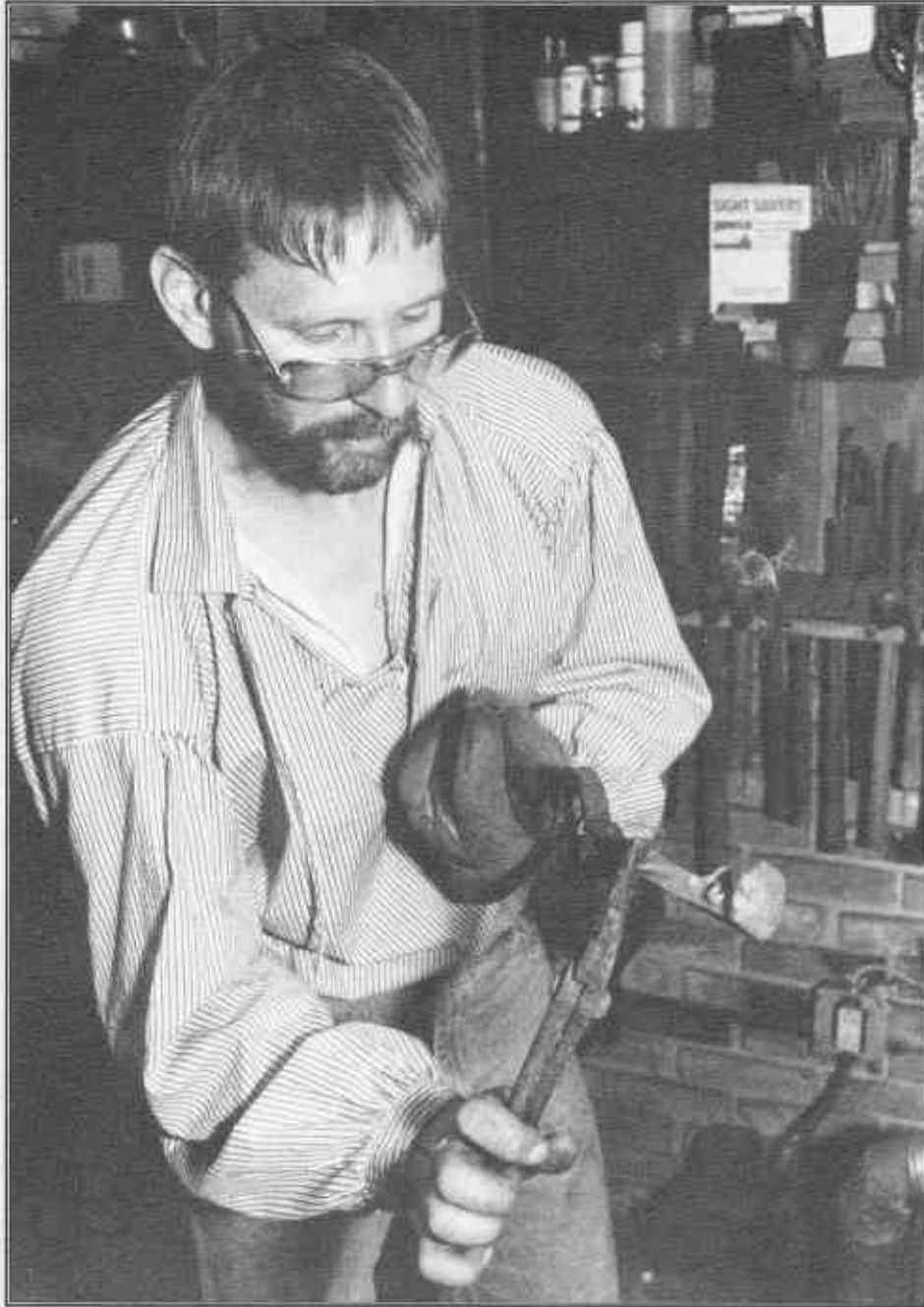


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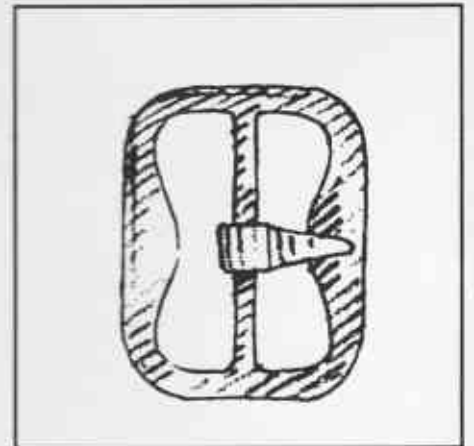
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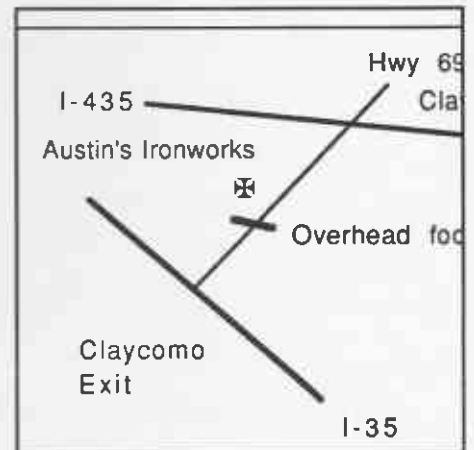
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Newsletter ^{the} of Blacksmiths Association of Missouri

Volume 11 No. 2

Our cover: Pat McCarty puts some life into a railroad spike wizard he forged at the March BAM meeting. Pat hosted the meeting at his Washington forge.

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

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Name: _____

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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: _____

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

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- Fulltime student\$25 yr.
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- Overseas surface mai\$50 yr.
- Contributory\$100 yr.
- Public library.....\$25 yr.

See reverse

BAM

Send this form in an envelope with your payment to:
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Card Number

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

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

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

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Editor's anvil

by Jim McCarty

Meeting new member Jay Berry at BAM's March meeting reminded me of an important point — we have a lot of new members and we haven't done a very good job of explaining the way our meetings work to these new folks.

So I thought I would devote some space in this issue to explaining some of the fine points of BAM membership.

First of all, our meetings are open to all members and anyone they want to bring along, be they a spouse family member or a prospective new recruit. We just ask that those who come along to see what BAM is all about give some serious consideration to joining.

Our meetings are held every other month. The schedule is posted in this and every newsletter. I'll make every attempt to get the newsletter out in time to notify you of the date and give you a map to get you there. However, it would help if you would post the schedule where you can remember the dates should the newsletter arrive late.

At most meetings the host is responsible for lunch. They also pay for the coal and most of the iron we use for demonstrations. For this reason we ask that everyone pitch in when they go through the lunch line, spouses and guests included. Usually \$5 is enough but why not throw in a little more to make sure the host comes out OK?

At each meeting the host will decide what the trade item is going to be. Past trades have included kitchen utensils, tools, belt buckles, hinges, letter openers and a trivet. Here's how this works: If you make a trade item, you get to take someone else's home. This gives you a chance to try your skills and study someone else's iron.

Another important part of the BAM meetings is the Iron in the Hat. This is a raffle of whatever you want to bring and donate to the cause, which is the BAM treasury. You can forge something, donate a tool or

some kind of supplies related to blacksmithing. Then we will sell tickets at \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

We usually bring in \$100 or more in this manner, which can be used to fund BAM's many activities.

The meetings usually begin with demonstrations. Anyone is invited to give a demo, no matter what their skill level is. We try to pick sites for our meetings where there will be enough tools to cover most demos, but if you have special needs you might want to talk to the host before the meeting or bring it yourself.

The afternoons are usually reserved for beginners to step up to the forge and seek the advice of the experts on problems they have been having.

We will also have a short business meeting where we will cover activities past and present and bring up new ideas members might have. Elections for our officers are held at the July meeting.

A few other things you might not know about BAM:

- We buy a tractor trailer load of coal whenever the supply runs low. You can pick up coal at most meetings if you call President Tom Clark or Lou Mueller. Lou stores the coal for us at his shop in Valley Park, a St. Louis suburb located just off I-44. The coal is good stuff, true blacksmithing coal with very little ash. It burns nice. Cost is \$7.50 per 50-pound bag.

- We have a library started last year by Ray Chaffin, who is the librarian. Give Ray a call at (816) 438-6720 and he can tell you what is available. The rules are: 1. User pays postage both ways. 2. Videos are due back in 15 days. 3. Books are due back in 30 days.

- BAM is offering scholarships for the study of blacksmithing. To be considered send your name and address, what you want to do and the expected cost (up to \$500) to scholarship chairman Todd Kinnikin, 8356 John McKeever Rd, House Springs, Mo. 63051.

