tumbling chips and tumbles them for awhile. After the tumbler has done its thing the pieces are

removed and then dipped one at a time into its finish. Nick says he has lots of bent coat hangers for this job. He uses "Watco" brand tung oil for his oil finishes, reasoning that an oiled finish if damaged would be a lot easier to redo than a laquear finish. Pieces to be painted are dipped into paint and then hung up to dry. I have yet to try this out but the thought of tossing a lot of pieces that need wire brushing into a tumbler sounds good to me.

—*Bob Selvaggio, Pittsburgh Area Artists-Blacksmiths Association*

Runaway anvil

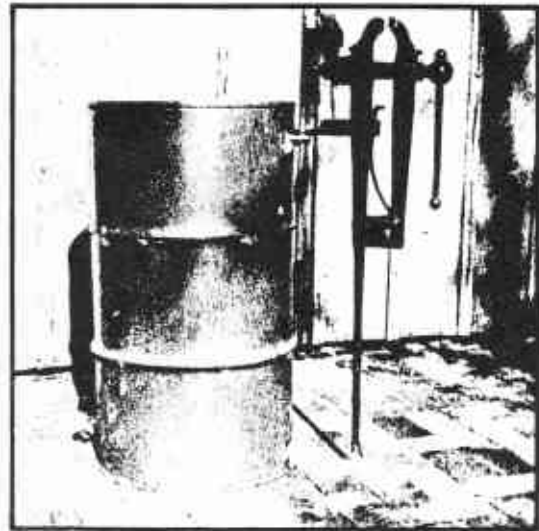
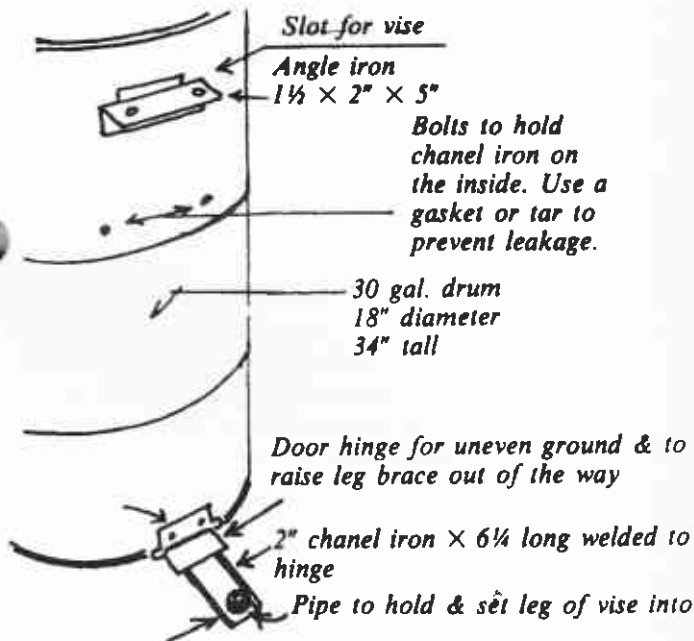
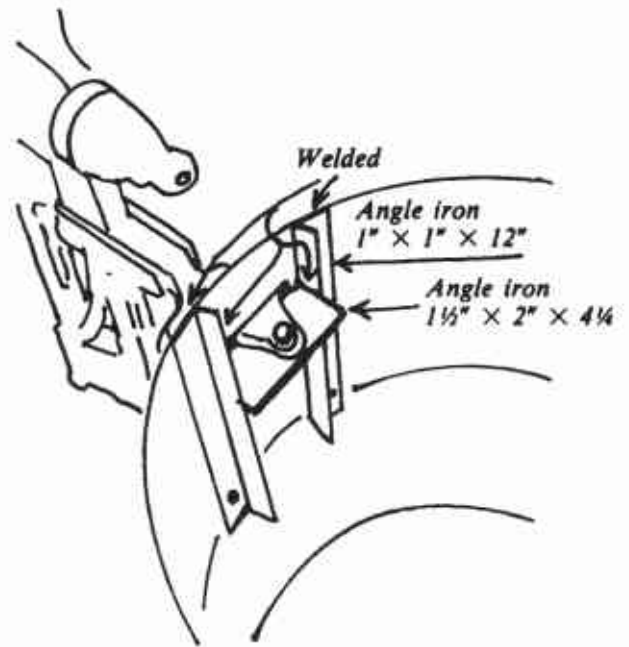
Everyone knows you have to tie down your anvil before forging something on it. But don't forget to tie it down if you haul it somewhere like the editor recently did. I laid my 135 pound Peter Wright on its side, thinking that would keep it from sliding around the bed of my truck. At the first stop sign I heard a sound like a freight train headed my way. Fortunately the horn was pointing towards the rear when it hit the front of the truck. I got off lucky with only a big dent in the truck bed. The anvil flipped up and the horn stopped just shy of my rear window, putting a reminder in the rubber trim instead of shattering the glass. The bed had a little morning dew on it that made things worse. But you can bet I'll tie it down next time!



