

# RAM

INSIDE

## July-August 1994

July meeting .....	8
Candle class .....	12
ABANA Conference .....	14
Bert's bell .....	18
Next meeting .....	23



NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

## Contents

### Editor's anvil

**6** Two conferences, a great meeting and a trip to the folk school.

### Pat's place

**7** New BAM president Pat McCarty says thanks to the ABANA conference volunteers.

### July meeting

**8** BAM relaxed at a laid back meeting held at Vern Fisher's Lake of the Ozarks shop.

### ABANA news

**10** Clayton reports on a record-setting ABANA conference.

### Candle class

**12** Jerry Darnell proved a capable teacher at the JC Campbell Folk School.

### Fire & Fusion

**14** Here's some scenes from the Mother of All ABANA Conferences.

### Bert's bell

**18** From a lowly piece of 2 inch pipe comes this beauty of a bell from Bert.

### Al's Corona

**20** Al Stephens is back with a thoughtful piece about his first artsy project.

### BAM news

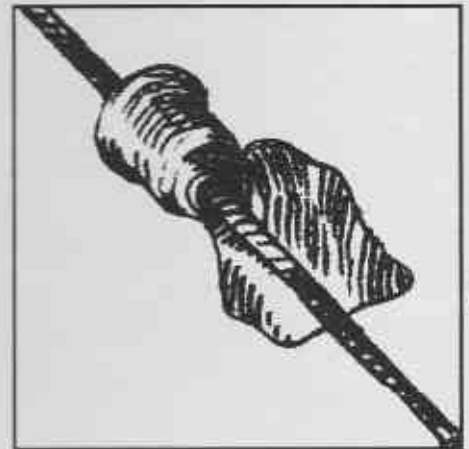
**26** The Prairie Blacksmiths invite us to join their Clay Spencer workshop.

### Next meeting

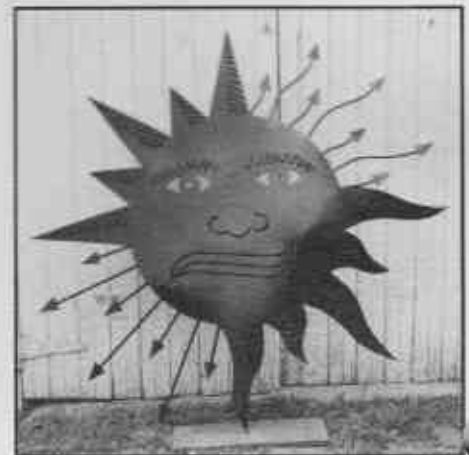
**23** We travel to the east side for an Oct. 1 meeting at Ken Markley's shop.



Page 14



Page 18



Page 21

**Newsletter of the  
Blacksmiths  
Association  
of Missouri**

*Volume 11 No. 4*

**Our cover:** Larry Cooper holds the bolt of lightning that was welded together to start the 1994 ABANA conference.

**Editor**

Jim McCarty

**Contributing Editors**

Tim Underwood  
Tom Clark  
Pat McCarty  
Al Stephens

**Artist**

Jerry Hoffmann

**Mailing Labels**

Maurice Ellis

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

**BAM Membership Application**

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**

Primary ABANA Chapter Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member     Renewing Member

How did you learn about ABANA? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Regular Member .....\$35 yr.
- Senior Citizen (Age 65) .....\$30 yr.
- Fulltime student .....\$25 yr.
- Overseas airmail .....\$70 yr.
- Overseas surface mai .....\$50 yr.
- Contributory .....\$100 yr.
- Public library .....\$25 yr.

*See reverse*



## Editor's anvil

Boy, where did summer go? Seems like just a week ago we were getting ready for the Ozark Conference, then it was an hour later that we were setting up for the ABANA Conference. Then I left for the John C. Campbell Folk School, returned for Vernon's July meeting and gathered with some other members for a demo at the Missouri State Fair.

Hope the winter months speed by like this!

Sorry this issue took so long to get out. We were a bit early on the last one so it seems like a lot of time has passed.

I have been up to my elbows in a kitchen remodeling project (don't try this at home) and have let my forge and hammers get kind of rusty. I was glad for the opportunity to go to the state fair on Aug. 24.

We had a good turnout from BAM: brother Pat, Tom Clark, Jim Thomas, Joe Wilkinson, Ed Harper, Bud Mitchell, Jack McMurtree, Jim Kendzora, Ray Chaffin, J.K. Reynolds, Phil Cox and myself all made the trip.

Pat got a chance to tell about our group at the morning press conference and Tom Clark was interviewed for the Sedalia paper. While I was forging a back scratcher a reporter from St. Joe's KFEQ radio station came by and interviewed me. Perhaps some of our northwest Missouri members heard it.

No doubt we'll get some exposure from all this.

Tom and Ray both brought their portable shops. Tom did a brisk business in miniature horseshoes, which he stamped with the person's name.

Ray has an addition built on his shop for his wife, and both were in period clothes.

The rest of us took turns at two BAM forges while those who weren't demonstrating told fair goers about BAM and talked about the display of old tools that Jim Thomas brought.

We signed up one new member and sent several others home to think about it. J.K. Reynolds coached two people and let them try their hand at the forge — bet we see them again.

Pat, Jim Kendzora and Jack had lots of stuff to sell, but there weren't any buyers. In all, the attendance was real poor as was the location in a huge tent that was sort of cut off from the traffic.

I was pleased that we at least got something going. I know the fair officials want to see us back again and perhaps we will be better organized next year. If anyone has any ideas or wants to take part next year give me a holler.

There are all kinds of possibilities. We could demonstrate every day and perhaps even build a permanent shop on the sight for central Missouri folks to use when the fair is not being held. There is so much room on the grounds that we could even host our own event there, selling slightly warm iron to all comers.

Jerry Darnell tells me the North Carolina folks man their forge daily at their fair and they sell about \$8,000 worth of stuff during the event.

Anyway, let's think about it and maybe I can relay our thoughts to the fair officials.

I owe you guys a demo from my Colonial Lighting class at the Folk School. I learned so much that it will be hard to decide what to do. Save me a spot at the anvil for the next three or four meetings.

If anyone is interested I would be happy to talk you through a chandelier at a future workshop. This is a time consuming and exhausting project but you can make one in a day and sell them for outrageous sums of money.

Speaking of money, I wonder if we have anyone out there who is actively selling their wares. In talking with Jerry Darnell and a woman I met at the Christianson Native Craft Workshop I couldn't think of anyone who makes things to sell retail. I often run into folks who are looking for some item and I see lots of shops where iron work would fit in well. Maybe we should talk some about marketing ironwork.

I sure was impressed by the large turnout of new members at the July meeting. When Tom asked for a show of hands I bet there were 20 or

30 newcomers in the group. What really pleased me was the number who said they were from southwest Missouri. This is one area where I know there are a lot of blacksmiths holed up because Charles McRaven had a blacksmith school down here back in the '70s.

Someone down that way should volunteer to host a meeting so we can check out your flea markets for tools.

It's been a great summer with the two conferences and the other BAM activities. As we head into cooler weather let's make an effort to teach ourselves some new things and get the off month forges fired up.

Many thanks to Tim Underwood for taking notes at the ABANA Conference and sending me the ones on Bert Eliot's bell and Paul Zimmerman's rose.

When you attend a conference or learn a new technique keep the other members in mind and send it to the newsletter. It takes me about three hours per page if I have to do all the work on an article. If it comes in from someone like Tim I can knock the page out in about 15 minutes.

Thanks also to Jerry Hoffmann for doing the drawings. Jerry has more irons in the fire than most of us combined but he is always ready to pitch in where BAM is concerned.

See you guys Oct. 1 at Ken Markley's.

— Jim McCarty

## Dear BAM

A special thanks to:

—Vic McCracken for his expert demonstration on the Baldor grinder. I'm sure his demo was helpful to all.

—Bernie Tappel for the use of his big pot cooking apparatus and expertise with the corn on the cob. It was finger licking good! —Walt Hull for bringing that special brewed beer all the way from Kansas. — And thanks to everyone who attended the July BAM meeting. We enjoyed having the group and missed everyone who couldn't attend. You made our day!

—Vern and Eunice Fischer

The last reprint of the "Edge of the Anvil" was quite a success and we are all sold out. I have been busy working on a complete revision of this popular book. It will be available from Skipjack Press in fall, 1994.

