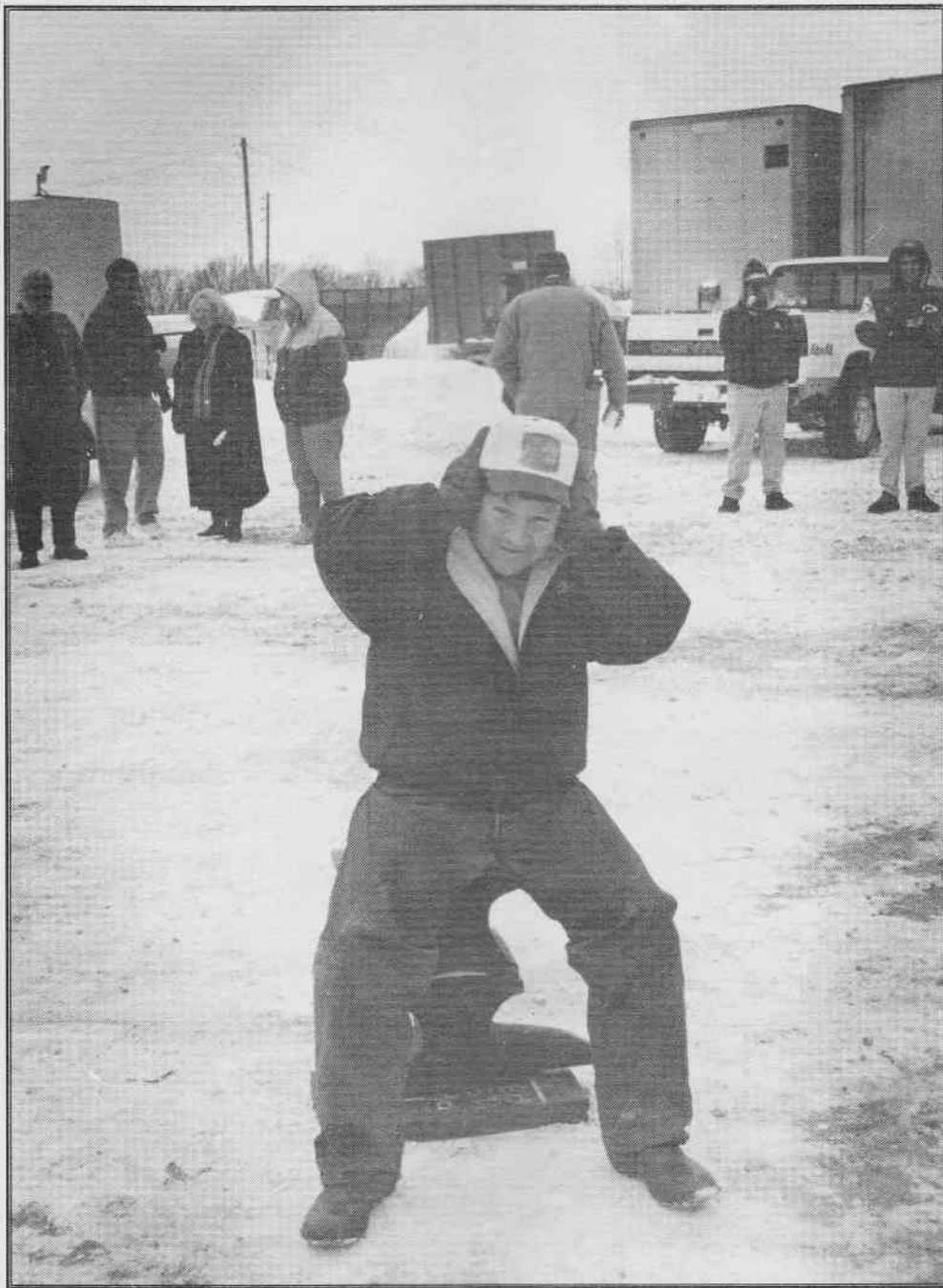


RAM

January — February 1997



NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

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**Newsletter of the
Blacksmiths
Association
of Missouri**

January — February 1997

Volume 14 No. 1

Our cover: Dale Kirby prepares to ride the anvil aloft during the January meeting he hosted at his A&K Cooporage in Higbee. All new members will be initiated this way.

Editor

Jim McCarty

Contributing Editors

Pat McCarty

Steve McGehee

Mailing Labels

Maurice Ellis

The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri is published six times a year and is mailed to members of BAM. The annual fee for regular membership is \$20/year; a portion of this amount is for a subscription to this newsletter for one year. Editorial inquiries should be addressed to: Jim McCarty, 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.

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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

BAM

Send this form in an envelope with your payment to:

BAM,
c/o Maurice Ellis
Rt.1 Box 1442
Belgrade, MO 63622

Officers:

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Pat McCarty

1st Vice President
Bob Alexander

2nd Vice President
Vernon Fisher

Secretary
John Murray

Treasurer
Maurice Ellis

I _____ hereby apply for membership
in the Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America and
enclose \$ _____ as my annual membership dues for one year.

MasterCard VISA Check/Money Order

Card Number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Exp. Date (Required)

--

Checks must be in U.S. currency

SEND RENEWAL TO:

ABANA

P.O. BOX 206, Washington, MO 63090 (314) 390-2133

Dues Distribution:

1 year subscription Anvil's Ring: 68.5 % \$24

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.

The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri and its members do not manufacture, distribute, sell, test, warrant, guarantee, or endorse any of the tools, materials, instructions or products contained in articles or features in the Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri. The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri disclaims any responsibility or liability for damages or injuries as a result of any construction, design, use, manufacture or other activity undertaken as a result of the use or application of information contained in any articles or features in the Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri. The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, fitness, proper design, safety or safe use of any information contained in the Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri.

“These are the times that try men’s souls.” Thomas Paine wrote that during the American Revolution but I know what he was talking about. Since the week after BAM’s January meeting Janice and I have been desperately taking care of our baby daughter, Emily, who was diagnosed with infantile spasms.

Her care has taken most of our time so I apologize if this newsletter is both late and poorly edited. Thanks to all who offered assistance in putting it together, especially old editors Bernie Tappel and Walt Hull. It’s nice to know you have friends at a time like this.

I can’t believe the outpouring of support we have had as the news spread. Most amazing was the “bulk rate” e-mail I got from theForge, ABANA’s e-mail list. I had to sign off after two weeks in the hospital when it became apparent I couldn’t get in and check the e-mail. A week or so later I got a message of support from just about everybody on the list, carefully consolidated into one message so it didn’t tie me up downloading messages.

I hope to get back on as her condition improves. At this writing she seems to be responding to the second round of medicine. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Thanks to Vernon Fisher, BAM should have a web site on line pretty soon. I have been creating the site since last summer from a template George Dixon put together and made available to all chapters. It will have events listed, the bulletin board section from the newsletter and a random sampling from newsletters past to encourage new members to join.

