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*July — August 1996*

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NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

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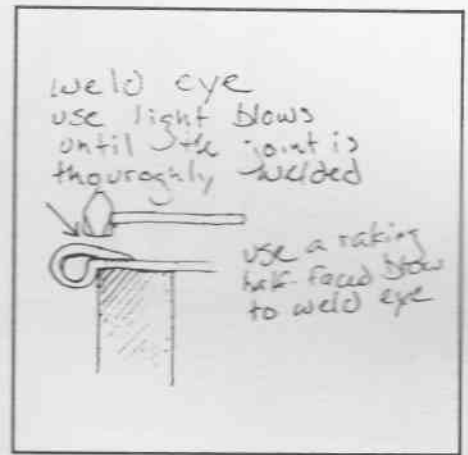
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## BAM news

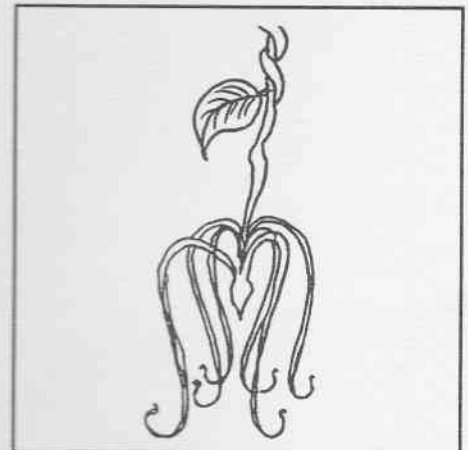
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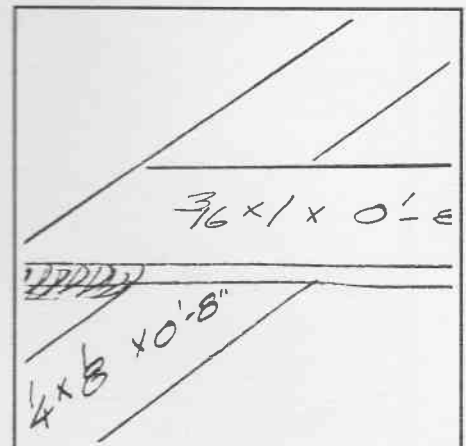
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# Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri

July — August 1996

Volume 13 No. 4

**Our cover:** Francis Whitaker, right, keeps a wary eye on James Honig who was fitting pieces to the special project grill at the 1996 ABANA Conference in Alfred, N.Y. The grill was made in separate locations and assembled on site by a team of smiths.

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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, 5821 Helias Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65101; (573) 395-3304. BAM membership inquiries should be addressed to: Maurice Ellis, Rt.1 Box 1442, Belgrade, MO 63622, (573) 766-5346. 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? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you need any tools? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

What a summer it's been for blacksmithing! Fresh off the Ozark Conference we had Steve Austin's May meeting, barely got time to catch our breaths and then the date for the 1996 ABANA Conference was upon us.

BAM had a huge turn out for the event, in spite of the distance to Alfred, NY from Missouri. I'd hate to try and name everyone who went, a daunting task considering all of the out of state folks who told me they belong to BAM also.

Most notable at the conference was Tom Clark, who summoned the courage to put on a pink shirt and bunny ears for his role as the Energizer Bunny. Like the ubiquitous bunny, Tom was everywhere at once working on his goal of raising \$10,000 in the Iron in the Hat. He darn near did it, netting \$8,000 for ABANA.

His job was made easier by some wonderful prizes. The crowd's favorite was the BAM Box, sawed and forged by our President Pat McCarty and filled by a bunch of us with some nice tools. The box, still somewhat wet in the finish department, went to a young smith who got his start from Doug Hendrickson. No doubt the guy will some day be forging tater guns and creating sculpture that looks like someone's prostrate.

Every ABANA Conference has been better than the one before and this one was no exception. It was especially savory for the BAM crowd since we didn't get much time to enjoy the last one. Pat kept wanting to work on the wiring at this one but somehow we held him back.

Once again our buddy Uri was demonstrating and was kind enough to donate some of his tools to the Iron in the Hat. We had a team from Holland who made armour, Charles Lewton-Brain who was a real hit with his folded copper work, Sid Suedemeier and Fred Caylor rebuilt a 25-pound Little Giant on site and donated it to the raffle, Clifton Ralf forged an anvil, a miniature chest was forged by a team of smiths and a second team worked with Francis Whitaker on a special grill.

In the gallery was the usual collection of inspiring art, including some nice candle sticks from Walt Hull. There were a pair of chess sets forged by chapters across the country. Again there was a nice collection of rusty iron in the tailgate area and there were plenty of lectures going on all over campus on subjects ranging from the Internet to avoiding tendonitis.

Unlike St. Louis, the weather was beautiful and the scenery is New York's best kept secret. Hat's off to the New York State Designer Blacksmiths, our hosts for this year's event.

George Dixon has already started work on the 1998 conference, which will be held in Asheville, NC. Several BAM members are on conference committees for this one, including Tom Clark, Doug Hendrickson, Lou Mueller and myself.

Most of my summer has been spent taking care of the boys while Janice worked on the new baby. I did manage to slip away for a demo at the Russelville Tractor Show, along with Jim Kendzora, Drew Johnson, Scott Stager and the Williamsons. I also did a demo, at the invite of Dale Kirby, who makes barrels at a cooperage in Higbee, Missouri.

Dale was hosting a meeting of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association, a good group to join. He wants to get involved with BAM and has offered to host our January meeting, where we can watch him build a wine barrel. David Hoopes and Bill White joined me at Higbee. They have a nice gas forge set-up and together we drew a pretty good crowd.

Coming up this fall we have John Murray's meeting, then a couple of demos at Lou Mueller's shop. We also have a treadle hammer workshop set for February.

Speaking of Lou, he is rolling on the Ozark Conference for next year. Look for a great demo by Mike Boone and some of BAM's own. There will also be an ongoing knife-making station and something for the entire family, kids included.

Stay tuned for details, see you in New Melle.

—Jim McCarty

# It's a girl!

Emily Eileen  
McCarty joined  
our family on Aug.  
13, 1996 at 3:14  
p.m. She weighed  
6 pounds and 8  
ounces and was 19  
1/2 inches long.



# Dear BAM,

Dear Pat and BAM,

I wish to deeply thank you for your contribution of the "BAM Box" to the Iron in the Hat contest at the 1996 ABANA Conference. The amount of work and sweat that went into the tools and chest was immeasurable. I feel unworthy of such a wonderful gift since I do not have a forge at the present time.

You may rest assured that a forge is on its way and the tools are a wonderful starting beginning. It would be very hard for me to accept this gift and not start a forge. My winning is an omen pointing me in the direction of our ancient trade.

I would like to thank Doug Hendrickson for introducing this idea of a full "BAM Box." It is a happy coincidence that Doug introduced me to hammers and hot iron at a course at the Penland School two summers ago. I am returning to Penland this summer to take a course with Elizabeth Brim and I will certainly be the best equipped student that they have ever seen.

Again my warmest thanks to BAM, and may the fires never go out.

*Sincerely, Asa Johnson, Poultney, VT,  
winner of the BAM Box.*

Jim,

Trust you and loved ones are doing OK. We are fine. This is a picture of a another cemetery job. This arch bolted between two 4x4 square tubing with large cast acorns on top of the tubes. Sign is 14 feet high and 14 feet wide. Also enclosed is a picture of a frame I built to keep posts in square and arch to fit. Cross was forged from nine pieces of 4 inch x 3/8 flat bar. Scrolls are 1-1/2 inch x 1-1/2 inch x 1/4 square tube, with hand and jig bent. Steve Austin gave me instruction on how to bend 1-1/2 inch x 1-1/2 inch x 4 inch square with hand power and floor jack. Thanks Steve. John Carson, John Carson Iron Works taught me how to build the frame. Can't tell you how much I appreciate the help I've received from BAM and ABANA

members. All I have ever had to do was just ask. Thanks Jim, that's what I've been doing in Northeastern Oklahoma.

*Bill Frabotta, Frabotta's Iron Works,  
Westville, OK*

Dear BAM\*,

A short, but sincere note of thanks to you for inviting me to your conference in Potosi. After a usual plane ride I was picked up and whisked away (thank you Lou Mueller!) to the stunning home of Maurice and Bess Ellis. Wonderful hosts! Great food and drink! Neat tools! And, oh my!, the hills, trees and animals! (Let's see...the green stuff on the ground is grass, that tall and brown thing is a tree.....) Beautiful birds! Sensory overload!

I really enjoyed meeting and talking with everyone. I had a blast! You've a strong group, don't lose it. The work, camaraderie and hospitality of BAM is quite extraordinary. Many thanks to all for the help, questions and answers. Things I learned (some)

1. Bob Haverstock is not Ken Markely and vice-versa (great embarrassment).
2. Todd Kinnikin and Walt Hull are outrageous.
3. Where Clifton Ralph got his "Do-Rag."
4. You guys are a wealth of smithing and related experience and information.
5. Don't chase shooters of "Doc's Liquid Fire" with Doug Hendrickson.

And finally: Honest Don!! I'm not gonna make any more of them!! Seriously, though, I enjoyed the support you guys give to your organization, it was quite impressive. Perhaps I can impart some of it to our Arizona Group (AABA).

I trust you all were satisfied, thank you again and we'll be looking for you in the future. Good luck, keep hammering, share the knowledge!