- Dues expire one year from the

date you joined. No one will remind you of this fact. Your only notice is the date printed on the mail label on the newsletter. Please keep an eye on this and pay up before your membership expires. BAM's policy is No dues, No newsletter. Send your check to Treasurer Steve Austin, 44 NE Munger Road, Claycomo, MO 64119. If your address changes or you move, tell Maurice Ellis. He keeps BAM's mail list. You can write him at Lizard Ridge Blacksmith Shop, Rt. 1 Box 1442, Belgrade, MO 63622; (314) 766-5346.

- We are working on setting up a number of regional hammer-ins where new members can come and practice. Those currently active are: Tom Clark's in Potosi, Mo., usually meets the first Sunday of the month, contact Tom at (314) 438-4725.

The Alexander Majors House in Kansas City, meets the first Sunday of the month, contact David Hoopes (913) 649-6127.

Jefferson County (Ill.) Historical Society in Mt. Vernon, Ill., second Sunday of each month, contact John Lovin (618) 756-2331. Jim Kendzora in Sunrise Beach, Mo., on the Western side of Lake of the Ozarks, every Thursday around 7 p.m. (314) 374-4153.

Your editor sure hopes to hear from you, whether it's just a letter telling us what you are up to or a shop tip, something you want to buy or sell, or a project you think the others will enjoy. Don't worry about artistic ability or writing talent — I'll clean it up for you. Write to me at this address: Jim McCarty, Rt. 1 Box 20, Loose Creek, MO 65054 or call (314) 897-4111 (evenings).

Welcome new members!

by Donnie Fullwood
Editor, Ocmulgee Blacksmith Guild Newsletter

New home for Hoofy

him a standing ovation." (We were pleased that

If you look through the libraries collected by today's blacksmiths you will find that much of the material from the past is written in the German language. One of the demonstrators at the April meeting of the Ocmulgee Blacksmiths Guild Chapter of ABANA left Germany, in part, for the purpose of studying artistic ornamental blacksmithing in the United States. His nickname is "Hoofy" because he mostly works "with the hooves of horses." Why in the world would a smith from the country that furnished us with most of the old written knowledge about ironwork want to come to Madison, Ga? Because he wanted to live, work and study where there is more traditional work being done. Here is Hoofy's story and I'm sorry it's a sad one.

Hoofy informed us that blacksmithing is almost gone in Germany. There are only about 50 traditional shops left in the entire country. The art declined because of the failure of German master smiths to pass on the traditions and techniques. "They are concerned mostly with making the fast money." When Hoofy went to school to become a farrier, he discovered that out of 60 students, he was the only person who knew how to select steel and coal or even how to light a fire in the forge. No one else in his class even knew how to work with the anvil. He was lucky that he had a master that "saved all the old traditions." The other students knew only the torch and the welding machine.

The intent of this article is not to condemn modern tools and methods but to remind us of what can happen to an art form when we come to rely on technology at the expense of tradition. Modern methods have their place in this day and time. It has become increasingly important to be able to produce affordable ironwork. However it is essential that we use traditional methods as often as we

possibly can. If we produce a product similar to mass produced copies of blacksmithing, then the public will eventually come to accept it as correct. Samuel Yellin said, "If a man is truly an artist, he must impose on an unwilling public standards of perfection to which it is not accustomed." The blacksmiths of Germany failed to do this and degraded their art to the occupation of welder. Don't think that it can't happen here because about three decades ago it very nearly did. (I am not knocking welders. Everyone knows that it is an extremely important occupation, but it is not an art. If you want to be a welder, then do so. If you are going to be a blacksmith, then be an artist.)

Hoofy was pleased and surprised to see 30 blacksmiths in one place. He states that, "I have never seen so many in one place." (St. Louis is going to be a real case of culture shock if he gets to go.)

Hoofy's demonstration consisted of teaching the method used in Germany to get twists very accurate and uniform. After getting his iron stock to the desired temperature and placing it in the vise, he covered a segment of it with a length of pipe to match the desired length of the twist. He explained this keeps the air from cooling the iron and at the same time gives him a gauge for the length of the twist. By pushing the piece of iron pipe in contact with the vise jaws, the twisting wrench automatically is positioned in contact with the other end of the section of pipe. He quickly made several uniform twists. By reheating and reclamping in the vise he twisted them in the opposite direction thus forming the only perfect mirror image reverse twists that I have ever witnessed.

As Hoofy worked he told some of the more interesting old German blacksmithing traditions. "Whenever there is a meeting of blacksmiths we would honor the oldest one there, for without his teaching we would not be blacksmiths. This is done by giving

Floyd Daniel was present as Hoofy led us in observing this old tradition for the first time in our country. Considering all that Mr. Daniel has done to promote blacksmithing, especially in this region, there was no one more worthy of the honor.)

"The first thing done by the blacksmith when he enters the shop is to light a fire in the forge, even if he knows he will not need to use the fire that day. The forge fire and the anvil are both considered to be holy.

"When the master enters the shop he goes to the forge and places a smudge of coal dust on his face before opening the doors and looking out so that the townsfolk know that the master is at work and the shop is open." (Only his employees know that they are the ones who opened the shop and do the dirty work.)

"When a blacksmith believes that he has become superior to his master, he places the anvil out in the street. When the master becomes so feeble that he cannot replace the anvil to its stump, he turns the shop over to the other blacksmith and retires."

If you think these and the future traditions that Brooke Mohr and Hoofy will write about in future newsletters are just silly superstitions, keep in mind that hundreds of ex-smiths in Germany felt the same. If for no other reason, tradition keeps fools from reducing an art into an occupation.

There is a new style fireplace tool set in Mockingbird Forge Gallery. The master and other smiths call it "The Buzzard Set" but Hoofy says those birds are American Eagles. He's proud to be here and we are proud to have him. Another warning: "If you visit a traditional German shop and sit on the anvil, it and your arse will become part of a hot horse-shoe sandwich. The master will teach you the meaning of 'Holy.'"

Welcome to the United States and Georgia, Hoofy, and thanks for the warning.

Tom's Turn

How time flies! When I finished my last column I was leaving for Francis Whitaker's with chapter rings in hand. Francis was happy to see them and was pleased with the quality and design.

However, he was quick to agree that we should have more chapters represented. He felt there would be plenty of time to judge the rings in St. Louis and agreed we should extend the deadline so chapters would have more time and we could hopefully get all chapters to send or bring a ring.

This prompted me to announce an extension of the deadline. That news did not set well with at least one chapter who got their ring in on time and raises questions as to how this will be handled. I am writing all the chapters who made the deadline to get their thoughts. Stay tuned.

While visiting with Francis I asked him if I could buy a pair of his tongs. He made it clear (as only Francis can) that he didn't sell his tongs. However, he made me a pair and used me as his striker. What an experience. It was the quickest I have ever seen a pair of tongs made and they carry the famous touch mark. Thanks Francis for the tongs and your hospitality.

Francis was scheduled for carpal tunnel syndrome surgery. They were to do one hand a couple of days after I left and the other two weeks later. I talked to him after the first and he said it worked great and he was looking forward to having the second hand done. After surgery he is planning a five week cruise to rest for the June ABANA Conference.

While in Carbondale, Colorado I visited two other blacksmith shops. One has four smiths sharing a common shop. Each has their own equipment and share some power tools.

What a nice arrangement. When one needs help he works it out with the others. Otherwise every one has his own thing going. The other shop had two power hammers at work when I stopped in, one was a 5B Nazel and the other a small mechanical. I was surprised to see so much work going on in such a small town.

It goes to show there's work out there if you look for it.

Our meeting at Pat McCarty's was good, several demos, good tail gating, good food and a good business meeting. I had asked Maurice Ellis to chair the meeting and he did a good job. Thank Maurice. We decided to send \$50 to help repair the forge at Lumpkin, Ga. We also had an in depth talk about setting up a schedule at several forges on the off month of our regular BAM meetings. This program is shaping up and as soon as the ABANA Conference is over we will be ready to announce a starting schedule.

We had the second forge building workshop at Lou Mueller's and the balance of the forges needed were built. Some were completed, others need more work. Lou will need some more hands on this project. All forges are waiting for fire pots and blowers. Both have been ordered. Thanks to Bill Peik and Centaur Forge for their help.

I attended the hammer-in at SIU-Carbondale, Ill., where a very good program was presented. Those who demonstrated were Bert Elliot, Michael Saari, John Medwedeff, and Daryl Meier.

This past Saturday, April 16th, a small work crew joined Stan to prepare the Lion's Den in Potosi for the Ozark Conference. They included Pat McCarty, Colin Campbell, John Murray, Mark Laiben (who hit the place with tools in hand and really set the pace), Maurice Ellis, Jim Waller and I. Thanks to all for this effort.

And there was the flood of 1994. Lou Mueller called me Tuesday morning and said he had a little problem he could use some help with. Seems the rains that had been falling around my house for the past week were getting out of hand at his place.

