

RAM

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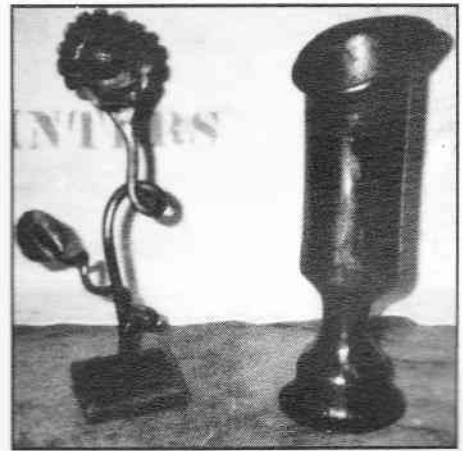
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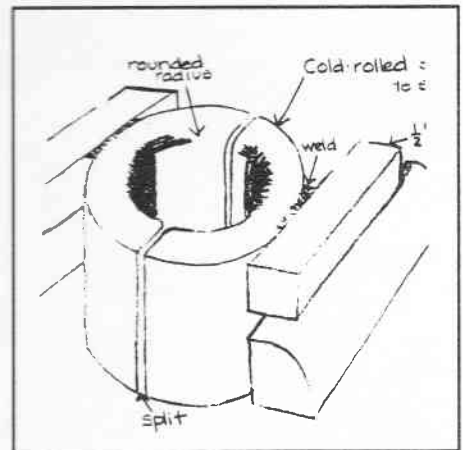
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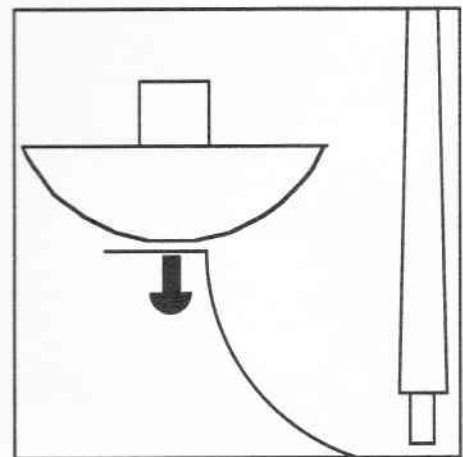
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**Newsletter of the
Blacksmiths
Association
of Missouri**

March — April 1997

Volume 14 No. 2

Our cover: Tom Clark (left) and Tsar Sadan drive home a punch made from an armor-piercing shell held by Uri Hoffi during the workshop held in April. Photo by Jim McCarty.

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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.

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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: _____

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- Contributory\$100 yr.
- Public library.....\$25 yr.

See reverse

BAM

Send this form in an envelope with your payment to:

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c/o Maurice Ellis
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1st Vice President
Bob Alexander

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Vernon Fisher

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John Murray

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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.

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Checks must be in U.S. currency
SEND RENEWAL TO:

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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.

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Ever since I started blacksmithing I have wished I either had a third arm or some larger boys to help strike, hold stock or carefully position a top tool. My wish was granted last February when brother Pat took my place in the treadle hammer workshop and delivered a fine hammer a month or so later.

I couldn't wait to try this thing out and so on a Sunday night I snuck off to the forge and built a fire. I first had to take the rough edges off the top plate (when is Pat gonna learn to weld?) and then tapped the wedge home and looked around for some stock.

Preston Williams and Guy McConnell had just been by to pick up some coal. Guy had a nice piece of Damascus that looked a lot like a sword, and inspired by his creation I decided to weld up a billet. I grabbed two pieces of wrought iron and an old file and started getting them hot.

They tacked together easy on the anvil so I got them blistering hot and went to the treadle hammer. BAM, BAM, BAM, stuck nice and I headed to the fire again for weld two. About the third weld the shop door burst open and Janice walked in.

"Uh, I just got a phone call from one of the neighbors. They want to know A) is the hammering coming from here and B) how soon will you stop."

Guess the moral of the story is "treadle hammers make bad neighbors." Or to further butcher Robert Frost's "Mending Fences" poem, "There's something that doesn't like a treadle hammer."

Anyone got any ideas how to quiet one of these things down? I have it sitting on the concrete, and it really rattles the tin on the roof. Maybe if I get the ceiling insulated and a piece of conveyor belt underneath it will lower the decibels enough to let the neighbors sleep. Otherwise, guess they will have to move...

These hammers are real slick, Clay Spencer had a lot of praise for our efforts. I've already found a unique way to hurt myself with it. Just loosen up the head and leave your wrist where the crank can slap it a few times as the head falls down. The

pain is intensified if you leave your fingers on the anvil.

I know better than that. The No.1 treadle hammer rule is never put your hand on the anvil. Got it, Clay?

I could write about the good time we had at the Ozark Conference but this is the March — April issue and the conference hasn't happened yet. This issue would be earlier but I had to wait for Clay and Donnie Fulwood to get their newsletters out so I could borrow from them. Of course they were waiting on me so theirs was late too.

This thing would work better if some more people would send me some material. What did you do with those notes you scribbled at the Ozark Conference? (I know it hasn't happened yet.) How about making a copy and sending them to me?

I sure wish it was May so I could tell about the Uri Hoffi Workshop and Walt Hull's trip to London to see where they put his piece for the Globe Theater (whoops, that's Theatre) gates.

More on all that stuff coming next issue. May have a report on Caniron too.

Walt is hosting the next meeting in Lawrence, Kansas and we have Doug Hendrickson hosting our July meeting. Doug will again put on a work-



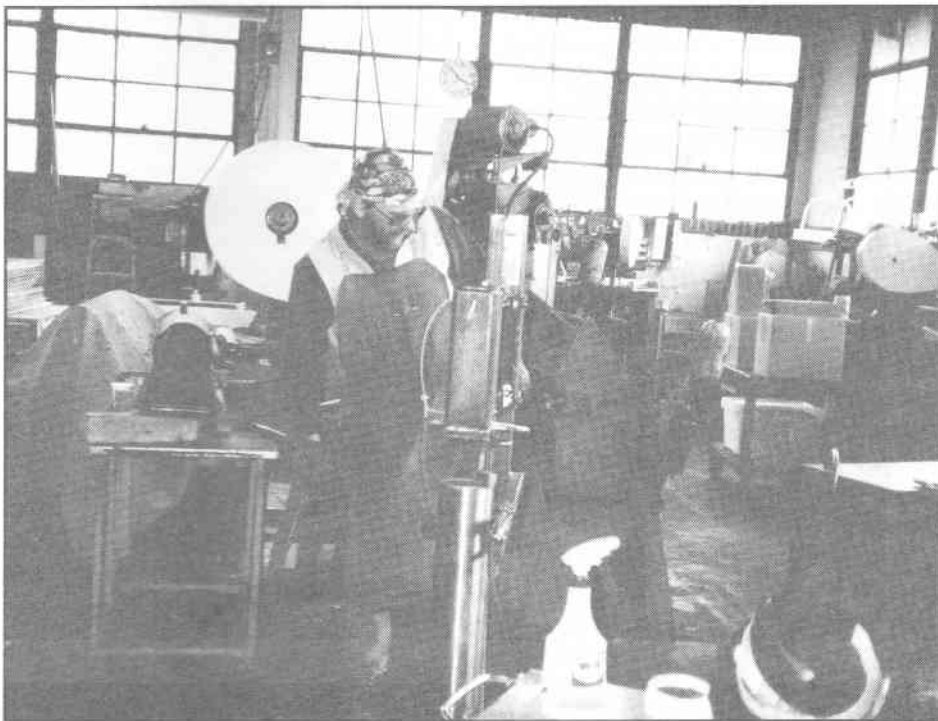
shop for beginners.

At the July meeting (which will be in August) we elect new officers. Pat would really like someone to step forward and take his place as president. Please throw your hat in the ring.

If you know how to delegate you don't have to do much and you get lots of goodies too. Honest.

See you in Kansas.

— Jim McCarty



Pat puts the finishing touches on a treadle hammer at the workshop. BAM built 30 of these.

Phun in Philly

by Julie Stephens

They say there are 8 million stories in the city . . . and ours is only one. Ours is the story of BAM president Pat McCarty, the Grubby Little Blacksmith Stan Winkler, Dr. Iron Doug Hendrickson and me, a Missouri native who has been trapped here on the east coast because my father fulfilled his dreams of taking smithing further than just a hobby. The Philadelphia Buyers Market of American Crafts brought our fearsome foursome to the nation's fourth largest city, where we would man Doug's Peola Valley Forge booth for the weekend.

Since Doug and I had already witnessed the excitement and filth of the big city, we made a "Must Do" list for Pat and Stan, who quickly became known as the Monkeys, not because they linked arms singing "hey, hey, hey" (although they did break into song once or twice) but because Doug is training them like space chimps to eventually take over his business.