*Sincerely, Jay Burnham-Kidwell*

\* Probably one of the best Blacksmith Association acronyms ever!

*(Editor's note: Jay was referring, no doubt, to the last damn Jay Burnham-Kidwell table ever made which sold in the conference auction in his Honest*

*Don comment. Remember the scene in Jurassic Park where the bottle of cloned dinosaurs washes down the creek? Made you wonder if there would be more sometime in a sequel? Unbeknownst to Jay, the pieces to the table he forged as his demo were spirited away from the conference site to a little-known forge in Taos, Mo., where they may someday be assembled! Others reportedly learned enough from Jay to produce their own and soon the nation will be overrun with JB-K tables!)*

Yo Jim!

By the time you read this you are no doubt waddling home from a great meeting at Sunrise Beach. I decided not to go because of the hurricane. . .namely the hurricane that's going to hit if I don't get a little work delivered so I can contribute a little something to the food bill this month. Alfred was great, but it has not escaped local notice that it ate up a bunch of money and a week's worth of work time.

I trust you all did the right thing and elected Maurice treasurer.

I do have to give you a hard time about your grammar (not your Grammar; I would never speak harshly of the old dear). On page 5 of an otherwise excellent newsletter, over your own byline, there are two real howlers: Little Giant's should be Little Giants and you can't say "...pulled a real fast one on Pat and I...". I don't care what everyone else is saying this year. It's "...on Pat and me...". Go to your room.

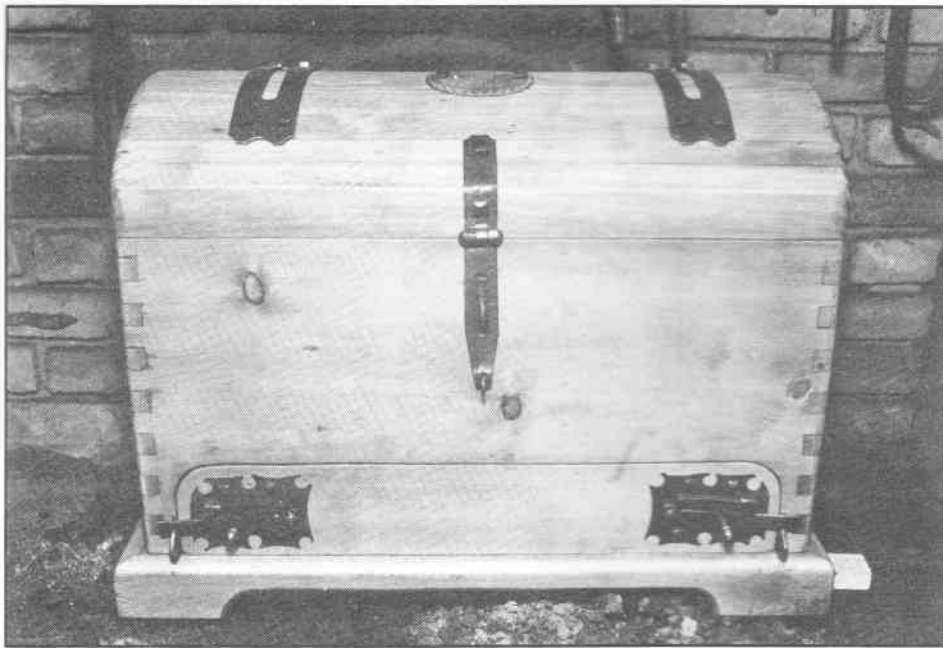
Enclosed please find a sketch of a handy little tool for marking small pipe and large tubing.

Love to Janice and your growing tribe.

*Walt Hull, Lawrence, Kansas*

*Editor's note: If this newsletter is late it's because I am in my room.*

## Pat's Place



*The BAM Box was made by Pat McCarty and stocked by a number of members with some fine tools. It went to the iron in the hat and will be greatly appreciated by its winner, Asa Johnson.*

It's been a busy spring. I've got a lot of work going in the shop, but I had to fit in the BAM Box and a Colonial toaster for the ABANA conference.

The conference was great! The BAM Box was a big hit, thanks to Tom Clark's marketing approach. Whenever there were a few people milling around he was there selling tickets. Thanks to, Francis Whitacre, Clay Spencer, Bob Patrick, John Murray, Jim McCarty, David Hoopes, Mike Williamson, Rob Gunter, and all the others who made a tool for the BAM Box

Tom's already planning the BAM Box for the next conference. I tried to keep track at the auction how much BAM brought in. I didn't get many totals from the silent auction but we brought in about \$2,000. Thanks to all who donated something. There was even a Tom's Thumb that brought \$155. Thanks to Hank Knickmeyer for donating it.

I saw some great demos at the conference. The Williamsburg smiths were there and Tom Latana had a team working on a chest. I've never seen so many punches and engraving tools! The chest brought \$6000 at the auction.

There were some super displays in

the gallery. My head is full of ideas to try if I can only get ahead in my shop. The heat and my day job are conspiring to keep me behind.

We had a real nice meeting at Jim Kendzora's shop. His shop is very neat and he has a lot of trick tools and accessories and the lake is in sight if you get too hot. I tried to make a spring fuller but burnt it in half. I then went on to make a spike wizard.

Jim got a good start on a fish gig which brought us up to lunch. After lunch we held the business meeting. The officers stayed the same except for treasurer, Maurice Ellis takes over.

Thanks to Gary Kobermann for taking care of the funds last year. We voted to purchase a TV with a video player so we can all see the demos better in our smaller shops. We hope to have it for the next meeting, then we can zoom in on John Murray forge welding a face on an anvil. I don't want to miss that.

The cross we made for J. K. Reynolds in place. Joyce Reynolds invites everyone to stop by on the way to or from John's to see it. Joyce has a great antique shop which is well worth seeing. That's all for now, see ya' all at the next meeting.

— Pat McCarty

### Welcome New Members

Thomas Petry  
12730 Cardinal Point Rd.  
Rolla, MO 65401  
(573) 341-9113

Kenneth Kasten  
810 E. Park  
Olatha, KS 66061  
(913) 780-6462

Paul Robert Kimball  
16822 E. US Highway 40  
Independence, MO 64055  
(816) 373-1874

William Shoemake  
11933 Wooded Valley Ct.  
Maryland Heights, MO 63043  
(314) 434-7533

Michael Ross  
33435 W. 84th St.  
DeSoto, KS 66018  
(913) 583-3178

Joe Kears  
29103 Junction Pl  
Macon, MO 63552  
(816) 385-2874

Ed St. Clair  
4363 Annetta Ln.  
Joplin, MO 64804  
(417) 624-8190

Jerry Hall  
Rt.1 Box 79  
Bunker, MO 63629  
(573) 689-2692

Robert Bernard  
726 Black Bear Dr.  
Sparta, MO 65753  
(417) 278-3645

Ronald Jackson  
9014 Outlook Dr.  
Overland Park, KS  
(913) 341-5643

# BAM JULY MEETING

by Jim McCarty

On July 13 BAM got its first look at Jim Kendzora's shop and for the 50 or so members who made the trip it was a memorable experience. Jim lives on the west side of the Lake of the Ozarks and there are some places in the state that you can't get there from.

We found Jim's shop neat as a pin and there was no evidence that it is ever otherwise (although there was a big rust slick in the lake that day). He has some neat toys there: a crane just inside the door, real heat, mig welder, heavy duty forge and lots of gadgets to make life easier in the shop.

The thing that drew the most interest was the pipe threader that Jim has converted into a cold twisting machine. He chucked up a piece of 1/2 inch square to give us a look at it and with the flip of a switch it was twisted. Even neater, he threw it into reverse and untwisted it so slick that you couldn't tell the bar had been touched.

Our President, Pat McCarty, started Jim's forge going early in the morning, first making a spring fuller so that he could forge one of his trademark spike wizards. The fuller took longer than the wizard.

After Pat showed off the 20 or so punches and chisels he carries around with him the forge sat idle too long so I had Jim cut a piece of leaf spring so I could work on a fish gig like I saw created by a master gigmaker from Bunker, Mo.

Pat did the striking and we got the tines cut and drawn out before lunch interfered (thank God!).

After lunch and a good view of the lake we got down to business. We talked about the coming treadle hammer workshop (more details elsewhere in this issue). We have enough interest for a big workshop.

We talked a little about the ABANA Conference and the success of the iron in the hat put together by Tom Clark. Pat thanked everyone who donated tools.

This was the election meeting and the entire crop of officers was re-elected except for treasurer Gary Kobermann, who decided one year was enough. Maurice Ellis edged out Walt Hull for that thankless job, despite voting for the opposition.

We had a great trade exchange, which was a coffee mug holder. There was a great deal of imagination on this one.

In lieu of an iron in the hat at this meeting we held a silent auction since no one had any raffle tickets. The most coveted item was Sam Yellin's tomato generously donated by Doug Hendrickson.

In the afternoon Pat went back to the forge, followed by Tom Clark who made a leaf for the camera lady. Didn't get to finish the gig as my son James and I went to the lake.

When my shop grows up I want it to be just like Jim Kendzora's. Thanks for hosting us Jim.

## Minutes BAM July 13 Meeting

Thanks to Jim Kendzora for hosting us.

Minutes approved as published.

New nametags here — let Pat know if you need one.