Lou said they were expecting a foot or so of water in his shop by Wednesday afternoon and he wanted to move everything he could to reduce losses. Lou being the nice person he is said no rush, if you can make it in the morning we will have plenty of time. After thinking about it for a short time I told my crew to load up in the trucks, we were going

to visit Lou. By the time we reached Valley Park it was obvious that the water was rising much faster than predicted. Lou got everything out that he could just before midnight and by that time the local police were asking everyone to leave and the early rising water caught many people without getting their properties removed. The water reached 5 1/2 feet in Lou's shop and left at least 1 inch of mud for clean up. What a mess. I went back on Sunday to help move the machinery back in.

It is now Monday April 18th and Lou and family are back at work, but with a lot of mud to deal with. Our stash of BAM coal was washed off the pallets with some bags breaking. We will need a few people to bring bags and clean up that mess. If everyone who needs coal will bring their own bags, in a little while we will have it all cleaned up.

In closing, let me say it's only two weeks until Ozark Conference time so get to work on something for the auction and bring some of your work for the gallery.

— Tom Clark

BAM

March

MEETING

As spring days go in Missouri, March 19 turned out to be a pretty good day for a BAM meeting. It wasn't too cold, but it wasn't so hot that we couldn't get near the forge. A crowd of better than 50 turned out for the meeting, which was held at Pat McCarty's forge near Washington.

This was the second meeting Pat has hosted, and this time he made some additions to keep us comfortable and give us more stuff to play with. He had just completed a new gas forge built from the plans in Jerry Hoffmann's *Blacksmith Journal*. The forge needed some fine tuning and after a query from Pat that was directed at V.J. McCrackin, the two set out



Our host turns a railroad spike into a wizard at the March BAM meeting.

to make it hot enough to weld.

It didn't take V.J. long to find the problem and soon the two were working on a piece of Damascus. Pat's 50-pound Little Giant kept the belt on long enough for V.J. to weld something up using some mild steel and an old file for stock.

Meanwhile the editor discovered Pat's brick forge sitting idle and set to work on a back scratcher demo, as learned at the John C. Campbell Folk School. The item worked as promised, despite remarks to the contrary from Ed Harper, who ended up winning it in the Iron in the Hat.

When I got done pounding it was Walt Hull's turn. Walt came armed with some really nifty joints he dreamed up. One was a variation on the Rubick's twist idea and basically traps a piece of plate between a piece of twisted 3/8 square. The other is round stock and would be easier to show you than describe. Look for both and maybe some more stuff in a future newsletter.

Walt knocked out a quick snake before giving up the fire. The little serpent matches the depression in Pat's fire pot and will no doubt enjoy his home there.

Tom Clark also took a turn at the forge and showed his trademark leaf. One more meeting and he could have enough for an entire tree. I missed the demo but J.K. Reynolds knocked out a leaf hook from a lag bolt. This is a real neat trick and is easy to do. I made a pair before I went home — will have to write this one up too.

J.K. and I stayed late to watch Pat create a flower and leaf from a railroad spike. I think he had an idea about making this his contest entry for the Ozark Conference but don't think he could pull it off without taking the 50-pounder along. We enjoyed watching him chase a ball bearing across the floor. Pat's never heard of welding a handle on these things!

Lunch was 15 bean soup, and most of the crowd vented their appreciation in a way that only bean soup can make you do.

After lunch we had the usual business meeting with Maurice Ellis officiating at President Clark's request.

Business went as follows:

- Tom reported that Fred Stock had donated a scholarship to the group, as had the JC Campbell Folk School, tuition only. There was some discussion of the scholarship program from chairman Todd Kinnikin.

- We voted to donate \$50 to help maintain the Beeler Forge, birthplace of ABANA, and agreed to reconsider this item each year.

- Tom read a letter from Ike Bay of the Northwest Blacksmith Association. Ike says his group is planning to have Clay Spencer do a treadle hammer workshop. He thought it would help all clubs if others hosted Clay and let him work his way west.

- Jim McCarty called for volunteers to do a demo at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia this summer. There was a lot of talk about how we should do this. If you are interested in taking part, contact Jim at (314) 897-4111.

- Lou Mueller brought us up to date on the ABANA Conference and called for volunteers to come to his shop on the following weekend to help build more forges.

- The group was reminded that elections for BAM officers would be held at the July meeting hosted by Vernon Fisher.

- Walt Hull offered to open his shop to all comers, provided someone would agree to be the organizer for a monthly hammer-in. If you are interested call Walt at (913) 842-2954.

We adjourned to more beans and a look at the iron on sale outside. Trade items (a trivit) were made by Pat McCarty, Ed Harper, Ken Valdejo, Jim McCarty, Jim Kendzora, Maurice Ellis, Phil Cox and J.K. Reynolds.

The Iron in the Hat included:
Back scratcher, Jim McCarty
Snake, Ruth Hull
Triangle bell, Jay Berry
RR Spike wizards, lag screw leafs, Pat McCarty
Large fork, candleholder, John Murray
Forged joints, Walt Hull
Poker and nail, Tom Clark
Leaf hook, JK Reynolds
Clevis hooks for bending stock, Phil Cox



Above: The weather was just warm enough to let us move the conversations outside in front of Pat's post and beam house. There was a pretty good assortment of rusty iron for sale.



Left: Walt Hull, left, Pat McCarty and Andrew MacDonald try to figure out how Jerry Hofmann forged his ring, which was chosen to represent BAM at the ABANA Conference.



Left: Tim Underwood, right, matches wits with two of the toughest tool tailgaters in the business, Colin Campbell and J.K. Reynolds.



**ABANA President's message
April, 1994**

Dear ABANA Chapters,

In an attempt to catapult ABANA into the twenty-first century, we have embarked on an ambitious plan to launch blacksmithing into outer space. This is not as far fetched as it may sound; remember that all throughout history, blacksmiths have been among the first to blaze trails across the frontiers. Experiments already conducted in the zero gravity environment have proven to be extremely problematic, however. Water from the slack tub, floating around the orbiting blacksmith laboratory, combined with the burning coal from the forge, also floating around, make billowing clouds of steam. Ordinarily, that wouldn't be a big problem; but unfortunately our crack team of astronaut-blacksmiths keep opening a window to get some fresh air, with rather disastrous results. Anyone wishing to become a part of this program, and replace our dwindling supply of astronaut-blacksmiths, please send a resume to ABANA/NASA Astrosmith Research Project, 1234 April Fools Drive, Coaldust, South Dakota.

Seriously now, I know that there aren't very many giant sized blacksmiths out there. But it is nice to know that ABANA is serving their needs as well! Please bear with me while I point out that among our other fine conference souvenirs, we will have tee-shirts in sizes up to 3XLT! This was a request from an extra-large ABANA President, yours truly. As an aside, I would also like to say that I have seen the tee-shirt designs, as well as the belt buckles and other memorabilia, and they are really beautiful! So while I know that people don't go to conferences just for souvenirs, I can tell you that the June, 1994 ABANA Conference in St. Louis Missouri, will have some great ones.

What's good for the goose is good for the gander dept, or why let the Chapters have all the fun: The Chairman of the ABANA Rings Project has asked the ABANA Board members to make some rings as well! It may have occurred to you that with the number of Chapters sending rings in to the ABANA Rings Project, that 1) they will have quite a few beautiful rings to choose from, and 2) what they do with those rings will be an awesome sight to behold! Just think about all those rings for a moment — carefully crafted, the very best the Chapters (or Board members!) have to offer, completely random patterns other than the 10 inch parameter! I can't wait to see the finished products!

The '94 ABANA Conference packets are being mailed out this month to ABANA members for pre-registration. If you do not receive yours by the first of May, you may send a postcard to the committee with your request: ABANA Conference '94, PO Box 453, Valley Park, MO 63088.

What weather. Spring has definitely sprung, the shop doors have flown open! This would be an excellent time to do a little spring cleaning. After all, why else would they call it spring cleaning if you weren't supposed to do it in the spring? The obvious benefit is reduced fire hazard, but it also has the added benefit that a clean shop is easier on the eyes!

Wishing you beautiful spring weather,

Clayton Carr
ABANA president

ABANA Liaison

Atta boy!

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland, which forged and donated gates for the Kemptown Cemetery at Providence Methodist Church in Kemptown, MD.

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association which is forging the decorative discs for the main gate to the Pioneer Settlement for the Creative Arts at Barberville, FL.

Community projects

If you haven't already undertaken one, consider a community public area project like BGOP's & FABA's community gates. It satisfies a number of the fundamental reasons for your chapter's existence: 1) It educates the public to recognize the difference between real iron and the usual fabricated stuff; 2) It provides a whole series of projects for numerous teaching type hammer-ins — from design, code compliance, construction templates, samples, fabrication, assembly and erection/dedication, and; 3) it gives your members, at every level, satisfaction of contributing something to the community while learning.

Public education

One of the challenges for ABANA and the Chapters is public education. I get frustrated to speechlessness when I see a home or office with quality stained glass and masonry surrounded by 10 cent bent, cut, and badly stick welded steel overcharged by someone who has no concept that the material can be heated and manipulated.

