

RAM

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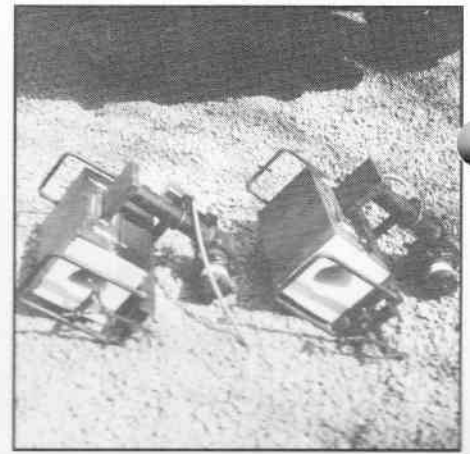
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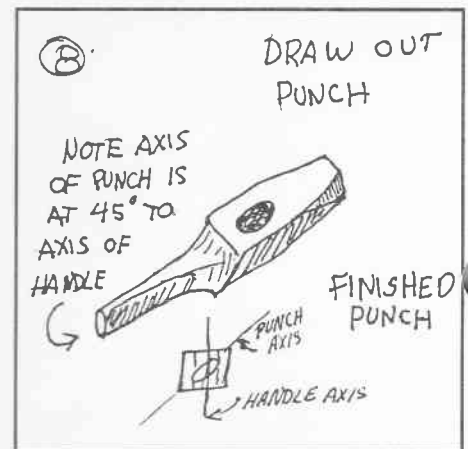
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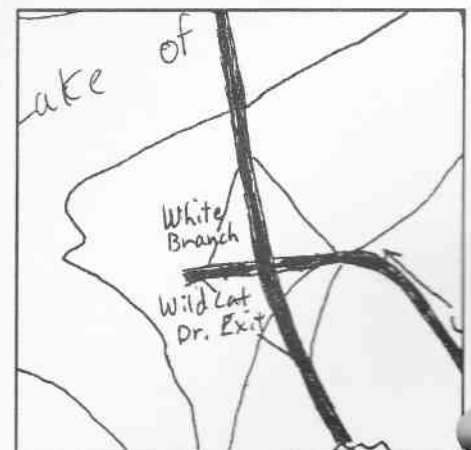
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**Newsletter of the
Blacksmiths
Association
of Missouri**

March — April 1998
Volume 15 No. 2

Our cover: John Medwedeff shows us what those holes in the swage block are all about as he demos sheet forms at the Ozark Conference.

Editor
Jim McCarty

Contributing Editors
Bob Alexander
Walt Hull
John Murray

Mailing Labels
Maurice Ellis

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BAM Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: () _____ Zip: _____

New Member Renewal

How did you learn about BAM? _____

Do you need any tools? _____

Memberships are for one year from receipt of dues. Dues are \$20, which includes a subscription to the bimonthly BAM newsletter. Please make checks payable to Blacksmith Association of Missouri.

ABANA Membership Application

Primary ABANA Chapter Affiliation: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: () _____ Zip: _____

New Member Renewing Member

How did you learn about ABANA? _____

- Regular Member\$45 yr.
- Senior Citizen (Age 65)\$40 yr.
- Fulltime student\$35 yr.
- Overseas airmail\$80 yr.
- Overseas surface mai\$60 yr.
- Contributory\$100 yr.
- Public library.....\$35 yr.

See reverse

Editor's Anvil

Fresh off the Ozark Conference, I am a little overwhelmed. As usual it was quite an event, an excellent opportunity to visit with old friends and make a few new ones, to learn some new techniques and buy some old tools, to restock the library with books from Centaur Forge and to be entertained by Col. Tim Ryan.

I had to miss a good portion of the conference this year. First Emily kept me up all week so I would have been a hazard trying to drive Highway 8 Friday evening. Then James did his first Communion this year and they never checked the schedule in *The Anvil's Ring* to see when the conference was.

That left Saturday for me and I made the most of it. As usual the wolf pack descended on my truck when I pulled in. They sensed fresh meat (rusty iron). I know I went home a lot lighter than when I went down.

A lot of my weight (and others' too) went back to Florida with Mel Wilbers. I had talked to Mel on several occasions and it was good to meet him in person. Always glad to spread the wealth around, Mel.

Like a lot of you I was torn between the knifemaker's site, the BAM regulars and John Medwedeff. My first stop was the knife site where I saw Roy Warden forge a billet without the customary clang clang of the hammer striking the anvil. Roy was using a hydraulic press and it was real strange seeing a billet formed with nothing but the gentle hiss of the fluid moving through the lines.

Not only did V.J. McCrackin demonstrate, but we also got his son, Kevin, in on the act. I saw a nice spike knife in the auction that he contributed.

I wandered over to the other tent to see what brother Pat was up to and it seems he learned a new trick from one of the farriers, Jerry Matthews I believe. This involves making a cape and tongue from a file or rasp that goes on a wizard. Pat promises to write this up for the newsletter (right?).

I caught most of John Medwedeff's slide show and was glad I did. John got a nice commission out of John Deere, doing sculpture with an agricultural theme. He had cotton bolls, corn, soybeans, wheat, you name it. I didn't see

any cockleburrs but they must have been there.

Knowing what John Deere products cost, I hope Duff charged accordingly. That green and yellow paint must be expensive.

The next time I checked in with Duff he was showing us what all those holes in a swage block are for. He was doing sculptural forms from sheet metal, which Jim Patton was kind enough to keep hot and ready for him.

I got to see him do some scrolls and also some work under the fly press, once we found the allen wrenches. Would love to have a fly press — wonder where a fellow could get one (Andrew MacDonald). Fly presses can be pretty dangerous with that big ball swinging around. Unless you are Stan Winkler.

Before Duff's demo ended the typical Ozark Conference weather caught up with us in the form of a hail storm. I felt sorry for those under the tent until the hail started pelting the tin-roofed barn we were in. It was so loud Duff put on his hearing protection and Floyd Daniel woke up!

I missed Dick Postman's lecture but caught up with him Saturday as he made the rounds answering anvil questions. It took Dick all of 10 seconds to recognize the bridge anvil I was describing to him as an oil field anvil. He said they used it to hold tools for sharpening bits in the field.

I also missed all of Uri's demo on Sunday. Would sure appreciate someone writing something about it for the next newsletter. Tom Clark had a new anvil at the conference inspired by the one Uri uses in Israel. I didn't get the details but I'm sure we'll get them.

Maurice Ellis really pulled a fast one on me during the pre-auction ceremonies. Bob Alexander had just presented the Bob Patrick Award to John Murray, a fitting awarding due to John's frequent demonstrations, inspirational anvil rebuilding and uncommon devotion to giving us hammers for the iron in the hat.

Then Todd Kinnikin announced the winners of the scholarships this year. They are Steve McGehee, John Sharp, Pamela Wallace and Kirk (Raoul) Sullens. Maurice was back to award the prizes for the forging contest, where

the farriers nearly kicked our butts making rings from 1/2-inch square. Neil Poort took third, Bill Miller second and Steve White, the guy we borrowed from UMBA to save face, won the contest.

I understand Neil had so much time left after forging his ring that he changed the oil in his truck, shod a couple of horses and read "War and Peace". Steve practiced but word didn't get out until after the contest so we let him keep the award, a Murray hammer.

I thought the awards were done and headed out to load my truck but Maurice called me back so I could take a picture when he presented another special award. Maurice had arranged with the cooks from the Lion's Club to put pans of fresh-cut onions under the podium so that he could summon up the proper emotion. Then he went on to read all the special qualities of this person. I was looking around the room trying to figure out who he was talking about when he read off my name!

The award was a lifetime membership. I was quite flattered and a little stunned that BAM would see fit to honor me as they have the likes of Francis Whitaker, Bob Patrick, Floyd Daniel, Sid Suedmeier, Fred Caylor, Robb Gunter, Clifton Ralph, Jerry Hoffmann, Bill Gichner, Tim Ryan and Clay Spencer.

Thanks to Maurice and everyone else involved in this award. It means a lot to me.

We had a pretty decent turnout for the auction, even though we were missing some of our big spenders. Tim managed to wring \$5,000 from a real tough audience, down from what we have made in the past but still an excellent showing.

Hat's off to Bruce Herzog, conference chairman. He did so good we should appoint him for life! Bruce told me he was responsible for the clear blue skies Saturday morning, but later in the day he felt confident enough to delegate the weather to Maurice and that's when the hail came down.

Well done to all involved. I will have more complete coverage in the next issue.

— Jim McCarty

Dear BAM

Hello, Newsletter Editor,

Here is something for your newsletter. The response and reviews for the book have been great!