ABANA Conference was a great time, raised \$8,728 in Iron in the Hat. The BAM Box was the star of the show.

ABANA chess set #1 with BAM's castles brought \$3,600, No.2 brought \$2,600.

Further research needed on BAM trailer (for equipment, teaching stations, etc.)

Discussion of BAM insurance policy.

Discussion of video monitor purchase, app. \$400 for 25 inch. Motion to buy it approved, Phil Williamson will get it for us.

BAM election time is here. Gary Kobermann would like to step down as treasurer. Gary has done a fine job and deserves our thanks.

President Pat McCarty reelected. Bob Alexander reelected as first vice president.

Vernon Fisher reelected as second vice president.

John Murray reelected as secretary.

Maurice Ellis elected treasurer.

Treadle hammer workshop Feb. 21-23, probably at Lou Mueller's. A few spots remain, see Tom Clark if interested. This is a great opportunity to own a fine tool at a really reasonable price.

Pat McCarty will oversee preparations for this workshop.

Next meeting at John Murray's shop in New Melle Sept. 21 (not 14th as announced at the meeting.) Trade item is a horseshoe.

Tom Clark will run for ABANA Board. Good show!

Meeting adjourned.





*Left: Everyone had to admire Jim Kendzora's cold twisting machine which could twist 1/2-inch square with the flip of a switch. It also untwists.*



*Left: The meeting eventually turned from blacksmithing to pickin and grinnin. Wonder what was in that jug? Above: Our fearless leader hammered out a spring fuller but managed to burn it in half. Most of us already knew how to burn things in half but appreciated the demo anyway.*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE August 1996

The long awaited 1996 ABANA Conference at Alfred, NY is behind us and now the waiting begins anew for the 1998 ABANA Conference at Asheville, NC. Two years is a long time to wait but we have not yet had a conference that did not make the waiting worthwhile.

Charlie Orlando and his volunteer staff put on a great conference. Their months of planning and preparation were very evident. George Dixon made sure that everyone at the Alfred Conference was made aware of the Asheville Conference coming up in 1998. George had a large banner hanging in the dining hall and had everyone that will be involved in putting on the conference wearing very nice 1998 Conference T-Shirts.

For anyone with any interest at all in blacksmithing, an ABANA Conference can be worked into your vacation plans and I can promise you it will be a memorable vacation. Two years is a long time but it is not too early to start planning to attend in 1998.

Jim McCarty has told me that the training session for newsletter editors conducted at Alfred went very well. It was not as well attended as we had hoped for, but those attending put forth a lot of effort and we can expect to see the results of their effort showing up in Chapter newsletters. My comments about the Conference are very general but I think some of the articles resulting from this workshop will provide some specific subject matter that will give more insight to what goes on at an ABANA conference. You don't attend a workshop such as this at a conference without giving up something, so my sincere thanks to everyone who attended.

Before leaving the subject of newsletters and editors, I must comment briefly on the Joe Humble Award. A few years ago, ABANA came up with this annual award in memory of Joe Humble who was editor of the Appalachian Area Newsletter for many years. At the Alfred Conference Awards Ceremony, Tim Ryan announced that the 1996 winner of the Joe Humble award is Gene Chapman, editor for the Northwest Blacksmiths Association. Congratulations Gene. Keep up the good work!

Is there anything in our shops that could be a threat to our safety? Well maybe a few. The fuel we burn, the fumes that we need to avoid; the electricity used to power some of our equipment; the moving parts of power hammers; presses; grinders; hot steel; etc. and the list goes on. It could be enough to make you shy away from the shop if you did not know and understand that all of these potential threats are manageable. And manage them we must in order to have a safe shop. Stay alert, be safe, be happy.

Sincerely,

Joe Harris  
ABANA President

BIG Hammer for sale: Tom Clark has a 100-pound Little Giant for sale. This is the old style hammer, perfect condition, ready to run. Your choice of dies. He will take the best offer over \$4,000. For more info call him at (573) 438-4725. Also, Tom has expanded his line of hammer handles. He has the slim line plus all other types of handles.

Bob Alexander is selling his 50-pound Little Giant. It is up and running so you can try before you buy. He needs \$1,500 for it. He also has two BAM side draft forges, never been used, in primer and complete with fire pot. No blower. Bob gets \$500 for these. If you need an anvil Bob usually has a few of these around with rebuilt faces, like new condition. For more info call him at (314)586-6938.

For sale: 2 portable forges, 1 sheet metal, \$75, one cast iron with hood, \$100. Large leg vise \$25, small leg vise \$20. Tinner's anvil \$50. Rd. bel-lows, fits under a workbench, \$20. Contact George Braun, 6101 Janet Ln., Florissant, Mo. 63033 or call (314) 355-4845.

Farrier's equipment: Michael O'Dalaigh has a couple of Spanish Lake gas farrier's forges for sale. One is big enough to get big stock in. Price is \$200. He also has an NC Tool Big Face anvil with home made stand. Weighs 70 pounds. He wants \$175 for it (these are about \$400 new.) He lives north of Kansas City. For more info call (816) 628-2243.

For sale: 50-pound Little Giant, old style with wrap-around ram guides, no removeable sow block. Working condition, comes with a slow rpm (1160 rpm) 1 hp motor. \$1,500. 10 big power hammer tools, fullers, ball swages, taper tools, flatters, etc. \$25 each. Hossfeld #1 bender, \$300. 2 lsmall shears, one for flat stock, one for round stock. \$50 each. Misc. hammer heads, unusual 45 degree flatter. 4 inch post vise, great shape, \$40. Still have a pedastal grinder, two Champion 400 blowers that now turn and one Champion blower that runs

off a flat belt, \$35 each. For more info call Jim McCarty at (573) 659-3421 (days) or (573) 395-3304 (nights or weekends).

Don Asbee has a Bantam Ironworker with lots of dies for sale at \$1,000. He also has a treadle hammer kit, will take \$350 for it. Don is in his new shop, just across Highway 63 from the old one. The number there is (573) 635-8363.

For sale: Large lot of tongs and power hammer tools. Contact Jerry Matthews, 27002 E. 283rd St., Harrisonville, MO 64701, or call (816) 380-5217.

Heavy duty frying pan blanks, steel, approx. 9 inches diameter with 2 inch sides — 12 gauge (.095) thickness. Has two 3/16 inch holes for your decorative handle. \$7.75 each, \$7 for 5-9, \$6 for 10 or more pans. Shipping \$2.50 plus 50 cents for each pan. Bob Tuftee, 3855 Aspen Hills Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722.

Tom Rowland invites us all to come to a day of fun at his Trading Post near Unionville. On Sept. 28 he is hosting a barbeque at the unique store, which specializes in buckskinning stuff. He will have a variety of crafters doing their thing, including the host who will be forging knives. He takes black powder rifles on consignment and has room for more handcrafted items if you are looking for an outlet. The Trading Post is in North Central Missouri. For more info call Tom at (816) 933-4975.

For sale: 70 pound ram air hammer. Total weight 1,000 pounds, 180 blows per minute. Requires 5 hp 2 stage air compressor. \$2,500. Also 25 pound ram air hammer. Total weight 400 pounds, 180+ blows per minute. Can be operated with small air compressor ( 3 hp, 20 gallon tank). \$2,000. Contact Maurice Ellis, (573) 766-5346.

New member Curt Prichard is looking for a forge and an anvil if anyone has some old tools they want to part with. He wants a larger forge in good repair if possible. Curt can be reached

# BAM

## Bulletin Board

at (314) 390-3976.

David Oliver always has swage blocks — custom cut to your design or his — for sale. He usually has a power hammer or two and all sorts of other stuff for sale. David Oliver, PO Box 3452, Bristol, TN 37625, or phone (615) 878-5712.

For power hammer parts machined to your specs give Russell Cashion a call at (615) 731-3215. He also has a 1,000-pound and a 700-pound anvil for sale.



THE SMITH

# A Conner Prairie internship

*Nathan Allen spent 10 weeks at Conner Prairie. Here's a little of what he learned*

by Nathan Allen

This past summer, thanks in part to a BAM scholarship, I had the opportunity to complete a 10-week internship working as a blacksmith at Conner Prairie Settlement, just outside of Indianapolis, Indiana. Conner Prairie is a living history museum which interprets Indiana life in the year 1836. The fictional village of Prairietown is the main focus of Conner Prairie, representing such activities as farming, carpentry, innkeeping, blacksmithing, pottery, and medicine.

While at Conner, I worked directly with lead blacksmith Melvin Lytton and his apprentice, George Carpenter. The main focus of the smiths at Conner Prairie is to interpret the work of the blacksmith and his importance in the local community. The work conducted in the Village shop consisted primarily of reproductions to be used in the historic area. Along with the period shop, Conner also maintains a fully equipped modern shop, which is set up with six forges and anvils for use as a teaching facility and production shop. My time was about equally divided between working in the modern shop and demonstrating in the period shop.

The products produced at Conner Prairie vary greatly from "S"-hooks and wall hooks to be sold in the gift

shop, to hinges, latches, kitchen utensils, and tools such as axes, froes, and drill bits to be used in the historic area. The reproduction work was perhaps the best learning experience I had at Conner. Reproduction work requires a good understanding of the process of making the product, and also requires keen observation of the original piece and the reproduction in order to make a reasonable facsimile. It is a very challenging, and often frustrating, experience, but at the same time rewarding in the end result and the knowledge which can be gained.