Emil's portable quench tub & leg vise support

by Emil Bubash

In constructing this portable unit I used a 30 gallon drum, 18 inches by 34 inches, and scraps of angle iron. It would seem that this would not be rigid enough, but with the inside brackets bolted, welded and assembled and the drum filled with water the unit becomes quite strong. Not shown on the illustration is a screen basket half way down the drum, installed to catch any iron that happens to drop so that it can easily be retrieved. When transporting, I remove the vise for easier handling. My objective is to transport one blacksmith shop in a station wagon.



The finished product.

Weld at a distance out from the drum to suit your vise. The distance from the hinged support to the top slot and angle iron is determined by your vise.



Bottom rear of the drum. After cutting the top out of the drum, save the drain hole and bolt and gasket it to the bottom and add an old water heater tank faucet for a drain. I use a hose to drain the drum. Attach the hose to the faucet, extend the hose away from the work area and all remains dry.

Reprinted from the Anvil's Ring, June 1979

BAM NEWS

Smithing at SIU

The SIU Art Department will feature a two-week blacksmithing class, June 14th through June 25th. The class will begin at 8 am and stop at 3 pm, Monday through Friday.

One feature of the class will be a two-day demonstration of basic blacksmithing techniques by Jerry Hoffmann. Jerry will cover basic hammer forging using traditional coal fires. Jerry's workshop dates are Tuesday, June 15 and Wednesday, June 16. The remainder of the class will be hands-on work at the anvil and forge taught by Professor Thomas Gipe. Interested persons should enroll in ART 418-Metalsmithing. This course can be taken for credit or can be audited. Also, if anyone is interested only in Jerry Hoffman's workshop, you can sign up for this only for \$20. For more info call Thomas Gipe at (618) 692-3071.

Knifemaking at MU

Extension teaching, in cooperation with the University of Missouri Art Department, invites you to attend a course that teaches the fundamentals of knifemaking. The course is called Topics in Art Metals: Knifemaking and is worth 3 credits. The course meets on Tuesdays and Saturdays from June 15 through July 24. Cost is \$375.90 for graduate students and \$303.30 for undergraduates (and blacksmiths). Fees include registration and materials costs. Each student will complete two knives. One will be designed from scratch and the other will start with a prefabricated blade. Also covered will be techniques of

lost wax casting and heat treating. The instructor is Andy Davis. For information call 1-800-545-2604 or write Extension Teaching, 103 Whitten Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. 65211.

Centennial Gate-Way Competition

The Western New Mexico University Art Committee is seeking proposals from artist-blacksmiths for the creation of a commemorative Centennial Gate-way for the university campus.

All proposals should consist of a narrative description of the gate-way concept showing the overall design as well as detail drawings if appropriate. Included with the proposal should be a complete budget broken down as to materials, labor, installation, travel, etc. and also a timeframe for completion. A personal vita and slides or photographs of representative examples of completed work must accompany the proposal. Artists may submit more than one design and budget proposal. Commission fee is open.

All proposals must be received by the art committee by July 1, 1993. For more info contact: Cecil Howard, professor of art, WNMU, P.O. Box 680, Silver City, NM 88062 (505) 583-6614.

IVBA Conference

Our neighbors to the east, the Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association, invite you to attend their conference June 12 and 13 in Pontiac, Ill. Clay Spencer is the featured demonstrator. Clay will be showing off his treadle hammer. Cost is \$15 per day or \$25 for both days. For more information write: Steve Parker, PO Box 45, Lane, Ill. 61750; (217) 935-3043.