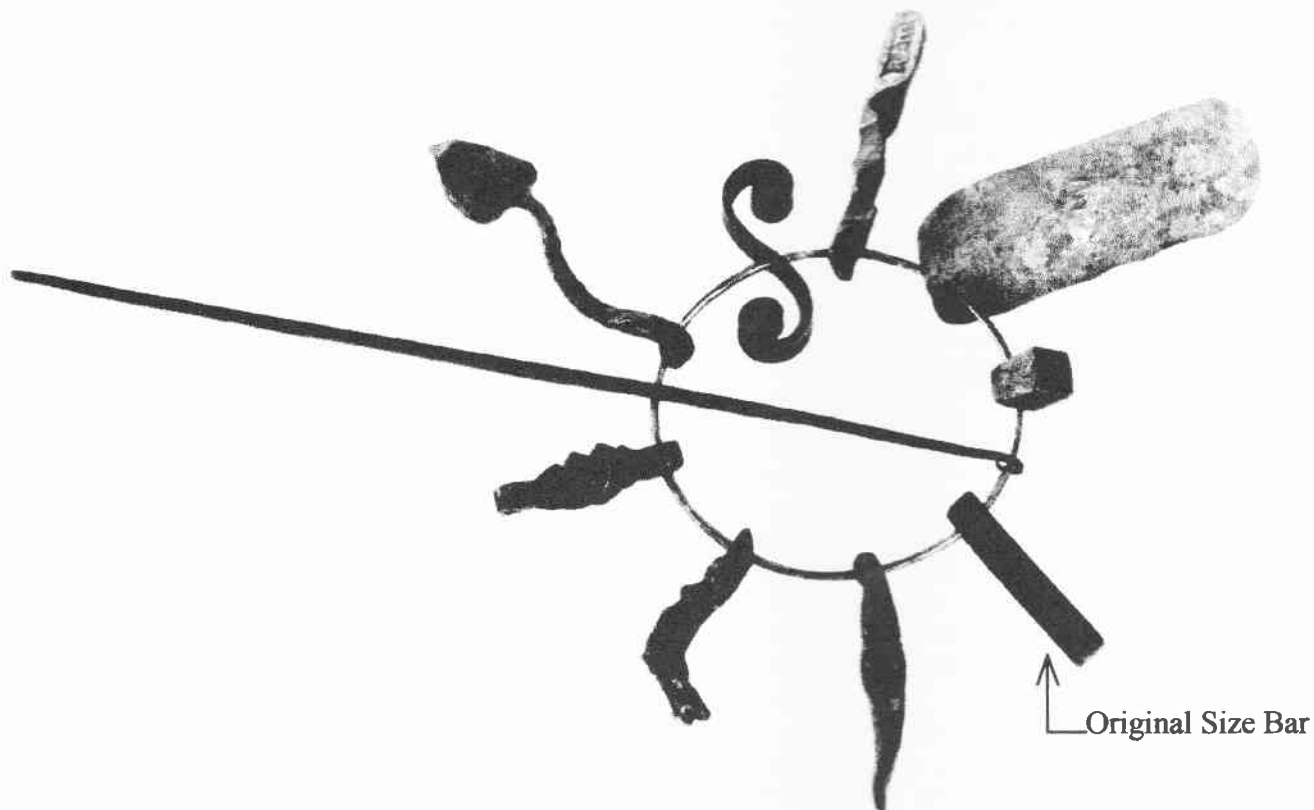
Thanks for your previous help!

Randy

Randy McDaniel has sent us this challenge from his new book "*A Blacksmithing Primer, A Course in Basic and Intermediate Blacksmithing*". Try it, you may get a different attitude about forging.

Challenge

To see what forging really is, I have a challenge for you. Take a bar of steel of any size and for starters cut off ten pieces of equal length. As an example, use 1/2" square stock and cut ten pieces 3" long. Put one piece to the side. Now forge each of the remaining nine pieces into something different. When you are done put a hole in each one, including the one you didn't forge, and hang them on a ring together. This will show what you started with and what you were able to forge from it. It is an excellent project for you to see how the metal works and useful to show others what blacksmithing is all about.



Here are some ideas to try. Draw out the bar as long as possible. Flatten it out to make sheet metal. Upset it into a cube. Have fun making designs that you enjoy forging. © 1998

Randy's book (ISBN 0-9662589-0-8) has more than 20 projects and over 400 drawings. It is spiral bound, 8 1/2" x 10" and 174 pages. It can be purchased for \$20.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling (\$1 s&h for each Add'l Book) (PA residents add 6% sales tax) through Dragonfly Enterprises, 3300G Kingston Drive, Dept. 44C, Sinking Spring, PA 19608.

Bob's Business

Well, winter has long passed and spring's nearly over since our last newsletter. The March meeting at Webster University went very well. We had a rare opportunity to watch Don Asbee demonstrate techniques on a Maurice Ellis built air hammer.

Tooling was the topic.

Then Lou Mueller with the help of John Murray and Walt Hull demonstrated the rest of the morning and into the afternoon.

The weather was perfect which was great for the tailgaters out in the rear parking lot. Thanks to the host, Christina Shmigel, for having us.

Folk School offers BAM a scholarship

The John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC has given BAM a one-week, tuition-only scholarship for one of our members.

This is the place to learn a large number of blacksmithing skills in a well-equipped shop under the guidance of some of the world's best instructors.

If anyone is interested send your name, address and phone number to the editor, Jim McCarty, at 5821 Helias Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65101. We will have a drawing of those interested at the next BAM meeting May 30 at Ray Chaffin's. You don't have to be present to win, just get your name in the hat by May 30.

The details of the scholarship are in the letter at right. Keep in mind that this scholarship just covers the tuition. You still have to pay the cost of materials (usually less than \$25) and the room and board which varies depending on whether or not you stay on campus or use the campground.

It's still a heck of a deal and we appreciate the generosity of the Folk School in presenting it to us.

By the time you read this letter the Ozark Conference will be over. Thanks to Bruce for being chairman and many thanks to all the other members who helped to make this event happen.

Several events I have been looking forward to all year began happening in May with the opening of Faust Park Historic Village. Then we have the Ozark School of Blacksmithing with a class in May and an advanced class in June.

I hope to be able to attend some of the evening after-class get togethers.

Next we have a first-time BAM

meeting at Ray Chaffin's at Warsaw, Mo. Thanks to Ray for being a host. It is always nice to see other shops and pick up new tips and techniques.

In June it's "The Big One" in Asheville, North Carolina.

The ABANA Conference is the place for a blacksmith to experience it all, demos, tailgate sales, auctions, galleries, suppliers, iron in the hat and the list goes on.

Hope to see you there. Keep on hammering,

— Bob Alexander



John C. Campbell
Folk School
BRASSTOWN, NC

January 29, 1998

Pat McCarty
Blacksmith Association of Missouri
4776 St. Johns Road
Washington, Missouri 63090

Dear Pat:

This is to confirm a one-week tuition scholarship for your chapter to award to a blacksmith student/member. This scholarship may be used at the John C. Campbell Folk School during the calendar year of 1998. The scholarship is on a "space available" basis which means that it is possible the student will need to be flexible and choose a second class date, in case full paying students fill their first choice class.

To use this tuition scholarship, present this letter, a completed registration form, a deposit of \$75.00 (\$100 after April 1) if the student is registering to stay on campus. Material costs, housing and meals are not included in this scholarship. Registration must be made in advance and may be made by phone.

We are looking forward to working with you and Chapter members throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Jan Davidson
Executive Director

JD/RT/cvb

Enclosure

cc: Hanne Dalsemer
Elmer Roush, Resident Artist

Sincerely,

Ruth Truett
Instruction Manager

BAM

MARCH MEETING

by **Walt Hull**

On Saturday March 28th Christina Shmigel (I hope I have that spelled right...I'm going by the BAM roster in the newsletter) and the Webster art department hosted a crowd running heavily to overalls, chin-whiskers and dirty fingernails for BAM's March meeting. It wasn't your typical blacksmith shop, as the department sandwiches forging in among casting, ceramics, painting, etc, but a very pleasant facility nonetheless, with a decent anvil, a Johnson natural gas forge, and a Maurice Ellis air hammer.

The featured demonstrator was Don Asbee, who demonstrated on the air hammer. Although much of the tooling that Don had brought with him from his own Ellis hammer didn't fit on this particular model, Don was able to turn much of his "shuffle time" to good use explaining different tooling setups and design variations on the hammer, and in spite of the obstacles demonstrated a number of interesting techniques including upsetting and punching of various sizes of stock. Don's tooling is always ingenious, and if you missed this demo you should try to catch him sometime.

After Don's presentation Lou

Mueller was going to demonstrate but he realized that if he did it would be hard for him to talk as much as he wanted to so he dragooned me and John Murray into doing all the sweating while he narrated. It went pretty well, even though John and I didn't have the slightest what we were doing and most of the time couldn't hear Luigi telling the audience what we were doing. He'd say "neck it down here and point it here..." and we did our best. The demo was on forging dynamics, the fact that you have to think about where the metal comes from and where it goes and how to trick it into getting there. As I say, I couldn't hear most of it over my own hammering. Maybe Lou could write it up for the newsletter.

We were helped quite a bit by the prototype gas forge, like the ones that were to be built the next day at the workshop at Bob Alexander's. That is one cookin' little box, brothers and sisters. Bruce Herzog was there to keep this one running right and keep us from burning up our metal.

I also got to play a bit with the Ellis hammer, and it did a fine job. It's a little heavier than my 50#, but not enough so to scare me, and it keeps the metal moving really well. That particular model hits just a little slow for my taste, but it hits pretty hard and is really controllable.

The trade item was a sculpture—something of a challenge, since most of us aren't oddests, and I was really pleased to see that so many of us gave it a serious shot. I don't think the Metropolitan is going to be calling any of us soon, but it was a good turnout. I was disappointed that so many members with real art training weren't there. I could have learned something. But I came home with something pretty nice anyway. Thanks, Christina.

Oh, the chili was good, too.

Minutes

- Thanks to Webster U. for hosting us.
- Minutes of last meeting approved as published.
- Discussion of ABANA 98 Conference fees.
- Todd Kinnikin spoke on the auction of tools and equipment formerly

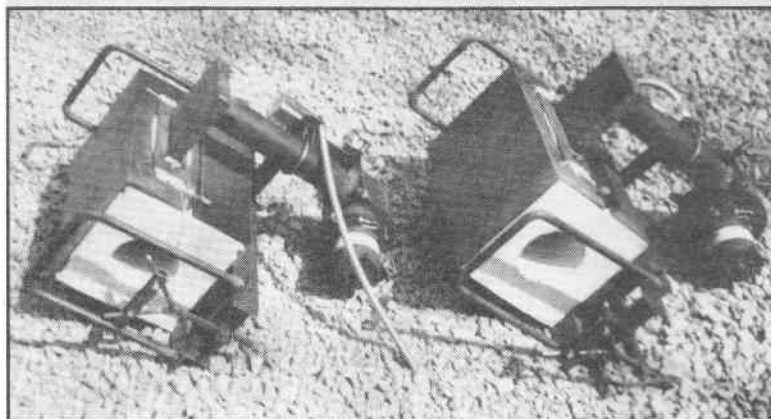
owned by the late Earl Hawkins, a BAM member.