The title is the "New Edge of the Anvil." It will have around 240 pages along with new exercises and additional resource information. The revision is larger, 8x10, and printed on a heavier paper stock. All the drawings are new and are slightly larger than the drawings in the original book.

Your membership can benefit from the pre-publication offer of \$20, which includes shipping.

*Sincerely yours, Jack Andrews*

I just wanted to write and thank all BAM for the excellent ABANA Conference that you hosted. Anyone that couldn't attend missed a great time. For a bunch of bare-footed hillbillies, you gave everyone else that holds a conference a mark to aim for.

—Al Stephens, Paradise, Pa.

The following is in regard to the May 94 BAM meeting. After 30 some years of attending union meetings and other club meetings, some of these suggestions may help BAM conduct their elections in a more professional manner.

1. It was said they wanted to choose a president based on his talents and ability. This could be discrimination. Any member of BAM, new or old, should be eligible for nomination to any office. The membership should

determine whether he or she would make a good officer.

2. Perhaps the May meeting should be for nominations only, with elections to be held at the July meeting. Anyone nominated who is not present should be contacted by the secretary, in writing, of his/her nomination. All nominees should respond, in writing, to accept or decline by the July meeting. This gives everyone time to think about it, kick it around, etc.

3. Absentee ballots might be a good idea for anyone not able to attend the July meeting.

4. Anyone nominated for office should not count votes. There should be no less than 3 members (no nominees) to count votes. Counters should also raise their hands if voting. Might be simpler with ballot box vote.

Hope these suggestions are taken into consideration by the board. It may help at future meetings.

*Sincerely, Jim Kendzora, Sunrise Beach, Mo.*

I would like to take a moment to thank and congratulate all the people in your organization who contributed

their time and energy to the St. Louis Conference. I'm always amazed at the dedication and commitment shown by the organizers of the ABANA Conference given the fact they are too busy during the conference to enjoy the fruits of their work.

From my point of view as a participant and demonstrator it was a most successful event. I was awed by the electrical requirements, overjoyed by the quality of the food and thankful for the abundance of cool drinks brought to the demonstrators throughout the day. So much planning and followthrough gave me a great feeling of comradeship and inspired me to pursue greater heights in my art.

Congratulations to the people who organized and managed the auction. I believe it was the most successful auction ever. Not only has it contributed to ensure the financial security of ABANA but your dedication and hard work brought high prices for the items donated, always a relief for me as a maker of iron work. Thank you again for the great effort and successful conference.

—David Court, Northfield, NH

## Pat's place

As I reflect back to the ABANA conference I remember how exhausted I was after it was over. I also remember having a lot of fun. If you missed the conference you missed the chance of a lifetime. My crew of volunteers deserve a lot of credit for the success of the conference. We broke all kinds of records, including heat and humidity!

Thanks to Don Asbee, Bert Elliott, Ken Markley, Colin Campbell, John Sherwood, Todd Kinnikin, Andy MacDonald, Tim Underwood, Kirk Sul-lens, JK Reynolds, Robert Maes, Mirko Siakkon, Roy Warden, Bob Alexander, Bill Frabotta, Dan Scholz, Dan Hart, VJ McCrackin, Mike Dominas and Walt Hull for a job well done. It's amazing what can get done with a dedicated bunch of volunteers.

Thanks also for everyone who voted for me for president. I've been told I am crazy for taking this job. Well I've been absorbing everything I can for 6 years now and I feel it's time I did my part to return the favor.

What's in store for next year? I've got a few ideas, but you tell me what you want and we'll work on it. I met with the other chapter presidents at the conference and got some ideas for them to make the meetings more interesting. You all have my phone number and address so get in touch. (In case you don't, it's (314) 239-3814, Washington, MO 63090.)

There's no end to what we can do together.

— Pat McCarty



*Pat McCarty takes over as the new BAM president with this issue. Congratulations to Pat and many thanks to Tom Clark for the fine and thankless job he did as president. We hope we can count on you again, Tom.*

## Tom's travels

*Editor's note: I ran out of room in the last issue and had to leave this out of Tom's Turn. Even though Tom has stepped down as BAM president he promises to tell us about the forges he visits on his many travels around the country.*

My traveling this period were somewhat restricted, however, I did manage a trip to see my aging mother in western Louisiana. As it happened my friends the Guidrys from Lafayette, La., an old blacksmith family who over the years have turned to ornamental iron work called and said they had taken a job which required a trip hammer. When the dust settled they decided to take the 50-pound Little Giant that Todd Kinnikin had so I took it down and spent a day helping them set it up and showing them a little about it since they haven't had experience with power hammers.

Thanks to Chris Marks, a local smith with good power hammer experience, for his help that day. The Guidrys are in good hands and I hope

this leads them to a good forging future.

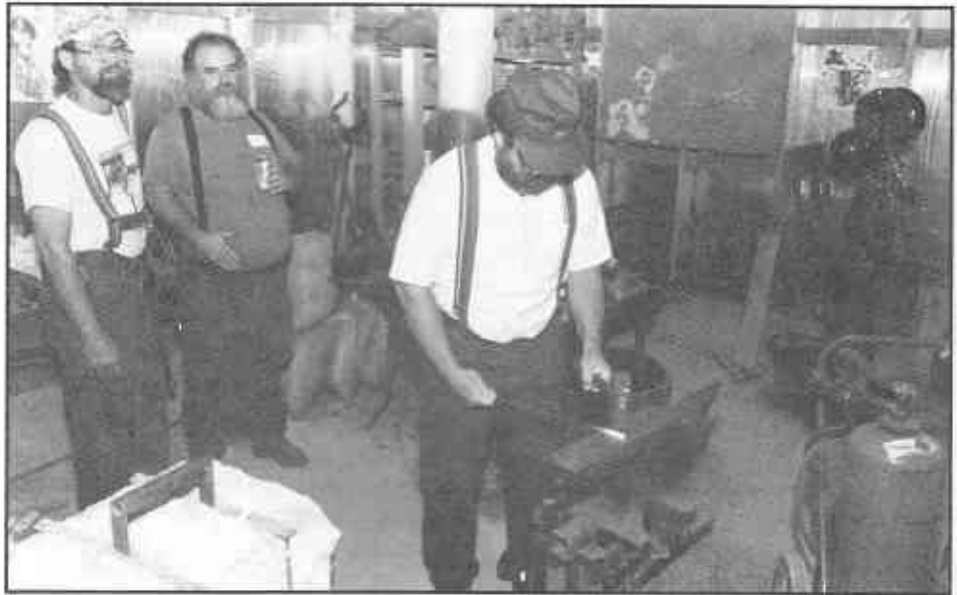
The next day was the regular meeting of the East Texas B/S alliance at the Woodville Heritage Village in Woodville, Texas. This is the home forge of BAM's old friend Charlie Schultz, so I spent the day with them. There was a group of about 30 members fired up and ready to forge.

Several of the group were already BAM members and about half a dozen more joined. They had a local member showing how to forge and temper a knife blade. After this demo everyone took turns at the forge and we had a good time. Thanks Charlie for your hospitality and the "rusty stuff" that found its way into my truck. Three pairs of the tongs have found a new home and a few pieces of the 1070 have a new home in my Damascus ring which I made for the ABANA board ring project.

— Tom Clark

# BAM

## JULY MEETING



*Scott Stager gets some forge time under the watchful eye of Walt Hill and Bill Briggs.*

The July BAM meeting will probably go down in the history of the organization as the most laid back we have ever had. The day started with a beautiful July morning that was cool enough to leave the a/c off and enjoy the twisting road to Vernon Fisher's. Many people arrived early and drank in the spectacular view of Vern's little piece of the Lake of the Ozarks.

Walt Hull arrived early and was sailboating with very little wind — we think he told blacksmithing stories to get the craft moving.

A crowd of 50 or 60 eventually showed up and nearly half were new members. These folks weren't shy and pretty soon we were learning about life in places like Unionville, Advance and Springfield. I enjoyed meeting Jim Carr, who wants to add blacksmithing to his bronze and aluminum casting operation. Jim is from Springfield as were several others who found their way to Vernon's shop.

Preston Williams made it down from North Central Missouri and had a nice knife with him. Bernie Tappel put in an appearance and his kettle corn was the hit of the lunch. Lots of folks we hadn't seen in a while showed up, and we spent most of the day catching up on lost time and comparing notes on the ABANA Conference and trips to the JC Campbell Folk School.

The only forging in the morning was done by Walt Hull and Scott Stager. Scott is one of our most dedicated members but unfortunately he gets little forge time. Walt talked him through an interesting pair of tongs and they were just about done when I hit the lunch line.