While in Indiana I had the opportunity to do a little sightseeing and make a few side trips. One such trip was to the National Muzzleloading shoot at Friendship, Indiana, an interesting experience for anyone interested in muzzleloading rifles. Another interesting experience was a visit by George Carpenter and myself to Kurt Fehernbach's blacksmith shop. Kurt's concentration is industrial forging, and his shop reflects this with its array of 50, 250, and 500 pound Little Giants and a 600 pound steam hammer. While we were there Kurt had the 600 pound hammer going and was working on an order for two dozen hinges, each weighing slightly over 50 pounds each. Needless to say this was some impressive forging. Kurt's love for blacksmithing was apparent in the enthusiasm with which he talked about the craft, and the time he spent teaching George and me to operate the steam hammer. Believe me, it was a great experience.

Melvin's approach to blacksmithing is a simple and direct process, relying nearly exclusively on hammer and anvil skills. The importance of hammer control was stressed throughout my time at Conner, with special emphasis put on the use of the crosspeen, which many people seem to forget is there. The peen is extremely important in directing the metal, not only for spreading, but also for quicker drawing, accurate bending, and for applications where the face of the hammer is simply too wide to use.

The knowledge I gained from my summer at Conner Prairie was great.

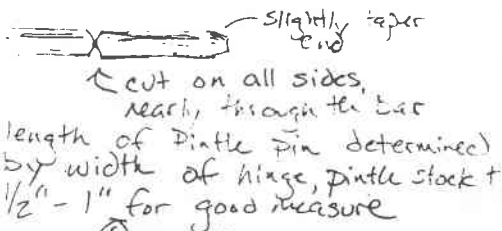
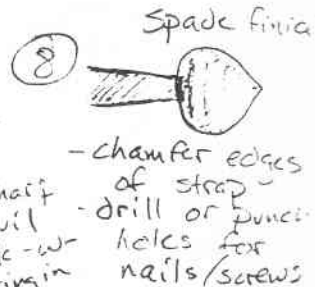
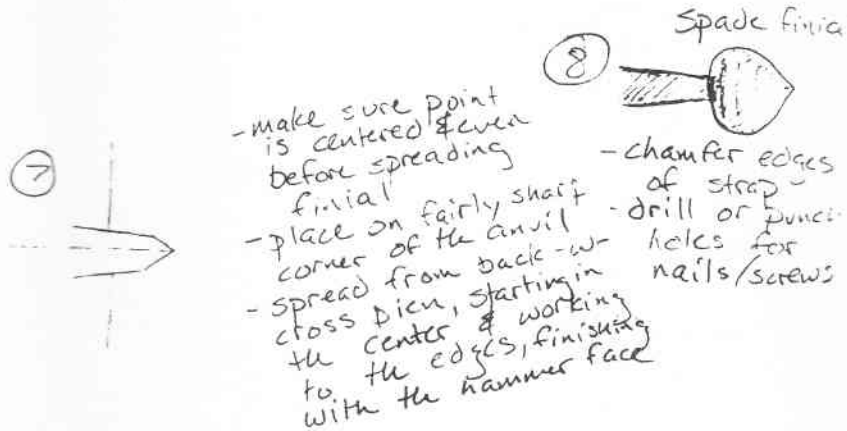
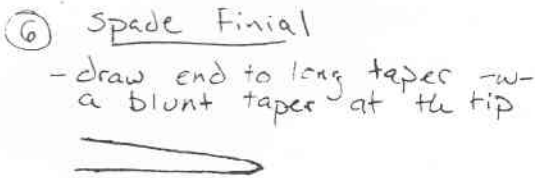
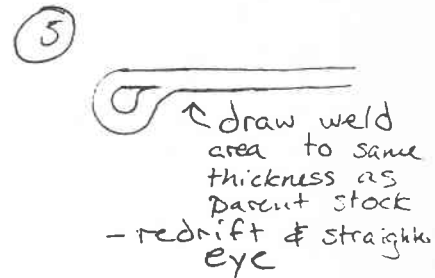
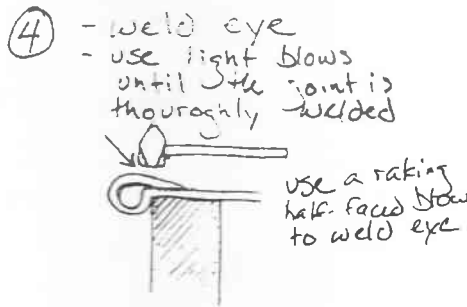
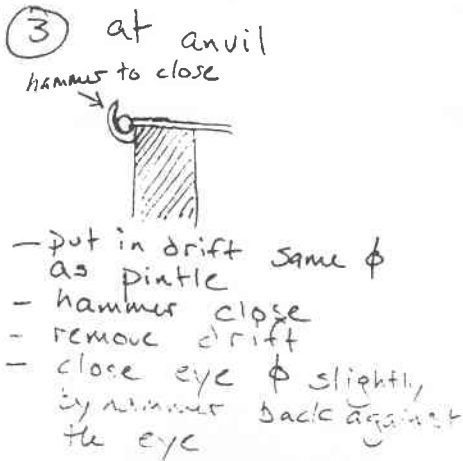
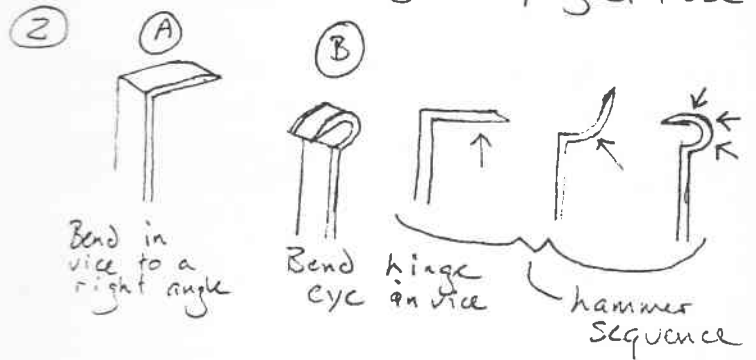
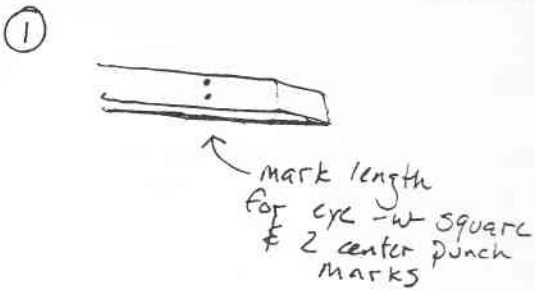
From the minute I walked into the shop until the time I left I was constantly learning something new, and better yet having fun doing it. What more could a person ask for. I am greatly indebted to BAM for supporting me through the generous scholarship. Thanks.

It would be impossible for me to remember all that I learned while at Conner. Melvin is an excellent blacksmith and teacher and every minute spent with him is a minute spent learning. Of the main blacksmithing lessons learned, here are, to me, the most important:

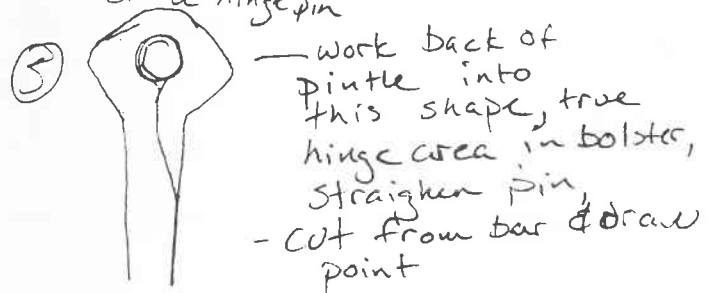
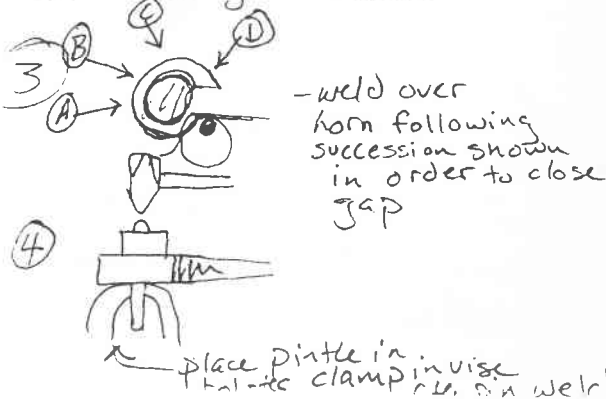
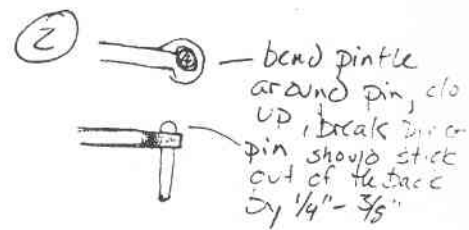
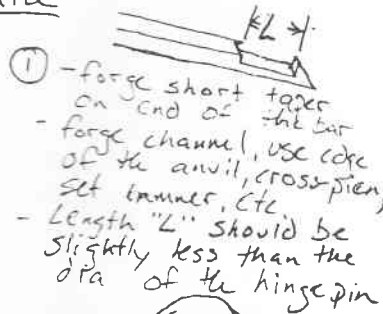
- Think of the iron as a plastic substance, not solid. Try to imagine the iron as a piece of clay, and apply that to forging.
- The fire is the most important tool to a blacksmith — the iron must be hot!! This means adequate air, a good firepot, good coal, and no clinkers.
- Learn to use the hammer — don't choke up, learn to control the extra inertia. Utilize the crosspeen. Learn to switch from peen to face without missing a blow.
- When thinking about making an object think backwards. That is, from finished product to raw stock.
- Utilize stock size to your advantage, figure out the smallest size that will get the job done — if there are to be a lot of dimensional and directional changes, square stock is often best.
- If at all possible avoid the use of tongs, instead use a long bar. If you must use tongs, make sure they fit the piece well.
- When welding, patience is perhaps the most important tool. Along with a clean, deep fire, flux and a good scarf, a proper welding heat going clean through the piece and extending past the weld area is essential. Often times this means reducing the air blast and sometimes taking a soaking heat while bringing to welding temperature (especially on large pieces).