Still don’t have the site working right yet, maybe I will by the time you get this. The URL is: <http://www.advertisnet.com.bamsite> Let me know what you think.

The host for the site is an internet provider at the Lake of the Ozarks who is friends with Vernon. I just mentioned I was looking for a host to Vernon and two days later he had it arranged.

Thanks Vernon!

Can’t wait to see all the film Pat shot when he traveled to Philadelphia

with Doug Hendrickson and Stan Winkler. Pat said they crawled all over town looking at Yellin’s iron-work, poking around in machinery shops and visiting the Chambersburg hammer plant. Understand there was an incident with an old bell located there. Maybe we can weld the crack they put in it.

Had to miss the treadle hammer workshop but I understand it was another success. Clay Spencer said it was one of the best organized yet. The crew made jigs for the tedious parts, and sent them along with Clay for the next workshop. Tom Clark found a place to make the springs for us, cheaper than if we did it ourselves.

Tom really outdid himself on the anvil parts. Chrome anvils? That should match Tom’s striking hammer.

But when do we get the anvil tops, Tom?

Do we need to host another forge building workshop? Or maybe make it gas forges this time? Let Pat know what you need and BAM will do it.

Many thanks to Preston Williams for the use of his gas forge at the January meeting and to Dale Kirby for hosting us. Dale sure enjoyed himself, as did everyone who attended. Thanks also to Steve White, who hauled me into Moberly in search of a tank of gas and then bought the tank for his own gas forge project. Read in the UMBA Journal that it is complete. By the way, Steve is the new editor of the Upper Midwest Blacksmith Association newsletter. Just got your first effort Steve, keep up the good work.

Pat tells me we have more T-shirts available in the hard to find XX and XXX (Doug Hendrickson) sizes. He says we also have a good selection of shirts in small (Stan Winkler) size too. Get them while they’re hot.

Coming up is Maurice Ellis’s March meeting. We will have some scholarship payback demos there. Also coming up is the Ozark Conference. If you haven’t already done it, forge something for the auction. No more wet finish! Get it done early.

Nita Pace, mother of BAM member Torbin Pace, is putting together our family program for the confer-



ence. Nita is one of the teachers at the Shannondale Craft Workshop held in August each year. This is a great event, kind of a mini John C. Campbell Folk School.

Just got word that Emil Bubash lost his wife this past weekend. Our sympathy to you Emil. We know she suffered for a long time.

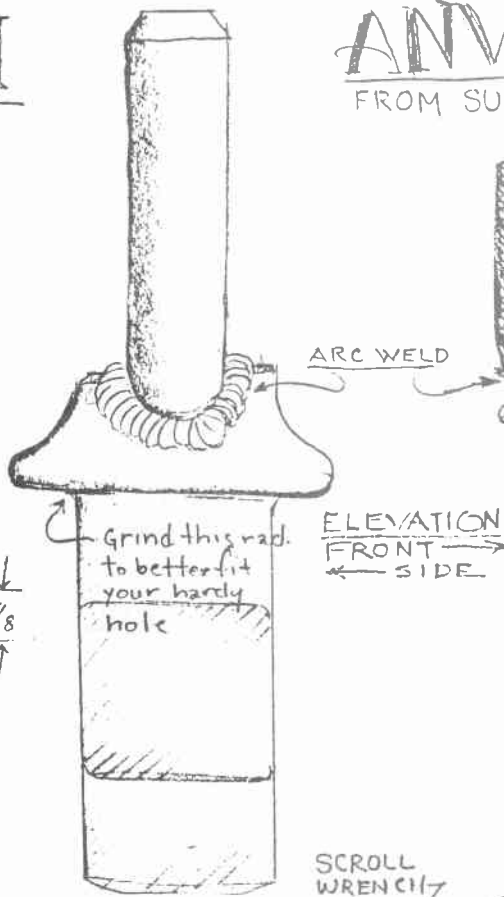
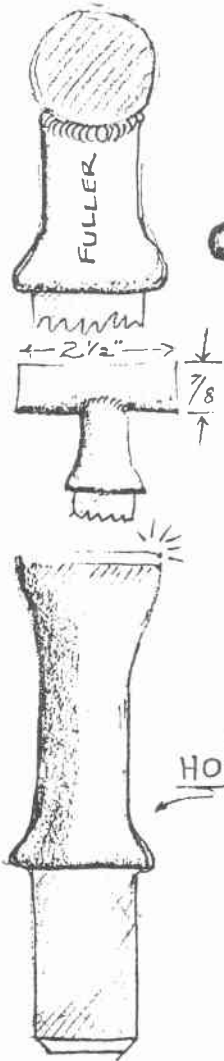
Also understand we lost another BAM member, Dan Scholz, this winter. Gonna miss you, Dan.

Hope everyone managed to keep their fires lit and cabins warm this winter. (Now where have we read that?) Looking forward to spring when perhaps my water barrel will thaw out.

—Jim McCarty

ANVIL TOOLS

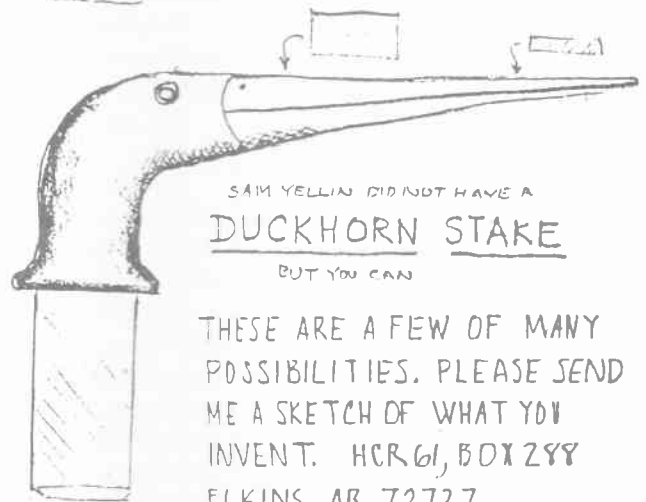
FROM SUCKER ROD ENDS by Stephen McGENEE
Pinnacle Forge



2 1/2" CARBON STEEL ROD,
* SALVAGED FROM FLEA MARKET
LUG WRENCHES/TIRE TOOLS

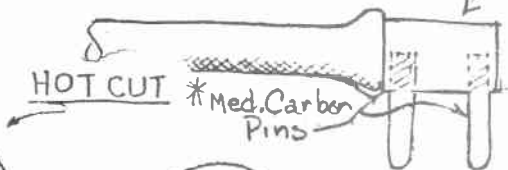
USE A BIG ROD AND HIGH
CURRENT TO WELD THESE!