- Todd also spoke on BAM's scholarship program. This is a good opportunity to advance your skills and knowledge.
- Bruce Herzog spoke on BAM library acquisitions. If you have specific suggestions for books to buy, tell Bruce.
- Bruce also spoke on the 1998 Ozark Conference. Bruce urged members to make items for the auction on Saturday night. Dick Postman, author of "Anvils in America" will be at the conference. BAM members urged to pick his brain.
- Ruth Hull spoke about the "BAM Boutique" at the conference. Donations of small items needed.
- Todd spoke about "Oktober-Faust" at Faust Park this October. The gallery will be a great opportunity to display and sell your ironwork. More to come.
- Bob Alexander and Tom Clark spoke on the Ozark Conference. Gary Koberman spoke on conference finances. Suggestion made to publish a financial statement after the conference. Motion made to publish after the 1999 conference, motion carried.
- Motion made to allocate \$300 for the library, motion passed.
- Hammer-in at New Salem, Ill. next weekend.
- Open forge at the Alexander Majors House in Kansas City (8201 State Line Rd.) 1st Sunday of each month. Check with David Hoopes (913) 541-8872.
- Tom Clark and Lou Mueller spoke on BAM coal and Tom's plan to stock "Cumberland-Elkhorn" coal from Louisville, Ky.
- Tom also spoke on the Ozark School of Blacksmithing which will open soon, also on new tools designed by Uri Hofi. Tom is having a radically new anvil cast from stainless steel. Tom is also starting a distributorship for a new air hammer similar to the well-known "Sahinler" brand. Tom spoke on his trip to Israel and visit to Uri Hofi's shop and gallery. Tom is working on a class and excursion to Israel next year.
- Motion to adjourn, motion passed.

— Submitted by *John Murray,*
secretary



Left: V.J. McCrackin shows how to weld a billet using one of the BAM gas forges.



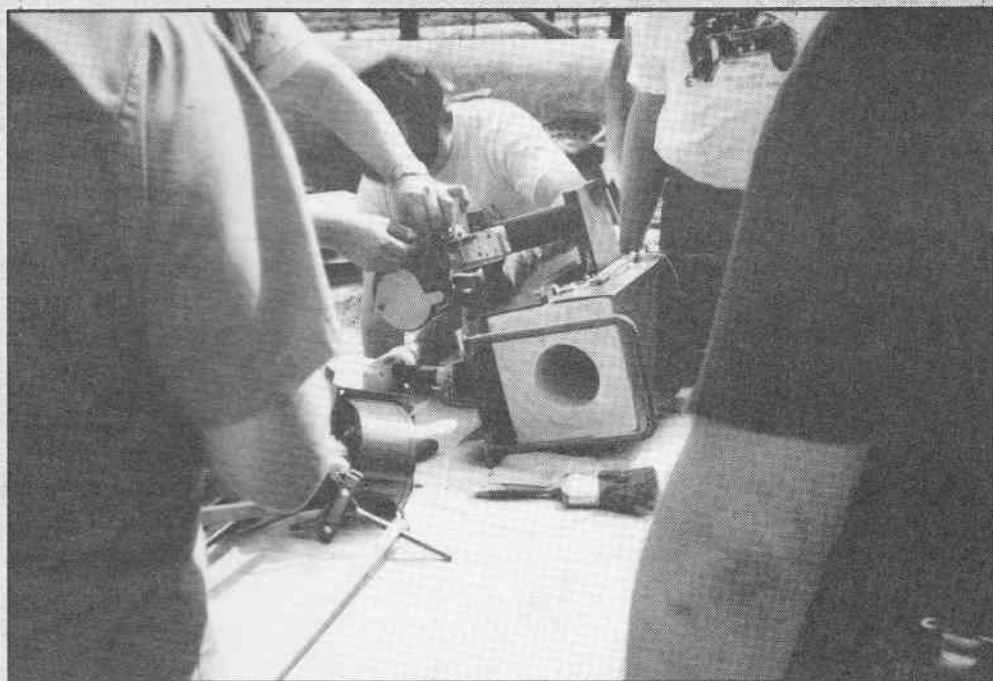
Gas Forge Workshop

Bob Alexander was the host for BAM's long-awaited gas forge workshop, which was held on Sunday, March 29 after the March BAM meeting. Enough material was purchased to build 40 forges. From reports I have heard they all function real well. Thanks to Gary Koberman and Bruce Herzog for organizing this event and to Bob for hosting it.

Left: Finished forges await their new owners.

Right: Many pieces had to be hand-fitted by many willing workers to get the forges assembled.

Photos by Bob Alexander





ABANA

Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America

PO Box 206 - Washington, Missouri 63090 USA
Janelle Gilbert, Executive Secretary

Office Hours 9:00am - 5:00pm CST weekdays
Voice/Fax (314) 390-2133 E-Mail: abana@mail.usmo.com

President's Message to the Chapters April 1998

Dear ABANA Chapters,

Just as it appeared that spring was about to get here winter finally arrived. That may not be true in your part of the country but it sure has been the case here in West Virginia. The heat of the forge has felt really good lately but it does little to keep my feet warm.

With spring will come a lot of smithing activity, chapter meets, regional conferences and joint meetings. The regional meets always attract a lot of members of chapters other than the sponsoring chapters and it seems that joint meetings of two or more chapters have been on the increase. There is a lot going on at all of these meetings but high on the list of priorities is the learning opportunities that they provide. Support as many of the events as you can, the benefit will be mutual.

Not much longer to wait for the Asheville Conference. If you are going to attend you should register as early as possible. Early registration helps with projections and planning. Whether you are going to be at this year's conference or not I hope you will consider a donation to iron in the hat and the auction.

In addition to all the great learning opportunities provided by the demonstrators and lecturers at the conference there are other potential benefits. You may go back home with a bargain buy from the trade show or the tailgate sales. You may find just what you have been looking for at one of the auctions and you may find that you have one of the lucky iron in the hat tickets. All of this while spending a few days with your fellow blacksmiths and their families.

While you are at the conference one or more of the ABANA directors may be twisting your arm in an effort to get you to be a board candidate for our upcoming election. But you don't have to wait for that to happen, you can get in touch with David Cornett, chairman of the election and nominating committee, or with the other members of the committee, Jim Cooper and Jim Patton. I do hope some of you will give some serious thought to being a board candidate this year.

Anything in your shop that has moving parts can be a threat to your safety. These include power hammers, treadle hammers, drill presses, hydraulic presses, wire brushes, grinders and many others. Just being aware of the threats can be a plus for your safety but you should reduce the threats by any means available. These include belt guards, spring guards, proper working space, adequate lighting, proper dress and a lot of common sense. Be aware. Be safe and be happy.

Joe Harris
ABANA President



CHAPTER LIAISON NEWSLETTER

April
1998

ABANA - PO Box 206 - Washington, MO 63090 USA
phone/fax (314) 390-2133 web site: www. ABANA.org e-mail: abana@mail.usmo.com

'98 CONFERENCE BOOKLET

I just received my new *Anvil's Ring* and the Conference registration booklet was enclosed. If you haven't received one of these, you can obtain one by calling (314) 225-5492. It looks like a great program. Please disregard the family membership rate listed in the booklet (pg. 17) as we now include family in the regular membership.

RING PROJECT

There seems to be some confusion about letting ABANA know if your chapter is sending a ring. The date set to notify us was so that we could possibly publish a list in advance and prepare the certificate in advance in an effort to ease the work load at and after the '98 ABANA Conference. Regardless what you have or have not done, please make a ring and bring it to the Conference.

'98 CONFERENCE AUCTION

A major effort is being made to attract the general public to our conference auction. Good pieces are needed to show what is available from our blacksmiths while helping raise funds for future ABANA blacksmithing activities.

TRIP TO ISRAEL

Last month (February 1998) I spent two weeks in Israel. I visited Uri Hofi's blacksmith shop and school. I also visited five other shops there. It was quite an educational experience and I can recommend that anyone who has the chance should do it. Uri welcomes visitors and will help anyone with a travel plan to some of the other shops. Almost everyone speaks English so that wouldn't be a problem. At least two of the many ideas for tools and other elements of process I have learned have already been printed in the *Hammer's Blow*. There are many more to come.

FROM THE MAILBAG

Postcard from a Scholarship Recipient:

ABANA, the folks of --Hello from Aachen. Spent X-Mas Eve here. A beautiful Roman Catholic service, incense, low lighting from amber alabaster chandeliers, many people, the priests great regalia, the pleasant singing of Silent Night (Deutsch version) resonating in the rotunda and the thoughts of King Charlemagne being here over 1100 years ago --a memorable time for sure. As has my

whole experience in Europe. Starting with the Leonard Masters tour. To Bavaria to inspect the castles down there, even got to do some restoration work on one balcony for Schloff something-burg. (I forget right now.) Working with Timm Bredohl now. And exploring Koln & Brussels. London in the spring then back to Bavaria need to finish that lesson in Baroque studying with Berndt Schwitzer. My thanks for the Scholarship Award. Hope to speak through the Ring. — Curtis Brenton

A Note from Carl Jennings:

Nineteen Ninety Seven was a very eventful year for me. First the good news. Our son Milton is working in Walnut Creek for a firm doing slurry [?] pipeline work. Milt has been doing work relating to this since the 60's. He spent 3 years in China and is in Argentina starting up pipelines. Rita is going down Sunday. Our grandson, Martin, married in '96 to Stephanie Renee Gray and on May 27th '97 presented us with twins --a boy and a girl, Benjamin Mark and Sara Elizabeth. I am looking forward to seeing our great grandchildren and their mother in June when I go to the ABANA Conference in Asheville, NC. Our grandson Charles went back to Washington state and has a security police job. I hope he can get back to __ [?] later. Elizabeth's passing August 28th after 62 years has left a void that can never be filled. I miss her so. I would like to thank ABANA for the flowers sent to my wife's memorial last September. See you at the ABANA Conference in June. — Carl

HAMMERIN' ON THE 'HOOCH

In spite of bad weather (windy and cold) Hammerin' on the 'Hooch was a success. The demonstrations were good and helped the auction to raise more than thirty-five hundred dollars. On Sunday most traveled the short distance to Westville for the re-dedication of the Bealer forge. Bob Patrick, with striker Bob Alexander, forged two froes. Both were sold at auction. One in a style known best by Tim Ryan and given to the Bealer family. Bob Patrick will be forging the froes for the future Alex Bealer award recipients.