Community projects are one way . . . another is local art shows. With this in mind, I mounted an old screen section sample on a walnut base and stuck it in the car when my wife was taking paintings to a regional art show. The juror thought it was sculpture (which I suppose it is) and it was displayed in a local mall for over a month.

Let's share other public education ideas in our newsletter exchange.

75 days to conference time!

Spring chapter calls

Starting April 1, 1994 ABANA Board members will be contacting your chapter. Have your president prepared to respond to the attached questions.

Anvil shoot liability

Re-read, reprint and study Tim Ryan's article on Anvil Shooting in the January 1994 Texas ForgeReview.

Let me scare you a little with a hypothetical situation:

George X is a retired engineer who took up smithing after his wife died and serves as a Chapter Director. The Chapter schedules a public conference. The Board talks about the danger, but decides to end the day with an anvil shoot anyway, without much thought to who is going to do it or how. Member Billy Bub has an old anvil he's willing to risk so he gets the job.

Without any supervision from the Board, Billy Bub thinks he doesn't have enough black powder so he throws in the remaining cans of smokeless from his reloading table and since he only has one anvil to risk he uses an old swage block on the bottom and adds a 2 inch plate of unknown material with a hole in it to make room for his arbitrary volume of explosives. At the last minute he throws a dynamite stick. Billy Bub has been drinking again. When the swage block shatters, one of the pieces takes out a spectator, the steel plate discus decapitates another and when the anvil finally comes down it lands on a wheel chair spectator, the only 3 people besides George in Yaknapatwaffa County with high paying jobs.

Their widows hire me. After I get your Chapter's \$2,127.13 treasury, I'm going to get George's house, cars, savings and retirement plan for voting to allow this catastrophe . . . kill my client. I kid you not.

Change of Officers? If you have a change of name and/or address for your President or Editor, please drop us a postcard with the information so we can update our list.

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

Blacksmith's
P. O. Box 1131
Stanwood, WA 98292

gazette

**The Newspaper
for Blacksmiths**

Blacksmith's Gazette is published Monthly as a tabloid size newspaper for blacksmiths. It doesn't deal with blacksmithing as an art, but with the craft of blacksmithing. It contains news, tips, and techniques related to the craft of blacksmithing. **Subscribe Today!**

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Lou Mueller
224 Benton
Valey Park, MO 63088
(314) 225-3252

1994 ABANA Conference Chairman

So what's this talk about a big blacksmith get-together this summer? You've been hearing about it for some time now. You know BAM's got something to do with it and for this reason it's probably going to be big.

So what's the story? Read on friend, and we'll try to answer each and every question so you can get prepared for the biggest blacksmith happening since fire met iron.

Q Who's sponsoring this conference?

A The conference we are talking about is the 12th biennial (every two years) conference of the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America. ABANA was founded in 1973 to keep blacksmithing alive. Toward this end, ABANA hosts a conference to promote the exchange of ideas between blacksmiths worldwide. Each time ABANA holds a conference, the group asks a chapter to host the event. This year is BAM's turn. With its central location, we expect this to be the largest gathering of blacksmiths ever held.

Q Where will the conference be held?

A On the campus of Washington University in downtown St. Louis. The campus is located across from Forest Park in the central west end of the city. Washington U. is ideally suited for the ABANA Conference. It is a large private school with well-maintained conference facilities. The site is surrounded by dorms, classrooms and dining facilities available for the conference.

1994 ABANA Conference Preview

Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.
June 14-19, 1994

Q When is it?

A The conference starts with registration on Wednesday, June 15. The program will run June 15 to 19 with Sunday, June 19 as the departure date. Dorm rooms will be available for early arrivals and late departures.

Q Who can come?

A For legal reasons, all participants must be ABANA members. However, if you aren't an ABANA member you will be after paying a slightly higher registration fee. Family members are welcome too.

Q Who's demonstrating and what will they be doing?

A Here's a partial list:
Jim Batson, Bowie knife from start to finish
Elizabeth Brim, Sculpture, featuring non-traditional forming techniques using compressed air

Jack Brubaker, Jigs, fixtures and production tips
David Court, Forged house hardware, hinges, latches, etc.
George Dixon, Forging with tooling from the shop of Samuel Yellin and treadle hammer techniques.
Roberta Elliot, Forging a bell
Scott Fredenburg, Forging iron furniture
Glen Gilmore, Iron work for the hearth
Robb Gunter, Tools from junk yard steel. Identification, forging and heat treating
Hank Knickmeyer, Mosaic Damascus

John Medwedeff, Architectural details
Russell O'Dell, Metal spinning, bowls, ladles and more
Bob Patrick, Forge welding, easy to exotic
Al Pendray, Forging ribbed blades under the power hammer with spring dies
Walt Scadden, Moving up in scale. Your first gate, railing or grill
Steve Schwarzer, Knifemaking
Nana Showalter, Power hammer forging of a large ornithological critter
Clay Spencer, Treadle hammer and tools, tools, tools
Chuck Patrick, Beginning projects and buckskinner's ironware

Q You mentioned worldwide. Will there be foreign demonstrators?

A Yes, the countries of Germany, Switzerland, England, Scotland, Norway, Poland and Ireland will all be represented at the forge. Here's that list:
Manfred Bredohl (Germany) He will assemble a sculpture using scrap iron

from the conference site.
 Christophe Freidrich (Switzerland)
 Clever forging and joinery
 Jim Horrobin (England) Architectural ironwork
 David Wilson, Sr. and David Wilson, Jr. (Scotland) Father and son master/striker horseshoeing team. They will demonstrate draft horse shoeing
 Olav Punt (Norway) Traditional and contemporary ironwork
 Franciszek Wisiniewski (Poland) Architectural ironwork
 Paul Zimmerman (Germany) He will be assisted by his son as striker.
 James Butler (Ireland) Irish horse-shoer who will forge English-style horse shoes

Q Is there anything of interest to farriers?

A Sure, we wouldn't leave you guys out. Besides the Wilson team and James Butler, you'll get to see a Clydesdale being shod.

Q What else is on the agenda?

A Besides the demonstrators, there will be panels, lectures and discussions on a wide range of topics relating to blacksmithing. These will include computers, video taping, alternative uses for Damascus, tooling, the work of Samuel Yellin, architecture, air hammers and legal matters (including copyright and liability).

Slide shows will include Jim Batson on the Bowie knife, Manfred Bredohl, Paul Zimmerman and Christophe Freidrich on their recent work, Olav Punt on historic Norwegian ironwork, David Seacrest on using Damascus in sculpture and Joan Kahr on Art Nouveau and Art Deco work by Edgar Brandt.

There's also an iron pour put on by Tom Gipe, Wayne Potratz, Jim Schwartz and David Hartman. They will cast commemorative anvils and malleable iron ingots for forging on site.

Q What's going to happen to the rings being forged by chap-

ters?

A Francis Whitaker will lead a team of blacksmiths who will assemble a grill composed of six rings. Each chapter has been asked to submit a ring. Francis will select the six rings to be used in the grill.

Q Will there be an opportunity for beginners to try their hand at the forge?

A Yes. A forging station with 10 forges and anvils will be available at the demonstration site for this program. Students will be chosen in a lottery drawing. Classes will be given by George Dixon, who will host six two-hour classes. 120 students will have an opportunity to learn under his direction. In addition, George will show how to conduct a demonstration. Roberta Elliot, Elizabeth Brim and Nana Showalter will team up to teach one three hour class. Twenty students will be selected for this class. There will also be a hands-on workshop on the use of the Macintosh computer taught by Enrique Vega.

Q What's for sale?

A Glad you asked, because ABANA does this thing in part to raise some funds. There will be many commemorative and collectible items for sale, including T-shirts, brass anvils, lapel pins, pendants, bandannas, hats and patches. Most of the major suppliers of blacksmith equipment and tools will be set up at the trade show.

There will also be an auction officiated by Tim Ryan of items donated by ABANA members. There will also be a silent auction and an Iron-in-the-Hat at the end of each day.

Q My family wants to come but isn't interested in the blacksmith program. What can they do?

A This conference is a family affair and you are encouraged to bring them along. Three bus tours have been arranged, shuttle buses

will make stops at all the St. Louis landmarks and craft classes, ranging from beginning ceramics to growing herbs will also be offered.

Q When do I need to register?

A To ensure on-campus housing and meals register before May 31.

Q How much does it cost?

A For ABANA members the registration cost is \$165 check or money order or \$170 credit card before May 31. After the 31st it is \$190 and \$195. For non-members, the cost is \$200 check or money order and \$205 credit card before May 31. After that date it increases to \$225 and \$230. (Note: This is for registration only — meals and lodging are extra.) The non-member fee includes an ABANA membership. Family members can get in for free.

Q Where can I get more information?