After setting up the booth, we chuckled at the suckers who were still setting up and went on our way to start our Philadelphia Tour de Iron. The tour, which began with a drive-by of many of the city's public sculptures (while more than one driver in the city of Brotherly Love told Doug he was No. 1) ended on Locust Street where the misplaced smiths gawked at gates, window grills and railings by the late, great Samuel Yellin. Bits and pieces of Yellin's work can be seen all over the city, as we discovered on the way home from dinner one night as we passed the elite Curtis Institute of Music. We might have pulled off our peering at the building's iron from outside the structure without so much as a strange look from anyone, but following Doug's carpe ferrous philosophy, we entered the building.

We later learned that the institute puts on a free concert every Friday evening, but our initial response to being let in the doors with no hassle was to bolt and go exploring. Only after a slight run-in with Curtis security did we decide that Yellin's work at



the school was best appreciated during daylight hours and with permission (which, by the way, we never got).

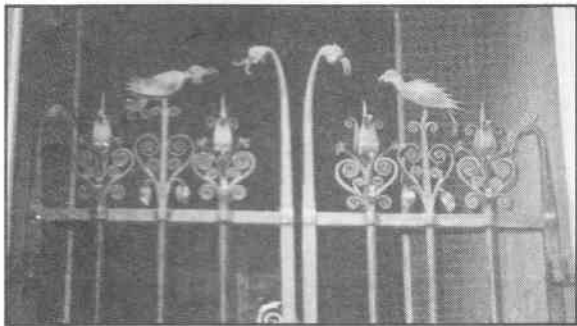
The Monkeys' list got shorter every day, and by the end of the weekend, we had "been there and done that" to almost everything. A trip to the city's famed Chinatown led us to a great little restaurant with excellent Vietnamese cuisine. From that adventure we learned two valuable lessons: 1) After two years of life in Japan, Pat can eat anything with chopsticks faster than the three of us could with forks and 2) if you are going to spend \$80 on a meal, even if the locals call you a fool, do the right thing and feed the leftovers to the homeless (thanks to Doug.)

Our dining adventures also took us to South Street, Philadelphia's 24-hour freak show where one can get just about anything pierced or tattooed, but we couldn't get Stanley to go for the nose ring, and Doug's head was just too shiny to tattoo.

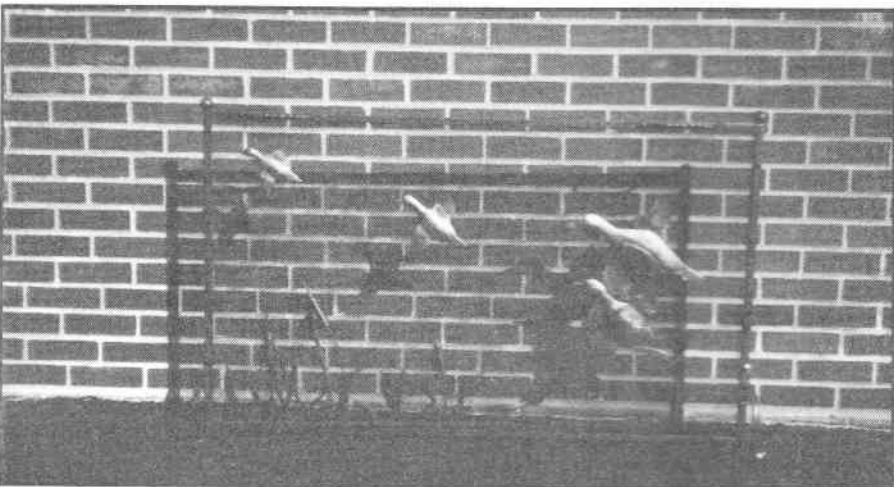
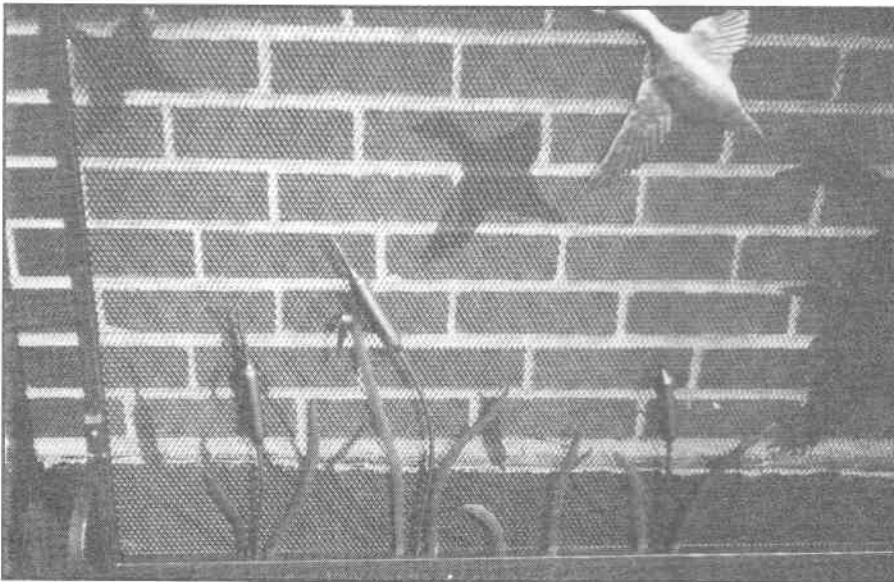
Back at the wholesale show, Stan and Pat disappeared for hours to find Paley's banners, and never did, and I spent days answering questions and avoiding odd gazes over Doug's latest craze: baby doll arm and leg jewelry and running to the Reading Terminal

Market for bagels and 500 mile coffee. Although we never got sticky buns from the Amish bakery and the guys didn't get to huff down a Philly cheese steak, the good ole boys and I had a great time playing with their pocket knives, racing in hotel elevators, trying to get our room's thermostat to work, riding in taxis, finding presents for our families, meeting nice people like William, the hotel clerk and not-so-nice people like the large scary man outside the terminal, acting like Philly natives by not crossing the street at the crosswalk, searching the street for useful junk to take home, shopping for a booth bimbo outfit, eating breakfast at the Niknud Stunod (neon signs are fun from the inside) and trying to beat each other with better corny jokes and cheesy puns (ie: What does a snail riding on the back of a turtle say? Weeee). Doug, Stan and Pat have my gratitude for giving me one of the most memorable weekends of my teenybopper life.

Julie is the daughter of Al Stephens, who fled Missouri to raise his family away from bad influences. BAM apologizes for the impressions no doubt left on her young mind.



Recent work by Bob Alexander



Pat's Place

I hope everyone's enjoying this spring weather. I'm putting the finishing touches on my auction item for the conference. I got to try out my new treadle hammer, it's going to be a valuable addition to my shop.

We made 30 of these at the workshop. Everything went smooth. Lou had jigs figured out for the major assemblies.

Thanks to John Sharp for ramrodding this project. Everyone involved worked hard and the hammers went together very well. We had four welders going and everyone pitched in to finish on time Sunday.

I made some tooling and worked a piece of 3 inch pipe into a vase for the trade item at Maurice's meeting. Bert Elliot and Ken Markely were the demonstrators. Gay Wilkinson shot the anvil for lunch and a lot of rusty iron moved from Bob Alexander's van to other vehicles.

Thanks to everyone who donated something to the iron in the hat! We talked about doing a gas forge workshop, so watch for details in the newsletter. I've been using one built from plans in the *Blacksmiths Journal* for a couple of years and really like it.

We also have election of officers coming up in July. If you haven't held an office yet, think about getting involved. The duties are not difficult and the pay isn't great but the rewards are better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick.

I am collecting poems about blacksmithing, so if anyone has any they have written please send them to me.

— Pat McCarty

BAM

MARCH MEETING

It was payback time for Ken Markely at BAM's March meeting held at Maurice and Bess Ellis' Lizard Ridge Forge in Belgrade. Ken was one of our scholarship winners. He spent his scholarship going to the John C. Campbell Folk School, and part of the scholarship dues was to demonstrate a skill he learned there.

Ken forged a three tined fork and he found out along the way that it's far easier to forge weld in your own shop. We expect a lot of three-tined forks to show up for the next iron in the hat.

Also on hand was Roberta Elliot who is always fun to watch. Bert was in to railings this time and she showed us how to make those crucial railing cap endings. Her demo used pre-formed rails and hand made ones, ending with a lambs tongue. Nice touch!

Of course our host showed his new-found skill at the turning lathe. Maurice is getting pretty good at making ladels, pots and pans on the spinning lathe. He uses all kinds of metal. We see his stuff sitting in the back of the truck he uses for this "Put money in can" Franchise.

Probably the best part of the day was the stew Bess made for lunch. There were three kinds — venison, vegetable and beef, all outstanding. Good flavor and plenty of it.

After lunch President Pat McCarty headed to the forge so he could try out the Ellis Brand air hammer on the pemises. Pat took a piece of 3/4 inch round out of the scrap bin and worked it a bit. Then he handed off to Bob Alexander, who did his part and passed it on until half a dozen people had tried their hand at it. The rod got tapered, twisted, pineappled, punched and later mounted on a base for display in one of those high dollar art galleries they have in Belgrade.

Gotta try this again. A good crowd was on hand, including a couple of folks from Tennessee who discovered the meeting on BAM's home page on the World Wide Web.