*The content of this newsletter was submitted by
Tom Clark, Member Services Division Chairman*

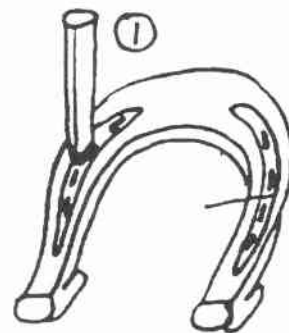
HORSESHOE BOOT SCRAPER

by Charles Arbuckle and Alan W. Brown

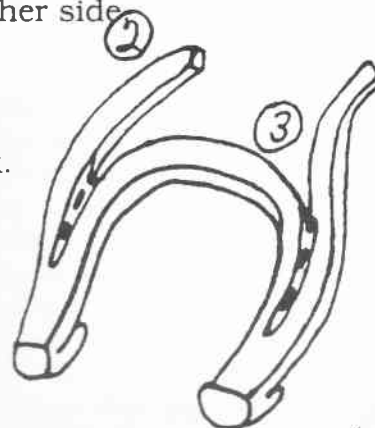
(from The Traditionalist)

STOCK: One thrown horseshoe, 3/8" x 7/8"
cross-section above the caulks.

1. Heat and hot cut the shoe, following the nail crease.
Start at the third nail hole from the caulk on one side of the
shoe and cut around to the corresponding hole on the other side.

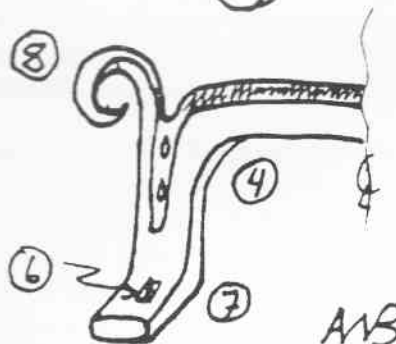


2. Hot cut top separated section at the center and fold back.



3. Heat center section and draw out to form
the scraper section.

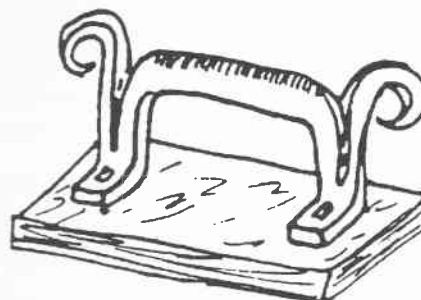
4. Make a 90° flat bend at the end of the scraper section.



5. Straighten out caulks or draw out if they were welded.

6. Punch hole in the ends to fasten boot scraper onto
porch floor or log, etc.

7. Make a 90° bend in the feet.



8. Draw out split off section and form into a scroll.

Reprinted from the March, 1990, issue of The Rivet, newsletter of
the Western Canadian Blacksmith Association.

North West Blacksmith Association

For sale: LP gas regulators, adjustable pressure, gauge \$75. Gas forge, recuperative style, firebox size 4.5x10x12 never used \$300. Gary Kobermann, 2337 Whitshire, St. Louis, MO 63129 (314) 892.2527

160-pound Vulcan anvil, perfect edges, looks like new. \$320. Don Asbee, (573) 635-8363.

For sale: Treadle hammer. Clay Spencer design made at BAM treadle hammer workshop, \$850. 50 pound Little Giant converted to air hammer. Huge dies, needs 5 hp compressor, \$2,500. Contact Maurice Ellis, (573) 766-5346.

BAM members, time is money. I have a CNC plasma cutting system in my shop in Columbia and will offer my services to BAM members at a 10 percent discount. I will cut anything you desire. Flowers, leaves, custom designs. CNC plasma cuts parts fast. From art to parts I do it all. Call (573) 474-8749 and ask for William Irvin for more 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: kaynehdwe@ioa.com

Jerry Hoffmann now has a nice line of blacksmith related T-shirts for sale. They come in a variety of colors and include the famous nude men striking, EZ Weld ad, Bradley Power Hammers, Hot Art and more. For a brochure drop him a line at the Blacksmiths Journal, PO Box 193, Washington, MO 63090 or call 1-800-944-6134 or check him out on the internet at <http://www.blacksmithsjournal.com>

I have an industrial 4-burner gas forge with blower, inside dimensions are 11 inches high, 13 inches wide and 16 inches deep. I would like to trade for a used treadle hammer or a

smaller gas forge. Scott Payne, 406 E. Benton, Advance, Mo. 63730.

The editor has several forges, a No. 5A Edwards shear, \$125, a bridge anvil, cast iron, no horn, haven't weighed but probably 200-300 pounds, \$300, a nice Buffalo cast iron blower on stand, \$75, a Foley-Belsaw 1-inch belt sander on stand, \$50 and a bucket of tongs and hammers, \$5-\$15 each. Jim McCarty, (573) 395-3304.

Power hammer history! *Pounding out the Profits — A Century of American Invention* by Douglas Freund (hard-bound, 317 pages, profusely illustrated) is available for \$32.50 plus \$4.50 shipping and handling through Minus Mountain Machine Works, PO Box 532, Jerome, AZ 86331.

At last!! The book about anvils. The history, manufacture, identification and much more about anvils made in America and those imported for resale or brought to America by smiths from 1600-1997. 564 pages of text and graphics on 70 pound Sterling Litho Satin paper. Over 770 graphics including 300 photos. Hard cover, cloth bound and smyth sewn. \$60 plus \$5 shipping and handling per copy. Available in March or April, 1998. Dick Postman, 10 Fisher Ct., Berrien Springs, MI 49103; (616) 471-5426. The first 1,000 are reserved for blacksmiths and have a special page for the number and date. After the 1,000 are printed this page will be removed.

A new book for beginners and intermediate smiths has just been printed. It's called "A Blacksmithing Primer" by Randy McDaniel. His book covers the basics of setting up a shop, including different chimneys that work, fabricating a forge and anvil, 20 forging projects, starting with basic items and progressively advancing the skills. They are taught with simple text and over 400 detailed drawings. It is spiral bound, 174 pages and can be ordered through Dragonfly Enterprises, 3300G Kingston Dr., Dept. 44, Sinking Spring, PA 19608. Price is \$20 plus \$3 shipping and handling per book.