A Registration materials were sent to all active ABANA members. If you aren't a member or didn't get the material by May 1, write to: ABANA Conference '94, PO Box 453, Valley Park, MO 63088.

How I Did It

by Walt Hull

Recently I had two little forging problems to solve and just didn't know how to go about them (This happens a lot to me). I thought I'd pass them on in case someone else would find them interesting, and in hopes someone else would have better answers. In both cases I'm sure there's a WAY TO DO THIS, but I didn't know it, so I just forged ahead.

No. 1: Belt Buckle

Jim wanted a replica of a Continental soldier's belt buckle. He didn't have one to show me but he had a drawing. (Figure 1)

Here's what I did:

Take a piece of 1/4 inch round rod by 7 inches long.

Upset and scarf (Figure 2)

Bend and weld with scarfs on the sides of the ring (not one inside and one out). (Figure 3)

Shape to oblong.

Wide, flat spot occurs naturally at weld if you don't correct it. (Figure 4)

Let it be, but make sure it ends up here.

Refine corners over stake. (Figure 5)

Forge to match welded side. Taper to inside.

Bend entire body flatways to fit soldier's belly. (Figure 6)

Draw something to about 14 gauge by 5/16 wide and procede as though making a very small hinge: (Figure 7)

Bend back and weld.

Center the eye.

Cut off and file to shape. (Figure 8)

Forge a piece about 5/32 round for the center bar. Slide the tine over it and gas weld to the body.

File to finish.

No. 2: Fix broken lock

Steve had an antique mortise lock with a broken piece. The piece looked like this: (Page 16, Figure 9)

I used a piece of 3/4 inch round rebar forged to about 9/16 square and proceeded as follows:

Set down over sharp edge of anvil. (Page 16 Figure 10)

Thin and refine. (Page 16, Figure 11)

Punch to 5/16 inch. Drift to 5/8. (Page 16, Figure 12)

Cut with hacksaw. (Page 16, Figure 13)

Bend out halves. Hole will distort and must be refined and trued on small tapered stake.

Forge away from boss (level carefully when done). Cut off, file, drill hole. (Page 16, Figure 14)

Now what's the right way?

Figure 1

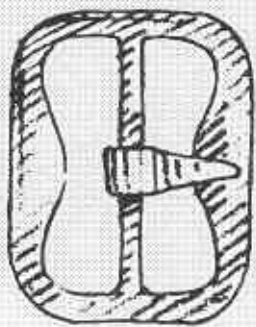


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 5

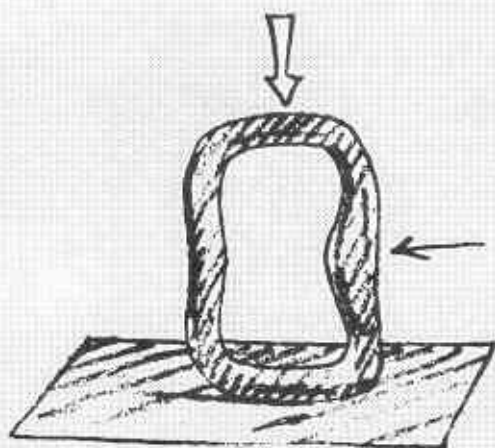
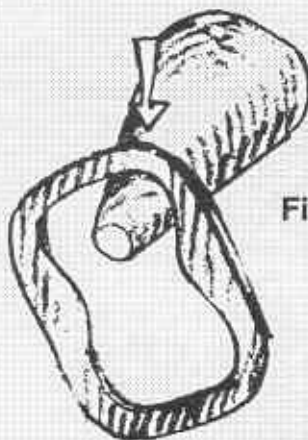


Figure 4



Figure 6



Figure 7

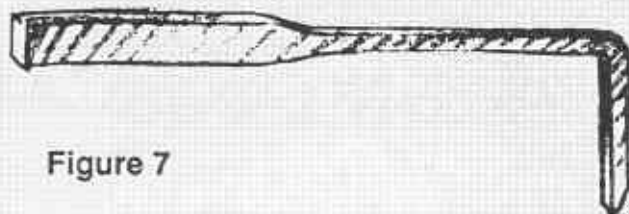


Figure 8



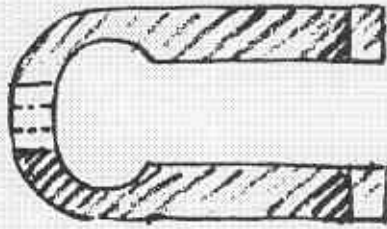


Figure 9

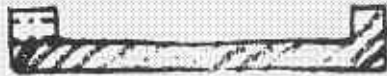


Figure 10

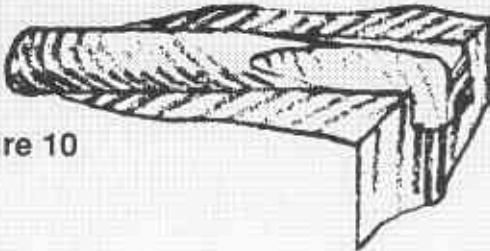


Figure 11

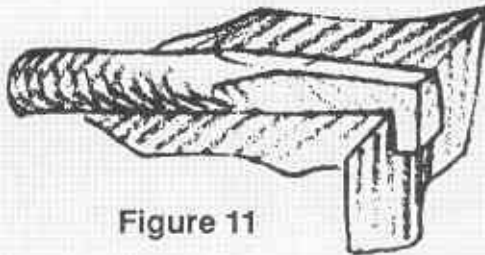


Figure 12

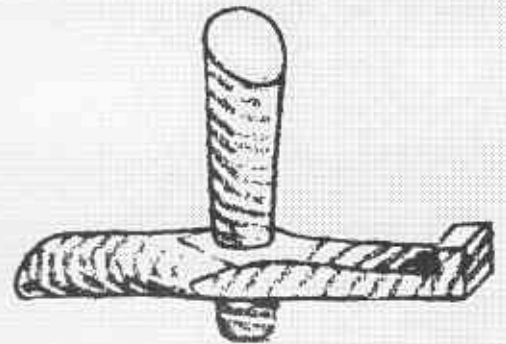
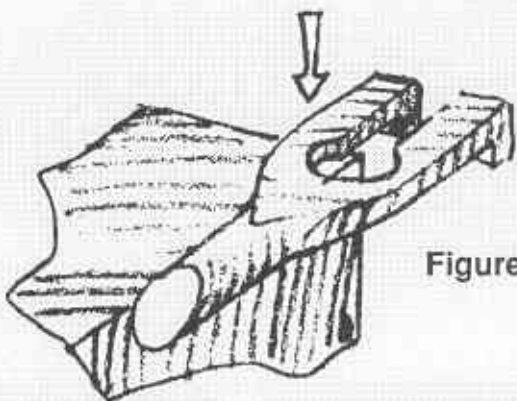


Figure 13



Figure 14



For sale: small forge, complete with hand crank blower. Excellent condition, completely restored. This would be a good size to move in and out of the garage. \$95. Contact Joe Wilkinson at (314) 943-6779.

Preston Williams is looking for a very large wagon tire bender. He is one of the last remaining wagon builders who does the whole nine yards. He can be reached at Box 272 A, Madison, MO 65263 or call (816) 291-8740.

For sale: Large Winner sheer, with arm. Similar to Edwards. \$100 or trade? I also have two post vises, \$40 for the smaller one and \$45 for the large one. Contact Jim McCarty (314) 897-4111.

For sale: Quenching oil, linseed oil and way lube, super sticky stuff for lubing machinery ways, great for power hammers because it won't fly off. Call Pat McCarty at (314) 239-3814.

For sale: 25-pound Little Giant hammer, completely rebuilt, \$2,000. Jim Hunt, 230 NW 11 St., Warrensburg, MO 64093 or call (816) 747-7965.

Announcing the **Forgery School of Blacksmithing**. A 50-hour blacksmithing course structured for both the novice and the blacksmith with a year or more experience. The course covers all the basic aspects of blacksmithing: hammer control, lighting and tending a coal fire, drawing, upsetting, twisting, splitting, punching, drifting, tool steel forging, and heat treating, scrolling, riveting, and forge welding.

Also offers a 50 hour course for the intermediate/ advanced blacksmith with more experience and a proficiency with all the basic aspects of forging and a desire to refine his or her skills. Subjects covered include tongs, hammer heads, special punches and chisels, scroll design and development, collaring, riveting, mortise and tenon joinery, spring fullers and swedges and touch marks.

For more information write to: The **Forgery School of Blacksmithing**, 13 Imnaha Rd., Tijeras, New Mexico 87059 or call (505) 281-8080.

The following ads came in response to the ad I am running in Rural Missouri looking for blacksmith tools. If you contact them you might mention you heard about it from Jim McCarty.

For sale: Forge, hand crank blower and water trough. I want \$100 for them. Call Randy Little, (314) 346-4266 or write 121 Banner St., Camdenton, MO 65020.