Indiana wants you. . .

To come to their annual conference June 5 & 6 at the fairgrounds in Tipton, Ind. The conference will feature three contests: a cube making contest and a poker making contest done at the site, and a candle holder or stand which you should make at home and bring or ship to the event for a judging. Two demonstrators will be on hand: Tim Zowada on knifemaking and Elmer Roush of the

Campbell Folk School on basic forging and colonial hardware. Tim Ryan will be on hand too so bring your wallet.

Rocky Mountain high

The Mountain Smiths Blacksmithing Conference will be held at Francis Whitaker's Blacksmithing School in Carbondale, Colo. on Aug. 26-29. Demonstrators include Francis Whitaker, variations on twists, Tom Joyce, design, Darryl Nelson, animal heads, Peter Ross, tools, hardware, Tomas Latane, 16th century hinge straps, Will Perry, 500 pound hammering. Demonstrations held during the day, open forging at night with the demonstrators on hand for helpful hints. Fees are \$95 for members or \$120 for non-members (includes membership). Lodging on site for \$100. For more info contact Steve Titus, (719) 495-4363 or Lee Pavlica, (719) 687-9747.

Fix your face

Anvil face that is. John Murray has volunteered to host an anvil rebuilding workshop at his shop in New Melle, Mo. John knows the correct procedure and has a special rod that will give that old anvil a new spring in its step, so to speak. If you have an anvil that looks like mine, drop John a line at Box 103, New Melle, Mo. 63365; (314) 828-4640. We'll gauge the response and set a date for the big event.

BAM thanks you

Many thanks to those of you who responded to the 36 point type on the back cover of the last newsletter reminding you that your dues were due. Most of us are paid up. Please keep in mind that the only reminder you will get is the date printed above your label on the newsletter. Dues expire a year from the date you joined, which means the editor needs to cut Steve a check. Maurice Ellis, keeper of BAM names and addresses, needs any address changes as soon as possible. He would also like to fill in the missing phone numbers (printed in the Jan-Feb. newsletter.) Write him at #4 Covey Court, Florissant, Mo. 63031-1206.

Tools from the junk yard

Tie rod ends from cars and light trucks make good set tools for your forge work. The reasons for using the tie rods are: a number of sizes to choose from, a swelled area with a hole in it (eliminating the need for a primary punching operation) and a decent carbon content for reasonable workability.

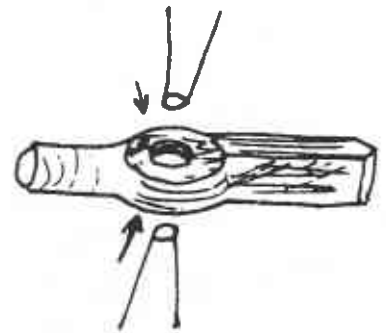
1. Cut off the length you need for the tool and save the rest for straight tools.
2. Forge the blade.
3. Punch both ways (to enlarge the hole).
4. Flatten sides to make an oval hole. Upset striking end and forge thicker if desired.
5. To harden, heat the metal to its critical temperature — the minimum temperature at which a magnet will not stick. Quench and buff until shiny.
6. To temper, slowly heat the metal back from the edge so that colors run to the edge. We prefer a dark bronze (about 500 degrees) for cold chisels, and a blue-red (about 575 degrees) for hot chisels. If unsure of heat treatment, anneal in wood ashes and try again.



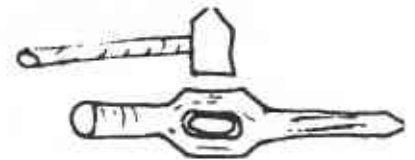
Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



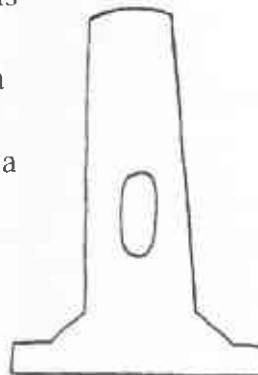
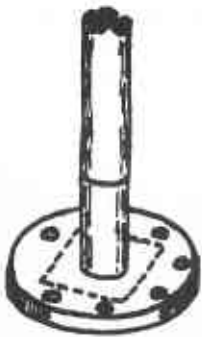
The finished tool



—Joe Jay and Pat Cheatham, *The Texas Forge Review*

Truck axle flatter

A truck axle can be forged into an excellent blacksmith's flatter. Cut the axle as shown in the sketch (left). This will make a 3 1/2 inch face. Forge 4 inches of the axle to a slight square taper approx. 5 inches long. Punch a hole for a handle. Grind all surfaces smooth.