BENDING FORKS,
VARIOUS SIZES



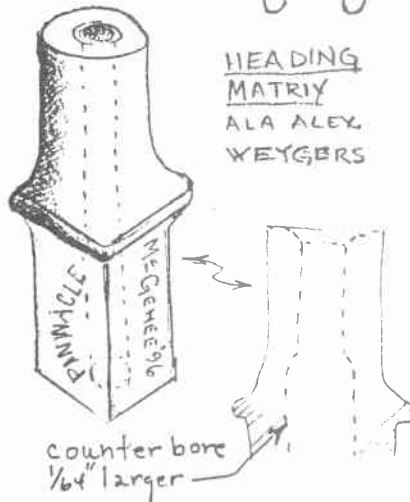
SAM YELLEN DID NOT HAVE A
DUCKHORN STAKE
BUT YOU CAN

THESE ARE A FEW OF MANY
POSSIBILITIES. PLEASE SEND
ME A SKETCH OF WHAT YOU
INVENT. HCR 61, BOX 288
ELKINS, AR 72727

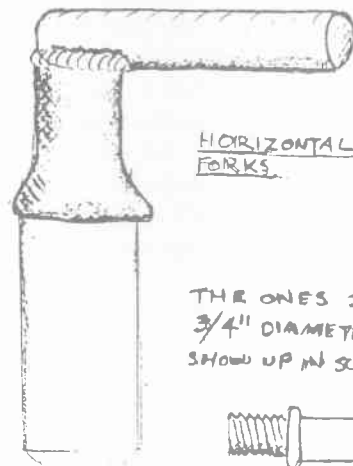


SCROLL
WRENCH

HEADING
MATHY
ALA ALEY
WEYGERS



- * MONKEY TOOLS
- * RIVET SETS
- * CANDLE CUP FORMING BLOCK
- * BICKS



HORIZONTAL BENDING
FORKS

THE ONES I HAVE ARE 7/8 OR
3/4" DIAMETER & OCCASIONALLY EVEN
SHOW UP IN SCRAP YARDS UNTHREADED.



SUCKER RODS ARE A STAPLE ITEM IN MANY WELDING SHOPS NEAR THE OIL FIELDS. THE FORGED ENDS ARE FREQUENTLY DISCARDED AND CAN BE HAD FOR SCRAP. THE MATERIAL IS AROUND .40% C SO THEY ARE SUITABLE FOR MANY ANVIL TOOLS. I GRIND MY WELDS SMOOTH AND NORMALIZE, THEN HARDEN AND TEMPER PURPLE.



Pat's Place

We came very close to postponing the Jan. BAM meeting due to the severe cold. But we knew there was no way to reach everyone so we went ahead anyway.

Seems the cold didn't stop about 100 bammers from showing up. Our host, Dale Kirby, had a shop area warmed up with space heaters for us to set up a gas forge. Preston Williams brought along his gas forge and after we ran down some propane we fired up.

Meanwhile Dale's crew showed us how they make large wine barrels. They heat the air dried oak and bend and press it into a barrel shape. They use many special tools to assemble the barrels, then sand and the rest of the hoops are put on.

Dale donated the finished demo barrel to Iron in the Hat. We had a nice array of vegetation for trade items and raised a fair sum of money in Iron in the Hat.

Tom Clark and Gay Wilkinson shot the anvil at lunch and it looks like BAM's got another anvil to repair. Seems Tom's anvil lost a small piece during its flight, I'm sure we can weld it back on!

A good time was had by all, thanks to Dale and his wife for hosting the meeting and joining BAM.

The conference is coming up soon so get busy making something for our auction. We use this money to award scholarships and bring demonstrators for the membership. It's also a good time to show what you're into and inspire some of the newer members.

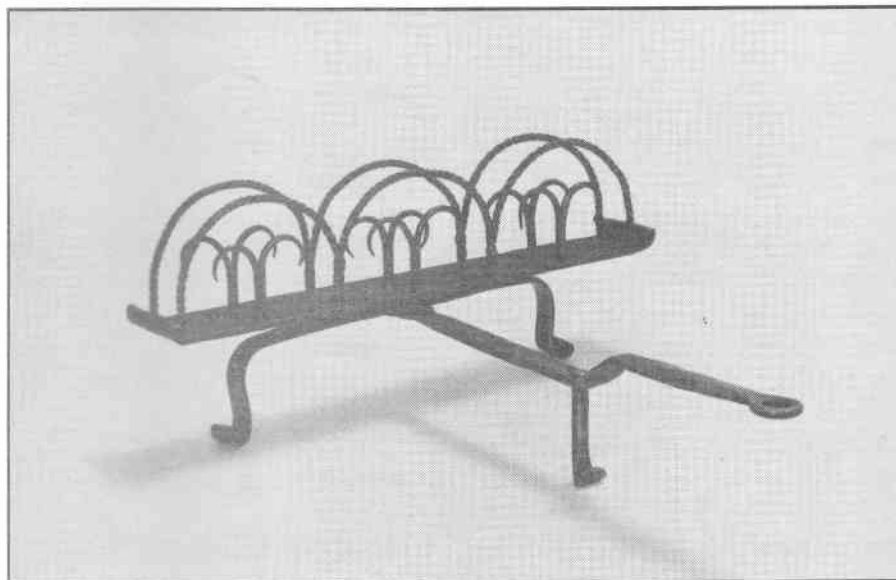
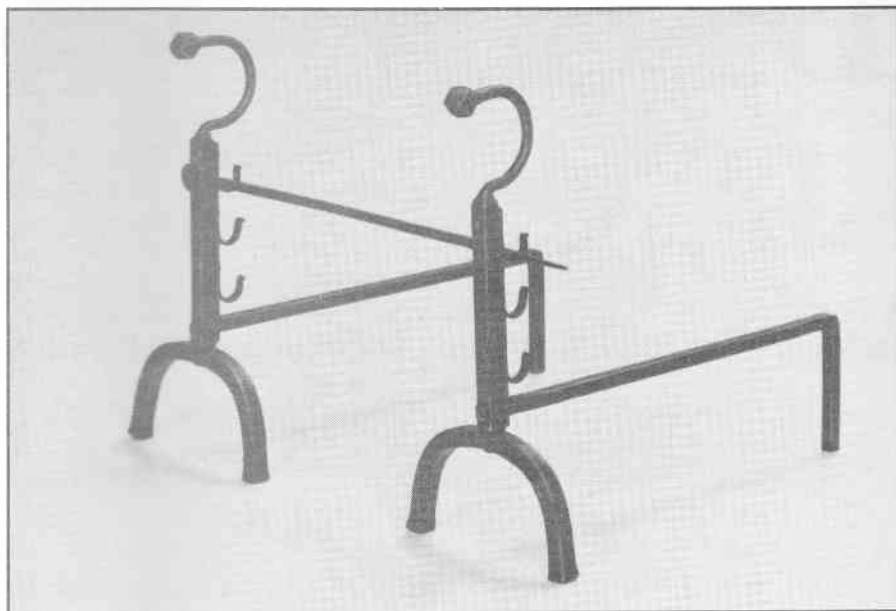
We are having a craft booth at the conference this year and are asking for donations to stock it. Please bring something that can sell for under \$10 and we'll put it in the booth.