Meanwhile V.J. McCrackin was showing how to finish a knife on Vern's new Baldor belt grinder. I heard at least one person remark that V.J. did in a half hour what took him weeks!

There was quite a bit of rusty iron changing hands, something we all like to see. I had to leave after the business meeting so I can't tell you what happened in the afternoon, but I bet they polished off the keg of Lawrence, Kans., brew that Walt brought with him.

The iron in the hat brought \$151. Here's how it went:  
 Wrought iron bars donated by Phil Cox went to Tom Marlen  
 Fine knife made by VJ went to Scott Payne  
 Book wrought iron donated by Jim Thomas went to Jack McMurtree.  
 Spike knife by Phil Cox went to Ron Schaeffer  
 Awl made by Jim McCarty went to Phil Cox.  
 Pile of 1050 steel from Bob Alexander won by Phil Cox  
 Tom Clark poker went to Todd Kin-



*V.J. McCrackin demonstrates grinding to Jim Kendzora and Jack McMurtree at the July BAM meeting.*

nikin

Pat McCarty's spike wizard was won by Jim Kendzora  
 Spike wizard by Ed Harper went to Leland Gielow  
 BAM conference mugs went to Jerry Toll, Jim Thomas and Jack McMurtree

### Minutes

Last meeting minutes approved

Tom mentioned this was his last meeting as president. New president Pat McCarty couldn't attend due to





*Preston Williams flashes a large hunting knife he brought to the July meeting. Preston was one of about 50 people who made the July meeting a success. About half that number were new members or folks who haven't been with us long.*

job commitments. (Applause for Pat.)

Todd Kinnikin spoke about scholarships. Five have been funded, but one had to be turned back due to timing conflicts.

Treasurer Steve Austin said we have about \$5,700 in BAM treasury, with about \$5,000 due us from the ABANA Conference.

Jim McCarty spoke about the demo day at the state fair in Sedalia Aug. 24. Fair will provide tent, parking passes and an opportunity to sell things. Sign up sheet passed around for demos.

Tom Clark spoke on local shop hammer ins. Todd suggested setting up a portable teaching forge to allow members without shops to host a meeting.

Todd spoke to Jesse Francis, conservator for Foust Park restoration blacksmith shop. They have a nearly complete shop, but need demonstrators. They will provide sales outlet, etc.

Tom mentioned Peter's Valley scholarship donated to ABANA Conference auction which is still available, possibly to BAM members. See Tom if interested.

Tom mentioned chapter newsletter exchange with presidents. He said he would make one more attempt and then cut off those not participating.

Librarian Ray Chaffin asked for a budget to set up library. Wants to increase assets. Ray will research this and present at future meeting.

Next meeting set for Ken Markely's shop on Oct. 1.

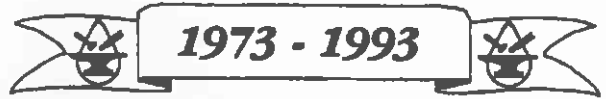
Coal supply almost gone — Tom will research possible sources and location to store.

Trade items were made by Walt Hull, Jack McMurtree, John Murray, Bob Alexander, Phil Cox, Ed Harper, Bud Mitchell, and Jerry Toll

Meeting adjourned.

# 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

## ABANA President's Message August, 1994

Sometimes it might seem as if we go along for quite a while with "nothing going on." That feeling may have been helped along by the fact that we didn't send anything out through the monthly ABANA Chapter Mailing System last month. We were all focused on the 1994 ABANA Conference. I hope that 30 day lapse didn't cause distress for any of you!

The June biennial conference in Saint Louis set a few records — it was certainly the largest conference in ABANA's history, and may very well have been the largest gathering of blacksmiths ever assembled anywhere in the world, ever. It is safe to say that the conference was a success. Hat's off to the hosting Chapter, the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri, for their outstanding effort in the preparation and execution of the event. The conference finances have not all been settled as of the time of this writing, but we do have enough information in to say that the conference can be considered a financial success as well. Certainly, the next conference in Alfred, New York will have its work cut out for it in trying to meet or exceed some of the benchmarks established at the St. Louis conference.

Another notable feature of the recent conference is that there were 12 countries represented. 12 countries? That's right folks, we are making waves that are felt around the world. Actually, we have a respectable number of foreign members in ABANA, including one chapter in Australia. The fact is that we are the largest blacksmithing organization on the planet, and growing at a fairly brisk pace. So although ABANA started right here in North America, it is possible that one day you will see not only ABANA members, but ABANA Chapters all around the world. I can't think of greater proof that the art and craft of blacksmithing knows no boundaries.

You all know that I include a safety message in just about every letter I send out. I have ranted and raved about eye and ear protection, tool safety, fire protection, proper clothing, housekeeping, and numerous other subjects. But with a good hot summer in full swing, I think it is time to remind ourselves about ourselves. Our "thermostats" are set fairly low, and this is the kind of weather that can overheat you in a hurry. Remember to drink plenty of fluids, preferably some with electrolytes; and don't be shy about taking a breather when you feel yourself getting overheated.

Warm Regards,

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

Clayton Carr  
ABANA President

# ABANA Liaison

## Atta Boy:

To everyone who sat through the stifling heat one night and outdoor rain storm at the ABANA Conference in St. Louis . . . and to all of those who spent money at the auctions generating \$40,000 and pitched in \$4,400 from Iron in the Hat proceeds that went towards ABANA's scholarship fund . . . and to the Texas Artist Blacksmith Association chapter who hauled a chapter-built treadle hammer to Missouri that generated another \$1,400 by special raffle. We're in business for another 2 years.

## ABANA International

Representatives from England, Scotland, Germany, Poland, Norway, Israel and Switzerland demonstrated in St. Louis. Western Canada is considering a break up into three separate chapters. With the Vancouver Island Chapter, Canada is firmly in line.

Australia got a tentative Board approval for a new Chapter and New Zealand is expected to apply momentarily.

Bob Jacoby (New York) has made contact with the Russian smiths and there is some talk about considering foreign language chapters.

There are 18th Century blacksmith shops operating today on Kibbutz in Israel and in the buffer countries of the former Soviet Union.

Should we expand internationally? Talk to your ABANA Board member or write with your opinion.

## Sharing

In my opinion, the strength of ABANA and its Chapters and the key to the growth of blacksmithing in America is our willingness to share. Perhaps because of the history of the Guild system on the European Continent, most European smiths (including England) are reluctant to share their trade secrets.

Maybe because of the near loss of the art here, ABANA and the Chapters have universally shared everything freely and openly. Jay Burnham-Kidwell said it wonderfully. He had just dropped one of those "golden nugget" tricks on his audience at the '92 conference in California when he said, "It took me 18 years to discover that trick. If there's anyone here who plans to take it home as his own secret, get out of my tent. I give it to you on one condition—that you share it with anyone who shows the slightest interest."

That's the attitude of sharing and that is the reason for ABANA's existence. Can we afford to dilute this flood of sharing with new European chapters unless they're prepared to share like we do?

## Cyberspace chapter?

At the St. Louis Conference, a public meeting of the ABANA Electronic Bulletin Board System (BBS) attract-

ed 20 attendees. 40 people at the conference signed up with their current cyberspace addresses. Washington University magnanimously gave ABANA the use of their Internet access and 260 megabytes of permanent storage area on the University's computer. Enrique Vega has agreed to "SYSOP" the forum (set up new files, delete old messages, and manage it). We'll start with a world wide open discussion forum and the schools/classes and Chapter Conference lists. Current Chapter/Editor lists searchable by geographic area will be added next.

Enrique and the Committee will be generating specific instruction sheets for members to access the net through their home computer modems directly or through CompuServe, American Online, Internet, etc. which I will pass on in our next Chapter letter for the membership.

John Pollins III  
Chapter Liaison Committee Chairman  
RD #5 Box 154, Greensburg, PA 15601



# Candle Class at the J.C. Campbell Folk School

by Jim McCarty

Over the 4th of July weekend I pointed my truck east and hit the road for the John C. Campbell Folk School. It was my second journey to Brasstown, NC, and I should have learned my lesson about camping my way through Tennessee on a holiday weekend.

There are no campsites in Tennessee past 8 am on the Friday before a big weekend. I knew this because I struck out last year and ended up driving the entire trip in one day.

This time I got lucky and found a spot 12 miles up a mountain road in the scenic Ocoee River area. It was a great site and I made it in and out with my transmission mostly intact.