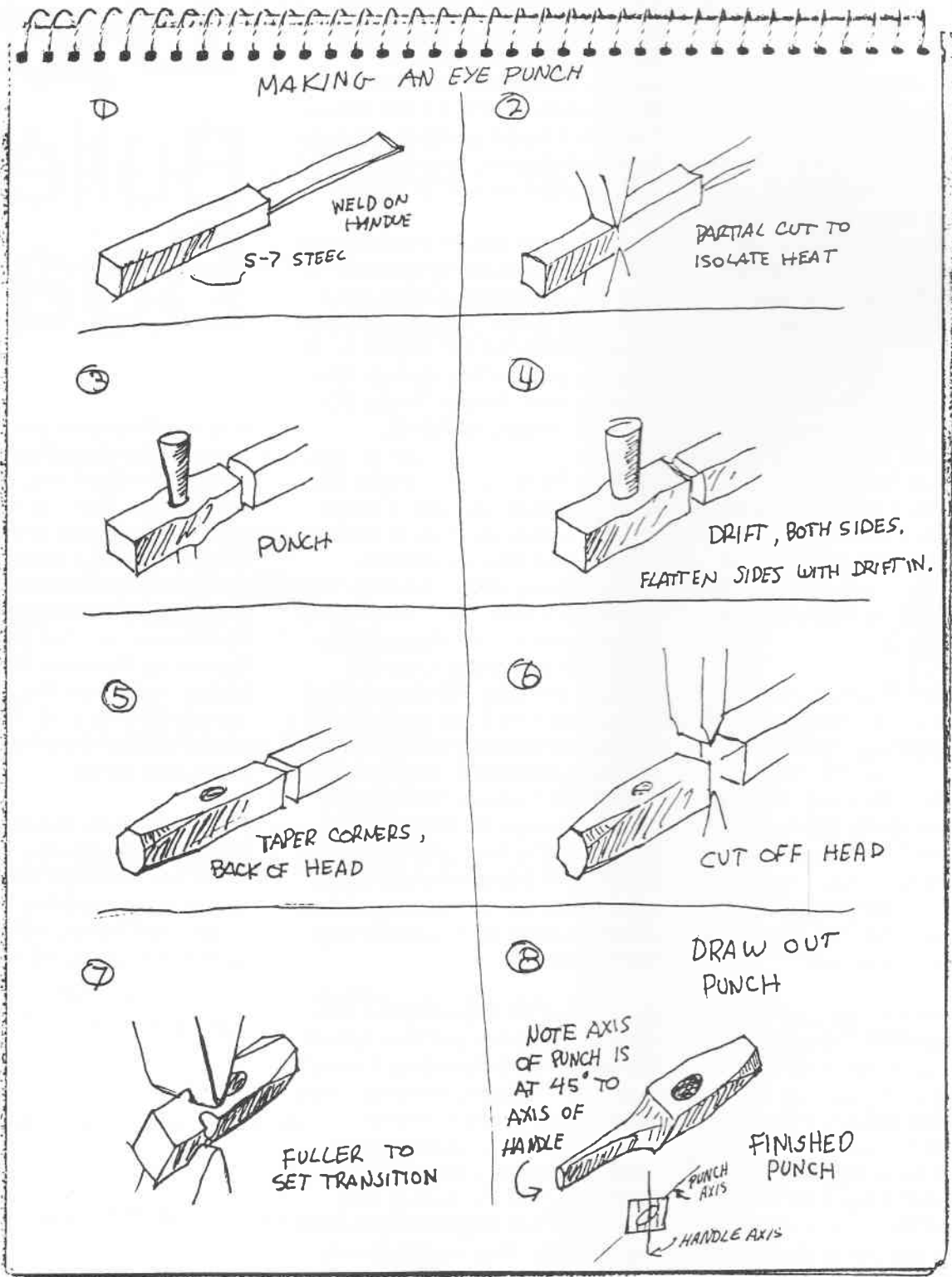
BAM

Bulletin Board

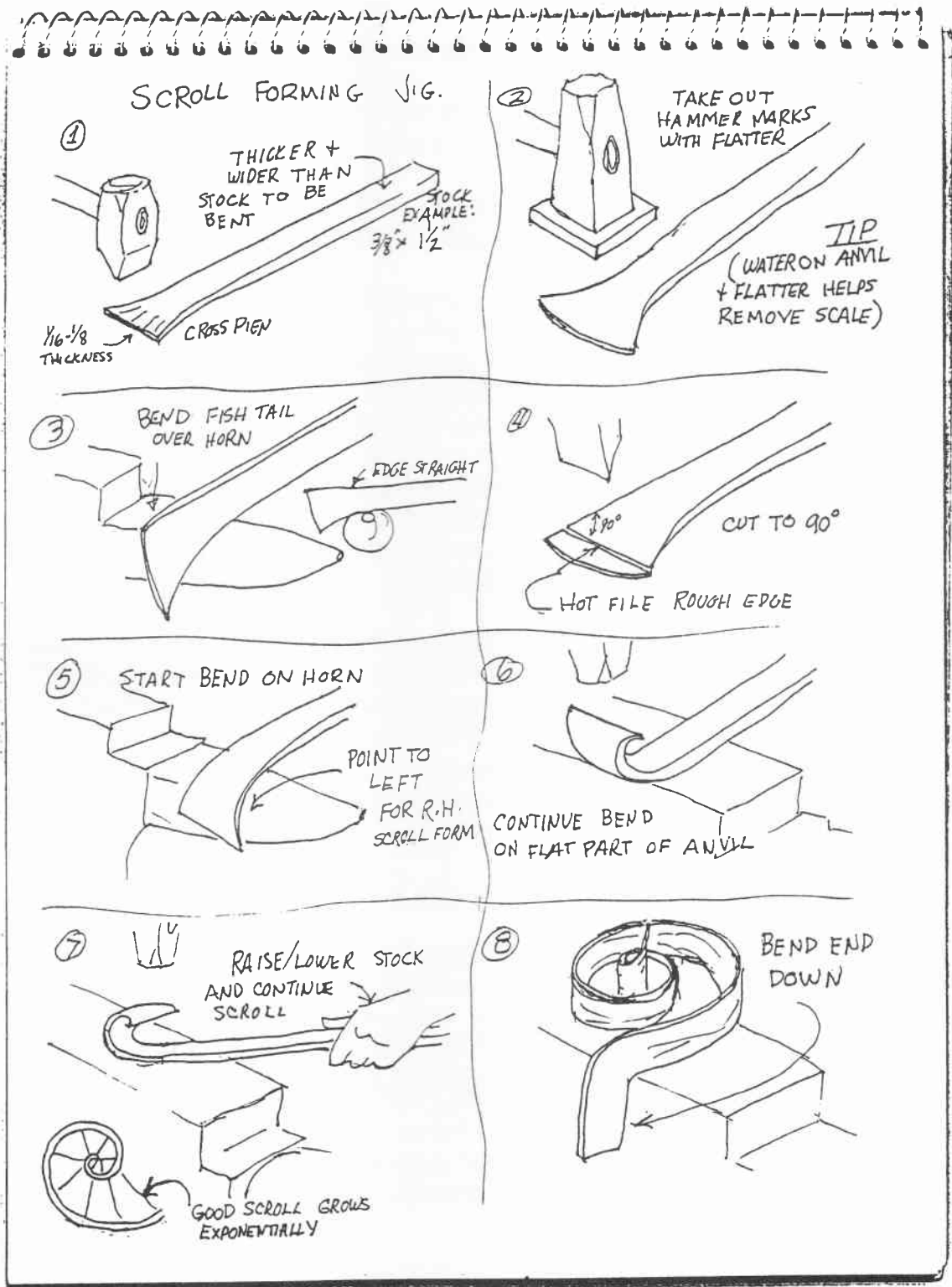
Iron Age Primitives is the title of a new work by Gene Chapman, former editor of the Northwest Blacksmith Association's Hot Iron News. It is part of a continuing series featuring unique knives and metalcraft. Cost for the 20 page book is \$8.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling. Even expert knifemakers will find numerous ideas for making Mountain Man style blades. Order from Oak and Iron Publishing, PO Box 1038, Kingston, WA 98346. Ask for a free brochure on his seven other books.

New cushions for Bradley Power Hammers are available. These are made from urethane, cheaper than natural rubber and they work better. Contact Jeff Starke, 3071 Kerklikowske, Coloma, MI 49038.

Making a Hammer Eye Punch as taught by Frank Turley at the First Ever Saltfork Craftsmen Blacksmithing Conference, October, 1997 Drawings by Jim Richey



Making a Scroll Forming Jig as taught by Frank Tutley at the First Ever Saltfork
 Craftsmen Blacksmithing Conference, October, 1997 Drawings by Jim Richey



A trellis worthy of a rose

THIS WAS A LARGE TRELLIS, 7'-6" WIDE X 12' TALL AND WAS MOUNTED ON CONCRETE FOOTINGS ABOUT 12" FROM THE NORTH WALL OF THE HOUSE. IT WAS BRACED TO THE HOUSE BY (3) 3/8" ALLTHREAD RODS ANCHORED INTO THE BRICK WALL. SOME LESSONS LEARNED ARE :

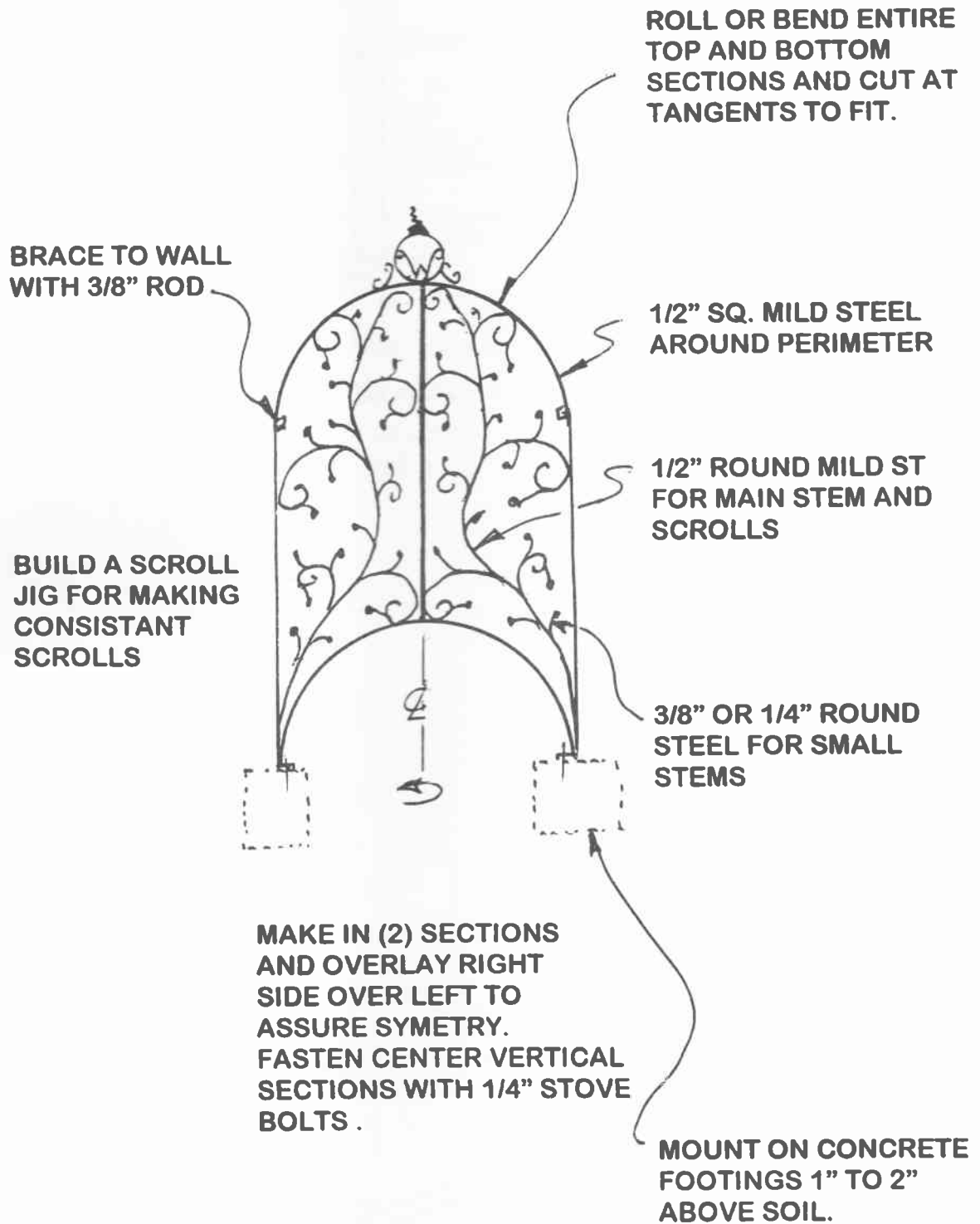
- 1. REMEMBER YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO LIFT, HANDLE, AND DELIVER YOUR WORK SO PLAN ACCORDINGLY AND ESTIMATE!**
- 2. STEEL SHAPES HAVE A LITTLE KNOWN FACTOR CALLED THE "SLENDERNESS RATIO" WHICH HAS TO DO WITH THE ABILITY TO RESIST BENDING AND FLEXING OF THE SHAPE OVER LONG LENGTHS. THE 12 FOOT LENGTH OF THE TRELLIS WAS PLENTY LONG FOR 1/2" MATERIAL, NO MATTER HOW HEAVY IT IS, AND THE TRELLIS COULD EASILY BE FLEXED. THIS WAS EASILY CORRECTED BY ADDING ANOTHER BRACE, BUT UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, A DIFFERENT SHAPE SUCH AS TUBING OR OTHER STRATEGICALLY LOCATED BRACING ON THE MAIN STRUCTURES MAY BE NECESSARY.**
- 3. FOR LOTS OF REPETITIVE SHAPES, TAKE THE TIME TO BUILD JIGS AND FIXTURES TO SPEED UP THE WORK AND MAKE IT COME CONSISTANT. THE END PRODUCT WILL SPEAK FOR ITSELF. FOR INSTANCE, THE LITTLE PROPANE FORGE BUILT AT THE GPBA WORKSHOP SAVED MANY HOURS IN THE MAKING OF DOZENS OF LEAVES USED ON THE TRELLIS. I ALWAYS HAD ONE READY TO HAMMER OUT.**