I'm working on the contest and hope to have it ironed out by the time the newsletter is printed. If anyone wants coal I'll bring a pallet to Potosi and don't forget to dig out some rusty iron for the tailgate area.

See ya all in May at the conference.

—Pat McCarty

Colonial Iron by Pat McCarty



BAM

JAN.

MEETING

by Jim McCarty

We didn't do a lot of blacksmithing at BAM's January meeting, but we sure had a lot of fun. That was the consensus of the big group who found Dale Kirby's A&K Cooperage, site of the January gathering.

Dale makes wine barrels using some pretty strange equipment. He had a warm spot for us and the weather held out just long enough for us to get the meeting in.

Thanks to Preston Williams we had a nice warm gas forge to work out of. Preston warned me we would need a tank of gas but of course I let that slide until the last minute.

Steve White offered his services and the two of us headed to Moberly to find a tank. While we were making the rounds of area gas dealers and hardware stores, Dale was showing how he earns his living. He built a complete barrel from slabs of oak to a sanded and banded final product.

I've been to his place twice now and both times have missed the demo. Got to make it a third time I guess.

Not only did Dale show us how he builds barrels, he also donated the finished product to the iron in the hat. But first everyone who attended (I counted around 100) signed the barrel.

When we returned with the tank our president Pat McCarty fired up the forge and showed us how to make spike wizards. He had to improvise slightly since he was without his trusty

blacksmiths helper.

The Higbee Lion's Club was on hand with chili, hotdogs and bratwurst and it was nice being able to eat when and how often we wanted. Think we need these guys for all our meetings.

By the time most of us were finished Gay Wilkinson and his apprentice Tom Clark had a pair of anvils ready to be launched. Dale offered a barrel as a target but both shooters missed their mark this time.

I think our anvil shooters learned an interesting lesson about firing anvils in sub zero weather but since we are still smarting from Donnie Fulwood's meltdown cartoon last issue I won't tell what happened.

Suffice it to say our host was suitably impressed with his first anvil shoot and both shooters have an invitation to the big Midwest Tool Club meeting in August.

We swapped some tools, gave away a bunch of nice trade items (a flower) and had an impressive showing for the iron in the hat. V.J. McCrackin had some nice knives on hand.

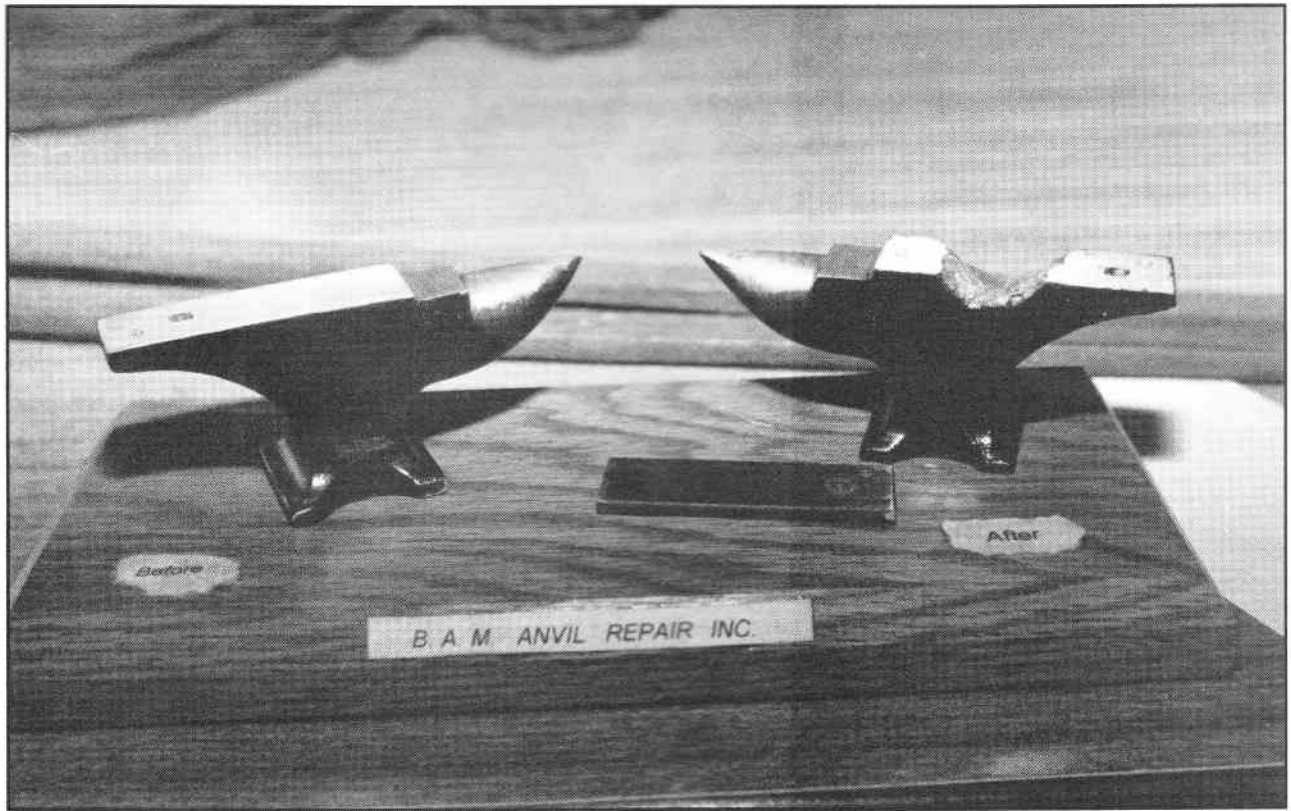
Dale has offered to host us again and I think we need to take him up on the offer when the barrel in my shop melts enough for him to fix it.

Minutes

- Thanks to Dale and Carole Kirby, A&K Cooperage, for hosting us.
- Trade item was a flower, very well represented.
- Good show on Iron in the hat.
- Lisa Murray wins anvil repair sculpture by Bob Alexander, bringing it all home to New Melle.
- Demo barrel signed by attendees, won by Paul Tate.
- Minutes of last meeting approved as published.
- BAM member Dan Scholz died.
- Pat proposed buying a brick for blacksmith shop at Jefferson County Historical Society. Our brick will be placed at the shop. This effort is sponsored

by the Illinois Valley Blacksmiths Association. Motion passed.