For sale: Champion Blower, No. 400, marked Lancaster Forge Co., Pat. 1902. Contact Larry Allison, Rt. 5, El Dorado Springs, MO 64744. Don't know what it's worth, make offer.

I have for sale these two items pic-



tured (anvil and forge). I am asking \$200 for both. Contact Herb Hunt, 4135 Roemer Rd., Columbia, MO 65202 or call (314) 443-0344 (home) or (314) 449-3811 ext. 296 (work.)

For sale: Two anvils. Bigger one belonged to her grandfather who was in the business before 1910, so it's real old — \$250. The other a little smaller, price is \$200. Lillian Rankin, 706 N. Broadway, Princeton, MO 64673 or call (816) 748-4764 around 8 am.

Classified ads are free for BAM members or anyone else who has something to buy sell or trade to BAM members. Send your items to Jim McCarty, editor, Rt. 1 Box 20, Loose Creek, MO 65054.

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.

THE OCMULCEE BLACKSMITH'S BEGINNERS CORNER BY BUSTER GRUBBS

HEART MEAT FORK BY BUSTER GRUBBS SHADY RESO FORGE

This project may seem a little hard for a beginner, but don't panic! The procedures are simple if taken one at the time. Don't get in a hurry. If you do a No No, just remember what not to do next time. Just start over. (Blacksmiths were the ones that started Junk Yards years ago).

(1) Take a piece of 3/8 Square-14" long and split both ends about 2". This can be done with a Hacksaw or with a Hot-cut Chisel.

FIG. 1



(2) Draw out both sections of one of the split ends to long tapered points of equal length. This can be done easier by heating and bending the sections 90 degrees to the stock.

FIG. 2



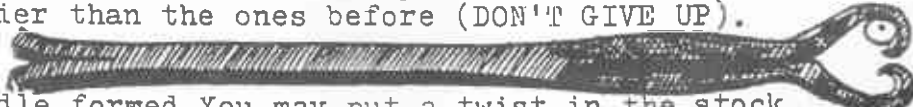
(3) Flatten 5" just under split to about 1/4" thick, then start hitting this area's top-side edges with your hammer held at an angle. This will leave a ridge down the center of the flattened area.

FIG. 3



(4) Now heat and bend the tapers around the smallest point of your anvils horn to form a heart. I find that this is easier if you start at the point of the taper and work toward the thicker part while moving forward a little each tap. If both sides of your heart don't look like mirror images, take a pair of pliers and adjust one until they do. It will take a little practice but each heart you make will look a little better and be easier than the ones before (DON'T GIVE UP).

FIG. 4



(5) Now you have the handle formed. You may put a twist in the stock just below the handle if you like, forge the stock octagon, or leave it as is. The choice is yours.

FIG. 5 (OPTIONAL TWIST)

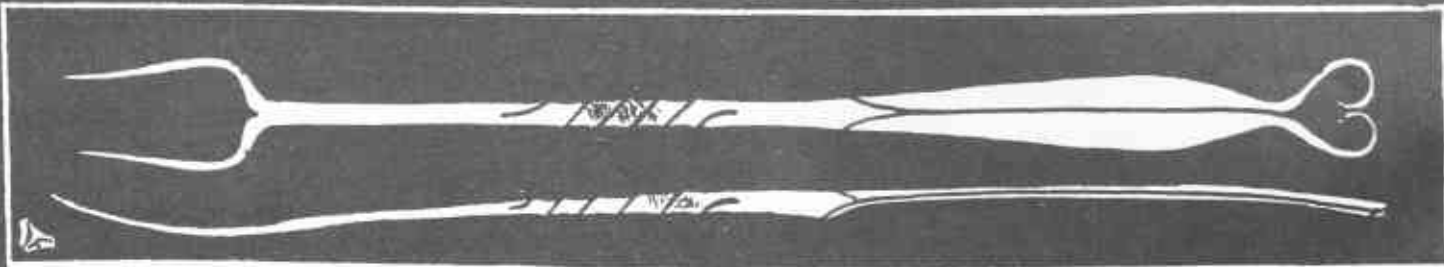


(6) Draw the other split end out just as you did the first but shape the sections into two long tapered fork tines.

FIG. 6

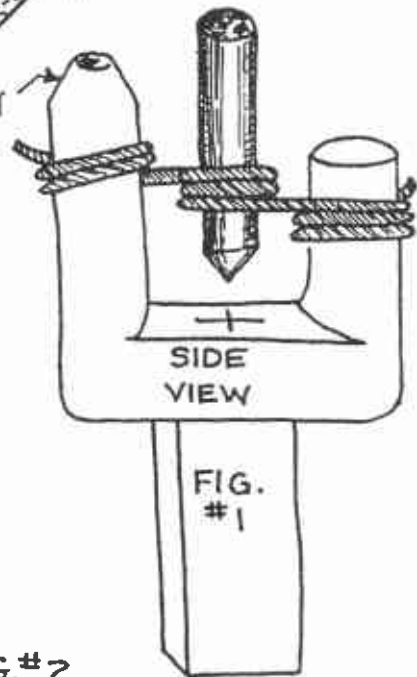


(7) Bend the tines upward a little and the handle down a little to give the side profile a flowing shallow "S" shape as shown below.



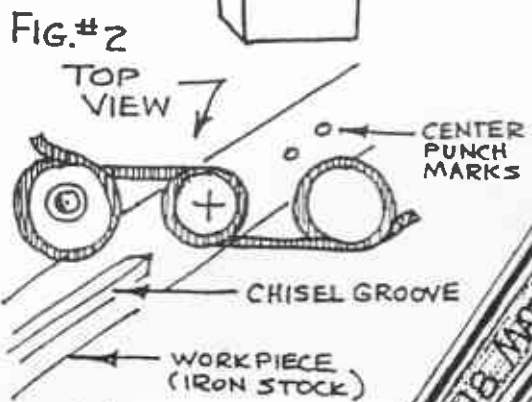
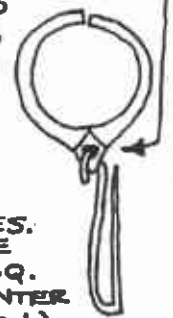
FROM MR. RICHARD SHIELDS
 2 ADDITIONS TO THE BENDING FORK

IN A COUPLE OF PAST ISSUES OF OUR NEWSLETTER WE FEATURED HOW TO ARTICLES ON A CENTERFINDING JIG AND A MULTI-PURPOSE BENDING FORK. MR. SHIELDS INFORMS US THAT YEARS AGO BLACKSMITHS COMBINED THE TWO TOOLS AS SHOWN BELOW, IN ADDITION, THEY USED THE SAME SET UP TO GUIDE A GROOVING CHISEL. *The Editors*

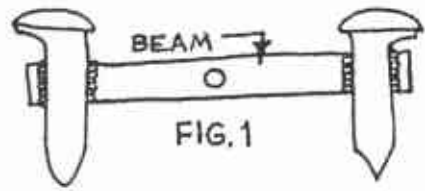


- ① WRAP A PIECE OF HEAVY WIRE AROUND YOUR CENTER-PUNCH 3 OR 4 TIMES
- ② WITH THE POINT HELD IN THE EXACT CENTER OF A BENDING FORK, WRAP THE ENDS OF THE WIRE AROUND EACH OF THE FORK TINES AS IN FIG.#1
- ③ PLACE ANY SIZE STOCK IN THE FORK AS SHOWN IN FIG. 2 AND THE PUNCH (OR CHISEL) WILL MARK THE EXACT CENTER OF YOUR WORK.

THIS NEAT, NEW CONTRAPTION IS USED FOR MULTIPLE PURPOSES. IT CAN BE MODIFIED FOR YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS. JOE USES IT FOR FORMING COUNTERSINKS AND FOR FORMING PROTRUSIONS CALLED "DOGEARS" ON HIS CURTAIN RINGS (INTO WHICH HE THEN DRILLS A SMALL HOLE) FOR THE HOOKS. HE SUGGESTS THAT IT COULD ALSO SERVE AS A FULLER, HOLE PUNCH, DESIGN STAMP, TOUCH MARK, LEAF VIENER, ECT.!!!

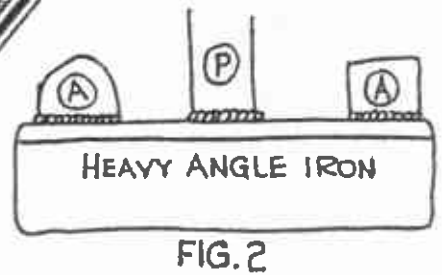


- ① GRIND DESIRED SHAPE ONTO ENDS OF PIECES OF HIGH CARBON RAILROAD SPIKES. AFTER HARDENING, WELD THESE TO A 6-8" LONG BEAM OF 3/4" SQ. STOCK. DRILL BEAM AT ITS CENTER POINT WITH A 7/16 BIT. (SEE FIG. 1)

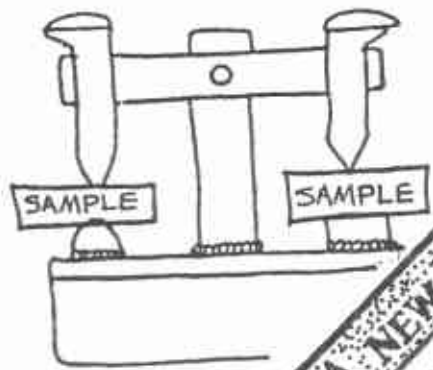


- ② WELD A PEDESTAL OF 3/4" SQ. (OR WHAT HAVE YOU) TO A PIECE OF HEAVY ANGLE IRON (WHICH WILL BE USED TO CLAMP THE TOOL INTO YOUR VISE).