We had a good show for trade items: Phil Williamson, Randy Barringhaus, Bob Alexander, Pat McCarty, Bob Ehrenberger, Daniel Ehrenberger, Ed Harper, Maurice Ellis, Mike Williamson, Bess Ellis, Bert Elliot and Joe Wilkinson all participated.

Minutes

- Thanks to Maurice and Bess for their hospitality.
- Demos by Bert Elliot and Ken Markely.
- Trade item was a vase, several fine examples shown.
- Good show on iron in the hat. Brought in \$218.
- Business meeting called to order by Pat McCarty
- See Pat for name buttons.
- Minutes of last meeting approved as published.
- Treadle hammer workshop is done, was quite successful.
- Pat has some interesting literature from Clay Spencer showing tooling for the treadle hammer.
- Discussion of gas forge building workshop. If anyone is interested in ramrodding this let Pat know.

- BAM elections coming up in July at Doug Hendrickson's shop. Candidates step forward.

- Ozark Conference coming up soon. A work party will be there this afternoon to start set up.

- Dan Nauman is doing a photographic and video documentary of Cyril Colnick's iron work. He is requesting donations from ABANA Chapters to fund this. More details to follow.

- Thanks to Tim Underwood for donation to BAM library.

- Bruce Herzog proposed spending \$200 for new library materials. Motion passed.

- Bruce requested suggestions for videos or books to buy. Bruce will probably make the purchases from vendors at the Ozark Conference.

- Tin smithing workshop at Mt. Vernon, Ill., April 19 and 20.

- Bert Elliot will be doing a demo at New Salem, Ill. on 2nd weekend of April.

- Jim McCarty has BAM's web site up and running.

- Don't forget to make an auction item for the Ozark Conference.

- Meeting adjourned.

Iron in the hat

Rosewood anvil by Gay Wilkinson went to Larry Cole

Pat McCarty flower went to Maurice Ellis

5/8 inch drill rod from Jim Conway went to Joe Wilkinson

Wood wedge donated by Phil Williamson went to Joe Wilkinson

Ryerson Stock Book from Steve Stunkel went to John Sherwood



Left: Bert Elliot gave Maurice's Fisher anvil a workout showing railing ends. Below: Gear flower and vase by Pat McCarty.



Necklace from Randy Barringhaus went to Gary Kobermann

Hat donated by Pat McCarty went to Ken Markley

Lead hammer from Bob Ehrenberger went to Mike Williamson

Bert Elliot demo piece went to Phil Williamson

1/2 inch drill rod donated by Sid Mell went to Fabian Schilly

9260 steel cutoffs from John Murray went to Joe Wilkinson

Brass candle holder by Maurice Ellis went to Donna Valdejo

Ring from Larry Suttle went to Gay Wilkinson

Brass candle holder from Maurice Ellis went to John Sherwood

Rasp snake by Bob Alexander went to Donna Valdejo

Very small vase by Maurice Ellis went to Bob Ehrenberger

Horse shoe rasp (snake kit) from Charles Guell went to Emil Bubash

Hand hammer from John Murray went to Steve Stunkel

Larry Suttles ring went to Big E

Brazing flux from Steve Stunkle went to Dave Gonds

Thanks to all for their donations!



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 *April 1997*

Wake up call!

Have you ever had cold water thrown in your face?

It is so easy to fall into the old trap of thinking everyone is on the same level when you become involved with something. This situation hit me in the face the other day when one of our new members said to me, "This may sound like a dumb question, but how do you light a fire with green coal, and by the way what is green coal?"

Now I am sure you have heard the old argument, "How much is the right amount of information, and how many times should information be repeated? How many times should articles be written on the same old subjects?" Good questions. I do not have the answers, nor do I think anyone does. But if blacksmithing is to continue, we have to answer these questions. The future depends on the new members in our chapters.

Many of our new members are brand new to blacksmithing. When ABANA initiated the *Hammer's Blow* it was decided that one of the main objectives the publication had was to address the needs of the beginner, and from the responses it has been well received. But there is nothing like personal contact from the rest of us to coach and encourage the beginner's progress. If our old hands will take beginners under their wing it will pay off for everyone. Think back to when you first started out --how clear it was when someone took the time to explain something you had read or seen. Blacksmiths have always gone out of their way to try and help or explain, but in our hectic daily routines, we sometimes forget what it was like to be a beginner. Let's keep a special eye out and give a hand to our new members.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

An old German saying goes: I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand.

Lou Mueller
ABANA President



CHAPTER LIAISON NEWSLETTER

April
1997

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

LIABILITY

Begin with the assumption that if somebody gets hurt at a Chapter event; I, as a civil trial lawyer, am going to sue somebody, and if he is hurt real bad, I'm going to sue everybody.

Civil liability arises out of hurting somebody by doing something stupid ("failure to use the care expected of a reasonably prudent man"). If a group of people are involved in the stupid thing, each member of the group can be sued individually unless the group is a corporation.

If I can sue the group, I don't have to be fair; I can sue the one guy in the group who has any money and let him sue everybody else to get their share ("contribution among joint tort-feasors"). If the group is incorporated, I can only sue the stupid person and the corporation. If General Motors turns out a car that blows up when you open the glove compartment, I can sue GM, not their stockholders. I can't even sue the corporation in many states if they are a non-profit corporation unless they charged an admission fee to the stupid event or what they did was so monumentally dumb that the board of directors knew it would hurt somebody or was illegal and they voted to do it anyway. Then I can sue the board too ("officers and directors liability").

If the group didn't do anything like elect directors or officers at regular meetings after they got incorporated, I can ignore the corporation just like they did and go back to suing members of the group ("piercing the corporate veil").

As a practical matter, if I can sue the officers, board, or chapter members personally, a paper judgement against a married person doesn't usually do me any good because in most states I can't get things he/she owns with his/her spouse ("entireties, marital or community property"). Similarly, if the corporation doesn't own anything, I won't bother to sue them because 40% (attorney's contingent fee) of nothing is no fee. If the corporation owns

something or has insurance, I have something to sue them for.

That doesn't mean that a Chapter shouldn't have insurance because if you don't, you're leaving your rich and divorced or single members and the poor schnook who volunteered his forge for the stupid event holding the bag. If a Chapter does have insurance, I'll accept what they offer even if I'm allowed to sue individual members because I can't find out which ones have any money in their own name until after I have a judgement against him/her and if the insurance pays off I won't care who else I could have sued.

More importantly, the Chapters' insurance gives everybody a fully paid defense lawyer, which may be the best reason for having insurance.

If a member/officer gets sued, you have to defend yourself. Even if the suit never had a chance, you still have to pay your defense lawyer. So you could win the battle and still go bankrupt paying your defense lawyer consuming joint marital assets that the plaintiff couldn't have reached if he'd won.

CONCLUSION:

- 1) Don't do anything stupid;
- 2) Incorporate as a non-profit corporation;
- 3) Buy insurance.

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

John Pollins III

ABANA Director
Civil Trial Lawyer for 35 years

by Bob Alexander

Forging at the Folk School

A most enjoyable vacation

Some might think that spending a week on the beach or perhaps a fishing trip would be their ideal of how to spend two weeks of vacation but I chose an intense 10 days at J.C. Campbell. The timing was not by choice as it was the middle of July and quite warm.

The classes I took were a week long class of Colonial Lighting and a weekend class on Colonial Hearth Equipment. The instructor was Carolina's very own Jerry Darnell.

Class orientation began on Sunday afternoon with introductions and briefing on the coming week's projects. The goal was one finished lamp a day.

First impression of Jerry in his neat white dress shirt that afternoon soon changed as he stripped down to his T-shirt and began to demonstrate. Never have I seen anyone accomplish so much in a single heat. This I later learned was in part due to the use of the proper size hammer for the work and plenty of heat.

His philosophy when working small stock was to use a hammer that you can move quickly as a finely tuned 25-pound Little Giant hammer.

If forge welding was not a thing you were accustomed to doing by the end of the week it certainly was. For every lamp except one this was a necessity.