- Jim McCarty is new editor of the Anvil's Ring.
- Pat has applications for membership in National Metals Museum.
- Stephen Bondi is organizing a photographic documentary of ironwork in Italy. He is soliciting donations of funds to finance this. Motion made to donate \$500. Approved. We will get a copy of the slides, etc., for our library.
- Motion made to put John C. Campbell Folk School on our mailing list. Motion changed to put all craft schools on the list if they request.
- Tom Clark spoke on the treadle hammer workshop. Plans moving smoothly, steel ordered. Some work will be done ahead of time.
- Maurice spoke on Ozark Conference 1997. New motel will fill up fast. Make reservations soon!
- Treasurer's report: Net worth \$4,479.80 at this point, not including deposits made by attendees at treadle hammer workshop.
- Tom spoke about enlarging library.
- Editor Jim McCarty asked for more articles and shop tips for our newsletter.
- Tin smithing workshop at Mt. Vernon Jefferson County Illinois Historical Site April 19-20.
- Tom Spoke about Uri Hoffi workshop at Potosi prior to Ozark Conference. This will be an intensive program. Tom spoke highly of Uri's abilities as both a smith and teacher. The entire program will take 5 weeks with the first 2 weeks devoted to teaching the teachers.
- Don't forget auction items for conference.
- Meeting adjourned.



Above: Sculpture by Bob Alexander brought a lot of chuckles and went home with Lisa Murray in the Iron in the Hat. Left: Phil Cox sports a dandy lapel flower forged by Steve White from leftover UMBA anvil castings. Below: Cloning experiment at Shade Tree Ironworks produced two Lisa's.





ABANA

Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America

P.O. Box 206, Washington, Missouri 63090
Executive Secretary, Janelle Gilbert

Office Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm
Phone: (314) 390-2133

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE CHAPTERS **March 1997**

REVIVAL OBSERVED

I always like to look back to see where I am now. Richard Quinnell, in England, around 1988 wrote, and I quote:

"By the mid 1970s the surviving blacksmiths of Britain were isolated and demoralized. Most would have agreed at the time that they were the last representatives of a quaint and dying rural craft which had seen its high point in the early 18th century and which now had little relevance to modern life and little future. They were largely unaware of each other's existence, each suspecting that he was possibly the last survivor of the species on the planet."

When ABANA was formed, this statement could have applied in this country. But look at blacksmithing now!

EVENTS BUILDING UP TO A BUSY SCHEDULE

1997 is getting off to a good start. January had Bill Gichner on the east coast, and Bill Callaway in the southwest kicking off the year with special events. As I look through my list of chapter events (in the back of the 1997 ABANA School Directory), there is something going on every month this spring. Two in March, six in April, seven in May and three so far for June. Also in June, Canada is hosting their first mini-conference. Add to this all the regular Chapter meetings around the US and Canada and it does not take a brain surgeon to see the enormous amount of enthusiasm in blacksmithing. If you have not visited another Chapter function, you are missing out. Not only do you get the chance to see something new, but you get the opportunity to meet some real nice people. Try it, you'll like it! And by the way, you can get your own events list from the ABANA Office, just ask for the free Schools Directory as one of the free resources.

MOBILE TEACHING STATION SCHEDULE

If your chapter is interested in using the mobile teaching station this year, please let me know as soon as possible. The schedule is starting to develop quickly. So far it is as follows:

Missouri	BAM's Ozark Conference	May 02, 03, 04
Georgia	S.E. Regional Conference	May 15, 16, 17
North Carolina	Penland Demonstration	June 28 and July 04
New Hampshire		October ?

FUND-RAISERS FOR YOUR CHAPTER!! HURRY, HURRY!!

It's that time again to contact the ABANA Office for a "first come, first serve" request for FREE 1996 conference souvenirs to use for chapter fund-raising (raffle and auction items). All you need to do is pre-pay the shipping and handling to reserve your freebie limit six (6) of each item: Pocket Pliers, Maroon Golf T's (X-L/L mixed), Navy T's (Mediums), Navy Caps, and Bandannas (no limit) all with '96 Conf logo. You can reserve your fund-raisers with \$10 S/H paid by check, MasterCard, VISA, or money order along with a UPS address for shipment.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Growth is the only evidence of life." - John Henry Newman

Lou Mueller
ABANA President



CHAPTER LIAISON NEWSLETTER

March
1997

ABANA - PO Box 206 - Washington, MO 63090 phone/fax (314) 390-2133

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT TRUST FOR ARTISTIC BLACKSMITHING

Quite a mouthful! In 1973, near Lumpkin, Georgia a small group of inspired visionaries founded ABANA, the Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America. That was a mouthful too!

On the eve of ABANA's 20th Anniversary year, on December 31, 1992, the ABANA Board, likewise visionary, voted to create the National Endowment Trust. They confirmed their intent by placing \$20,000.00 of ABANA's reserve funds in this irrevocable vehicle. Bloomington Bank and Trust in Bloomington, Indiana, the Trustee of these funds is directed to pay the investment income from these funds to ABANA, at least once every year.

So far, the ABANA Board has elected to roll the trust income back into the pot, and Pete Brandenburg, ABANA Treasurer, reported at the November budget meeting that the trust fund with income plus additional donations stood at \$23,070.27. The trust will be five years old in 1997.

"UNDER THE SPREADING CHESTNUT TREE . . ."

These are familiar words to blacksmiths, and hark back to the halcyon days of blacksmithing's rich heritage in centuries past. I always wondered who planted that tree, who watered it, and whose den is paneled with the wormy chestnut now.

I hope the last sentence woke you up. Times change, and stuff happens; in this century both the American chestnut and the blacksmith have faced extinction. A few of the old chestnut stumps still send up sprouts, and a few of these sprouts still bear chestnuts before declining again into the forest litter. Botanists are working with hybrid strains they hope will prove resistant to the chestnut blight. And ABANA with equal imagination is attempting to revitalize the ancient and noble art of blacksmithing.

In a way, I think the National Endowment Trust is the blacksmith's new chestnut tree. Let's call it affectionately, The Chestnut Trust. ABANA has planted it, but who will water it with a dipper from the iron laden water of their slack tub? Who will stand in its defense to say, "Woodman, spare that tree."?

In its shade, a hundred generations of blacksmiths yet unborn may learn the craft passed on to us by a hundred generations who have faded into the ages. This is a sprout off Ygarsdril, the ancient Celtic tree of life. It is symbol and actuality merging forever into the distant mists of time.

ABANA HAS PLANTED A NEW CHESTNUT TREE

Well, I got a little carried away. It is no exaggeration though, to say that the Chestnut Trust will need some nurturing by this generation of blacksmiths if it is to fulfill its potential to serve coming generations.

A number of our older smiths have indicated they are planning to remember the National Endowment Trust in their wills, and this is certainly appropriate. The ones of whom I have knowledge are the same ones who have supported ABANA with all their hearts since its inception. Their personal legacies in many respects are tied to those of ABANA. What better way to provide for the continuance of both than by making a bequest to the Chestnut Trust. The Trust will be there when the time comes.

But the National Endowment Trust is also there now. Small drops of water are just as welcome to the thirsty roots of a sapling tree as are the thundershowers. Small gifts in any size are welcome and easily added to the irrevocable principal account of the Trust.