I FINISHED THE TRELLIS WITH A COAT OF PRIMER AND TWO COATS OF RUSTOLEUM FLAT BLACK. IN GENERAL I USED 60' OF 1/2" SQ., 70' OF 1/2" ROUND, AND 10' OF 1/4" ROUND. LIKE MOST PROJECTS YOU WORK ON THEM WHEN YOU CAN, BUT THERE WAS ABOUT 40 HOURS IN THIS PROJECT, AND IT WAS FUN TO DO SOMETHING THIS LARGE!

JIM LANE

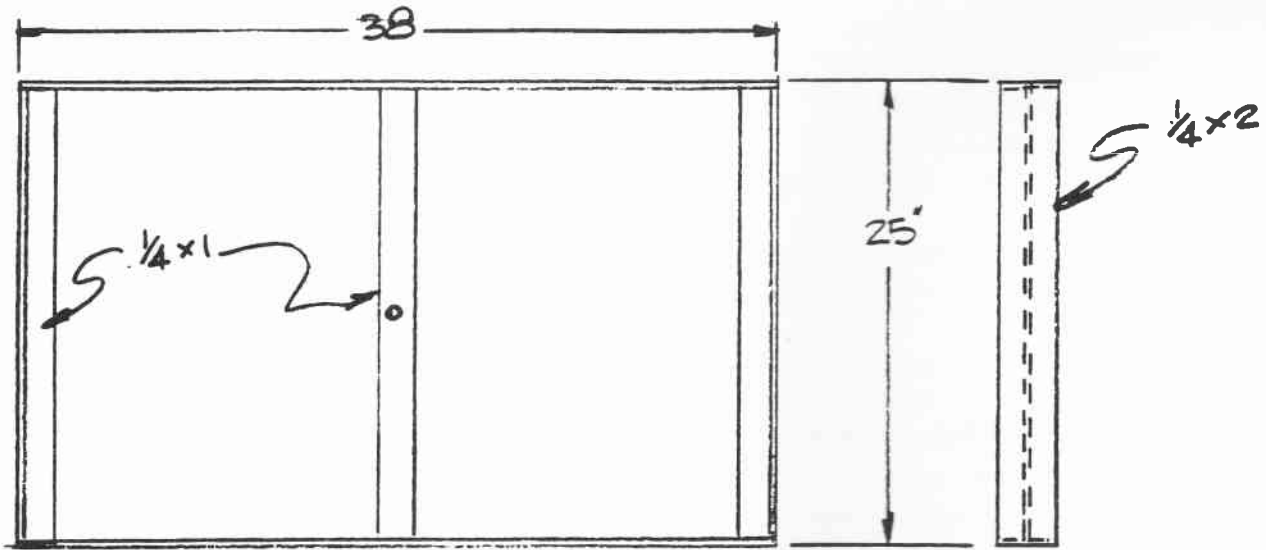
Reprinted from The Fire's Edge, Great Plains Blacksmith Association

ROSE TRELLIS

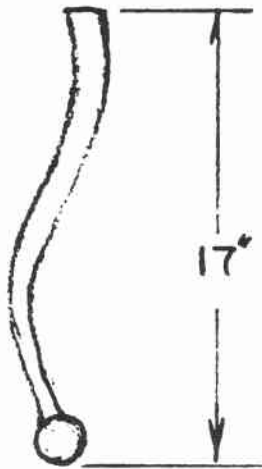


Forge a table

From the Northwest Ohio Blacksmith Association Newsletter

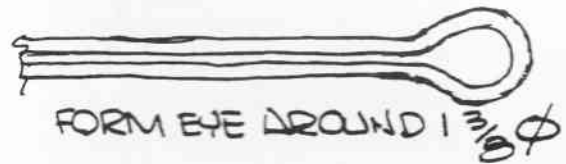


TOP VIEW OF FRAME



LEG DETAIL

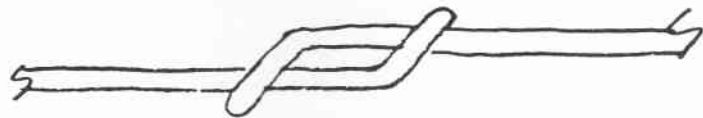
CUT LEGS TO
LENGTH AFTER
FORMING



FORM EYE AROUND $1 \frac{3}{8} \phi$

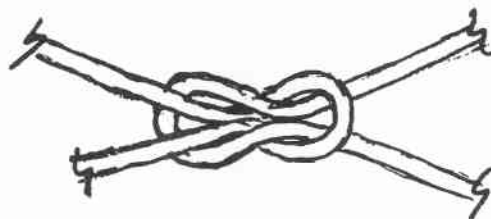


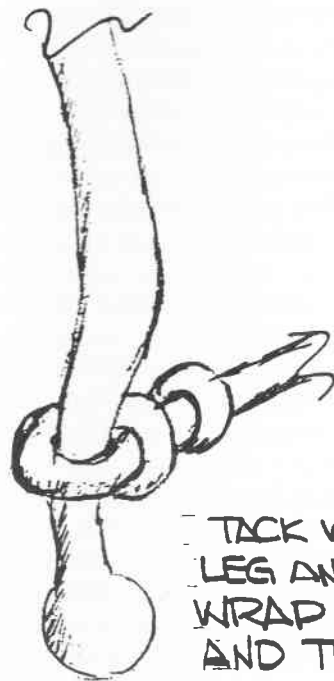
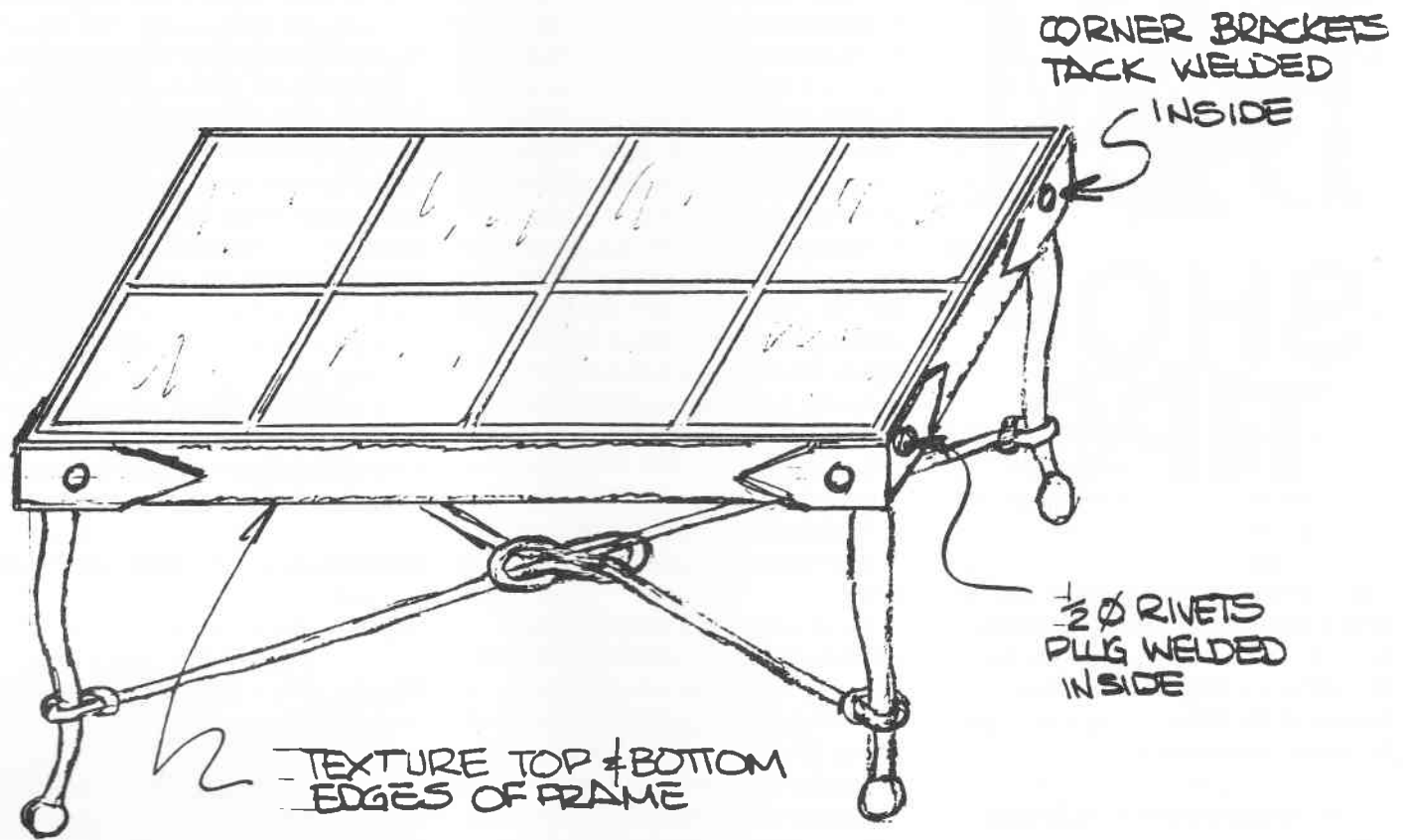
BEND JUST PAST THE EYE