# Strap Hinge & Pintle

hinge  $\frac{3}{16}$ " x 1"  
 pintle -  $\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\phi$  &  $\frac{7}{16}$ "  $\phi$   
 - scale stock sizes up or down depending on project & use



## Pintle

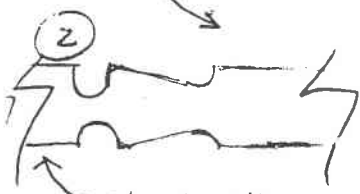
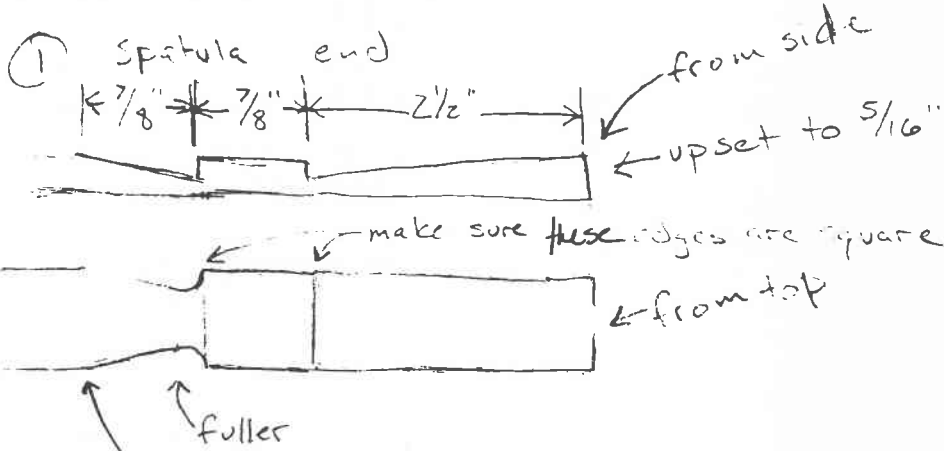




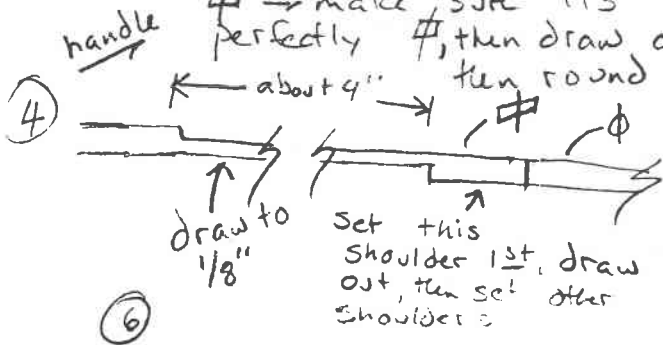
# Kitchen Spatula

3/4" x 1/4"

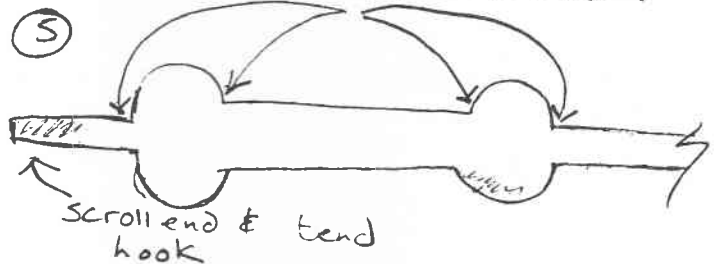
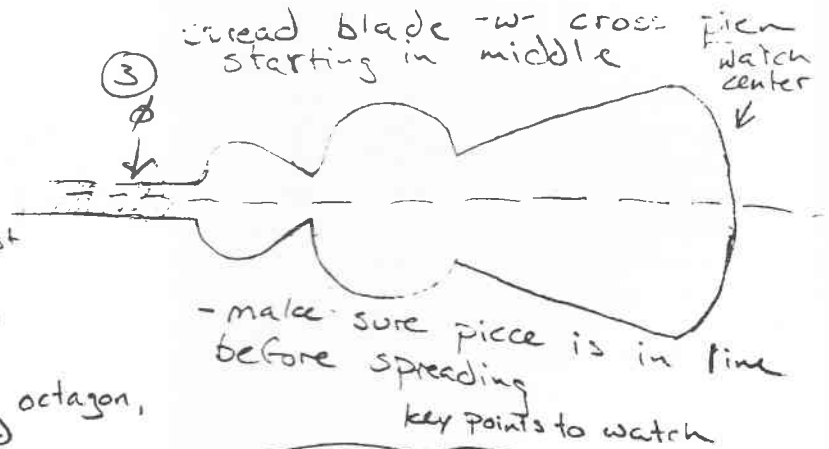
- set-ups are important when forging a piece - w - several different geometric shapes
- Sharp, clean transitions between shapes are important



- Draw section out to  $\phi$  → make sure it's perfectly  $\phi$ , then draw octagon, then round



⑥



⑦ Polish piece by filing & sanding - piece should be polished bright.

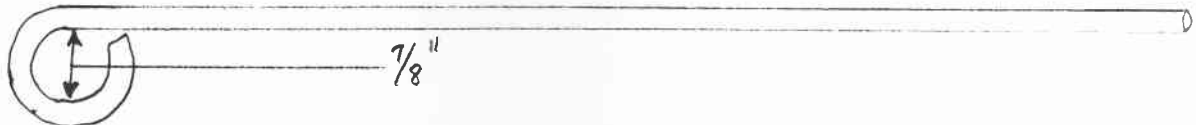
## Primitive Smithing - The Campfire Set

The campfire set is a very convenient set in terms of compact size and reasonable weight. While I would not take this backpacking, I would use it for horse or car camping. This set is very popular among the black powder adherents since it meets the authenticity requirement. The way I make it, it requires two pieces of 1/2" round stock each 24" long and 16 pieces of 3/8" round stock, each 15" long.

First, the legs, shaped and pointed (4 required):



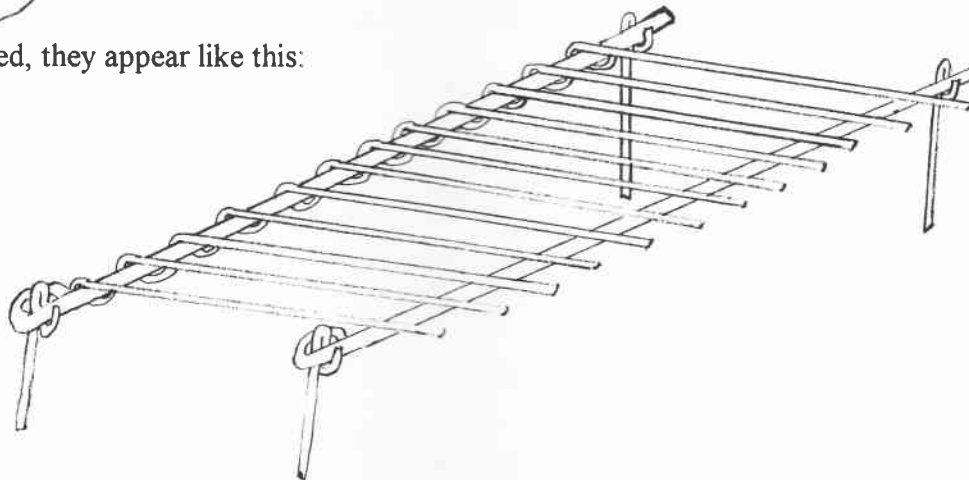
Secondly, the support pieces, the two pieces of half-inch round:



Finally, the 12 cross pieces:



Assembled, they appear like this:



You are able to flip any number of the cross pieces out of the way to tend to the fire as needed and flip them back for holding the utensils once the fire is set. This was intended to hold pots and pans and not food items. Something large like a steak would be able to be cooked on it, though.

Pull the bars apart when you're finished with them and make a bag out of canvas about 5" in diameter and 24" long. The leg off an old pair of kid's jeans works well. Put a drawstring in the top and you're ready to travel! The bag keeps the set together and everything around it clean.