Individual smiths may want to make a periodic gift in token of their appreciation for the assistance rendered to them by a fondly remembered mentor. If 1,000 of us sent in \$10 a year, the Trust would grow by \$10,000.00.

Local forge groups, benefitting from the inspiration of ABANA and its chapters, may want to make a special project each year to raise a donation for the Chestnut Trust. If 100 local forges sent in \$100 a year, the Trust would grow by \$10,000.00.

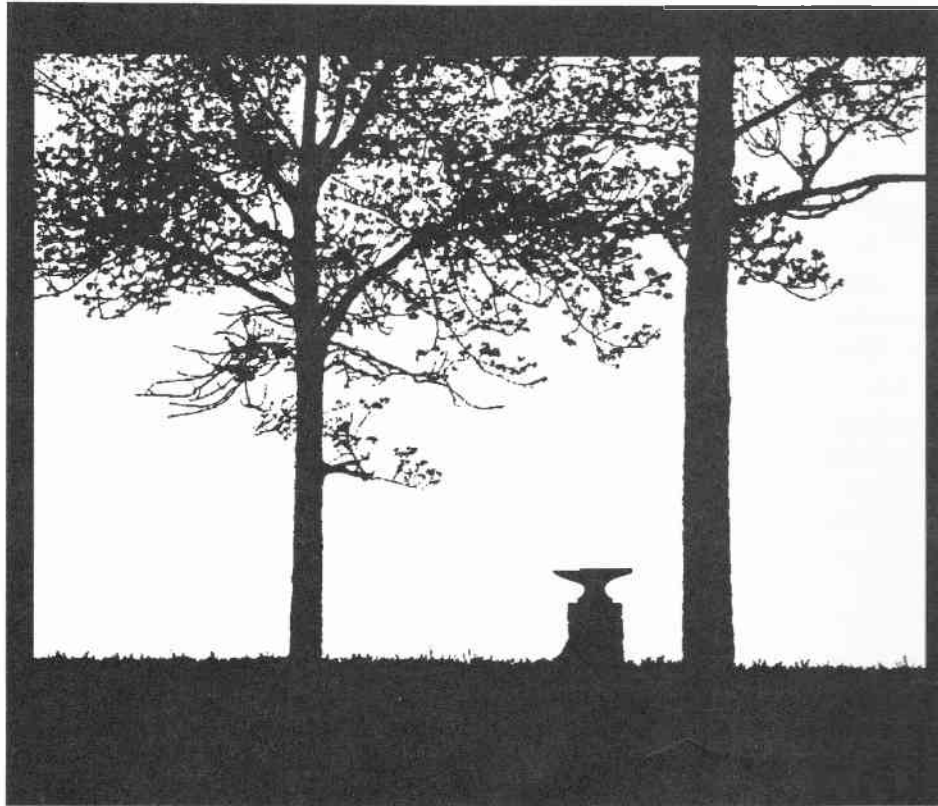
ABANA chapters, acknowledging their unique ranking as associates in the world's largest blacksmithing organization, may choose to act to secure that possibility for their successors in rank. If each of our 50+ chapters appropriated \$200 a year to the Trust, it would grow by \$10,000.00.

So encourage those of us who are getting gray to make a bequeath to the National Endowment Trust for Artistic Blacksmithing. Recall too that the incremental effect of many small gifts is in like fashion impressively significant.

The content of this month's Liaison Newsletter was submitted by

Tim Ryan, ABANA Director

OZARK BLACKSMITHS



Ozark Blacksmith Conference

May 2-4, 1997

Potosi Lion's Club Park, Potosi, MO

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

_____ # of people registering for Conference @ \$25 =
\$ _____

Make checks payable to BAM and send this registration form and payment to: Ozark Conference, Maurice Ellis, Rt. 1 Box 1442, Belgrade, MO 63622-9801

NOTE: A new Super 8 Motel is now open in Potosi for your convenience during the conference. The phone number is (573) 438-8888. When making reservations indicate that you are with the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri to get special group rates beginning at \$38.79 plus tax up to \$76.50 for the hot tub suite (for you romantics).

Plans are almost complete for the 1997 Ozark Blacksmiths Conference set for May 2-4 in Potosi, Mo. Besides the previously announced demonstrator Mike Boone we are pleased to have Uri Hoffi from Israel on hand for Sunday.

Mike is a 12th generation and a direct descendant of Daniel Boone. His demo will include forging a one-piece scroll flower and a pierced forge welded ring with pass through bars. We may also see gargoyles, leaf forms, Yellin's big nosed king and more.

Uri was one of the highlights at both the St. Louis and Alfred ABANA Conferences. It was almost impossible to get into his tent due to the crowd. He has ways to move metal that will delight the most experienced smith.

The event kicks off at noon Friday for the early birds. Todd Kinnikin will be leading a Damascus project for the bladesmiths. This will be an on-going event. Also, a number of BAM's finest will be at the forge until Friday evening. At that time we will have the world's largest bonfire and a forging competition. Each participating 2-person team gets a bucket of stock and must design and forge something using all pieces within the allotted time.

On Saturday Mike will demo. When he wraps up we will again have our auction of blacksmithing items.

On Sunday Uri Hoffi will take over.

A family program is being offered. The instructor is Nita Pace of Rolla. Nita's project is an angel doll made from wool and decorated as you like it. Cost is \$10, she will have material and tools required. Morning and afternoon session.

Additional lodging includes:
Sunnen Conference Center, Potosi, (573) 438-2154.

Best Western Farmington (573) 756-8031

Days Inn Farmington, 800-325-2525

Austin Inn, Potosi, (573) 438-9002

Super 8 Farmington, (573) 756-0344

Budget Inn Desloge (573) 431-4001

Rosener's, Park Hills (573) 4241

Free camping on conference site but no hook-ups available.

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. 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: 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. I have one Buffalo Climax blower, \$40 and one Champion gas forge blower, needs motor \$35. Also several long handled tongs. 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.

New source for coal: Andrew MacDonald called with a new source of coal on the east side. It's loose coal, good stuff. They have a loader. Call (618) 684-3166 for more details. This is a trial run so go buy some so they will keep it up.

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.

Bob Patrick is making tongs. They are light, easy to use, and made of high carbon steel. Here is the deal: High carbon tongs to your specs — describe jaw shape, style, length of reins, etc. \$20 + \$5 shipping for one pair. \$20 + no shipping for two or more pair. Snail Mail: Bob Patrick, Anvils Metalworking, HC 67, Box 176, Everton, Arkansas 72633; E-mail: clinker@centuryinter.net. Bob says once things get busy he won't be

able to fill tong orders so if you want some get them now.