SLIDE 2 PIECES TOGETHER

SPREAD AND THERE'S
THE SQUARE KNOT





TACK WELD BRACE TO THE
LEG AND THEN HEAT WITH TORCH-
WRAP BRACE AROUND LEG
AND THEN BACK AROUND ITSELF

BAM SHOP TIPS

Got a tip to share? Jot it down and send it to the editor at the following address: Jim McCarty, 5821 Helias Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65101 or FAX to (573) 395-3201 or e-mail to jimmac@socket.net

Hydrogen peroxide finish

From a discussion on "theforge" e-mail list David Mudge compiled this technique:

For nice pitting, sprinkle granulated salt, sodium chloride, on the hydrogen peroxide dampened surface. You can control the pitting by: how closely, how many and the size of the salt grains you apply. I tried out the hydrogen peroxide method for the first time recently, and was astounded with what I got.

It was a clear, warm day, and most of the surfaces were vertically oriented. I found that applying the HO with a spray bottle worked best. I used a newly opened bottle (for maximum strength) and did not water down the solution at all. Here's the steps:

1) Clean metal completely. No oils or millscale can be on surface. The way I cleaned the metal was first a degreaser, then cleaning with muriatic acid. Sanding, sandblasting, or rigorous powered wire brushing could also be used.

2) Let the clean, dry piece warm up in the sun (I suppose you could lightly warm the piece with a torch or heat gun, but don't get it hot, just barely warm).

3) Spray on a coat of HO, just enough to wet the entire surface. I found this technique works best if the piece is warm enough to dry out in less than a minute. If any areas stay wet longer (like on horizontal surfaces where it can pool up), gently dab them with a clean rag or paper towel.

4) Repeat step #3 until you have the depth of coloration you desire. Make sure the piece is entirely dry before spraying more on. I found that after five or six rounds, I had a very deep beautiful redish brown color that was incredibly stable (didn't easily rub off). After that, the HO didn't seem to deepen the color noticeably.

5) Seal surface with clear lacquer, oil, wax or whatever method you generally prefer.

I also did a small test piece that I cleaned and wire brushed to a nice silver color, then gave two quick coats of HO, using the same process described in step #3 above. I then coated in with clear satin lacquer. It is a beautiful coppery red/ brown color that still had a translucent quality, keeping the metallic qualities as opposed to a solid rusty coloration. I can't say enough how taken I was with this finish.

This is such a cool, easy, non-toxic finishing process that I plan to do a number of more experiments, varying the surface treatment prior to the HO application, (sanded, chemically etched, grinder marks, etc) and varying the application of the HO (sponge, rag, brush, soaked sawdust, etc) to see what happens.

Thanks for the idea of using hydrogen peroxide!

— Heath, Fusionworks

It is a fantastic way of getting different colorful rusts fast without the nasty chemicals. Peroxide works much faster if you add about a 1/4 cup of vinegar to the pint of peroxide and a couple of tablespoons of salt. If you heat the iron so that the solution almost boils off you get absolutely instant rust. You do have to put up with the vinegar smell. Sandblasting works great for cleaning the metal of oils, scale etc and gives the solution a nice surface to bite.

— Clyde Wynia

You can substitute Sparex pickle or sulfuric acid pickle (10% Sulfuric acid, 90% water) for the vinegar. Sparex is much safer to work with. I have also heard of using lemon juice (citric acid). You really only need some form of mild acid to activate the Hydrogen Peroxide.

—James Binnion

Little Giant specs

From Ralph Sproul comes this handy reference for you hammer movers:

Hammer	25	50	100	250	500
Height	4-10	5-3	5-10	6-8	8-1
Weight (belt driven)	870	1600	3000	5000	10,000
Weight (motor driven w motor)	1000	1800	3300	5500	10,700
HP required	1	2	3	7 1/2	15

Beat the rust

The best stuff I've found for rusted solid parts is "KROIL". It is used by many old car restorers. Apply, tap with hammer, repeat daily till loose. Sooner or later it WILL work. Comes in spray cans and gallons from:

Kano Laboratories
1000 S. Thompson LN
Nashville, TN 37211
615-833-4101

— Mike Alexander

Hot steel marking

If I need an accurate mark on hot work I will sometimes use the scribe, then go back over it with soapstone. The soapstone will get down in the scribe line and make it easier to see.

— David Hoopes

Treadle hammer tooling

Since you cannot strike much of an angle blow in a treadle hammer, you must change the angle of the work under the hammer head. Make up a series of ramp fixtures that have a shank to fit the hardy hole in your treadle hammer anvil. (Think of a wedge of steel with a hardy shank welded to the middle of one side.) For most small work it seems to be best to have a stop of some kind at the bottom of the ramp. As to hold downs for a treadle hammer, they probably aren't as necessary. First, things just don't seem to bounce around as much and second, you will have the hand that you used to use to hold a hammer, to hold the work piece instead.

One thing about a treadle hammer, you can use a lot taller tooling than you can in most power hammers. A Smithing Magician for example. Another thing, if you make the hardy hole in the treadle hammer the same size as the hardy hole in your favorite anvil, you can use much of your existing tooling.

— Mike George

Wire wheel wisdom

May I share what I have learned about wire wheels with you? A couple of details and some geometry come to mind here. Having polished jewelry for 18 years, polishing stones for as long, and polishing forged iron for 10 years, I have learned that the bigger the wheel and the faster that you can spin it, the more surface feet of medium is going to be in contact with the work piece.

I use a 1 hp, 3600 rpm, 220 volt motor mounted on a post stand. Toggle switch mounted right in front for quick & easy access. 7" or 8" Stainless Steel wire wheel (made for big side grinder) not the twisted or knotted type (they are too aggressive). The SS wheel as (opposed to carbon steel) doesn't rust and weaken, therefore many fewer wires come loose. Don't stand in the path of flying wires, scale, rust, paint, leaves, etc. Stand on one side or the other of the flight path. Welding gloves, safety glasses, and full face shield are required. Reverse the wheel regularly. Keeps it sharp &

straight. Use the bottom 1/4 of the wheel to contact the work. From the side, that would be between 6:00 & 9:00 (if it were a clock face)

It's not a safe tool to use, but neither is a skill saw. Practice makes perfect, but familiarity breeds contempt. . . be careful !! I'm NOT recommending that anyone use this sort of tool. I'm just telling you what I have learned.

— David Mudge

Steve sez

Vise Grip is a registered trademark of A DAMN GOOD TOOL COMPANY. If it don't say vise grip, don't buy it.

— Steve White

Weighing anvils

Simply put a sturdy board across two bathroom scales and sum the readings. Now put your anvil on them and sum again. Take the difference between the two sums and that's the weight of the object. If you don't believe me, weigh yourself that way.

If you don't have two bathroom scales, you can use one, but it's trickier. Put your sturdy board across a bathroom scale on one end, and a steel bar (lying horizontally on pavement, cross-wise to the length of the board) on the other. Take a carpenter's level and check that the board is level. If not, raise or lower either the scale or the found bar until the board is level. Take a reading on the scale. Now put your object on the board, midway between the scale and the bar. Take a reading and subtract the reading you made on the board. Now double this value and that's the weight of your object.

If you have no scale at all, use the balance beam technique. Take a sturdy board and put it across a steel bar so it balances. Mark the balance point. Now, say you weigh 200# and you think your object is 400#. Put your object (say) 2' from the balance point and you stand 4' from the balance point on the other end. If you balance, you were right. Otherwise adjust the

distances until balance is achieved. Mark the points of you and the object and measure between these points and the balance point. Now calculate:

$$(\text{object wt.}) = (\text{your wt}) \times (\text{your distance}) / (\text{obj. distance})$$

Simple.

— Bruce Freeman

Keep the kut

When using a right angle grinder sometimes it does not cut. The main reason is that what you are grinding gets too hot and glazes the grind stone. If you look at the cutting edge you see shiny spots. The stones are flat, not sharp, and so it will not cut.

To remedy the situation, I unplug the grinder, use an old farrier's file (the coarse side) and file the shiny spots from the stone. When you start grinding again be careful because it will really dig in. This seems to work for me. It does, however, remove some good stone. But if it will not cut you waste a lot of time.

— Roger Quaintance

To tell a Trenton

If you think you have a Trenton anvil there's some sage advice from Dick Postman's anvil book: Trenton's have a distinctive oval shaped depression on their bottoms. This was designed to keep them from rocking when mounted on a stump that might not be flat. They are also marked in pounds on the front of the base under the horn. The word Trenton is enclosed in a diamond shaped logo. Also, if it don't ring it ain't a Trenton! A liberal application of wire brushing might free up enough paint or rust to let you spot the name. While these tips will help, other anvils had similar traits. Get the book and then you will know for sure. It's \$60 plus \$5 shipping from Dick Postman, 10 Fisher Ct., Berrien Springs, MI 49103 or call (616) 471-5426. This book has 564 pages which include over 770 images of which 320 are photos.