—William Plant, *The Rivet*

Cup Hook

Steve Bloom

Materials: 20 inches of 1x3/16
12 inches of 1/2x1/8

Mark at 1 inch and 4 inches from both ends

Working on one end at a time. . .



Draw a point



Spring fuller notches



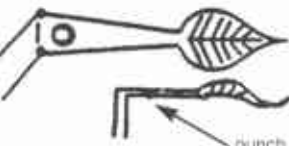
Draw a taper



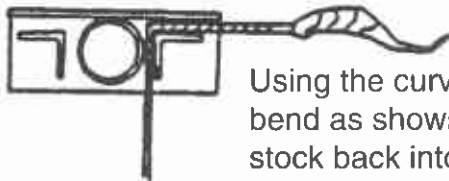
Form a leaf and chisel veins and rib. Shape leaf into a life-like form.



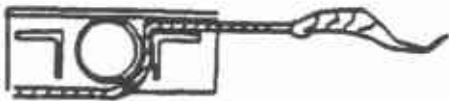
Punch a countersink but don't punch all the way through.



Make a right-angle bend at the 4 inch marks.



Using the curve former, insert the bend as shown and then pull the stock back into line, forming a smooth curve.



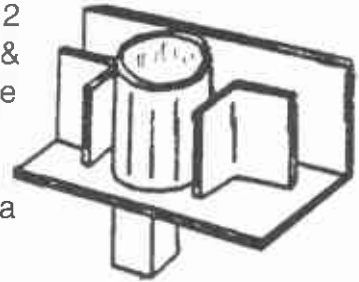
Repeat all steps on the other side of the bar.



Using a bending fork, bend the leaf through 180 degrees, then bend the leaf forward so it lies over the top of the smooth curve but doesn't block the countersink. Mirror image the other leaf.

Figs

Curve Former: Weld 2 pieces of 1"x1" angle & a section of 1 1/2" pipe to 5" of 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" angle, leaving 1/4" between pieces. Add a hardy stub.



Spacer: Kink an 8" piece of 1" x 1/4" flat stock.



Hook creation:

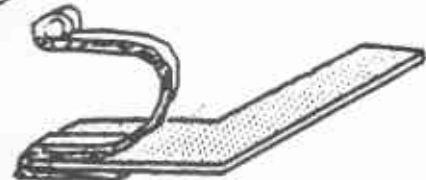
Form a finial on a 6" piece of 1/2 x 1/8 stock.



Form a hook.



Fold the rear of the hook through a right angle (take care not to crush the hook).



Use the spacer to close the rear of the hook to 1/4" gap. Make 2 or 3 such hooks.

Drill out the mounting holes and use whatever surface treatment you like.