All orders for Skipjack Press books, Jack Andrews operation, will be filled by Bookmaster's Inc, which specializes in fulfilling book orders. You may now order by calling 1-800-247-6553 (24 hours, 7 days a week), by fax, by e-mail by regular mail and by the World Wide Web. Major credit cards accepted. Orders are shipped the next day via UPS. Here's the details:
BookMasters, Inc., PO Box 388, Ashland, OH 44805. Fax: (419) 281-6883. e-mail: order@bookmaster.com.

Internet:
www.bookmasters.com/skipjack
Jack wrote the classic "Edge of the Anvil" and also offers books on Sam Yellin and Julius Schramm.

Lee Quaintance, BAM member from Kansas, wants to let folks on that side of the world know he has a source for bulk coal at \$75 per ton. You can reach Lee at (913) 893-6797 for more details.

Forge for sale, Champion #40, measures 35 inches by 27 inches, with homemade hood. Best offer over \$100. Has cast iron hearth with Vulcan firepot, Champion blower. Call Jean Taylor, (314) 937-4117 or (314) 931-7656.

Walnut, cedar and cherry lumber for sale. Air dried. Priced at 70, 60 and 75 cents per board foot. Contact Jim Shy, (573) 269-4617, Black, MO.

BAM

Bulletin Board

Q&A

Q: Is there a "rule of thumb" for welding that will keep your project square after welding? Do you tack it all over, then weld? Clamp it tight, then weld? Put it together out of square and hope the weld pulls it square? Say the hell with it, weld it and beat it square?

A: I have "welding squares" that I made up out of 2x2 tubing made with a rafter's square for trueness and I clamp anything with a right angle to one of them, then weld. **LET THE PIECE COOL WHILE STILL CLAMPED** or it will go out of square. I have built fences, gates, sign brackets and holders, tables, machinery, etc. and it's all square this way.

— Bill Wyant

Q: What was the final word on the best way to prevent freezing in your quench tank? If I use standard antifreeze (I figure 1 gallon per 30 gallon should give me some protection) when I quench a hot piece of steel, are the steam fumes going to be toxic or give me any problem? Anyone have any idea?

A: I live in an area where temps are often below zero and where we have seen -32. My slack tub is a half a whiskey barrel which I assume to be about 40 gallons. I experienced a slack tub that was frozen solid and I mean solid my first winter here. I first solved the problem by having a piece of stock 5/8 x 5 about 24 inches long standing in my slack tub and leaning up against the inside rim. I would then put an engine block heater magnet (available at any auto parts store) on my bar stock just above the waterline. In severe cold it would still freeze every where except for the area within an inch or two of the bar stock. What I do now and I think is the perfect solution for me, is suspend a bird bath heater in my slack tub. It is thermostatically controlled so shuts off when not needed. It is my first winter with this system but so far we have seen -18 and no

ice at all in my tub. The cost is pennies a day and well worth not dealing with the frozen tub.

The bird bath heater is made by, Nelson Manufacturing Co., 3049 12th St. Dept BW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404, (319) 363-2607.

I also highly recommend the engine block heaters for anyone who owns a Little Giant or similar hammer in a cold climate area. Every night when I close up shop I put two magnets on the frame and one on the spring. A cracked frame is a totalled hammer and a broken spring, if you don't have a guard, could mean a totalled smith, and at the least an unnecessary hassle if you do. Another winter morning ritual for me is to first light my propane forge with a piece of 1/2 x 5 by 22 inch piece of stock inside it, then go back to the house for a second cup of coffee and check my e-mail, return to the shop and lay my now hot piece of iron on my anvil face. By now the shop is comfortably warm or close to it and I spend the next 10 or 15 minutes organizing the shop from the previous day's chaos. By the time my shop is ready for another assault my anvil will have the cold sucked out of it and I am ready to go.

— Roger Olsen

Welding flux

The flux I use for forge welding is equal parts fine sand, borax and table salt. If you heat this up over the forge until it sticks together then let it cool and pulverize it, you can keep it in an air tight container for years.

— The Bituminous Bits

Try 4 parts borax/1 part boric acid powder or crystal. I use it for welding Damascus as well as general welding and have been using it since Anti-Borax company sold out.

— Bill Fiorini

Wood and iron polish

If combining wood and iron in a project, a simple wood stain is

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

KIWI shoe polish in the round tin. Work the paste into the wood with an old toothbrush and wipe off the excess with a soft cloth. I prefer brown. It also comes in black, tan, cordovan and maybe one or two other colors. Very fast drying.

— Bruce Birtciel, *The Anvil's Horn*

Useful things

A piece of round or square stock held in the vise and used as an anvil (to the side of the vise jaws) is very useful, but it always tips. A piece of stock can be kept from tipping by welding a plate to the bottom which is the height of the vise jaws and then welding a thicker plate to the bottom of the first plate. Clamp the jaws on the first plate and the tool will not tip when hammered on.

— The Bituminous Bits

Beware of beryllium

Many folks have been using brass brushes. Be certain of the composition of the brushes! Those with a coppery color may in fact be beryllium-copper. The dust and/or vapors of beryllium are definitely unhealthy.

— Paul C. Sperbeck

BAM NEWS

BAM has coal

New members may not realize that one of the best benefits of belonging to BAM is the coal supply. Whenever the supply runs low we dispatch a tractor trailer to West Virginia to fetch us another load of their high calibre coal. It comes in 50-pound bags and is available to members only for \$7.50 per bag. The coal is stored at Lou Mueller's shop in Valley Park, Mo., a St. Louis suburb. Call Lou at (314) 225-3252 for directions. This is his shop number so call during working hours. Editor Jim McCarty has also been keeping a pallet available for those of you in central Missouri. Call (573) 395-3304 after 5:30 p.m. for more information. This is really good coal, the kind that gives you really good black boogers!

There's another source of coal on the Illinois and Kansas sides. See page 13 for details.

Brim demo

Al Stephens dropped us a line to invite us up for an Elizabeth Brim Demonstration hosted by the Pennsylvania Artist Blacksmiths' Association on Saturday, April 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Exton, PA. He says you must wear safety glasses to attend, but then we all do that anyway, right? For more info contact Al at (717) 687-8905.

Bladesmithing in Bama

The ninth annual Bladesmithing Symposium and Knife Show is

set for April 10-13 at historic Tannehill Ironworks in McCalla, Alabama. Featured demonstrations are too numerous to mention completely but include: slack belt grinding, metal finishes and etching, knife collecting, Bowie blade forging, folders, Bader grinders, soldering and sheath fitting, building a heat treat furnace, engraving wire inlay and more. Mini seminars will be taught on folders, scrimshaw, carving, sheath making, grinding, blade forging, filework etc. Bring your blades for the knife show and auction and plan to participate in the bladesmith's roundtable and knife collector's forum. For more info contact Barbara Batson, 176 Brentwood Lane, Madison, AL 35758 or phone (205) 971-6860 or (912) 383-6776. Cost is \$100 per person.

Are your dues due?

BAM dues expire on the anniversary of the date you joined. That means if you joined in March your dues expired with the first of this month and should be renewed.

