

RAM

INSIDE

May — June 1998

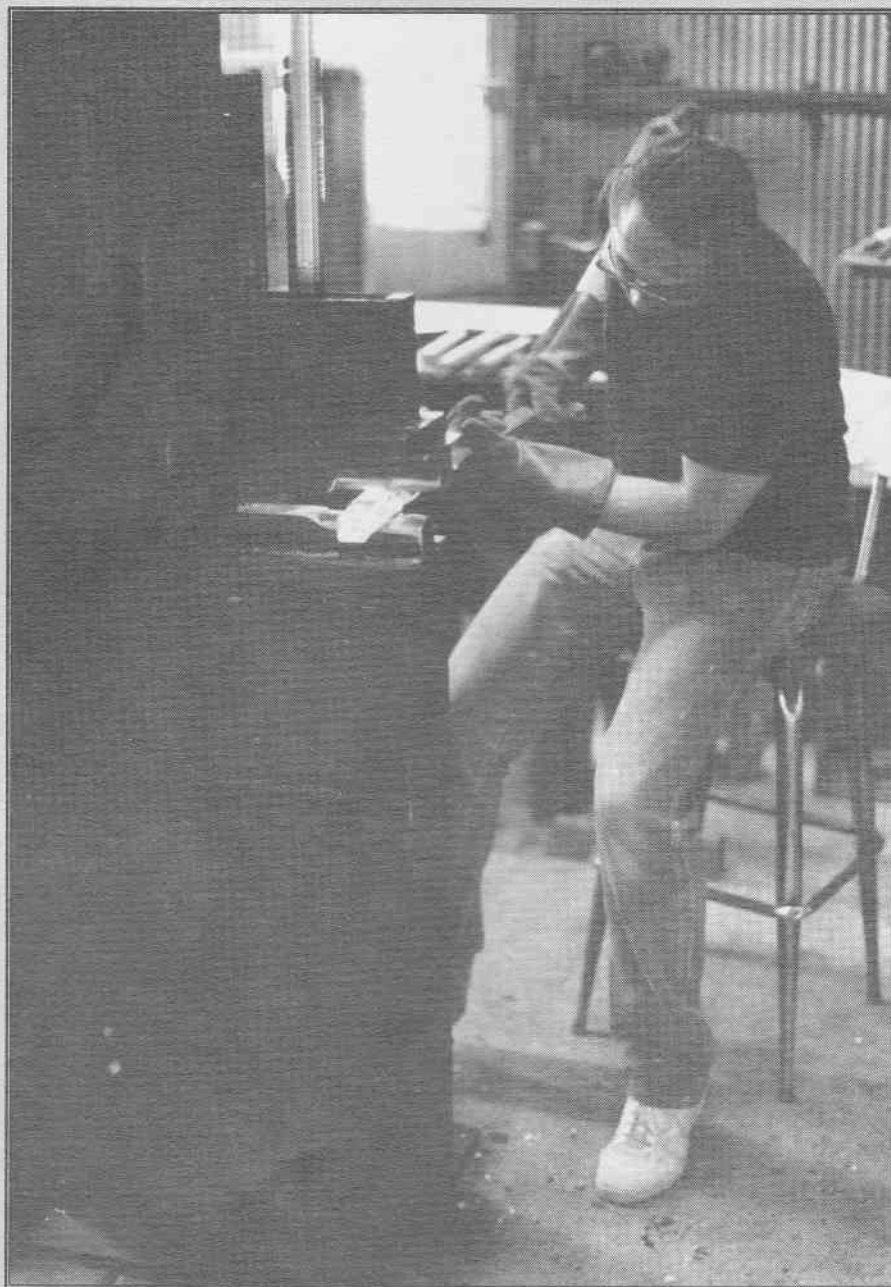
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NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

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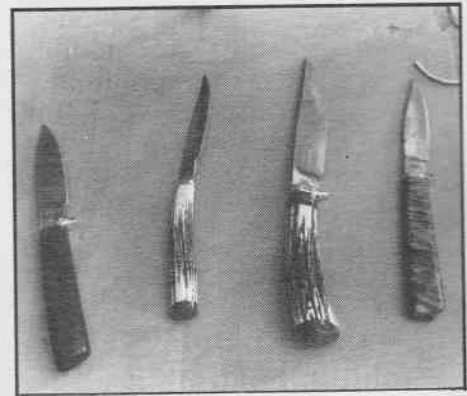
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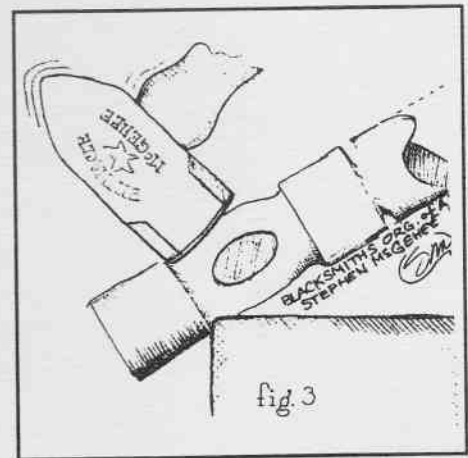
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**Newsletter of the
Blacksmiths
Association
of Missouri**