I was going to the folk school on a BAM scholarship, one of 5 awarded at our Ozark Conference (thanks, BAM). My instructor was Jerry Darnell, a soft-spoken Calculus teacher who ought to give it up for blacksmithing. Jerry's specialty is colonial items, and his course for the week was lighting fixtures.

On Sunday we gathered in the Francis Whitaker Blacksmith Shop to go over what was expected of us. We would do a project every day, starting with a table lamp and finishing with a 6-arm Virginia style chandelier.

More than a few of us cringed when Jerry mentioned every project had a forge weld or two. That accounted for my sleepless night — while I have made a successful forge weld or two, the pressure was on.

Not to worry — perhaps it was the good coal or Jerry's hammer or the spirit of Francis Whitaker that looks over your shoulder, but all my welds stuck (one on the first try) and I was able to complete the projects.

The first three projects involved a three-legged stand with the third leg welded on. This was my first drop-tong weld, and I dropped more than

the tongs on the first try.

We had ample opportunity to practice the leg arrangement. Each one had a different end treatment — ribbon scrolls on the first one, a bean on the second and a button end on the third.

While the feet were the same, what went on the top was different. The first light was an adjustable table lamp with a candle cup and holder. The second was a rush light that looked like a pair of tongs. We forged a ball on one end to act as a weight to hold the jaws shut. The third was a combination rush light and candle holder.

We learned a lot on the last one. The candle holder was forged from one piece of 1 inch by 3/16 that was hammered paper thin and then rolled into a tapered candle holder. Getting this done without breaking it off or burning it up is impossible, but we all managed it. On the other end is a hole that lets a piece of spring steel pass through to hold a piece of rush (a fibrous plant that was dipped in

tallow and burned for light). Jerry said folks would burn the rush most of the time and light the candle when company came.

The biggest challenge came on the day we made the chandelier. We started with one piece of 1/2 inch round and 6 pieces of 3/8 round. Jerry used duct tape to hold the 3/8 in place around the 1/2 inch but most of us cheated and had the ends arc welded to keep it from flying apart.

You taper one end of the 1/2 inch and then heat the 7 pieces to a nice orange and "chunk on the borax" as Jerry put it in his Carolina drawl. Now the whole mess goes back in the fire until it reaches welding temperature and you weld the arms to the center in a swage block.

You can't imagine how hot it gets hauling this flaming piece back and forth from fire to swage, then to the anvil to keep it round. It takes many heats even if you are Jerry Darnell because you can only weld an inch or so at a time. Mine welded real nice and I turned the end into a ball that developed a nice cold shut, forcing me to quit rounding it before it was right.

Now comes the really fun part — you have to get the arms hot where they meet the center part and bend all six to the right spot in ONE heat. You also have to have enough heat left



*This was the full class for Jerry's colonial lighting class, gathered in front of the shop.*

when you are done to get the Borax and scale off.

Believe it or not, this is possible. Jerry also makes a two tier chandelier with 12 arms — wow! You have to do it all in one heat because once the arms are bent the center section won't go back in the fire.

With the arms bent you can get the ends in the fire to bend them up and offset a small piece for the candle cups to sit on.

When Jerry sells a piece like this (for \$300) he gives the buyer everything they need to hang it, including a forge welded and twisted chain and a screw hook. We did the same, learning to make chain from 1/4 inch round and hooks from unplated lag screws.

The chain was a lot of fun once you got the hang of it. Jerry does it in two heats. I was paying one price for the coal so I decided to get my money's worth and do it in 4 or 5.

In all, it was a great week of forging, though I probably lost 20 pounds from sweating and standing on my feet for 12 hours a day.

We had a full house, with all 13 forges going at once. I met some real interesting smiths from all over the country. Pete Brandenburg was there, courtesy of his wife who was teaching basketmaking. David Thompson and Allen Kress from the Alabama Forge Council were two of the better smiths there. David went home with many pieces to sell. There were even two Yankees, from the Pittsburgh chapter who never did figure out how to get a chandelier onto an airplane.

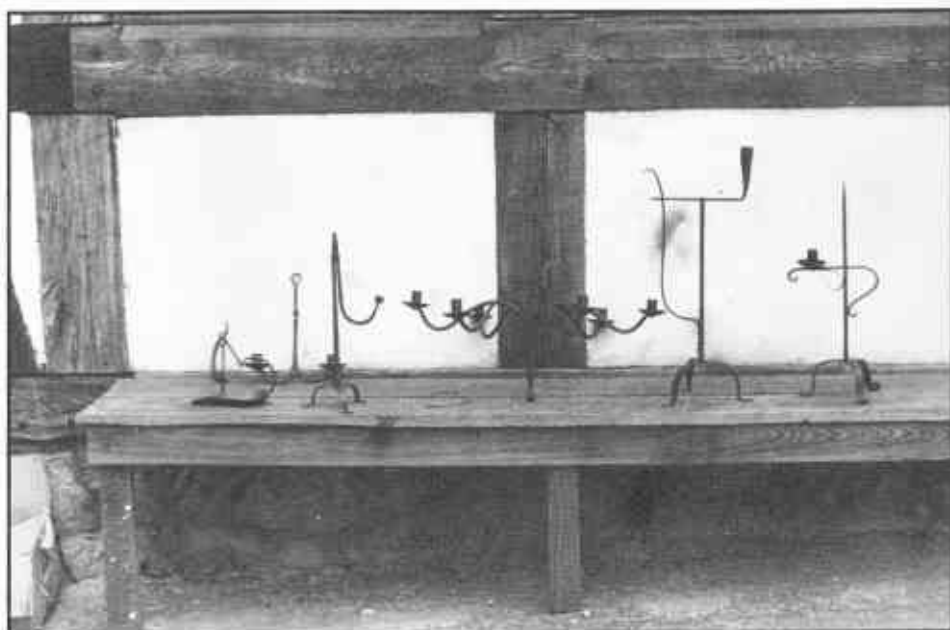
Jerry did a great job teaching us to make these pieces but he also shared valuable info on selling our work and kept us laughing with his rendition of folks who forge at the Penland School, a slightly artsy place just up the road from the folkschool.

If you ever get a chance to forge alongside Jerry (as I did) be sure you help him out with his tools. Jerry works so fast and hits so hard with his stubby hammers that he never gets a chance to tighten up his tongs.

He really would appreciate having someone to tap the rivets a couple times just to keep them tight. In fact, he likes them to be so tight that you



*A fine chandelier made by our token Dutchman, who really didn't know what a mule is. This chandelier is a 6-arm Virginia style fixture. The center is forge welded using 6 pieces of 3/8 round wrapped around a piece of 1/2 inch round.*



*Here's a week's worth of work made by David Thompson, a member of the Alabama Forge Council. Besides the required five pieces, David made the double hanging candle holder (second from left) and a boatload of spare parts to assemble later.*

need two hands to open them.

Don't know when I'll get another chance to venture back to Brasstown but I will do my best to share what I learned with the rest of the membership. If you ever get a chance to see Jerry demonstrate or take one of his classes jump at the chance. He puts on a good show.

# Fire and Fusion

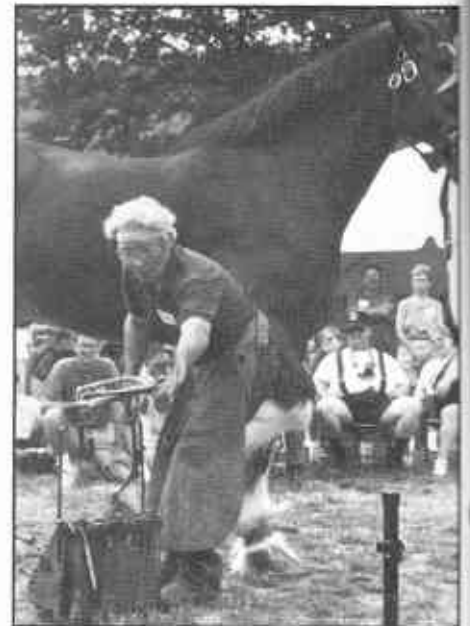
## ABANA Conference one big hot success

Praise continues to pour in for BAM's role in making the 1994 ABANA Conference the best in a number of categories. If you missed that hot sticky week in late June — well, it's not likely to be repeated in this fashion for quite some time.

The biggest problem for most folks was trying to decide what to take in. With all the forging stations we had set up that was quite a challenge. The only true flaw was the many power outages that forced Rob Gunther to switch to more traditional, hand-cranked methods of heating iron.