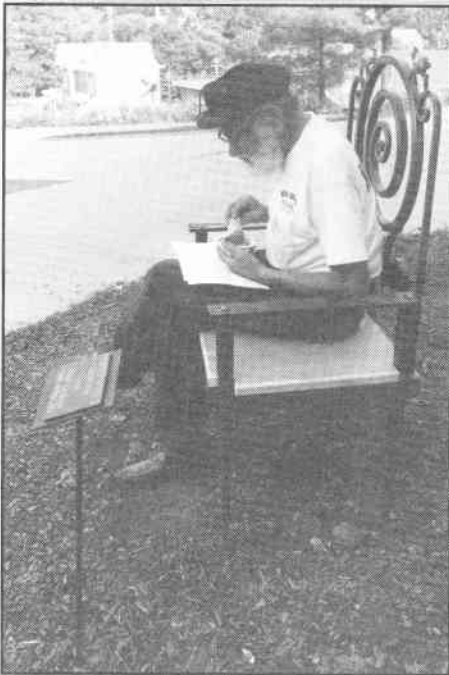
Ray Baker, Olympia, WA

Member, Northwest Blacksmith's Association and ABANA

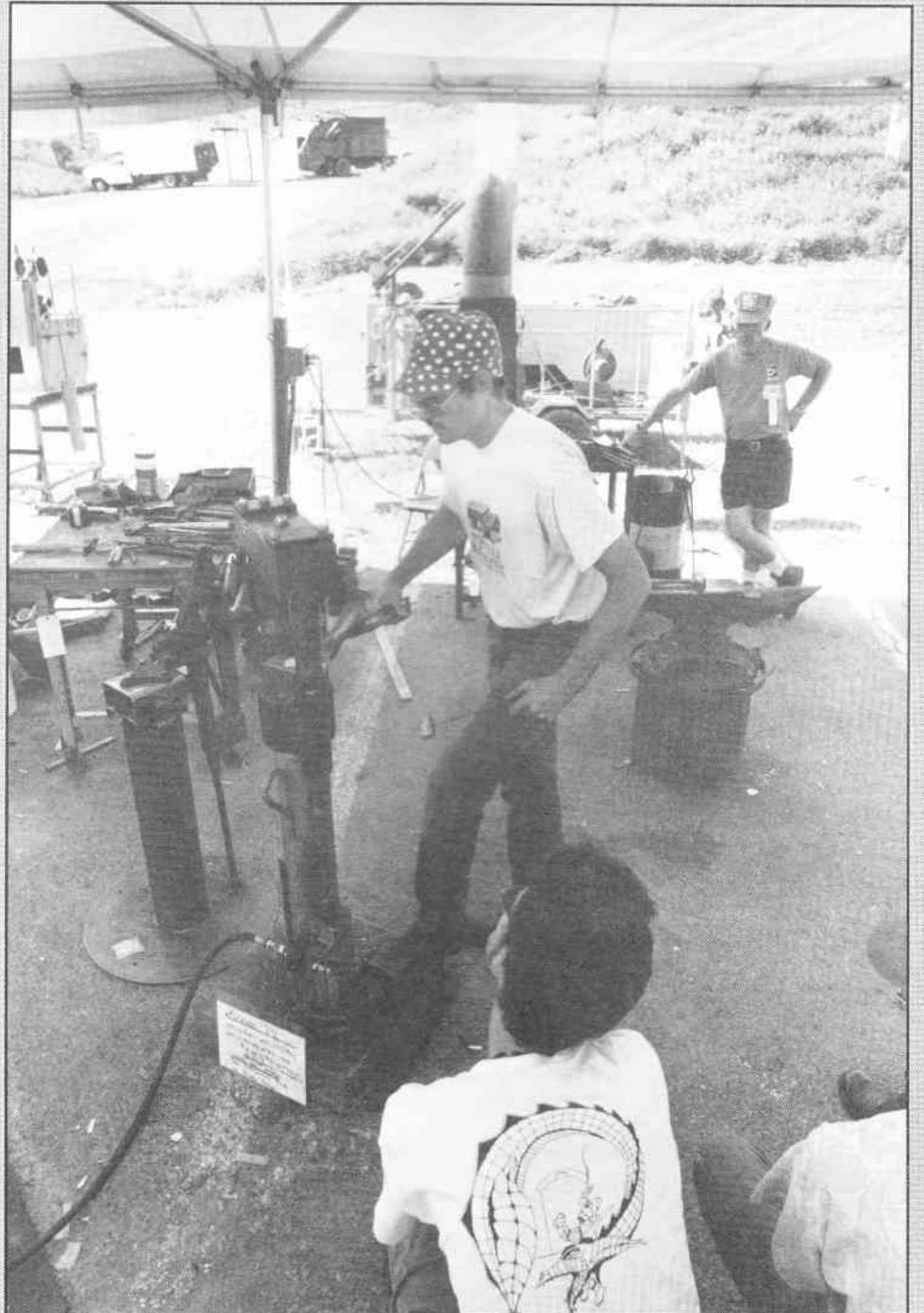
*Right: Clifton Ralph enjoys a well-deserved back rub from a physical therapist who was part of the conference program after he forged an anvil under the power hammer.*



# 1996 ABANA Conference



*Above: Bill Gichner became a piece of sculpture as he found a quiet place to eat an apple in the outdoor sculpture area. The rest of the sculpture was forged by Scott Lankton. Right: Bob Bergman showed us how to forge little people under the "Kick Ass" hammer.*





*Above: Tom Clark assumed the role of Energizer Bunny when he sold Iron in the Hat tickets. With quality items like the BAM Box, a rebuilt Sid Suedemeir 25-pound Little Giant and a treadle hammer, Tom easily brought in a record amount for the raffle. Right: Steve Joslyn was amazing with the simple organic pieces he demonstrated. Here he welds chips onto a pine cone with a gas torch.*



## Photos by Jim McCarty



*Pete Renzetti brought hundreds of punches with him for his part in the chased chest that was team built at the conference.*



# A HERB DRIER

By: David Fink of Lumpkin, Ga.

## Material Needed: 122" of 3/16 Round Mild Rod

1- Taper one end of a 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21" long rod ( which should give you six with an extra 11" piece)

2- Forge a tiny scroll on each tapered end and bend into a 1" diameter hook as shown in figure 2.

3- Take the 11" peice and forge a folded leaf onto one end .(To forge a folded leaf, forge a sharp point as shown in fig.3a - At about 5 times the diameter of the rod that you are using, neck the rod down on the far side of the anvil as shown in fig.3b - flatten the end and cross pein until it is twice the original width - flatten until it is between 1/32 and 1/16 " thick - fold in half in anvil step as shown in 3c - open back up with sharp chisel - place a piece of course grained wood on the anvil to put the leaf on and at a bright red color, texture the leaf with cross pein marks extending diagonally from the center folded vein. The texture of the wood will transfer to the back side of the leaf so that you will end up with a texture on both sides.)

4- Line up the 6 hooks according to length and stack them around the leaf rod as shown in fig.4 with 2" of the leaf rod protruding from the bundle. Wrap the bundle in two places with bailing wire as shown. Heat to red and apply flux. Forge weld 2" of bundled end together (preferably in a half round bottom swedge)

5- Fuller a grove around the welded end similar to fig.5

6- Make a bending jig as shown in fig.6. Mark jig at 2 1/2 " from top on backside of jig.

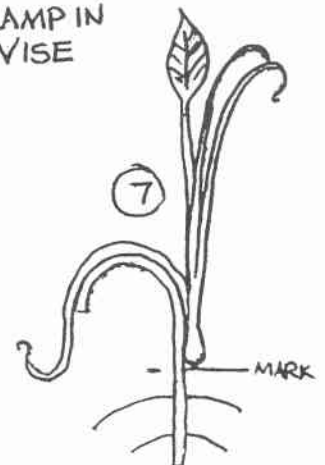
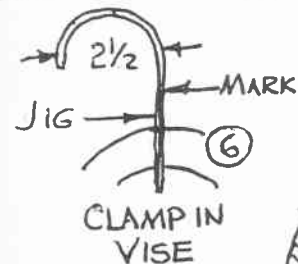
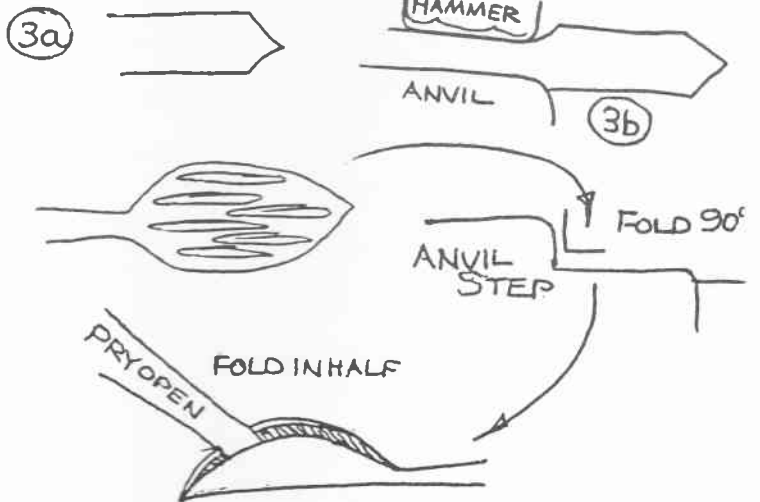
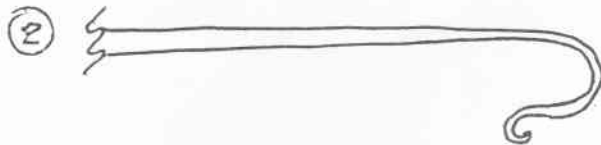
7- Place welded end of heated bundle at mark and bend each of the 6 rods (in turn) over the radius of the jig with a pair of tongs.