THEN WELD TWO HIGH CARBON ANVILS (A) OF DESIRED SHAPE TO THE ANGLE.



- ③ ASSEMBLE BY PLACING A SAMPLE OF THE MATERIAL TO BE USED ON THE ANVILS TO LOCATE THE HEIGHT OF THE PIVOT HOLE IN THE PEDESTAL. DRILL PIVOT HOLE WITH A 7/16" BIT AND INSTALL HIGH GRADE BOLT WITH A FLAT WASHER ON EITHER SIDE OF BEAM AND WITH NUT ON THE BACK OF THE PEDESTAL.



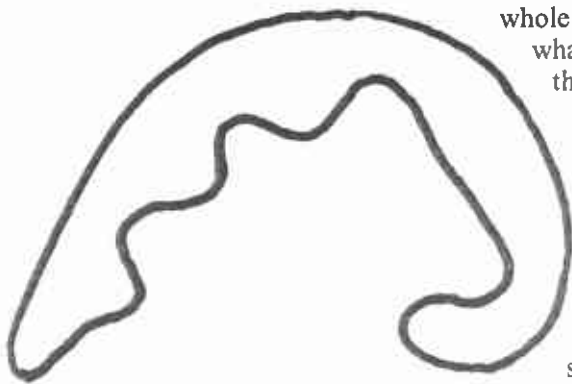
Editors note:
 AFTER SPENDING UNTOLD HOURS WITH WELDERS AND GRINDERS AND DRILL PRESSES MAKING SPECIAL JIGS TO DO THIS JOB, MR. RICH, WITH A PIECE OF WIRE, SHOWS ME WHY WE NEED TO RESPECT OUR ELDERS!
 HUMBLING, AIN'T IT?

A NEW TOOL BY JOE FAYREAU

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



Retaining ring for tongs

The above is cut, drilled and filed from 1/4 inch plate. A tip for making your tongs grip better is to draw out the reins slender enough so they are quite springy. If you can spring them about 2 inches with one hand and then slip on the ring they will hold quite firmly. If the reins are mild steel, it seems to help if you do quit a bit of cold dressing or wok (r) hardening. I never can seem to harden in a wok!

— *The Pounder's Press*

Long-life blades

Randy Barringhaus passed this tip on to me at the last meeting. He says Joe Wilkinson taught it to him. Before you use a new hacksaw blade make a few passes with it through a

piece of brass. The brass will take the burrs off the blade so that they won't fold back into the blade and dull it. Randy says it will at least double the life of your hacksaw blades.

New life for nippers

Hoof nippers are usually cheaper at flea markets than tongs, and they look like they can easily be converted into the latter. But this usually requires taking them apart and forging the ends without messing up the joint area, no easy task. J.K. Reynolds had a pair of nippers that had been converted into tongs in this manner: Heat the business end of the nippers and straighten them out. (At this point the nippers will hold about 1 inch flat stock.) Take a piece of round stock, 1/2 inch or better, and weld it to both jaws. Now cut the round stock in half with a hacksaw or bandsaw. You can then heat the whole thing and tighten it down on whatever you want to hold with the tongs.

Tool source

Laurel Machine and Foundry Co., 810 Front St., PO Drawer 1049, Laurel, MS 39441. They are now casting new anvils, swage blocks, cone madrels, etc. These are exceptionally nice and well made from superior steel alloys reports the Louisiana chapter newsletter. Prices are competitive with other suppliers. Contact Ray Robinson at (601) 428-0541.

Dr. Iron's Finish

Several people were asking about Dr. Iron's finish, which Pat was using on his wizards at the last meeting. Tom Clark mentioned that Dr. Iron is now using Future Floor wax.

Quick annealing

This is a very simple method which has been used for years, especially by die-makers. Heat the steel and hold in a dark corner allowing steel to cool until red is leaving. Then dip in a bucket of very soapy water. This will

make the steel as soft as if it had been buried all night in charcoal. A real time saver!

— *from The Modern Blacksmith by way of the Forge Facts*

Cleaning gear boxes

When cleaning gear boxes on hand-crank blowers and the like, don't use gasoline. Gas may leave a residue which prevents oil from adhering to the surfaces later. Instead use petroleum based paint thinner readily available in paint departments. This tip came from instructions on the use of a bicycle chain cleaning device. Chain saw bar oil is stickier than motor oil and is a better lubricant for blower gears and trip hammers.

— *Everett Browning, Prairie Blacksmiths Association*

U-Channel

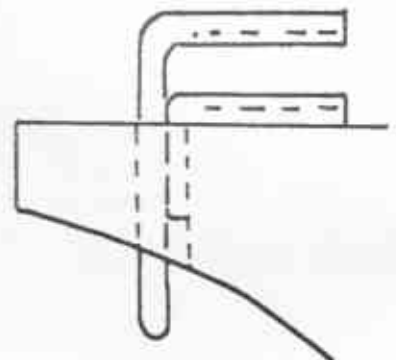
U-Channel can be welded into a tool for bending bars on edge. The narrow channels keep the stock from twisting. Small stock is best twisted in the jig cold.

— *Jan Kochansky, Blacksmiths Guild of the Potomac*

Hardy fuller

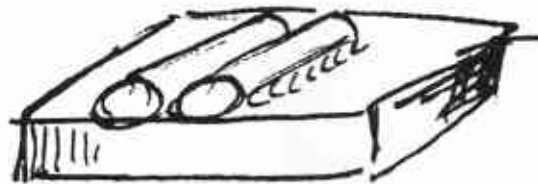
Here is a good set up for fullers that I came upon quite by accident. The lower fuller has a short tail that is drawn as wide as the hole but only half as deep. The upper fuller is drawn to slide behind the lower one. Unlike the U-shaped spring fullers, this one doesn't bounce around (or off) the anvil when struck. Also, the long rear tang allows for taller stock, while keeping both fullers parallel.

— *Ed Justi, California Blacksmith*



ONE WAY TO FORGE A BALL WALT HULL

1. MAKE THIS SWEDGE:



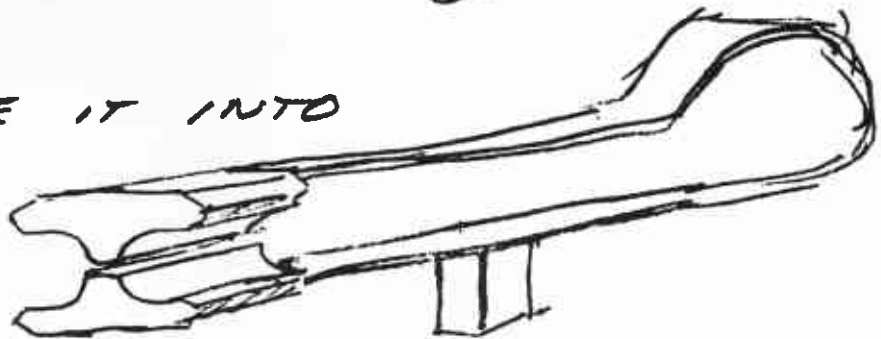
2.



HAMMER SQ. BAR
INTO SWEDGE ON DIAMOND
TO MAKE THIS:



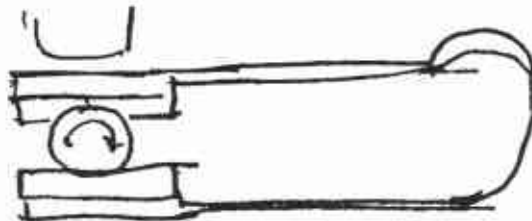
AND MAKE IT INTO
THIS



WHICH YOU USE

TO MAKE

THIS



THESE TO YOUR
HEART'S CONTENT

WT

BAM News

Lend a hand

The Mount Vernon Ill. Historical Society will host a repair day at their Pioneer Village on May 7 and 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for more information contact John Lovin at (618) 756-2331 or John Hand at (618) 242-5423.

Update please!