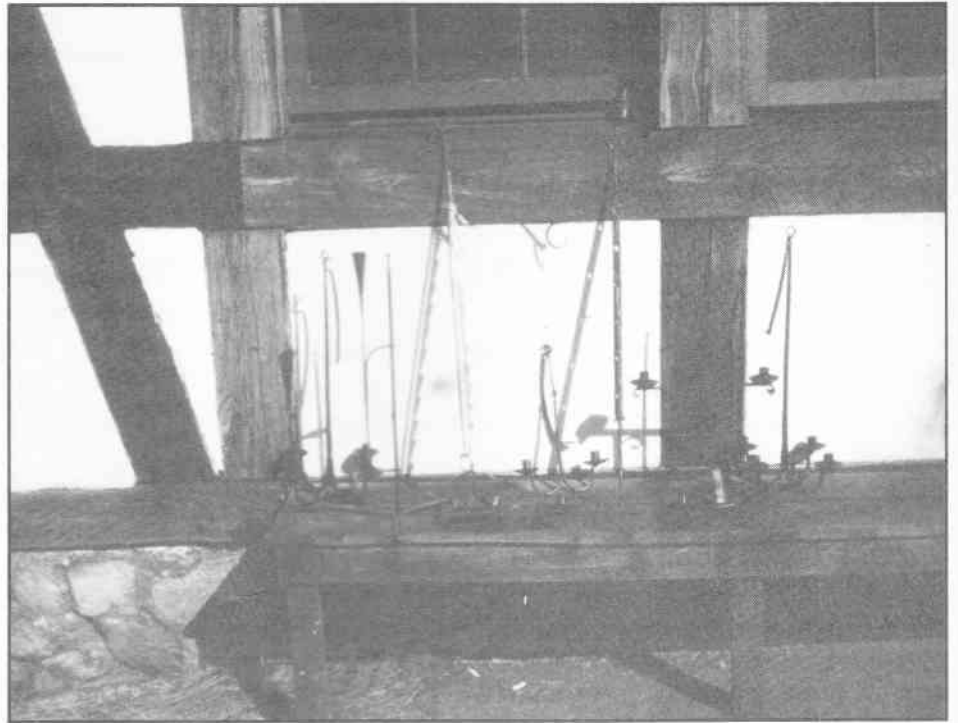
The daily routine for me was up at daybreak, down to the shop and work until breakfast time. After breakfast back to the shop.

Morning class began with discussion and demos from Jerry, then off to the forges to try our skills or luck. The work pace was pretty much left up to the individual but Jerry was always there to help you along.

After lunch, more of the same, demos then back to work. Never have I perspired like I did during these classes.

After supper the school offers many different social activities if one chooses but most of the blacksmiths are there to produce so back to the shop we went.

Most evenings the fires roared until nearly 11 p.m. Then the rush to



Bob Alexander's efforts from his week long class at the folk school are pictured outside the Francis Whitaker Blacksmith Shop, a former post and beam dairy barn.

the camp showers. By working the extended hours I was able to complete nine lamps to my credit.

Friday was a very short day as we had to clean shop, figure material cost and get ready for the show and tell. At the end of each course all the different classes bring their projects to the main meeting room to show off the week's progress. The blacksmith class had quite a showing.

On Friday evening we met back at the blacksmith class for orientation for the weekend class of Colonial Hearth Equipment.

The first and major project for the weekend was a Long Log Fork. The fork involved three separate welds. We began work on Friday evening but didn't finish until Saturday noon. After lunch Jerry showed us a Colonial-style one-piece fork (what, no forge weld?) Later we were shown matching spoon and keyhole spatula which were two pieces forged together.

What hearth utensil set would be complete without a utensil hanger?

This one happened to be a Dutch style with drive in arms. Sunday was again a short day with clean-up and packing up for the journey home.

I can't wait till next July for more of the same pleasures of life. A truly great experience.

Scholarship Winners:

This is Bob's payback for his scholarship. Don't forget that you must demonstrate at a BAM Meeting and write an article for the newsletter to pay us back for the scholarship.

For sale: Port Huron Sawmill, with 48 inch inserted tooth blade. 40 feet of track, runs on a 6 cylinder Continental industrial engine. Excellent condition. \$3,000 or trade for 100 pound Little Giant. Pat McCarty, (314) 239-3814. Pat also has a real nice Peter Wright anvil for sale, call him for details.

Hammers, tongs, fullers, flatters, cutters, chisels, punches, swages & blocks, cones, firepots, hand vises, pliers, coal and more. The finest 'smithing tools in the world. Tool list available upon request. We ship and accept Visa and Mastercard. Steve Kayne, 100 Daniel Ridge Road, Candler, NC 28715. (704) 667-8868 or 665-1988 or fax (704) 665-8303 or e-mail: kaynehwde@ioa.com

The editor has two anvils for sale. One is a 175-pound Trenton. This is the highly desirable farrier's model that Sam Yellin preferred. It has a infinitely tapered horn, double pritchel holes and clip horn, comes with a metal stand. Needs some edge work but otherwise intact. \$250. The other is a 200 pound Peter Wright, needs edges rebuilt, \$300. I also have a Cannedy-Otto forge for sale. This is a heavy, cast iron forge on four legs with a blower mounted on an arm. Has water tank in front, deep firepot. \$250.

Colin Campbell still has a metal lathe for sale. He says the price just came down. Call him and tell him to throw in a Campbell woodworking hat too. (314) 583-3512.

50-pound Little Giant, old style with wrap-around ram guides, no removable sow block. Working condition, comes with a slow rpm (1160 rpm) 1 hp motor. \$1,500. Call Jim McCarty, (573) 395-3304, evenings.

Tom Clark has a 100-pound Little Giant for sale, excellent condition. Call him at (573) 438-4725 for the details.

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.

Walnut, cedar and cherry lumber for

BAM

Bulletin Board

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

Pass that rusty iron around! If you're not using it let someone else. Send your Bulletin Board items to the newsletter or load up your truck and bring it to Walt Hull's meeting.

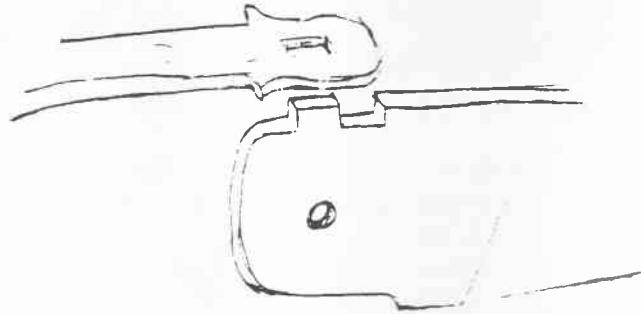
Clay Spencer knows of several treadle hammers for sale. Call him for the location and price if you're are interested. He's at 704-837-0708 or clay@grove.net.

Bob Alexander always has nice rebuilt anvils for sale and occasionaly a forge and other neat stuff. Bob's at (314) 586-6938.

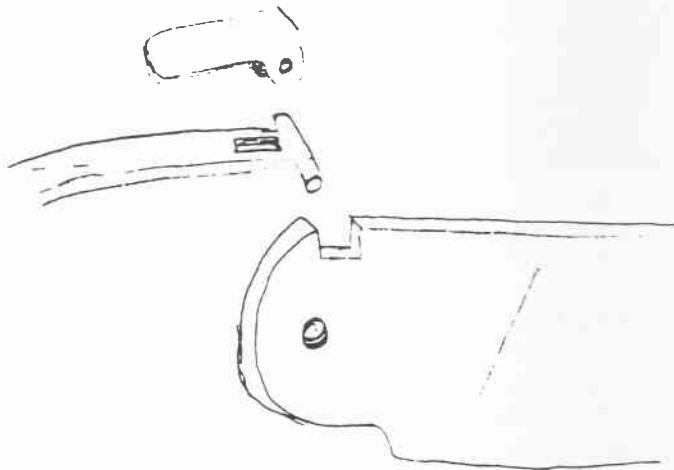
PENNY AND CLASP KNIVES

Merriam Webster, the dictionary man, defines clasp knife - "a jack knife with a blade folding into the handle." Jack knife is defined as "a large strong pocket knife." The word clasp is defined as "To fasten together with, or as with, a clasp. To seize with, or in the hand."

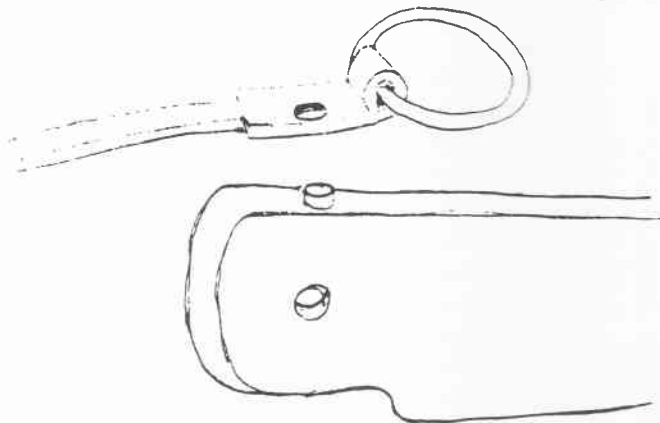
One modern Italian version has the spring recessed between liners and uses a lock like this.



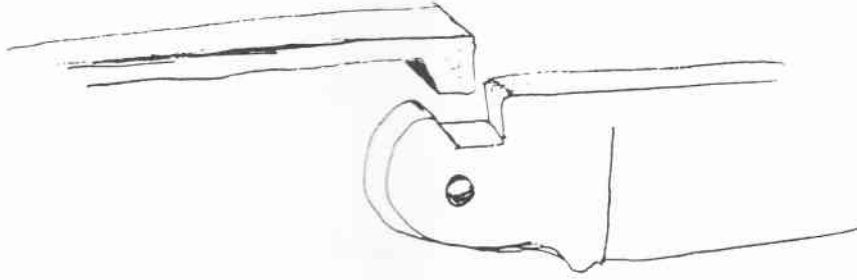
A Mexican version has horn handles and a pivoting device to lift the spring for unlocking.



I own a unique clasp knife made by Fiddlin' Red. It has a locking action like this.