8- Adjust each rod so that they are equal distance from each other radiating from the center leaf rod in a star pattern.

9- Bend the leaf rod over into a loop and wrap around itself to form whatever vine like appearance that you find pleasing to the eye.

10- Apply an edible oil to finish (peanut,olive, ect.)

## Ocmulgee Blacksmith Guild Newsletter





The Jefferson County Historical Society  
will host the 4th annual  
**BLACKSMITHING WORKSHOP**

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
October 26 & 27, 1996  
at the Historic Village on North 27th Street  
Mt. Vernon, Illinois



Cost - \$25 both days, \$15 one day.

All proceeds to benefit The Blacksmith Shop.

The guest demonstrator will be Bob Patrick, Everton, Arkansas. Bob was a founder of The Blacksmith Association of Missouri, and The Blacksmith Association of Arkansas, currently serving as their editor. Bob is a Master Blacksmith, operating his own ornamental iron business, with many years experience as a demonstrator at historic sites and workshops. Emphasis will be on forging traditional items using time honored techniques, including forge welding. This will be geared to the beginning to intermediate skill levels.

There will be an auction Saturday evening of donated ironware, tools, and supplies. The money raised will be used to fund the monthly Open Forge Workshops held the second Saturday of each month year around.

Coffee and donuts and a weiner roast Saturday evening free to registrants. Lunch will be available at a small additional fee.

Tailgate sales welcome and encouraged.

Please pre-register by October 1, 1996.

-----  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MAIL TO: ANDREW MACDONALD, 401 W. KENICOTT, CARBONDALE, IL 62901  
ANY QUESTIONS: CALL ANDREW AT 618-549-1954 OR JOHN LOVIN 618-756-2331

# BAM

## Shop Notes

*Got a tip to share? Jot it down and send it to the editor, Jim McCarty, 5821 Helias Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65101*

### Get to the point

My machinist uncle told me the best way to check the angle and if the two flutes were even when sharpening drill bits, was to hold two hex nuts together on edge. The angle formed is very close, (close enough) and you can readily see if they are equal by putting the freshly ground tip of the bit into the joint between the nuts.

— Bob Bigelow

### What'll they think of next?

I came across something a little while ago that some of you may be interested in. Its called The Universal Saw Blade. This is a replacement coping or hacksaw blade that is round and can cut in any direction. It seems to work well for cutting tight patterns in metal. I wouldn't use it for general purpose cutting but for curves and such its great.

Universal Saw

Rt.1 Box 333

Warrensville, N.C. 28693

or call Paul Hardy at 910-385-3401.

Pack of 5 coping saw blades for \$18.50.

Pack of 6 hacksaw blades for \$25.

— Mike Linn

### Anvil stand

I just made a stand for my 140# anvil out of a 10 gallon pail filled with 120# of concrete. Before pouring the concrete I cut 4 pieces of 3/8" threaded rod and mounted them on a piece of wood (in a rectangular pattern) and put this on the bottom of the pail. I made sure the rods would stick up about 6 inches from the top of the pail since it was about 3-4 inches too short. After the concrete dried I drilled and cut three pieces of 4x6 and fitted them on top. The anvil rests on the wood and is held down by angle irons bolted to the rods.

— Matt Balent

### How Robb makes sockets

In Robb Gunter's class at John C. Campbell Folk School several years ago, he taught making the socket (for a chisel or garden tool) from pipe (3/4 inch black) by tapering it in a V swage until it fits tight on a tang. The open end of the socket could be drawn some over a bick or slender horn. The short tang was fullered and drawn from the spring stock used for the chisel. Then we fluxed both pieces and forge welded them together.

— Clay Spencer

### Gas savers

I've recently started burning propane instead of acetylene. I've hooked up a 20 pound LP tank, a 15 psi adjustable regulator (the same one I use for the propane forges) to a gas-saver unit.

If you do torch 'forging', i.e., using the 'hot wrench' for spot heating, look into the gas-savers. For those who have never seen one — which included me up to about a year or so ago — the unit consists of two valves controlled by a side arm.

The fuel and O<sub>2</sub> lines go in one end, the hoses continue out the other side to the torch. When the torch is dropped onto the side-arm, the valves close. There is an adjustable pilot light on the tank side of the fuel line. Operation consists of opening the tank valves and using a striker to light the pilot light.

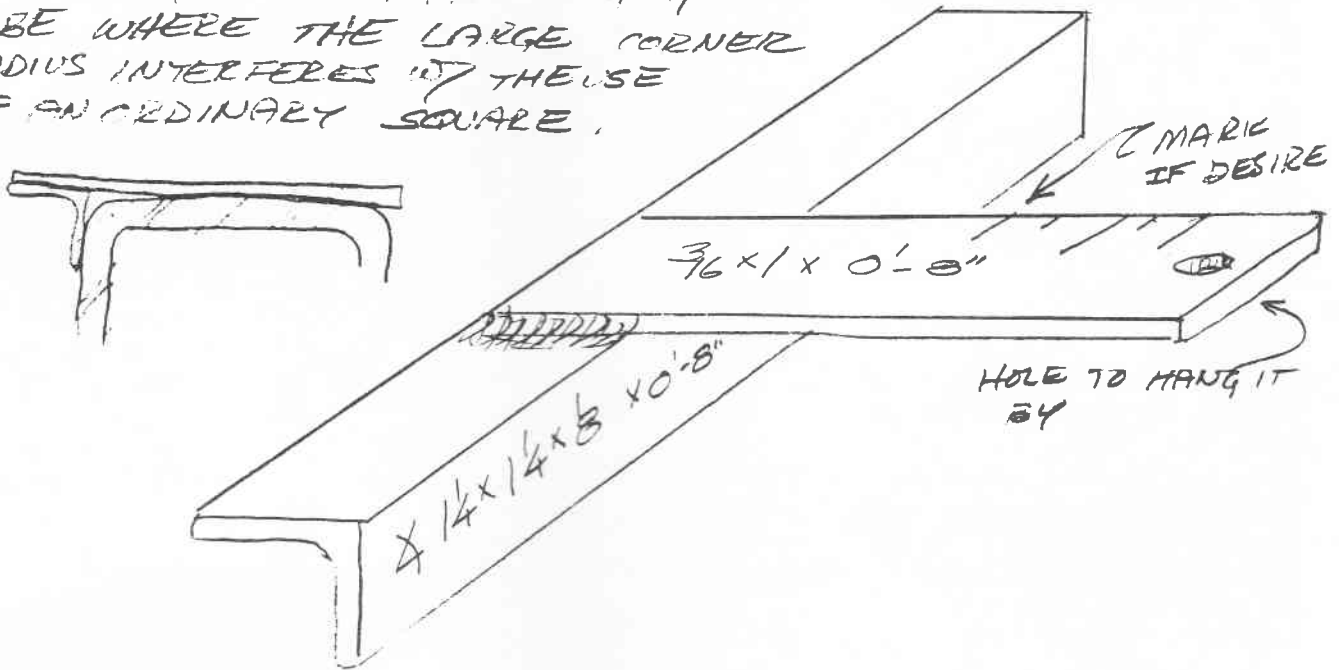
When you are ready to use the torch, lift it off the side arm and move the tip near the pilot light. When the torch fires up, do whatever you need to do. When you don't need it, just drop it back on the sidearm. The torch will go out. Once you adjust the torch valves, you won't have to adjust again.

I picked my unit up used at the Madison conference for \$45. New price is closer to \$125-\$150.

After using the beast for a year, I'd spring the full price just for the safety and convenience of not laying down a running torch or being forced to readjust the torch every time I use it.

— Steve Bloom, IronFlower Forge

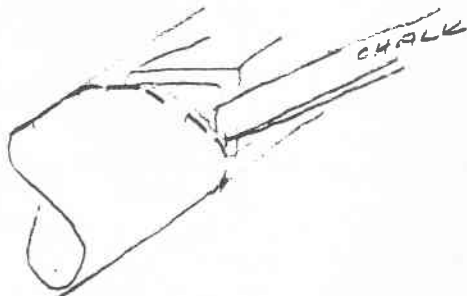
SQUARE MADE FROM ANGLE IS HANDY FOR MARKING HEAVY TUBE WHERE THE LARGE CORNER RADIUS INTERFERES W/ THE USE OF AN ORDINARY SQUARE.



THE ANGLE CAN ALSO BE USED TO DRAW A LINE DOWN A PIPE:



AND IF YOU CUT THE ENDS SQUARE YOU CAN USE THEM TO CARRY A LINE AROUND A SMALL ( $1/2$ ,  $1/4$ ) PIPE.



cut

# BAM NEWS

## ABANA Mini Conference

About the time winter kicks into high gear in Missouri ABANA has an event scheduled that will warm you up in more ways than one. The first ever winter mini-conference sponsored by the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association will be held Jan. 8-12 at Bill Callaway's Phoenix Forge in Phoenix, Arizona.

Demonstrators are Jerry Hoffmann, Dorothy Stiegler, Dmitri Gerakaris, Lou Mueller and Corky Storer.

Only preregistration will be accepted due to a limit of 125 people. You must be an ABANA member to attend. Cost is \$150 plus \$191.50 per person for lodging at the Ramada Inn. To register or for more information contact Bob Rummage at the Phoenix Forge, (602) 253-3116 or Mike Cooper at (602) 938-1495.