BAM NEWS

Congrats to John Murray

John Murray is the latest winner of BAM's coveted "Bob Patrick Founder's Award." John was presented the bronze anvil award by last year's winner Bob Alexander at the Ozark Conference in honor of his unconditional support of BAM. For as long as we can remember John has donated one of his high caliber hammers to the iron in the hat at just about every meeting. He's also been a frequent demonstrator, anvil rebuilder, table maker, forge welder and all-around good guy. Congratulations and a big thanks to John for all he's done.

Coal supply

BAM still has coal available. Most of it is at Lou Mueller's in Valley Park. You can reach Lou at (314) 225-3252 to arrange to pick some up. Better get it before it's gone. In Central Missouri Joe Wilkinson has one pallet of coal. You can contact Joe at (573) 943-6779. The BAM coal is \$7.50 per 50-pound bag. Also on the east side Andrew MacDonald recommends Bost Transportation in Murphysboro, Illinois, which is stocking Sewell coal. Andrew says it is extra-low clinker. You can reach them at (618) 684-3166 or 1-800-537-4325. Price is \$155 per ton loose. They will load it in your truck and will sell half tons.

State Fair demo

Once again, the Missouri State Fair has asked BAM to supply demonstrators. Last year we had

enough folks volunteer to do demos on the last 5 days of the fair. The fair supplies a tent for us to work under. We used one of the BAM side draft forges and I supplied tools which we stored in the BAM trailer in the evenings. I think we reminded a lot of folks that blacksmithing is still alive in Missouri. We even discovered the location of some tools for sale.

The dates for the fair are Aug. 13-23. I don't have the dates yet for our demo, but they will probably be Aug. 17-23 if we do it like last year. The farriers had the tent the first weekend. We can sell anything we want to.

If you would like to take part please drop me a line and I will add you to the list. We need at least two people for each day and three would be better. Even if you don't feel comfortable demonstrating come anyway and you can talk about BAM and explain the inevitable questions (Q: where do you get your coal? A: from that bag.)

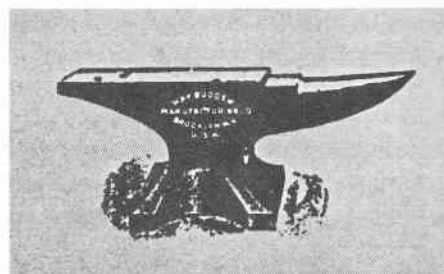
My address is: Jim McCarty, 5821 Helias Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65101 or call (573) 395-3304.

ABANA 1998 draws near

It's not too late to get registered for the 1998 ABANA Conference to be held June 17-20 in Asheville, NC.

This is going to be the most incredible ABANA event ever, befitting the organization's 25th anniversary. The 1998 ABANA Conference is weeks away. We have over 800 blacksmiths pre-registered plus their families and growing. The colonial forge is being finished and plans for the seven galleries are in the building-mounts-and-layout stage. The Japanese blade-smith's station is being built, his pine-tree charcoal has arrived from Japan.

Demonstrators from Israel, Japan, Great Britain and the USA will show everything from blades to die forging,



from repousse' to forged animal heads. Francis Whitaker, Brian Russell and Tom Latane' will lead dedicated sites as they complete various projects such as a grille, a forge welded gate and a wrought iron Gothic door knocker. Smiths from Williamsburg, an industrial/art smith from California using a 300LB Chambersberg, team striking, forged jewelry, hands-on opportunities with Robb Gunter and Bob Patrick, traditional joinery, contemporary work and many other highlights await you.

Details about video, food, shuttles, music, opening and closing ceremonies are complete. 25,000 square feet of canvas is going up starting June 12. Stages (3), forging sites (12), trade show and phone banks are coming together. Welding of the power hammer stage begins in about a week. Its concrete will be poured later in May.

Over 30 two-hour forging demonstrations and over a dozen slide, professional and family programs PER DAY make for a conference you won't want to miss.

There is still time to register. Call (314) 225-5492 for registration information. Most likely you will talk to Pat Mueller, Lou's wife, who is heading conference registration. You can also find conference info on the internet at

<http://www.ioa.com/home/abana>

See you there,
George Dixon

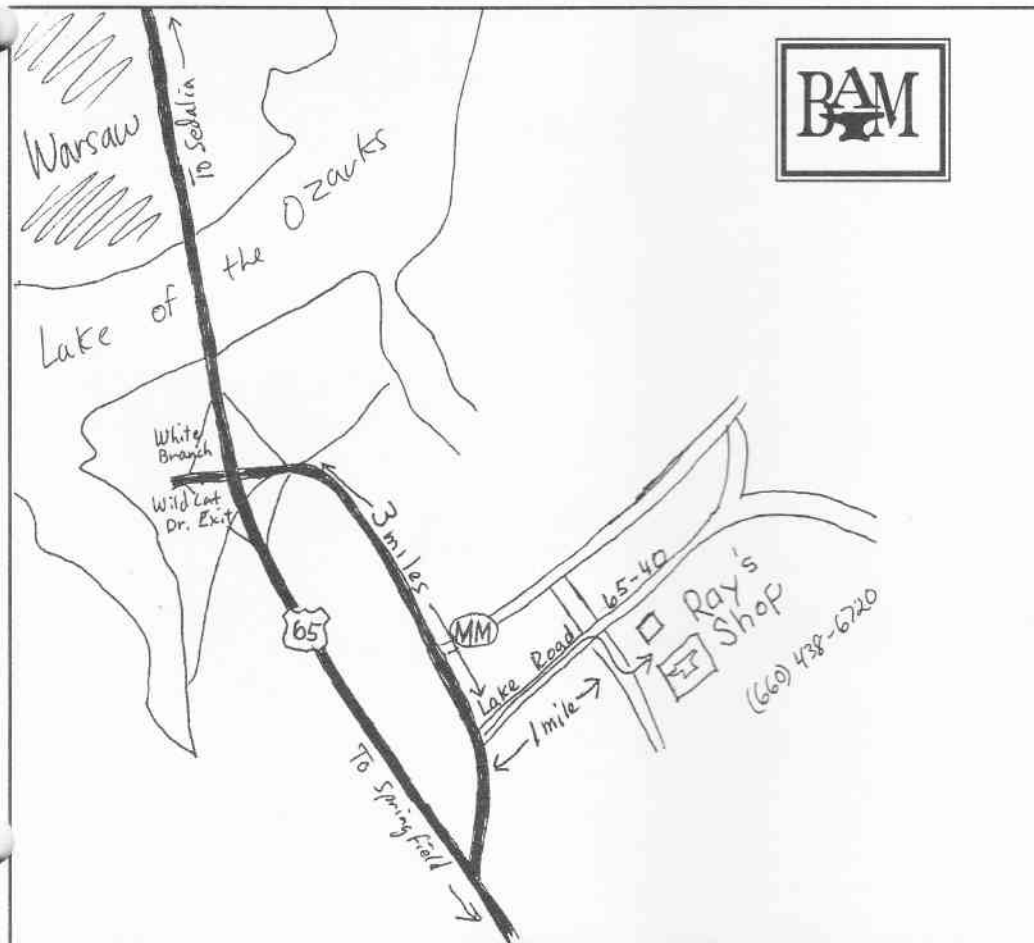
BAM on the web

In case you haven't found us yet on the web, check out BAM's award-winning web site at <http://www.advertisnet.com/bamsite>. You will find info on how to join, photos of past events, a list of coal yards and other supplies, links to various blacksmith sites and portions of this newsletter.

From time to time I post info that I need to get out before the newsletter will reach you so it pays to check it out from time to time. The site needs a little work but I hope to have that done when time permits.

While you're there drop me an e-mail with your shop tip!

Next BAM Meeting May 30, 1998, Ray Chaffin's, Warsaw, Mo.



In July we go to the Hohn Scout Ranch courtesy of Steve Willsie who works for the Boy Scouts. Steve has a camping area reserved and we can play in the lake so bring the kids.

The trade item is something with a trefoil (the Boy Scout symbol) on it. Might be a poker, a spoon, some kind of hook or ???

We may call on some of you to bring some tools. There will be plenty of room to set up forges so bring your portable one along. Power is available and we have a covered area to work under.

Looking even further down the road, Bill Irvin will be our host for the September meeting at his High Point Welding shop in Columbia. Bill has some high tech equipment there that will wow you.

Don't forget to bring something for the iron in the hat. This can be a tool, book,

Our next BAM meeting will be held at Ray Chaffin's in Warsaw, Mo. on May 30. Ray has a spouse's program set up, there are a lot of sites to see and Truman Lake is real close in case we need to cool off.

Ray will have several forges set up so everyone can give it a try. He has a local knifemaker lined up to demonstrate and four anvils. Trade

item is a flower pot holder or stand.

Motel space is kind of tight due to the holiday weekend but Ray offered the following list of places to stay: Lake Hills, 660-438-5191 Truman Lodge, 660-438-2882 Call Ray for campgrounds, his number is 660-438-6720. If you strike out try Sedalia, 30 miles or so north of Warsaw.

supplies, something you forged or anything blacksmithing related. BAM relies on the proceeds from the iron in the hat to pay for the newsletter and special events we might have. We have been averaging \$200, let's keep it up!

Hope to see everyone at Warsaw on May 30. Don't forget your fishing pole, trade item and iron in the hat.



1998 Schedule

May Meeting

Ray Chaffin
Warsaw, MO
May 30

Trade item: Flower pot holder

July Meeting

Hohn Scout Reservation
Laurie, MO
July 11

Trade item: Trefoil

September Meeting

William Irvin
Columbia, MO
September 26

Trade item: Wine rack



Two of BAM's Bobs, Bob Patrick (left) and Bob Alexander, teamed up to forge new froes to be used as Bealer Awards for ABANA. The occasion was the "Hammerin on the Hootch" conference held in March. The two are working in the Alex Bealer Forge in historic Westville, birthplace of ABANA. A great honor for BAM to have two of our members work on this project.

BAM
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Jefferson City, MO 65101

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