When the coal smoke finally settles I think we will find that BAM was well-rewarded for our efforts. Let's hope some of us can make it to Alfred in two years so we can truly enjoy a conference. Many thanks to Lou Mueller and his able crew of volunteers and committee chairs for a job well done.

Here's some scenes from the week of blacksmithing on an international scale.

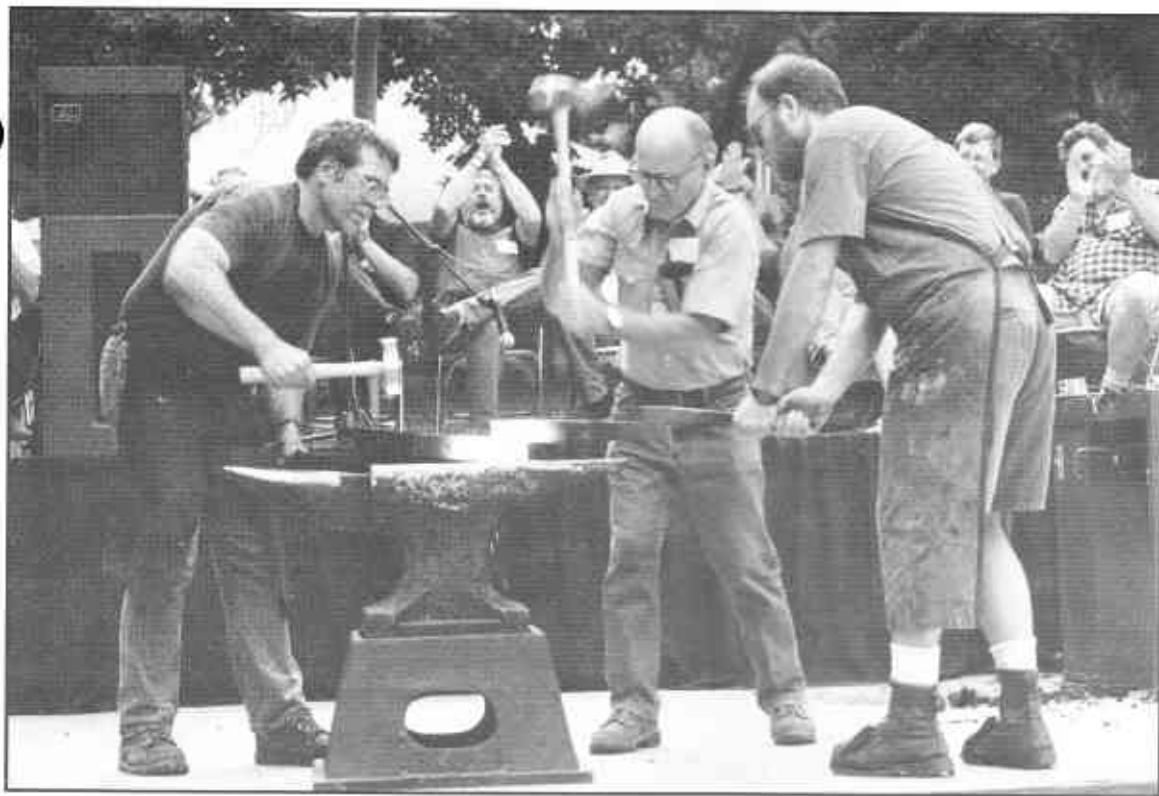


*Above: Master farrier David Wilson, Sr., tosses aside a completed draft horse shoe. He was shoeing a Clydesdale. Below: Bill Gichner gives an economics lesson to demonstrator Uri Hofi from Israel who learned the true value of rusty iron.*



*Above: Francis Whitaker congratulates the proud owner of the ring project, which was made from 6 rings crafted by ABANA chapters nationwide. Jerry Hoffmann's ring (top left) was one of the six selected by Francis, who rejected anything that even looked arc welded. The story is that the woman had \$10,000 to remodel her house and spent \$8,000 on the grill. A wise investment of her money, don't you think?*





*Left: Bob Patrick, Tom Clark and Larry Cooper team up to forge the bolt of lightning that symbolized the opening of the conference. On the first try Bob's side stuck but Larry's didn't — at least that was Bob's story. Good to see these guys are human.*



*Above: Clay Spencer works up a sweat at the treadle hammer. Left: The iron pour was one of the highlights of the conference. The sparks shooting high into the night sky stopped traffic passing by the college.*



*Left: George Dixon (right) gives forging lessons at the beginner's station. Right: Stanley Winkler and Doug Hendrickson looked like this after watching Elizabeth Brim's iron pillow demo.*



# Application for the Tom Clark Fellowship Fund

The Tom Clark Fellowship Fund has been established to assist BAM members who wish to attend out-of-state conferences and/or workshops.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years you have been blacksmithing \_\_\_\_\_

Main interest(s) as related to blacksmithing \_\_\_\_\_

## **Information about conference/workshop you wish to attend:**

Name of conference/workshop \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date you wish to attend \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of what is being taught, if you know \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Short statement of why you want to attend

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

After attending the conference/workshop, you may be asked to write a short article for the BAM newsletter and or invited to demonstrate at a future BAM meeting.



For sale: Hewlett-Packard 7475A Plotter. (B) Size 11x17 flat bed style. Uses 6 colored pens to produce the nicest drawings you ever saw. Works with many drawing programs and all CAD programs. Compare at \$2,000. First \$350 takes. Also have a Hewlett-Packard color pro plotter. (A) size 8.5 x 11, 8 color \$250. Call Grant at (206) 473-2019.

Heavy duty fry pan blanks (steel), approx. 9 inch diameter with 2 inch sides, 12 gauge (.095) thickness. Has two 3/16 inch holes for your decorative handle. \$6 each or 12 for \$60. Shipping \$3 plus 50 cents for each additional pan. Contact Bob Tuftee, 3855 Aspen Hills Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722.

Forge welding with Bob Patrick — the video! 108 minutes of demonstration, instruction and tips in color, showing how to forge weld using a coal forge, a hammer and anvil. Other videos and a blacksmithing school on video by subscription soon to be released.

Wolfhound productions, HCR 67, Box 176, Everton, AR 72633 or call (501) 427-3274.

Treadle hammer for sale: \$800 or best offer. This is one of the ones made at the BAM workshop with Clay Spencer, probably never used. Possibly some other equipment. Contact John Brandt, 9400 County Road 457, Steedman, MO 65077 or call (314) 676-5668.

25-pound Little Giant, good condition, just needs motor. Metal to metal clutch, old style (made in 1914, I think) \$750. Also I have a heavy duty, very old but excellent Barnes drill press with new Jacobs chuck for modern bits. Originally ran off line shaft but easily converted to electric motor. Drills to center of a 15" circle. This is a well-built heavy-duty drill press. \$250. 120 pound Mousehole anvil, rough top needs John Murray treatment, \$100. (Mouseholes are an old brand, real collectable.) Jim McCarty, (314) 897-4111.

Gallery looking for forged items: Exclusively Missouri, a craft store

located in Independence, is looking for blacksmiths to make items for sale in the shop. This gallery specializes in country crafts made by Missouri artisans. Owner Donna Leker travels the state looking for unique items for her shop and would like to hear from BAM members. If you have items for sale call her at (816) 373-5767. I met her at the Christianson Native Craft Workshop — tell her Jim McCarty sent you.

Need brooms tied on your fireplace sets? Contact John and Judy Schoolcraft, HC 65, Box 42, Sullivan, Mo. 63080, (314) 468-5703. The Schoolcrafts are well-known for their broom tying skills. John says the handles need to have some kind of hole in the end. Contact them for details and price. You might have seen them at the Ozark Conference a few years ago.

For sale: Buffalo Forge with Champion Fire Pot, refractory cement bottom. Champion 400 blower, \$175. Call Jim Kendzora, (314) 374-4153.

For sale: #2 Diacro Bender on stand with some bending jigs and original photo copy of the instruction book, \$500. Also quenching oil and linseed oil for sale. Call Pat McCarty, (314) 239-3814.

Wanted: Blacksmiths want to buy and sell tools. Send your needs to the editor, Jim McCarty, Rt.1 Box 20, Loose Creek, MO 65054. Ads are free to BAM members and anyone who has something to sell to BAM members.