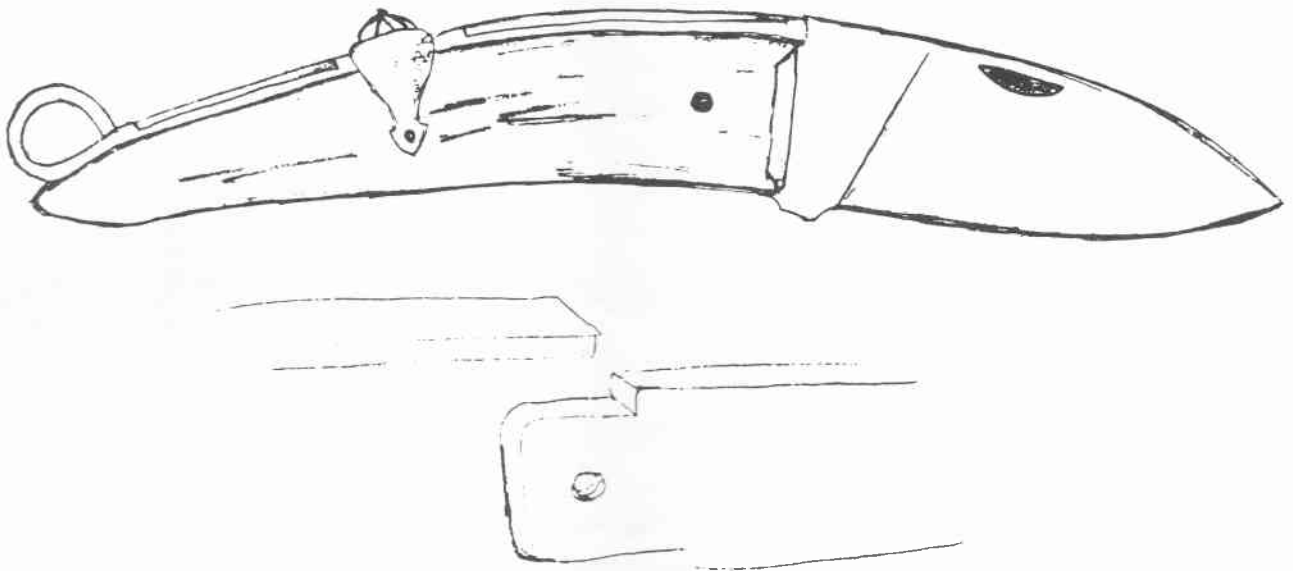


A modern French version has a wedge shaped piece on the spring that engages the blade slot.



However it doesn't lock the blade. Forceful movement down on the blade disengages it.

The type of primitive clasp knife I like best has an external spring on the back of the handle.



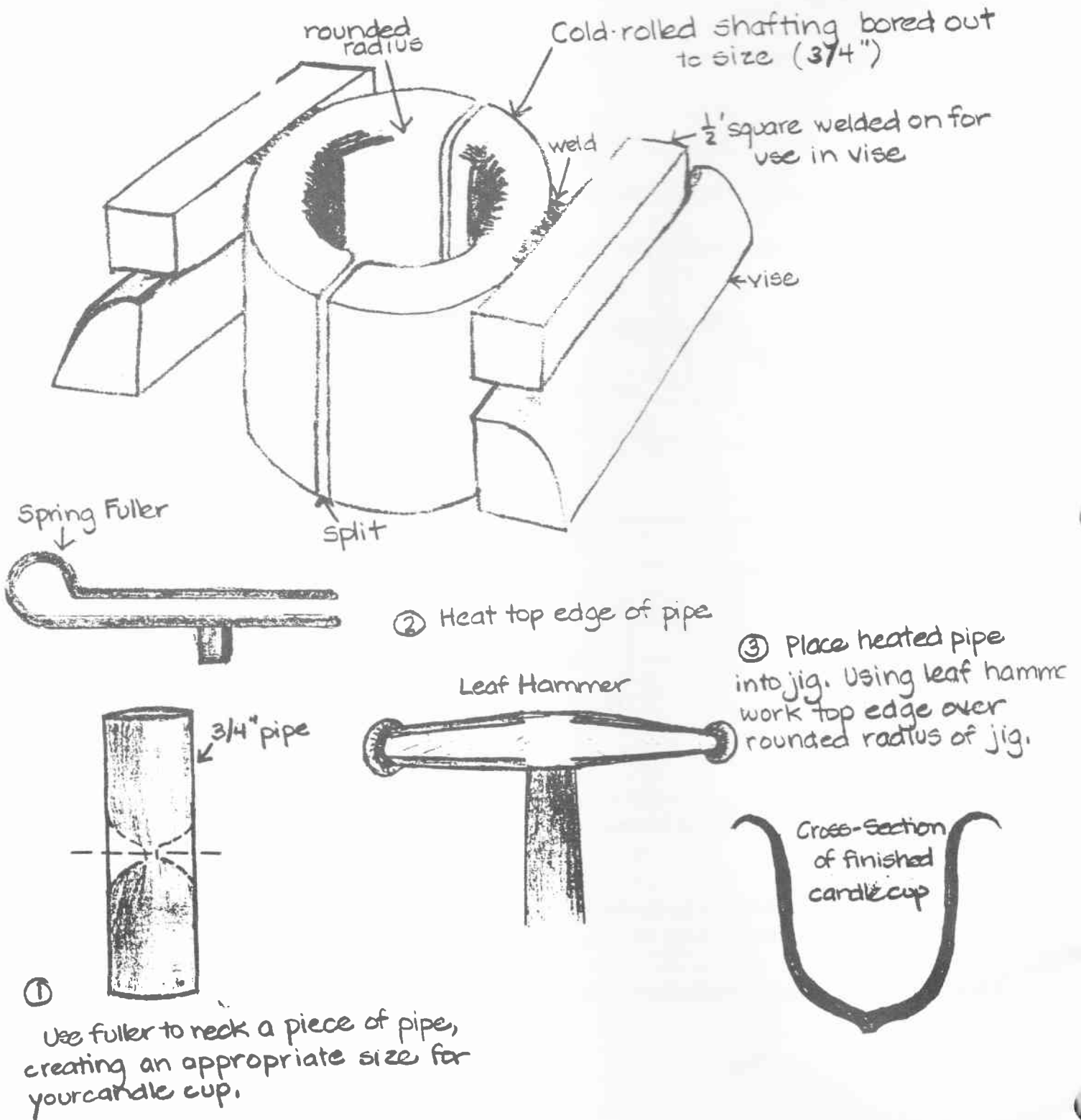
Various methods for locking the blade in place have been devised, some more successful than others.

Folding knives have advanced in mechanical ingenuity from the early days. New designs still arise from man's fascination with folders.

I hope this provides some background and ideas to go out and make your old time folding knife. They are fun.

Gene Chapman

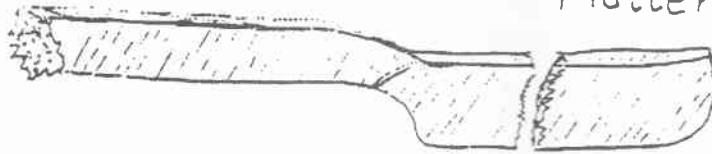
Herm Leukhardt's Candle Cup Jig



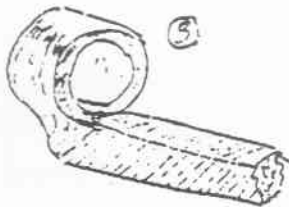
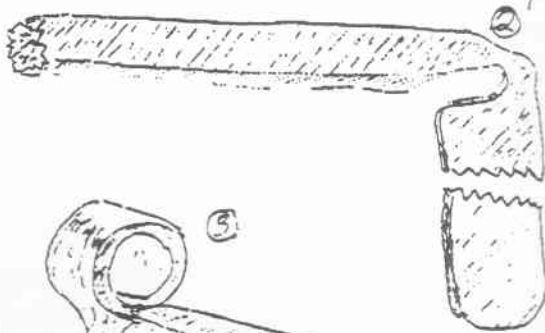
Weaver's Candle stick

Stock $3/8" \times 14"$ sq Mild Steel

1. Flatten one end till it is about $3" \times 1" \times 1/16"$



2. Bend the flattened portion 90° to the shaft and rotate it so that it resembles the head of a golf club

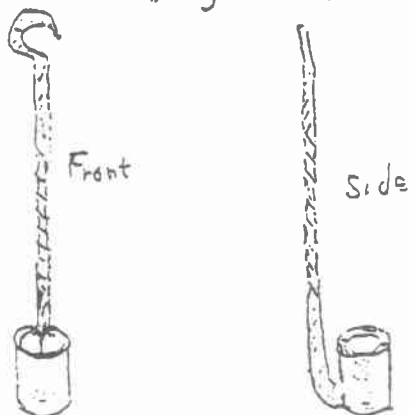


3. Curl the flattened portion to fit a 1" dia candle



4. Heat & twist the shaft (for decorative effect)

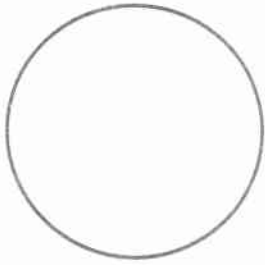
5. Draw a taper on the unworked end and form a hook at 90° to the other end, so that the candle will clear its hanging surface.