If your address has changed from the one on the back of this newsletter, Maurice Ellis needs to hear from you. Maurice is the keeper of BAM's mail list, and he has a new address himself: Lizard Ridge Blacksmith Shop, Rt. 1 Box 1442, Belgrade, MO 63622; (314) 766-5346. If you update your address you will ensure that the newsletter gets to you quicker and you will save BAM some return postage money and the editor a lot of hassle. You might also check the September-October 1993 newsletter and see if your phone number is listed. Let Maurice know that info too.

While your looking at the mailing label on the back cover, check to see if your dues are up. Maurice lets you know when it is time to renew by printing the date on the renewal label. If your's is up he highlights it too. Whoops, mine expires in May!

Doug demo

Doug Hendrickson will be the featured forger at a Hammer-in sponsored by the Rural Smiths of Mid-America June 25 and 26.

The event will be held at Fred Caylor's shop in Zionsville, Ind. Cost for both days will be \$25. There will be room to camp at Fred's shop. For more info contact Harry Williams at (317) 453-6871. *(Editor's note: Who is this Doug Hendrickson guy and can we afford him?)*

UMBA's Iowa Meet

Clifton Ralph, winner of ABANA's Beeler Award, will demonstrate tooling and more under the power hammer at the Upper Midwest Blacksmith Association meeting May

13 to 15 at Howard Clark's Morgan Valley Forge near Runnells, Iowa.

Much of the demonstration will be under Howard's 3B Nazel hammer. Howard is a damascus knifemaker.

Clifton will start the demonstrations at 9 a.m. each morning. The last session will end early Sunday afternoon. Friday and Saturday evening meals will be provided. Otherwise brown bag it or got to town for lunch. There will also be an auction Saturday evening with proceeds going to the UMBA treasury. Space is limited to the first 30 and the cost is \$50, which includes the meals and a copy of the "Big Hammer" issue of the Bituminous Bits. Bring a chair, and remember eye and ear protection are mandatory. For more info contact Rich Cross at (515) 227-3391 or Howard Clark at (515) 966-2126.

Another BAM-in

Jim Kendzora invites anyone who can make it to come to his shop every Thursday evening (around 7 p.m.) for some impromptu hammering. He says a small group has gathered there for some time now every Thursday except Thanksgiving. Most of the folks are working on knives, he says, but the group is open to whatever. Jim lives on the western side of Lake of the Ozarks at Sunrise Beach. For directions give him a call at (314) 374-4153.

Indiana wants you

Speaking of the Indiana Chapter, they have challenged us to join in at Tipton City, Indiana on June 4-5 for the IBA State Conference to compete in a two-man cube forging contest. They say if you can not find a partner, do not fear — you can challenge them in the cross-making contest — Clay Spencer style. If you still can't compete try the open class of items forged at home and brought to the conference for judging.

Everything made in the contests will be auctioned off and plaques will be awarded for the top three places. There will also be a special class for your special treasures which will be judged and returned to you.

For more info contact Fred Oden at (219) 223-3508.

Batson knives

Renowned bladesmith and wizard maker Jim Batson is the featured demonstrator at the Mississippi Forge Council's annual conference. The event will be held May 28-29 at Pelahatchi Bay Park on Ross Barnett Reservoir near Jackson, Miss. Tim Ryan will auction, so you need not be present to buy something!

For more info contact Mike Roberts, president, 605 Oakwood Dr., Clinton, Miss. 39056 or call (601) 924-3154.

Quad State lives!

The Forge Fire, newsletter of the Indiana Blacksmiths Association, reports that Ron Thompson, president of the Southern Ohio Forge Association, has received enough offers for help that his group will once again put on the Quad State Round-up. This event, which is held in the fall, has turned into the largest regional gathering of blacksmiths anywhere. The event is tentatively set for September 24-25, one week later than last year. No location has been selected yet, and it looks like plans are going to be scaled back somewhat as the group reorganizes at a new location.

Hood's type blowers

After we built the first round of ABAM forges, a lot of folks were pondering the possibility of using blowers that came from Hoods. I've been using one on my forge and it is doing a pretty good job. It is a little slow heating up big iron. I think I have the specs on these blowers, from a surplus equipment catalog that arrived in my mailbox. It shows the same blower and lists these specs: Approx. 100 CFM airflow, 115 VAC, 1.1 amps, 3000 RPM, continuous duty. They also offer a 300 CFM blower for \$23.95, item # 16-1026. The Surplus Center catalog is full of surplus stuff, including all kinds of hydraulic stuff, motors, winches, tools, alarms... you name it. A rheostat caught my eye, as did a circuit board for controlling the speed on motors. Call 1-800-488-3407 to order or request a catalog. They are located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Next Meeting May 21 at Steve Austins' Forge

Bam's next meeting will be held May 21 at Steve Austin's forge in Claycomo, Mo. This is the annual meeting where all of us from the eastern side of the state get to find out what those folks from the Kansas City area go through to get to our meetings!

Steve is easy to find. If you are coming from the east take I-435 north to the Claycomo exit (Hwy. 69). Head west until you see an overhead foot bridge. Steve's shop is just before this bridge on the north side of the road.

From the west take I-35 to the Claycomo exit (Hwy. 69). Follow 69 east until you pass the foot bridge.

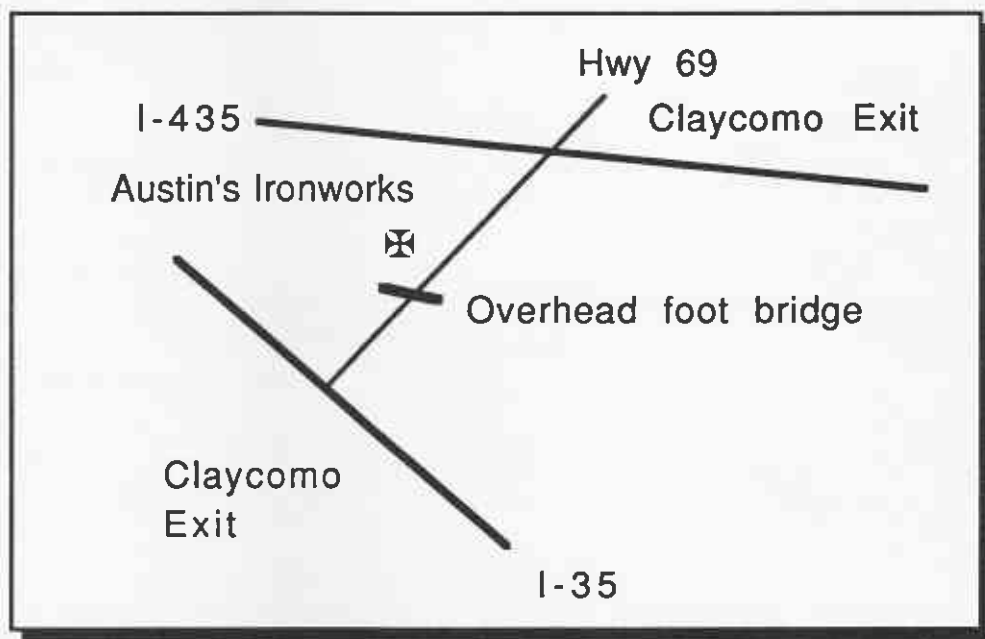
Steve can be reached at (816) 454-7736 (day) or (816) 781-1512 (home).

Steve says the trade item will be anything with a forged leaf on it. This sounds like a good one to let your imagination run wild on. Here's how the trade item works: If you forge something, you get to take someone else's something home with you.

Also, don't forget to make or bring something for the iron in the hat. This is a great way to put some money back in our treasury. If you don't have time to forge something bring along an unneeded tool or any other item a blacksmith might want (maybe a plate of chocolate chip cookies?).

I don't know what Steve has on the agenda but his shop is well equipped and there should be some great demos. Steve does a lot of architectural work, especially gates and railings.

See you at Steve's May 21.



Next meeting:

The July meeting will be held at Vernon Fisher's shop on the Lake of the Ozarks. Along with the election of new officers will be a chance to have some fun in the sun so bring your swim suits.

1994 BAM Schedule

Ozark Conference

Potosi, Mo., April 30-May 1

May Meeting

Steve Austin, Claycomo, Mo.,
May 21.

July Meeting

Vernon Fisher, Rocky Mount,
Mo., July 23
(Note corrected date)

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

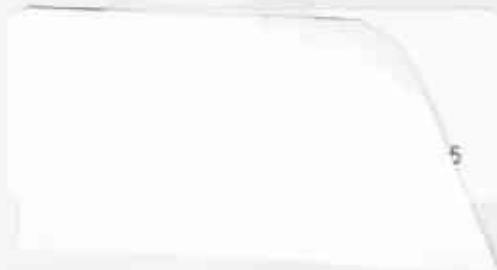
Colin Campbell, Union, Mo.,
date to be announced.

Please mark these dates on the calendar just in case the newsletter arrives a little late!

*Are your dues due? Check the date
on the top line of your address
label. If they're up send \$20 to Steve
Austin at the address listed on page
3. Our policy is no dues, no news, so
please keep current.*

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