Wanted to buy: Large anvils, 200 to 800 pounds. Owns Country Trader Flea Market in Collins, Mo. Buys and sells tools and antiques, has a lot of blacksmith tools for sale. Robin Wood, Junction 13 & 54, Collins, MO (417) 275-4400.

Here's a couple from my Rural Missouri ad. If you call tell them Jim McCarty sent you.

Anvil for sale: Weighs 120 pounds, good condition. Wants \$1 per pound for it. Thomas McDaris, Rt.2 box 46, Lincoln, MO 65338, or call (816) 547-

# BAM

## Bulletin Board

*Got something you need or need to sell? Just jot it down and send it to the editor, Jim McCarty, Rt. 1 Box 20, Loose Creek, Mo. 65054. Be sure to let me know if you want to run it again. All Classified ads are free.*

2618.

For sale: Forge and anvil, good shape, \$200 for the pair. No other info other than her husband bought them from a neighbor who retired from smithing and husband didn't use them much. Contact Ruby Snyder, HCR 67, Box 6110, Macks Creek, MO 65786 or call (314) 363-5645.

Flea Market: Avenue of the Saints Flea Market and Auction, every Saturday from 8 am til ? Consignment Auction 1 pm till ? Live music jam session, food and drinks. For vendor info call Bud at 332-3258. Located 12 1/2 miles north of Troy, Mo. on Highway 61 north.

Blacksmith tools: 150 pound anvil, hammers, cold cuts, etc. Call D.H. Kirby, Sibley, Mo. 650-5912 (no area code given).

Forge for sale, good hand crank blower but needs some tin work — fixable. Make offer. James Whistler, HC 81, Box 8183, Cassville, MO 65625-8118

*BAM member Roberta Elliot gave this  
unique bell making demo at the 1994  
ABANA Conference*

## Bert's

# Bell

by Tim Underwood

Two inch seamless pipe was used by Roberta Elliot to make an attractive and good sounding bell. Most of the techniques used were familiar to me but the tools adapted to the power hammer weren't. This is a short description:

1. 2 inch seamless pipe was cut to 9 inch in length. This will make two bells.

2. With a good orange heat each end of the pipe is flared over the horn.

3. From each end the pipe is then fullered in a guillotine type fullering tool that fits over the bottom die of the power hammer. This fullered

waist should be centered with the inside diameter large enough so that the stem will be tap tight.

4. Next the two ends are separated with a diagonal cut.

5. With a good heat, the diagonal cut end is now fullered on the power hammer to the shape desired. That is, the shape desired by the metal, not necessarily the shape desired by the smith.

6. The stem is from 3/8 inch round about 16 inches long. First a leaf is forged on one end, then a long taper is pulled as far back as desired.

7. The stem is now inserted and the eye for hanging the clapper is formed.

8. The clapper is formed from a short section of 7/8 inch round. All rough edges should be removed after the end is drawn for the hanging hook.

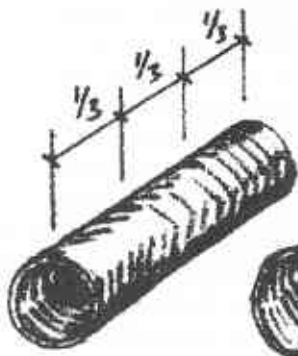
9. The clapper is hung by heating the hook and looping it through the eye on the long shank. Check for freedom of movement.

10. The waist of the bell including the clapper stem is now heated and taken back to the power hammer and fullered into place.

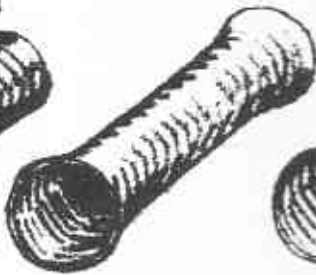
11. The free end of the shank is now free formed into a loop or whatever shape suits you to avoid secondary resonance from the free form top of the bell the stem should wind up with the leaf on the back side touching the free form shape to act as a damper.

12. Brush to remove scale and finish as desired.

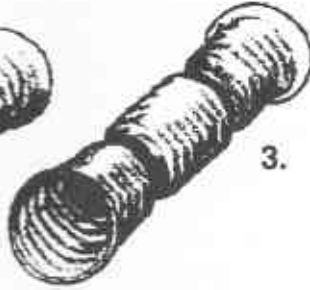
1.



2.



3.



4.



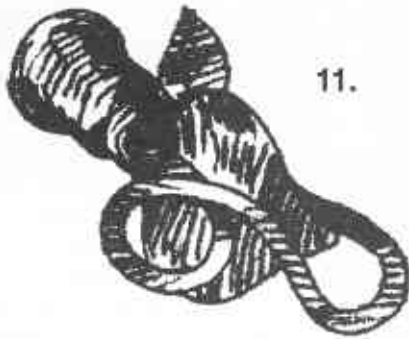
5.



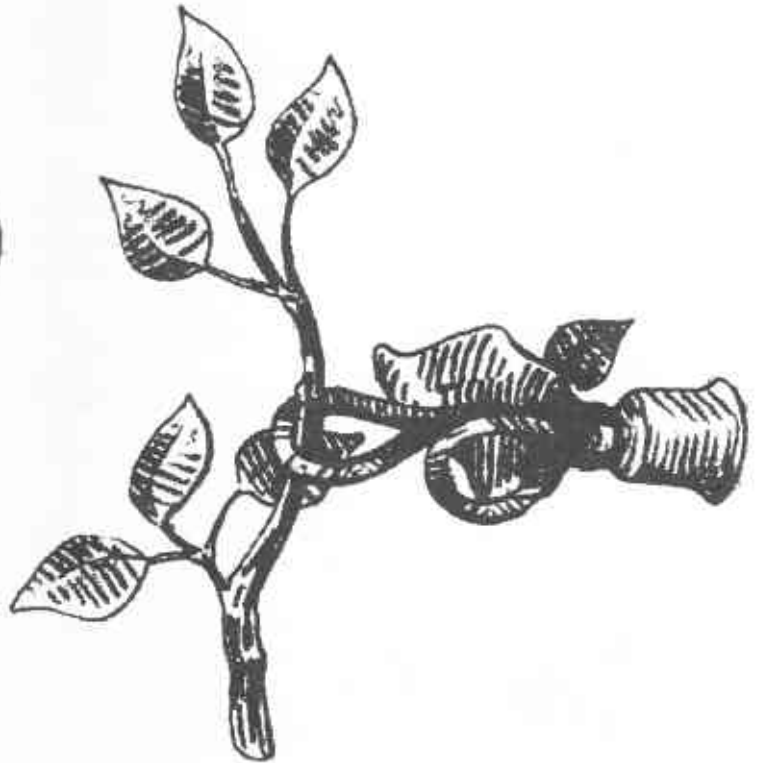
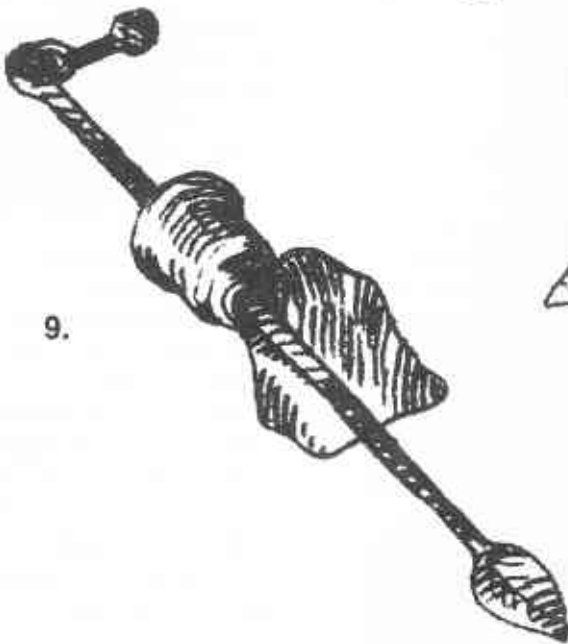
6.



11.



9.



# BAM

## Shop Notes

*Got a tip to share? Jot it down and send it to the editor, Jim McCarty, Rt. 1 Box 20, Loose Creek, Mo. 65054*

### What size candle?

When selecting a candle for that holder you just forged, Jerry Darnell offers this advice: Use tall candles for short holders and short candles for tall holders. This just seems to look best proportionally.

Also, when he sells a piece he gives the customer everything they will need to hang it or use it as intended. For example, his chandeliers come with a short piece of chain, all the candles and a screw eye hook to go in the ceiling. He makes these from unplated lag bolts. You can cut the head off if it is long enough or forge it down at welding heat using a bit of flux to avoid a cold shut where the head joins the shaft.