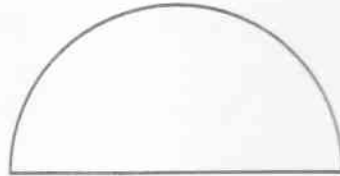
Originally designed to hang on the end of the loom so the weavers could work after dark.

R Wilson

Night light

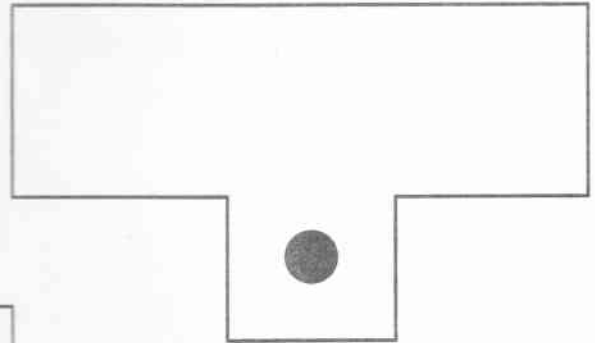
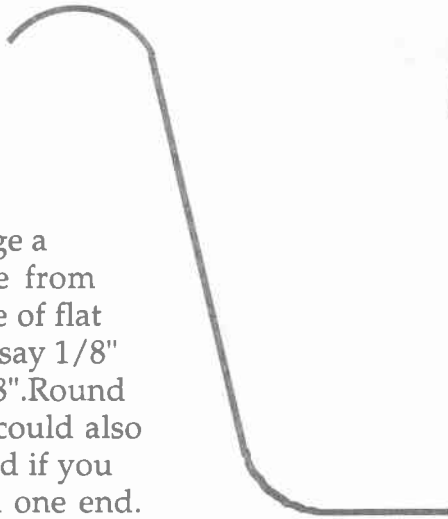


1. Start with a 3 inch disk of heavy copper, iron or brass.

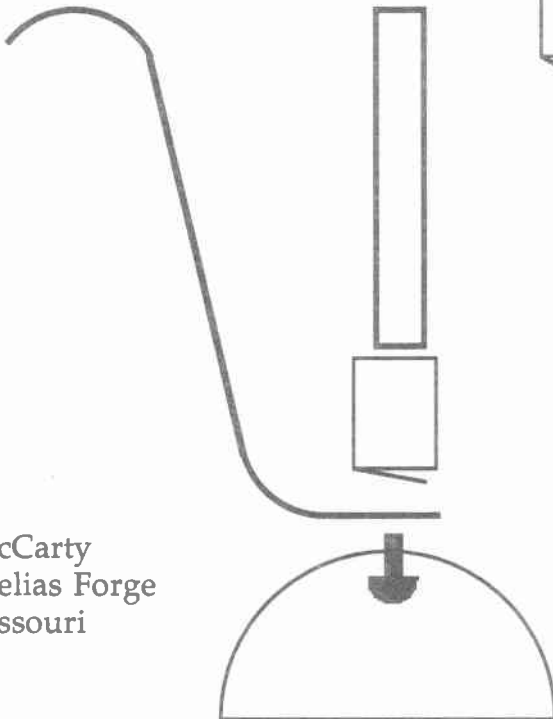
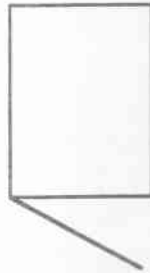


2. Sink it in a swage like you were making a ladle. Drill center hole for rivet.

3. Forge a handle from a piece of flat stock, say 1/8" by 5/8". Round stock could also be used if you flatten one end.



4. Make the candleholder from the same stock you made the base from in the shape above. Shape the piece round using a short piece of 3/4" round and a bottom swage. The tab sticking out on the bottom gets drilled for a rivet and bent over to form the bottom.

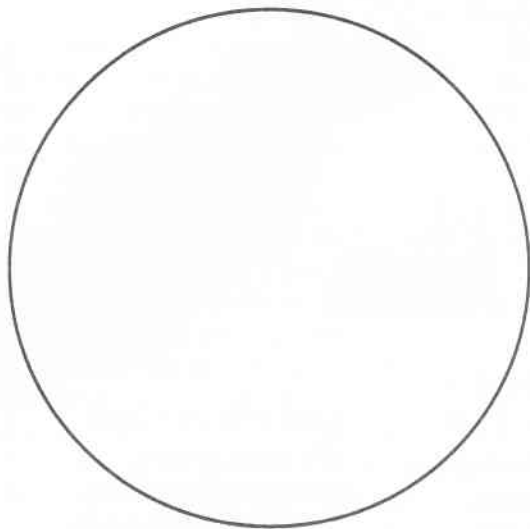


5. Assemble with a rivet backed up by a rivet set on the bottom and set from the top with a piece of 3/4" round that has a hole matching the rivet head drilled in the bottom. Be careful not to damage the base when setting the rivet.

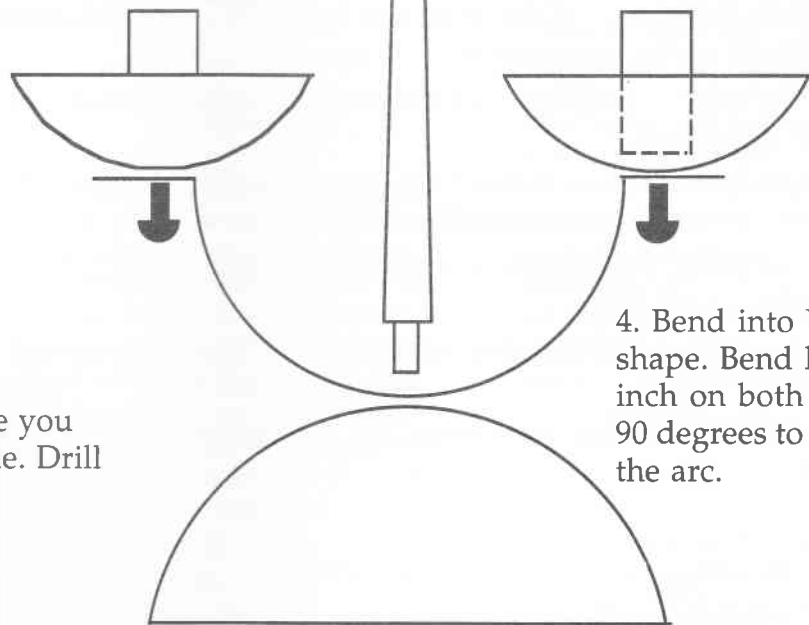
by Jim McCarty
Father Helias Forge
Taos, Missouri

Double candle holder

by Jim McCarty
Father Helias Forge
Taos, Missouri



1. Start with a 5 inch disk of brass, copper or steel.



2. Sink it in a swage like you were making a BIG ladle. Drill center hole for a rivet.

4. Bend into U shape. Bend last inch on both ends 90 degrees to the arc.



3. Forge a point on both ends of a piece of 3/16 x 1 inch x about 14 inches long. Drill or punch (better) a hole for a 3/8 inch tenon.

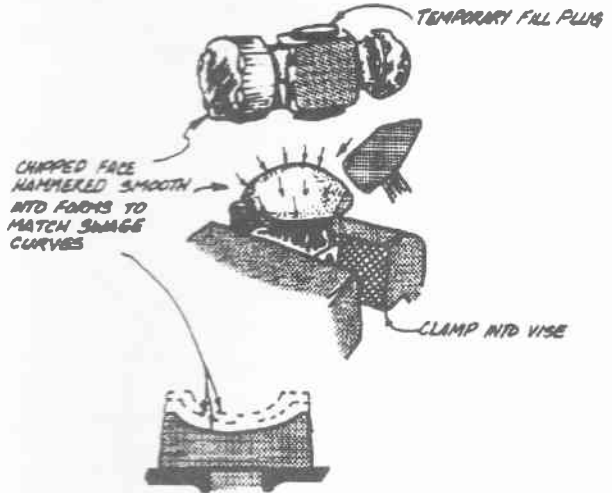
6. Make two drip cups 3 inch round. Drill center hole and sink slightly. Make two candle holders (see previous page). Drill and rivet to ends of arc shape. Put 1/2 inch round piece in vise with tenon up and carefully rivet together.

5. Forge a 3/8 inch tenon on the end of a piece of 1/2 inch round. Draw out the other end. Forge this end into a shepherd's crook or leave a blob for a leaf. If you bend it right the piece can hang from the ceiling or sit on the table.

Re-Forging Ball Peen Hammers Into Top Tools

From Material originally posted by Clay Spencer <clay@grove.net>

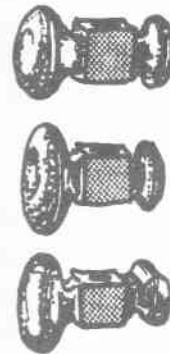
Clay makes most of his handled tools for use under the treadle hammer from ball peens. Top-tools include fullers, flatters, swages, center punches, curved hot cuts — many radii — cold cuts, punches and many varieties of special shaped tools.