## Lou Mueller hosts demos

At the North Carolina Regional Conference this summer Doug Hendrickson and Lou Mueller got to nipping at Lou's hip flask too much and came home with a pair of blacksmiths purchased in the auction. The two can't remember what they bought them for as their shop floors got swept already this year so they are offering them as demonstrators for BAM's membership.

On Nov. 9 Doug Merkel will be at Lou's shop for his demonstration, a full 8 hours of instruction. Doug says he will forge a pair of Colonial style dividers and show how he uses them. He will also make a pole ax and weld in a piece of steel. Everyone is welcome, cost is \$20 which will go to cover Doug's expenses getting to Valley Park.

Later Clay Spencer will be at Lou's for another demonstration. Lou says Clay wants to perform at the anvil this time instead of the treadle hammer and who are we to say otherwise? Expect flowers and wizards from this man of steel. Date will be announced as soon as Clay can work his schedule out. Cost will be the same as the other demo.

Lou says if this works out well he will look into hosting someone every other month.

## Treadle hammers part 2

It looks like we will have more than enough people interested in building a treadle hammer to have another workshop. There is room for a few more people. Clay Spencer will again guide us through the steps required, using all the latest refinements.

Those of you who have signed up already need to send \$50 deposit to treasurer Maurice Ellis to guarantee a spot. If you haven't already signed up send Maurice your name and deposit and we will take additional people on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dates for the workshop will be Feb. 21-23 at Lou Mueller's in Valley Park. President Pat McCarty has volunteered to get the material together and do the preliminary cutting and bending so that the hammers can be completed that weekend.

If anyone has a source for cheap (or free) parts, let Pat know. He's at (314) 239-3814. Projected cost for the hammers is \$250, which must be paid before the workshop date. Thanks to John Sharp for getting this project rolling.

## SOFA 1996

The granddaddy of all regional blacksmithing conferences is the

Southern Ohio Forge Association Quad States Round-up held in Troy, Ohio. This conference features five demonstrators and the largest tailgate area of any blacksmithing event.

Dates for this year's event are Sept 28-29 at the Mimi County Fairgrounds in Troy, Ohio. (Troy is north of Dayton).

Demonstrators include Phil Baldwin on knives, Bob Becker, sampler grill with traditional joinery, Bob Patrick, making and using tools, Russell O'Dell, metal spinning and Ken Scharabok, basic and beginning blacksmithing.

Please preregister by Sept. 21. Cost is \$40 for both days if you preregister, \$50 on site. Single day is \$25 and \$35. For more info contact Brian Thompson at (513) 878-7084.

There are spouse's programs on both days and the nearby town of Tipp City has a mum festival that weekend.

## Robb Gunter demo

John Murray was kind enough to change the date of his September meeting so that any BAM member who wants to can see Robb Gunter demonstrate at the Fall Prairie Blacksmiths Association meeting in Peru, Nebraska on Sept. 14 and 15.

Robb will be joined by his two sons Brad and Chad, top notch smiths in their own right. Their demos will include traditional forging techniques, use of the treadle hammer and power hammer.

There will also be a spouse's workshop featuring two days of demonstrations and hands-on crafts including broom tying and a spinning wheel to try out.

Our neighbors in Nebraska are covering the lion's share of the cost, and members of any ABANA Chapter get in for the same price as their members. Register before Sept. 1 and the price is \$17 for both days, \$10 for one day. After Sept. 1 the cost is \$22 for both days and \$15 for one day. No charge for spouses and family members.

For more info contact Everett Browning, PO Box 17, Peru, NE 68421 or call (402) 872-5945.

## Next meeting Sept. 21, 1996, New Melle, Mo.

John Murray is the host for BAM's next gathering. That meeting is set for Sept. 21 at his Shade Tree Forge near New Melle, Mo. John had originally scheduled this meeting for the 14th but the date was changed so that we could make the Robb Gunter workshop in Nebraska.

If you've never been to John's shop you don't want to miss this one. John likes big things. We believe he has the largest privately owned steam hammer in the Free World but can't confirm this. Last time we met here we were looking for some stock to play around with and the smallest John had was 1-1/4 inch. He was kind enough to turn this into 1/2 inch square so that us mortals could make something.

On the agenda will be an attempt to forge weld a plate on a Hay-Budden anvil owned by Bob Maes. Bob brought this anvil to the Ozark Conference and we got to wondering what it would take to fix the piece that is missing from the face. Out of this discussion came the idea of forge welding a new plate on.

We need a few volunteers who can swing sledge hammers for this one

(you also need to be able to hit what you are swinging at!) This should be a neat look at an old way of doing things.

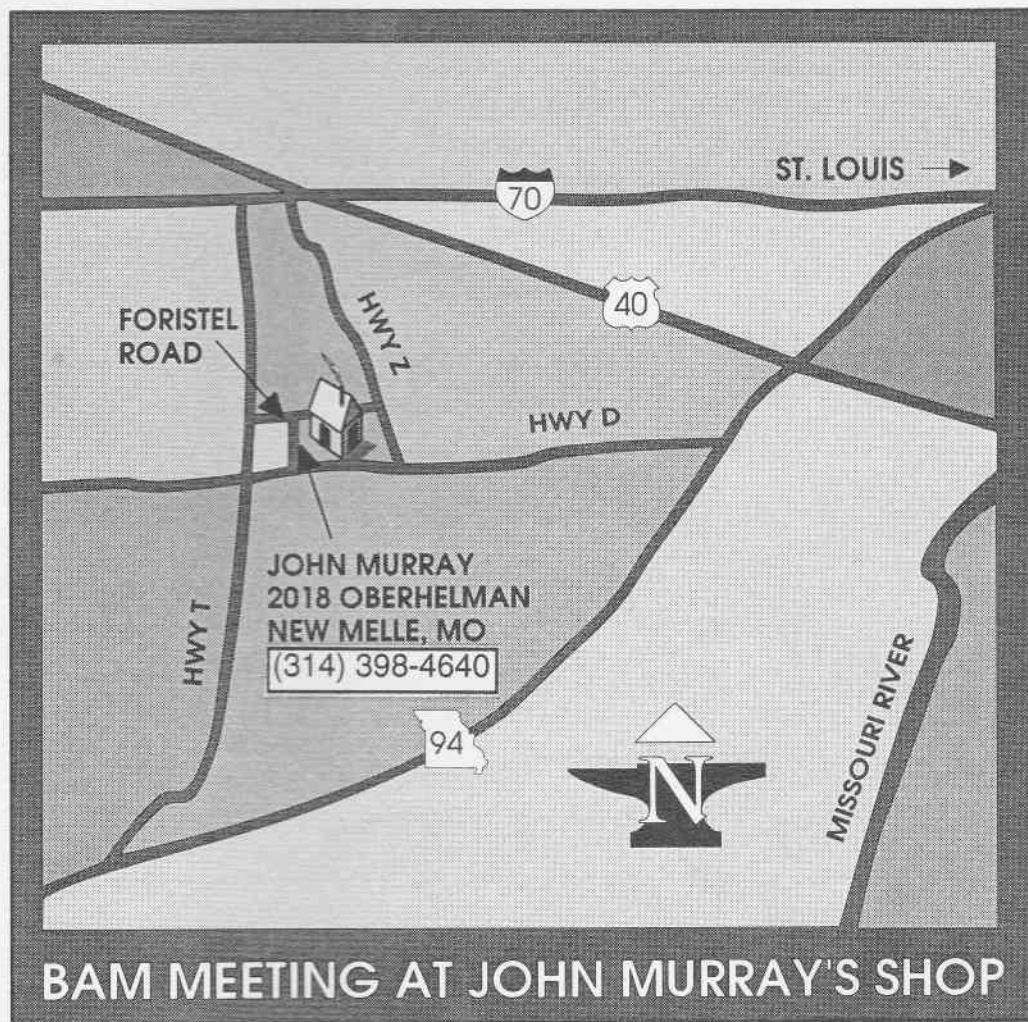
John isn't too hard to find. Just follow the map above and if you get lost holler real loud.

Trade item is a horseshoe or something made out of a horseshoe. For the new members, the trade item works like this: If you make one you get to take someone else's home with

you. This is a good way to learn a new technique or just make yourself do something you might not do otherwise.

Also, try to bring something for the Iron in the Hat, which is BAM's way of raising money through a raffle of forged items or tools, supplies or stock that blacksmiths might be interested in.

Hope to see a bunch of you at John Murray's on Spetember 21.



**BAM MEETING AT JOHN MURRAY'S SHOP**



## 1996 Schedule

### September Meeting

John Murray  
New Melle, Mo.  
Sept. 21, 1996

### November Meeting

Joe Wilkinson  
Hope, Mo.  
November 2, 1996

### Doug Merkel Work-

shop, Lou Mueller,  
Valley Park, Mo.  
Nov. 9, 1996

### January 1997 Meeting

A&K Cooperage,  
Higbee, Mo.  
Date to be announced





*Paul Martin, left, and Ray Joe Hastings teamed up the past year to learn gigmaking, an Ozark tradition that dates back three generations in Paul's family. The two spent many mornings in Paul's Bunker, Mo. shop forging gigs from leaf springs using only the simplest of tools. It's hard work but Paul makes it look easy and Ray is learning fast.*

**BAM**  
**5821 Helias Dr.**  
**Jefferson City, MO 65101**

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