### Remove rust

To remove rust fill a pail with a solution of 1 gallon water to 1 tablespoon lye. Attach the red positive lead of a 10 amp battery charger to a stainless steel sheet and the negative end to the article to be cleaned. Immerse them in the solution being sure that the two do not touch each other. If the charger drops to zero after repeated uses, add more lye to the solution.

**Warning:** Always add acid to water and when using acids, bases or wire brush tools wear gloves, eye protection and an apron. Take no chances!!

— Jim Kucera, UMBA

### Twisting tips

Most folks think you want a nice even heat to get a nice even twist. Not so says David Thompson, who should know after making many twists on the headboard he forged at the folk school. David says to get the end that will go in the vice and the end that the twisting tool will touch hotter than the rest of the piece. This makes sense because the vice and wrench will suck the heat out of the iron before you get it twisted. Also, it might help to heat the vise up with a piece of scrap iron while the real thing is in the forge. You could probably put your wrench on the hot scrap too to

keep everything hot. Also, by using a piece of scrap the size you are going to twist your wrench will be set to the right size.

It is always hard to start cutting with the torch in the center of a heavy plate or large diameter shaft. To start cutting quicker use a center punch or a chisel to upset the metal where you want to start the cut.

—The California Blacksmith

### Anvil tips

Ever had trouble with your anvil stump rocking on the floor? Just hollow out the center of the stump's bottom about 1/2 to 3/4 inch 2 inches from the outside edge. A chain saw works best for this. This causes the stump to bear on the edge and prevents rocking.

Maybe the ring of the anvil sounds good to some people, but it is hard on the ears. Just place some lead under the anvil feet and the ring will be dulled significantly.

—Bill Hahn, Collins, Ohio

Nol Putnam suggests setting your anvil height so that the top of the anvil is even with your wrist, rather than with your knuckles which is what most of the old manuals say. Nol says that a knuckle height was for the benefit of the strikers who did most of the work in the old days. A higher anvil will keep you from hyper-extending your elbow. If you have two anvils why not put one at a different height than the other? Do the same with your vises.

### Brass is better

If you want to cut down on the time it takes to sharpen your cut-off hardy or other edge-up anvil tools, try using a brass hammer. A #3 brass hammer will make quick work of most cutting jobs and will avoid flattening out the cutting edge if you overshoot the job. The brass is so much softer than the steel that the brass will deform first. This also helps if you need to drive a stuck punch or chisel back out of a hot (or cold) piece of work.

— Frank Garland, UMBA

by Al Stephens

My first and, to date, only sculpture came about as a result of a phone call from a friend studying to be a landscape architect. He was about to submit a proposal to a client for a pool/patio area and said he had a place at the end of the pool where he thought a sculpture of some sort would look nice. I told him I had never done anything like that but that I would draw up several ideas for him to present.

As originally drawn, Corona was to be cut out of 1/4"-thick sheet, flat like a silhouette with "shading" either added to the surface or ground into the surface. The first suggestion was to "dome" it rather than make it flat. It sounded like a good idea, so I laid awake almost all night trying to figure out how to do it, and every way I thought of would add many hours and a great deal of cost to the project. The solution turned up in the local steel recycling facility and started life as the end of a railroad tank car. It was about 8 feet in diameter and 3/8inch thick with about an 8inch dome in it. I did the primary cutting there so I could get it in the truck to take home. Due to many layers of paint it was in very good shape, but I went ahead and had it sandblasted at this point to give me a good surface to do my layout on.

Everything was laid out from a center point. The solid rays were cut first, then the eyes, with all flame-cut surfaces ground smooth. The "shading" on solid rays and eyebrows was fabricated from 1/4-inch round stock and welded on. The nose and lips were from 3/8" round stock, and the smaller rays forged from 1/2-inch round stock and then welded to the body.

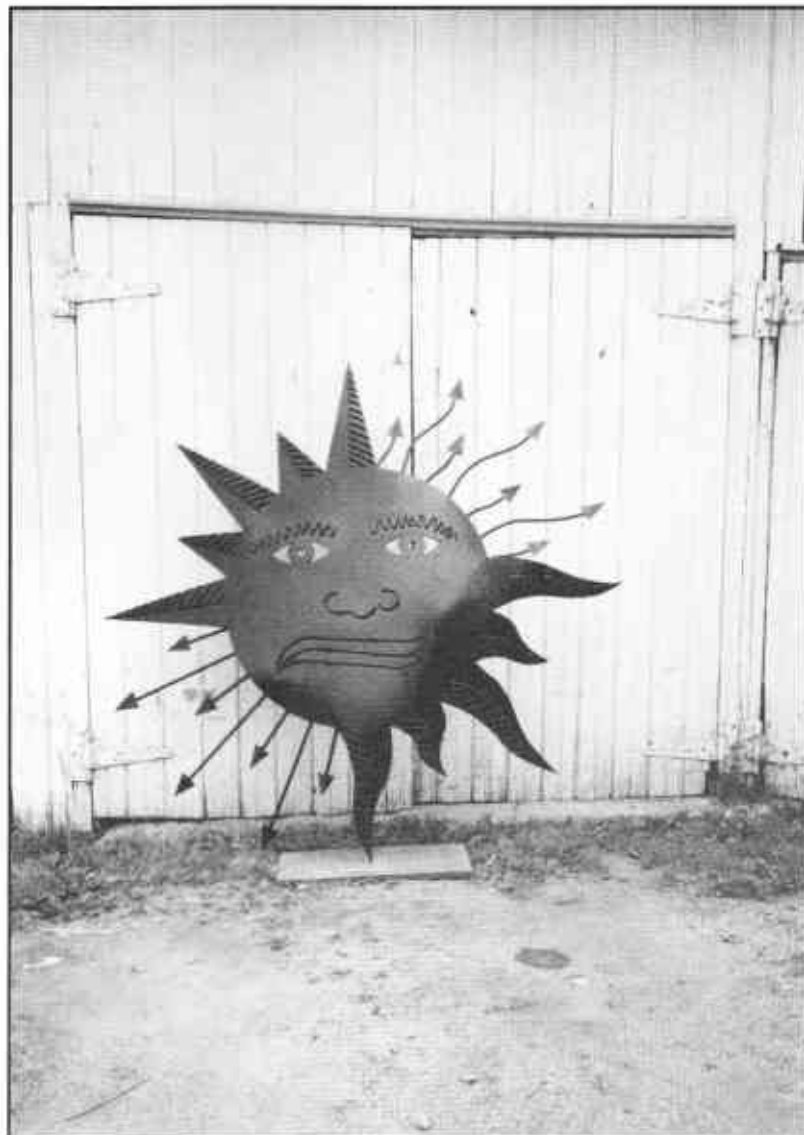
The idea for having the lips look like a half smile and half frown came from a bust of Abraham Lincoln that's in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The shape of the nose was adapted from a sketch of the architect's son.

Corona is supported by an 8 foot long 8inch H-beam, 4 feet of which is set in concrete. The final size is 6 feet in diameter with an approximate weight of 300 pounds. It was primed and painted gloss black, with the supporting H-beam painted to match the wall.

The client was pleased enough that I wound up doing a railing around part of the pool, a short section of fence, and a gate between the main house and pool area.

I had a lot of fun doing the Corona, and I learned a lot from the fence and gate part of the job. All in all it was a good, first major project.

# Study in Corona



# BAM NEWS

## Clay heads West

The Prairie Blacksmiths Association extends an invitation to members of BAM to take in the Clay Spencer demonstration at the same low price charged to members. Clay will be showing his treadle hammer skills in Peru, Neb. Sept. 17-18.

Peru is located 60 miles south of Omaha and 70 miles north of St. Joseph, Mo. Camping is available free on 1 acre of land surrounding the site. Registration costs \$15 for one day or \$25 for two days, with noon meals on Saturday and Sunday for an additional \$2.50 (coffee and pastries in the morning).

Extra forges, coal and gas, and a treadle hamer will be available for extra-curricular hammering. For more information contact Everett Browning, PO Box 17, Peru, NE 68421 or call (402) 872-5945.

## Coal on the way

BAM prez Pat McCarty says a new truckload of coal is on its way just in time for the busy forging season ahead. He says the shipment will be the same good old stuff we've been using minus (we hope) the unknown quantity of debris left by the Meramec River last spring.