IMPORTANT FACTS TO REMEMBER

- ◆ Forge above cherry red and below yellow. Don't heat too fast or too hot. Some real hot ones can come apart on the first blow.
- ◆ Normalize them, quench in water (not cold water) and draw temper to blue. The head to be struck is left soft from the normalizing. Do not grab the hot head with round or V-jaw tongs. You can quench and harden it by cooling from the tongs.
- ◆ Normalize by heating just to nonmagnetic, not 200° above, and set aside until cool to touch. Heat slowly and just as it becomes nonmagnetic, quench the tool-edge (usually in water) and about an inch of stock above the edge. Shine the surface above the edge and just as blue gets close to the edge, cool in water to stop the tempering process (this is not quenching). If any of the tool is above a black heat at this time, do not put that part in water.
- ◆ Put ½" of water in a can and stand the working edge in the water, let the rest cool slowly.
- ◆ Check the hardened edge for hardness with a file. It should just barely cut or maybe skate across the metal.
- ◆ Check the struck head to make sure that the file cuts it easily, otherwise it is too hard.
- ◆ For hot cutting tools, it probably isn't worth the effort to quench and temper.
- ◆ You must always normalize or anneal any tool you have forged.

Many different shapes and sizes can be achieved in the forging.



Each tool will be specialized for a particular project or use. A filler will help to maintain the eye of the ball peen during forging.



If both ends of the Ball peen is forged as a tool edge, temper both ends.

Drawings by: Dean Foster



Please, Please,
Send your ideas to the
newsletter!!

Editor's note: These tips were gleaned from theForge, ABANA's e-mail list on the Internet.

Kinyon's air hammer

Q: What does it cost, how much time does it take to build and what size compressor is needed on the Ron Kinyon air hammer?

A: I have built a Kinyon air hammer, following the plans from ABANA (cost about \$12, I believe). I cannot imagine buying new structural steel, it took a little time but I was able to buy used. I checked around and found a big disparity in the prices of valves and cylinders. I bought mine from a dealer in Tampa FL. I paid for the heavy welding, and for the cutting of the steel hammer and the drilling and tapping. Mine is now complete, working like a dream, running off a 5 hp compressor with a 20 gallon tank. I have about \$750 in my 65 pound air hammer.

— Gil Watkins

I had a 50# Little Giant that I sold after I built my 75# Kinyon air hammer. Reasons include: It makes no noise when it's not hitting. It takes up less floor space. It was built higher so I don't have to bend over to use it. Less maintenance and so far no repair. Safer, no springs and toggle arms to break. More control and less "touchy". No wedges working loose.

I recently used Clifton Ralph's ideas to build flat 3" thick x 4" x 6" dies and quite a lot of tooling. This made a dramatic improvement in the quality and quantity of my work and is well worth looking into. If I were building a hammer with the idea of using this tooling, I would increase the stroke to maybe about 16" and make the trip valve adjustable to be able to use any section of the 16" I needed.

Plumb your airline with 1/2 or bigger rigid copper water pipe. Run the pipe over head and drop an airline straight down to the hammer if possible to keep the hose out of the hot stuff. Keep all fittings and airlines 1/2" minimum right up to the cylin-

der. It really makes a difference in how the hammer works and how hard it hits. Make sure to use a good check valve on the inlet to the hammer to save your regulators.

You don't have to build the hammer with the structural steel Ron calls for in the plans. Hammers have been built from everything imaginable (my column is 10" sq. box, my anvil is 6 x 8 box filled with melted lead). Create a compact design that fits your work and your fabrication abilities or head to the scrap yard with general requirements and buy whatever is cheap. Most good scroungers could build the structural part of the hammer for less than \$100.

The main cause of cylinder wear is misalignment of the cylinder and the ram. I remedied this problem by mounting the cylinder to a 1/2" plate that is mounted to the frame with urethane bushings (the cylinder mount plate is sandwiched between the bushings). This allows the cylinder to move slightly without dampening the blow. The off-the-shelf floating couplings are not really designed for the impact of the hammer.

— from Danshammer@aol.com

Quenching oil

To be redundant: Used motor oil, i.e., old oil, is only good for recycling. There are whole families of quenching oils out there that are predictable, safe, of limited or non flammability and not usually too expensive. If old oil is your thing, keep it in a metal can with a lid and the volume of oil should be of such a magnitude that it does not get over 150°F or so when quenching one piece.

— Bill Hochewa

There have been lots of opinions about quenching oil, so I'll add my \$.02 on the lid. Since all quench oil can and will catch on fire, make a lid from 1/4" steel plate. Make sure it has a handle and 3 locators to keep it in place. You should be able to drop it on the container quickly.

Several years ago we were quenching a large swedging die in a 5 gallon

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

bucket of quenching oil. The oil got hot enough to boil rapidly then burst into flames. Removing the die did not extinguish the flames — what a mess. The moral is to have a good lid and size the amount of oil to the size of parts you will be quenching.

Also, consider that what ever kind of oil you use you are going to have for a long time. For most of us a 5 gallon bucket will last the rest of our lives (unless the bottom of the container rusts out or we punch a hole in it). Stay away from anything used, heavy metal additives, PCBs, low flashpoints, and ? The professional heat treaters use quenching oil and so would I, if I didn't have this free bucket of unknown machine shop cast off. Oh well.

—Dan

Rather than the various risks from new/used motor oil, may I suggest peanut oil? It is very dense, doesn't get rancid, If it spills it won't kill all the vegetation, and best of all, you can usually get it free from health conscious restaurants when they clean out their fryers at the end of the week. 50 lbs of oil will harden a lot of tools.

— Tom Vincent

BAM NEWS

Gas forge workshop

Fresh off a successful treadle hammer workshop, what does BAM do for an encore? How about building gas forges? Gary Kobermann and Bruce Herzog are spearheading this one. The forges will be like the ones designed by Jerry Hoffmann and featured in the Blacksmith's Journal. These are nice forges. They get real hot and can accomodate a wide variety of stocks and long lengths. Gary estimates the cost at \$150-\$200, but don't hold him to that. Size of the class and cost for materials will be the determining factor. A tentative fall date is being considered. If you are interested give Gary (314) 892-2527 or Bruce (314) 892-4690 a call.

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 Muelier'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.

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.

You're invited

BAM member Paul Anderson invites anyone forced to go to Branson to stop by and pound some iron with him instead of going to the country music shows with the relatives. Paul has a shop in the Coffelt flea market and craft village in Branson. He says he works the shop six days a week, Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The shop is located north of Highway 76 on Highway 165. For more information call him at (417) 538-4831. Thanks for the invite Paul!

Whitaker scholarship

A Whitaker Scholarship for experienced students will be awarded at the John C. Campbell Folk School. One tuition only (\$488) will be awarded for the Fall two week class of Whitaker traditional methods taught by Bob Becker on Oct. 26-Nov. 8, 1997. Need of the applicants will be considered and applicatns must be above the beginner level. Apply by sending the following information to: John C. Campbell Folk School, Blacksmith Scholarship, One Folk School Rd., Brasstown, NC 28902.

1. Name, address, phone number.
2. Resume of your blacksmithing experience. Include training, blacksmith classes taken, apprenticeships, blacksmith and related work experi-

ence, describe type of work, products, your part of the work, length of time, etc. Can you forge weld, turn a smooth scroll with hammer and anvil and forge an upset square corner?

3. Pictures and description of your present work.
4. Reason you need scholarship money.
5. Goals of your blacksmithing career.
6. Project you propose to make in the class.

Applications must be received by Sept. 25, 1997.

La Fete a Renault

On May 17-18, in Old Mines, just up Highway 21 from Potosi is the annual La Fete a Renault. The event features Black Powder shooting matches, trading primitive wares, music, history and crafters. For more information contact Richard Rill, president, Rt. 1 Box 3457, Potosi, MO 63664 or call (573) 438-7712.

Tour Europe's Smithies

The 1997 ABANA Tour is slated to run from August 21, 1997 - September 10, 1997. The tour will begin with a talk from Manfred Bergmeister, who has one of the largest custom design shops in Europe. Bergmeister has just been awarded the Bavarian State culture prize. Then on to Friedrichshafen for the Modern Wrought Iron Exhibition. The tour will then go to Schaffhausen, Switzerland for a visit at the "Iron Library", which houses the world's largest collection of books on blacksmithing.

Other highlights include Christoph Friedrich's old water wheel drop hammer works. The tour will go to Innsbruck, Austria, and to Stia in Tuscany, Italy, for the 4-day Italian blacksmithing conference

Costs are still being negotiated. If you are interested send a S.A.S.E. to : Leonard & Lilo Masters, 73 Currier Road, Concord, NH 03301. The Masters will send you all of the ABANA Tour information as soon as it is available. Phone for more info (603) 228-6337.

Next BAM Meeting June 7, 1997

Walt Hull is the host of BAM's next gathering. Walt lives at Lawrence Kansas and his shop is just south of town.