Reprinted from the Florida Clinker Breaker

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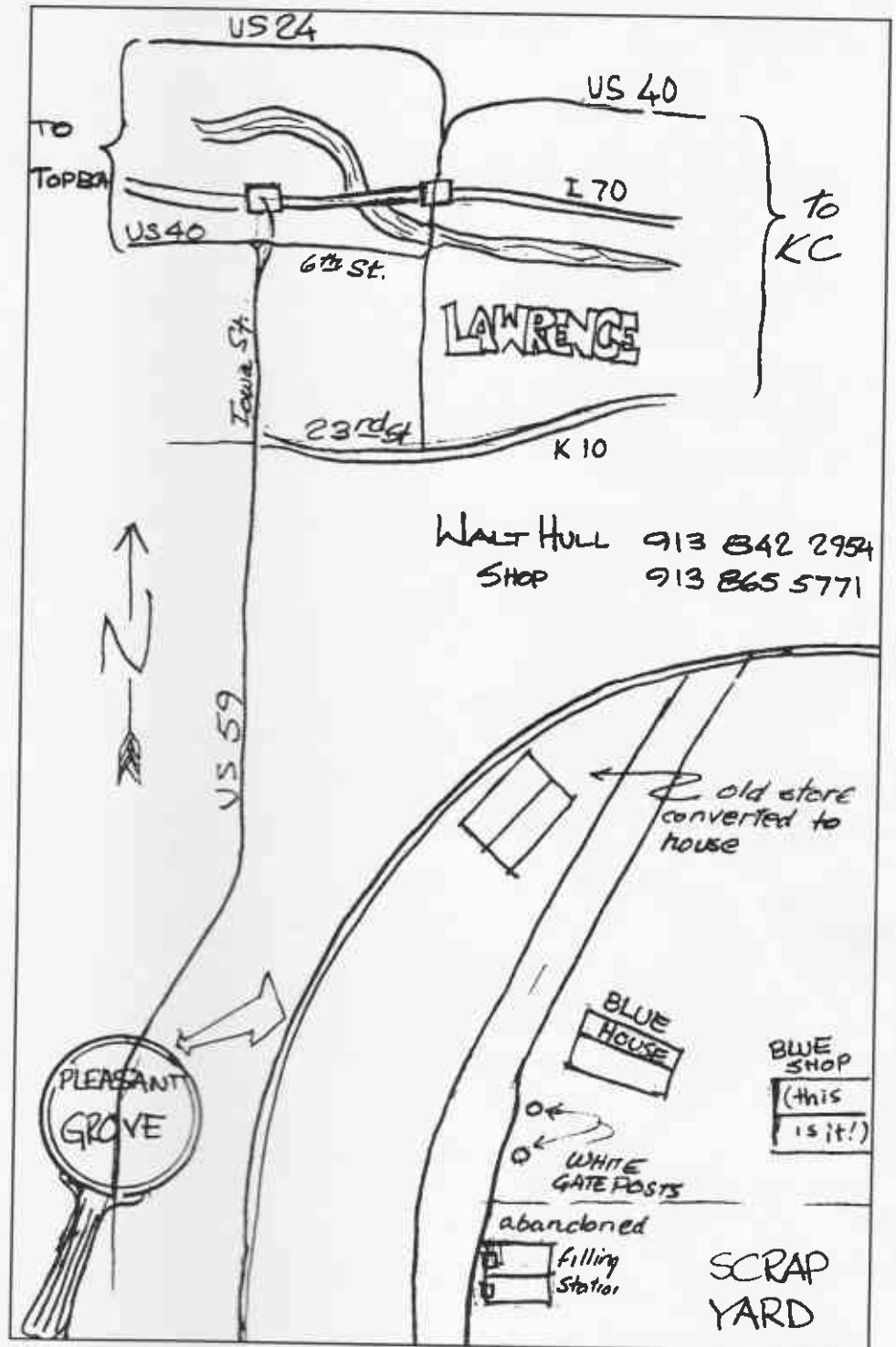
Next Meeting — May 22 at Walt Hull's

For the May meeting we head west of the border to Walt Hull's Lawrence, Kansas forge. Walt has some interesting demo's planned but I can't remember what they are. Once he told me about the keg of locally brewed beer I forgot the rest. Suffice it to say there will be some high-quality forging going on. Walt also tells me he lives in a rather interesting town that is full of good places to shop. Unfortunately, it's also the home of the Kansas Jaybuzzards so if you wear the black 'n gold of MU travel in packs.

The trade item is a key. (No Woodruff keys please.) As usual, don't forget to forge something for the Iron in the Hat.

The map at right should get you there, but if you get lost call Walt. His number is (913) 842-2954 at home and (913) 865-5771 at the shop.

Please note that there is a house at the shop. Someone lives there but it's not our Walt, so if you get there real early Saturday morning don't holler obscenities at the front door. If you want to spend the night give Walt a call. He will reserve floor space or point you towards a motel. For the truly adventurous camping space is available. You won't need to bring any mosquitoes cuz Walt has plenty.



July Meeting

Dr. Iron, Doug Hendrickson, is already filling Black(smith) River with water in preparation for BAM's July meeting. Doug lives in Lesterville, which is just down hill from the highest point in Missouri. Plan to bring your swim suit for the traditional float trip. More info in the next newsletter.

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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