We will once again be storing the stuff at Lou Mueller's in Valley Park. It comes in 50 pound bags and goes for \$7.50 per bag. Even though it's bagged it's still pretty messy so don't bring anything that won't stand a little coal dust. Before you make the trip to St. Louis give Lou a call to make sure someone will be around. His number is (314) 225-3252. Valley Park is at the junction of I-44 and Hwy. 141 southwest of St. Louis.

## More power!

The National Ornamental Metal Museum has just received a Reiter/Kuhn air hammer. The KB-1 Machine was a donation from friend and long-time supporter Clifford Brown, owner of Hall-Mark Iron Works in Newington, Va. Accompanying the hammer was a base with all necessary mounting hardware and

seven (yes, seven) sets of dies. Mr. Brown's most generous gift was greeted with toasts and cheers by the entire smithy staff.

This new addition brings the number of museum hammers to three. The Kuhn joins a Sahinler SM-50 and a 25-pound Little Giant. We also have a Spencer-ABANA Treadle Hammer donated by the River Bluff Forge Council. There is considerable debate as to whether or not the latter fits the definition of a power hammer. After Clay's two-day workout (Aug. 6 and 7) participants, leery of aerobics at Spencer's Spa, determined power was not necessarily associated with electrical current. Your comments on this would be welcome.

## Blacksmithing workshop

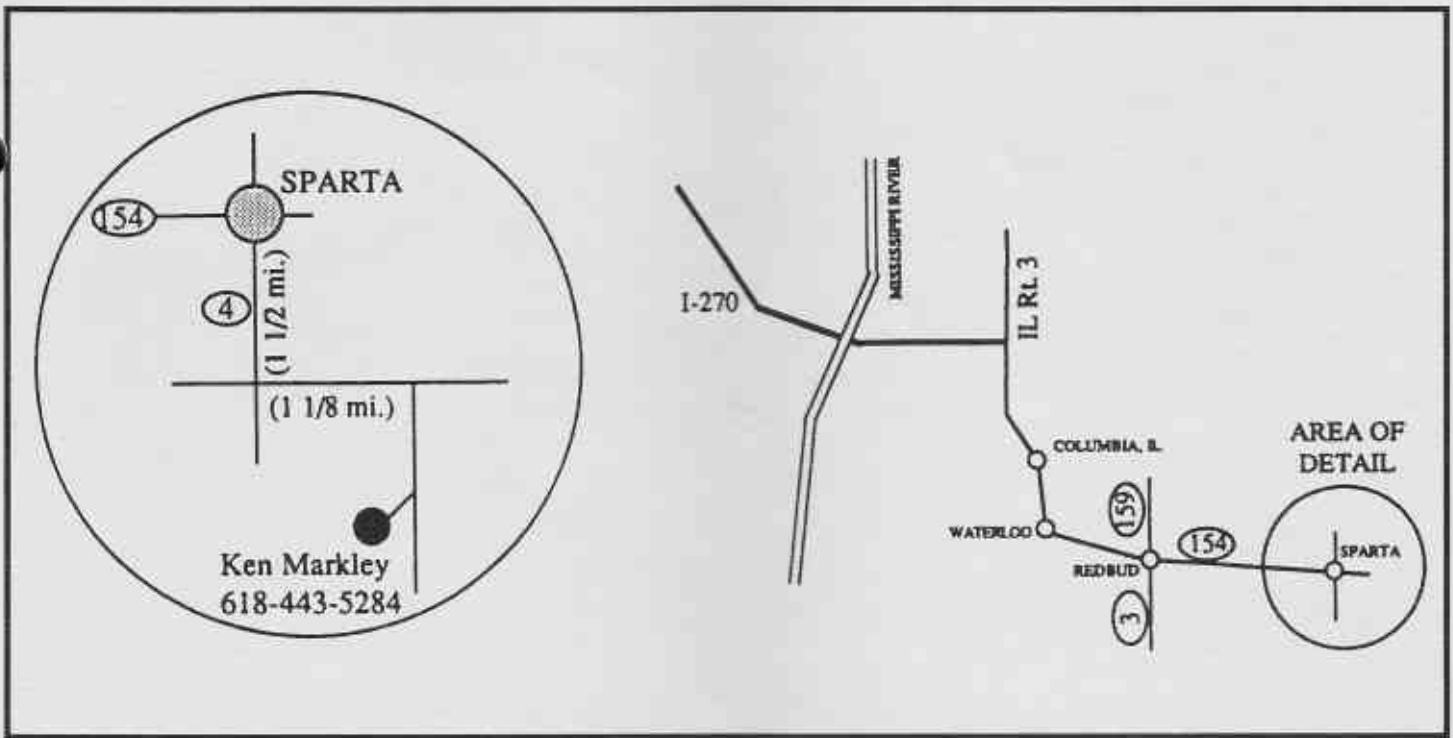
The Jefferson County (Ill.) Historical Society will host a blacksmithing workshop at their pioneer village on North 27th St., Mt. Vernon, Ill. Guest demonstrators will be Roger Lowrance of Canton, Ill., and Gary Jameson of Edwards, Ill. Roger and Gary are professional blacksmiths and members of the Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association and ABANA. They will be using their innovative and award-winning techniques to teach blacksmithing skills for the beginner or advanced blacksmith.

Cost of the workshop will be \$10 per day with all proceeds going to benefit the blacksmith shop and the pioneer village. Both smiths have donated their time to help with this worthwhile project.

Iron int he hat drawings each day at noon. Please bring something to donate.

Coffee and donuts and a weiner roast Saturday evening free to registrants. Saturday and Sunday lunch will be available for \$3 donation per person. Please pre-register to help us get a count for food purchase. Tailgate sales encouraged.

Make checks payable to: Jefferson County Historical Society. Mail to John Lovin, Rt. 2 Box 31, Belle Rive, Ill. 62810.



## Next Meeting

Ken Markely is the host for the September BAM Meeting, which will actually be held on Oct. 1.

For this meeting we will head east of the Mississippi River to Ken's shop located near Sparta, Illinois.

To get there take Interstate 270 east to Illinois Rt. 3. Take Rt. 3 to 154 and go east on 154 to Sparta.

At Sparta you'll hit Rt. 4. Go south on Rt. 4 for 1 1/2 miles and turn left — hope Ken puts a big BAM sign here. Take this road for 1 1/8 miles to

Ken's shop where there will probably be a big iron kettle full of chili. Better eat some for self defense.

Ken says the trade item will be some kind of candle holder. Don't forget to forge something for the iron in the hat. This money goes towards demonstrators, scholarships and other BAM activities. If you can't bring an iron in the hat bring some money to buy raffle tickets.

Ken likes to play with Damascus which he turns into some fine knives. Last time (two years ago) we had a nice poker demo by Dr. Iron and then Ken and Bob Miller forged some

Damascus.

Seems like some scholarship winners owe demos so we expect some new faces at the forge. The editor may even forge a little bit of chain if he can find the right pair of tongs.

Hopefully the new president will make it back from his telephone school in time to put in an appearance. Does anyone know what this guy looks like?

If you get lost give Ken a call at (618) 443-5284 and I'm sure he will dispatch a rescue team.

See you in southern Illinois on October 1.

## BAM Schedule

### September Meeting

Ken Markley, Sparta Ill., Oct. 1

### November Meeting

Hank Knickmeyer, Cedar Hill, Mo., Nov. 5.

### January 1995 Meeting

Jerry Hoffmann, Lonedell, Mo., Jan. 21, 1995

### March 1995 Meeting

Maurice Ellis, Belgrade, Mo., March 25, 1995

### Ozark Conference, Potosi,

Mo., April 29 & 30

### May 1995 Meeting

Walt Hull, Lawrence, Kansas, May 20, 1995

## Nov. meeting

BAM's next meeting is set for November 5 at Hank Knickmeyer's shop near Cedar Hill, which is just south of St. Louis. Hank is one of blacksmithing's best knifemakers so you can expect some good Damascus knife tips here and a look at his hydraulic press.



*This mural was painted on the side of a machine shop in the town of Bernie located in the Missouri Bootheel by Bob Whitehead, who has done a number of murals in the area. Note the blacksmith in the lower right corner who is fixing a child's wagon.*

**BAM**  
**Rt. 1 Box 20**  
**Loose Creek, MO 65054**

First Class  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Washington, MO  
Permit No. 137

**Address Correction Requested**

Please send changes to Maurice Ellis, Rt. 1, Box 1442, Belgrade, MO 63622