This is the month we reenact the day when a band of Missourians came to Lawrence during the Civil War (also called the War of Northern Aggression) and looted, pillaged and burned.

We do something similar to Walt's neighbor, who happens to run a salvage yard. Truth be known, we wouldn't drive all that way if the salvage yard wasn't there but don't tell Walt, it might hurt his feelings.

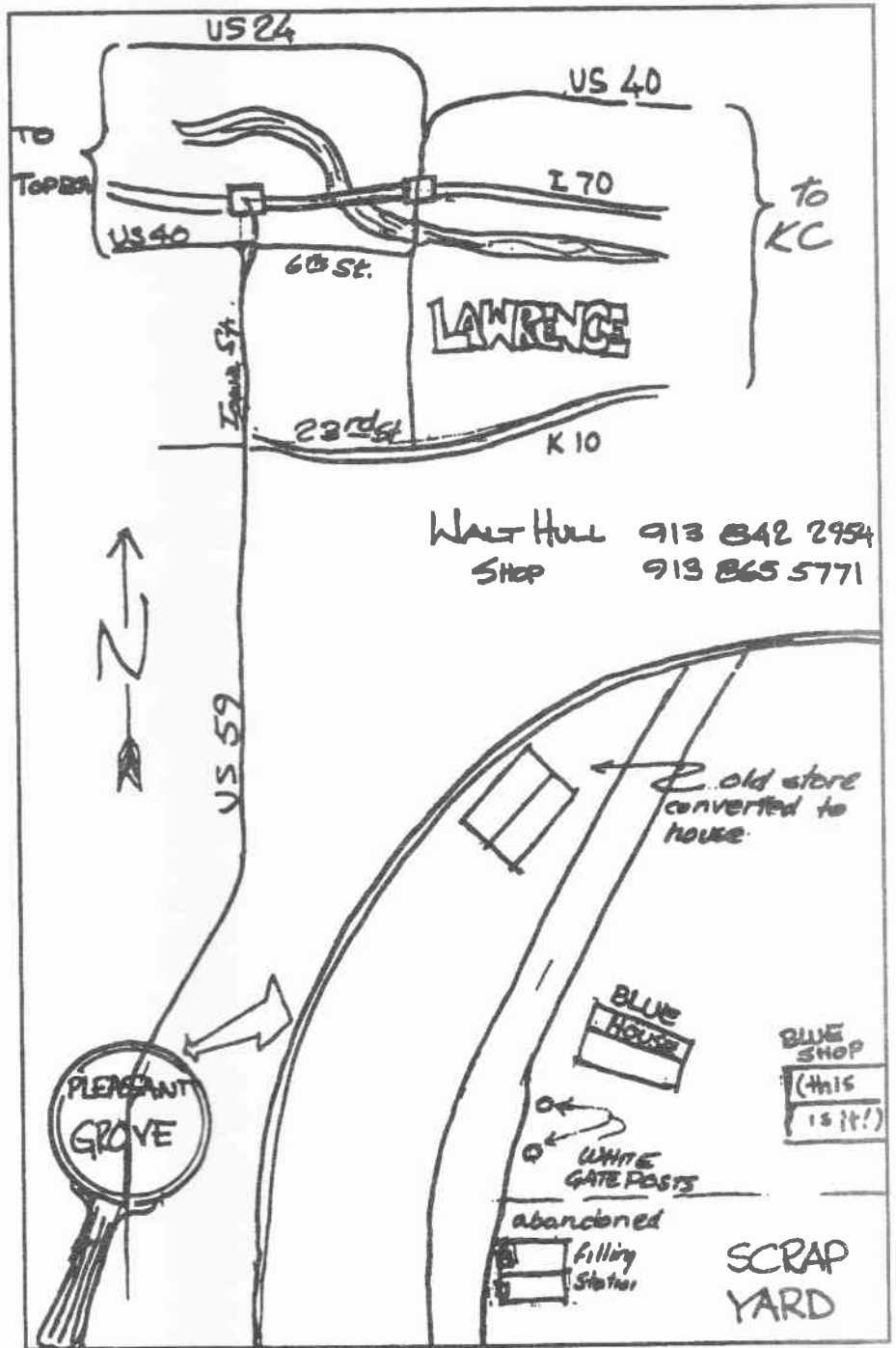
Walt always has an excellent feed and some fine beer for a Jayhawk fan. (We may not like his team but we love his beer.)

Walt owes us for his trip to London. Maybe we can get him to forge an ear of corn — or was that Kate's contribution to the Globe Gates?

The trade item is a length of chain. Now Walt didn't specify how long, but anyone worth a Day's Work plug will forge at least 7 links and REAL blacksmiths will try twisting the chain to prove the worth of their forge welds. Don't try buying one at Harbor Freight because Walt reserves the right to reject any cheats.

As usual, bring along something good for the Iron in the Hat and bring your rusty iron for sale too. There's always room for tailgaters at Walt's shop.

See you in Kansas on June 7.



1997 Schedule

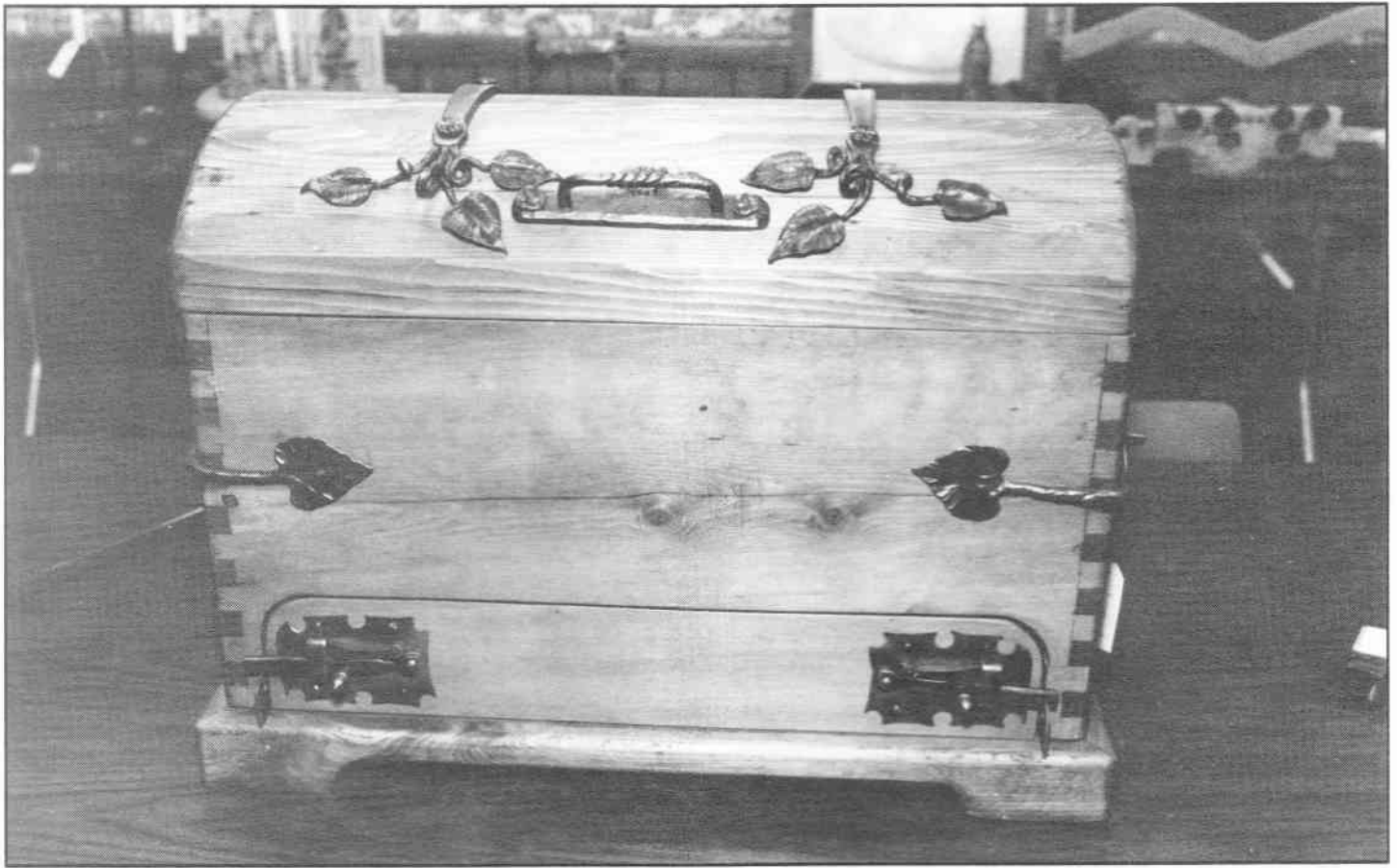
May Meeting
Walt Hull
Lawrence, Kansas
June 7

July Meeting
Doug Hendrickson
Lesterville, Mo.
August 16, 1997

September Meeting

November Meeting

Got any ideas?



This trunk was an Ozark Conference auction item made by Pat McCarty. It ended up being the highest bid item at \$700.

BAM
5821 Helias Dr.
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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Address Correction Requested

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