Maurice Ellis helps remind us when they are due by highlighting the date printed on the mailing label on the back of this newsletter. Please check yours now to see if you need to write BAM a check (sorry, no forged checks!). Please send dues money to Maurice at Rt. 1, Box 1442, Belgrade, MO 63622. If you send it to the editor I will have to send it to Maurice.

Auction time

With the Ozark Conference comes a very important BAM function, the auction. We need items donated for the auction! Last year the conference paid its way just barely. BAM gets most of the money to operate on during the year from the auction. Last year we brought in \$7,000 thanks to you. Please get busy on a nice piece and bring it with you when you come to the conference.

Family program

Nita Pace of Rolla is hosting the family program at this year's conference. Nita is the mother of

BAM member Torbin Pace. Her project will be an angel doll made from wool and decorated how you want. She will have all materials and tools you need. Cost is \$10. She will have a morning and afternoon session.

Scholarship time

As long as we are talking about the Ozark Conference, don't forget to send in your application for one of the BAM Scholarships presented at the conference. Todd Kinnikin is again the chairman of the scholarship committee. To apply send name, address, course you want to take, cost of the course and why you want to take this course to:

Todd Kinnikin, 8356 John McKeever Rd., House Springs, MO 63051.

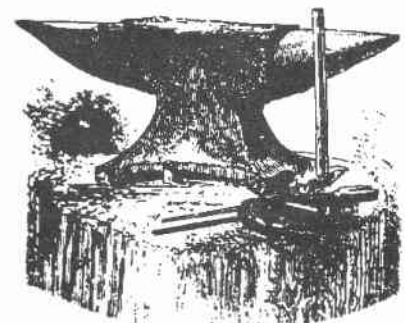
All scholarship winners must write an article on something they learned for the newsletter and demonstrate at a BAM meeting in return for their scholarship.

Grandpa's tools

Judene Huellinghoff of Owensville, Mo., dropped me a line and asked if I would be on the look out for tools or any information about her grandfather's blacksmith shop. His name was Edwin Borgelt and he operated a shop at Cappeln which is near John Murray's shop at New Melle.

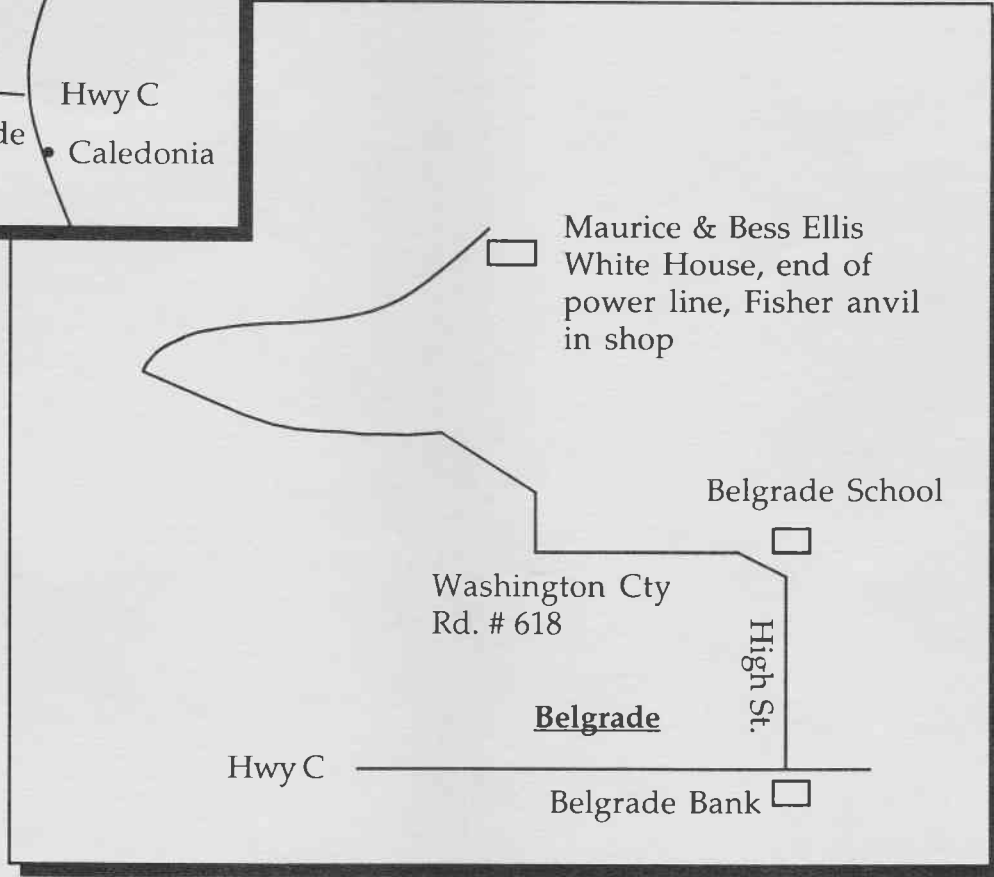
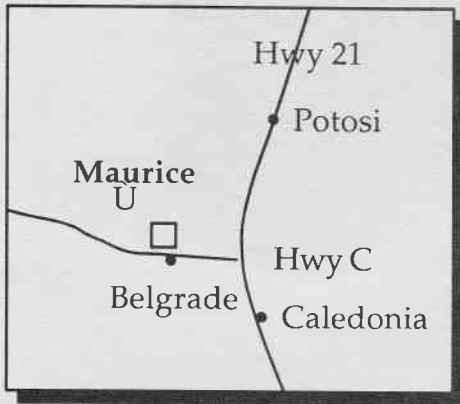
Several years ago the shop was dismantled and she said is to be reconstructed at Daniel Boone's home sometime in the future.

Most of the tools were auctioned off sometime ago. Judene is interested in any information that can be linked to him. Her address is Rt. 1 Box 1541, Cuba, MO 65453.



March Meeting

Maurice Ellis's Lizard Ridge Forge
 Belgrade, MO
 March 22, 1997



Take Highway 21 to Highway C just north of Caledonia. Take C to Belgrade. In Belgrade turn right on High Street until it turns into County Road 618 at Belgrade School. Follow County Road 618 for about 2 miles. You will cross 3 cattleguards and come to a gate at the top of the hill. The gate will be open. Go through it and follow the road to the end of the electric line. The white house on the right is Maurice and Bess. Phone (573) 766-5346 if you get lost.



1997 Schedule

March 1997 Meeting
 Maurice Ellis
 Belgrade, Mo.
 March 22

Ozark Conference
 Potosi, MO
 Mike Boone, Uri Hoffi
 May 3-4

May Meeting
 Walt Hull
 Lawrence, Kansas
 June 7

July Meeting
 Doug Hendrickson
 Lesterville, Mo.
 Date to come



Nice copper repousse made by Jonah McCarty as a school art project. Would make a nice donation to the Ozark Conference auction.

BAM
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