May — June 1998
Volume 15 No. 3

Our cover: Bill Miller forge welds a billet under the dies on Ray Chaffin's new hydraulic press during the May BAM meeting held at Ray's Warsaw, Mo. shop.

Editor
Jim McCarty

Contributing Editors
Doug Merkel
Stephen McGehee
Bob Alexander
Maurice Ellis
John Murray

Mailing Labels
Maurice Ellis

The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri is published six times a year and is mailed to members of BAM. The annual fee for regular membership is \$20/year; a portion of this amount is for a subscription to this newsletter for one year. Editorial inquiries should be addressed to: Jim McCarty, 5821 Helias Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65101; (573) 395-3304. BAM membership inquiries should be addressed to: Maurice Ellis, Rt.1 Box 1442, Belgrade, MO 63622, (573) 766-5346. Occasionally some material will be copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written consent by the author. BAM welcomes the use of any other material printed in this newsletter provided the author and this organization be given credit.

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

Includes a Subscription to the Anvil's Ring and The Hammers' Blow magazines

- 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.
- Full time student\$35 yr.
- Public library.....\$35 yr.

See reverse

Where does the time go? Seems like just a few days ago we were wrapping up the Ozark Conference and looking forward to the May meeting at Ray Chaffin's. Now all of a sudden it's August, the July meeting is past and the 98 ABANA Conference is history...and I am still working on the May-June Newsletter.

Well, some things don't go by fast. My apologies once again for getting behind. I hope the map and directions got you to Hohn Scout Ranch for the July meeting. After I returned from the ABANA Conference I knew there wasn't enough time to get the newsletter out so thought I better send the map. I understand we had a decent crowd for the meeting and heard the site was a lot of fun.

I was in Texas at the time (Rural Missouri stuff) and can tell you it hasn't been hot in Missouri this summer. It was 110 in Dallas when I went there and you could have tempered knives on the parking lots. At least they don't have our humidity.

When I went out last week to fire up my forge I couldn't find my hammers. It finally dawned on me that I had never unloaded from the demo I did with Don Asbee at the state capitol in early June. This was during the first-ever Cowboy Poetry gathering they had. This time we got paid.

Somehow my picture ended up on the front page of the Jefferson City paper. The cutline said I was a full-time blacksmith — think they had me mixed up with the other guy!

If anyone is interested in doing demos in September give me a call. There are two festivals — one in Bowling Green and the other in California, Mo. — that need a blacksmith to demonstrate.

Of course the State Fair is coming up in August and I hope a bunch of you will turn out and take a turn at the forge during the fair. We have a site from Monday, August 17 through Sunday, August 23. If you are interested give me a call as soon as possible — (573) 395-3304.

BAM had a nice turnout for the 98 ABANA Conference. They had a map up where you could put a pin for your hometown and I counted 18 pins in Missouri. The NC ABANA folks did

an excellent job pulling this off and deserved their moment in the spotlight.

But I wanted to take a minute to thank all the BAM folks who played a role in the conference. No one even mentioned these guys during the conference, which I know didn't bother them a bit. They were:

- Lou and Pat Mueller, who handled the finance and all the headaches of registration, and their granddaughters who spent their vacation helping out.

- Doug Hendrickson, who lined up all the demonstrators and was a demonstrator himself.

- Tom Clark, who handled the Iron in the Hat and beat the bushes to get quality pieces for the auction. The Iron in the Hat brought in \$8,000.

- Len Ledet who twisted arms and begged for more dollars for Iron in the Hat.

- John Stovesand, who brought in over \$70,000 (a new record) as the auctioneer.

- Phil Cox, who demonstrated 25-pound Little Giant techniques and was a big hit.

- Pat McCarty, who made the second conference BAM Box, which we estimate brought in close to \$4,000, and his sons Jonathon and Jonah who we put to work loading and unloading forges, anvils and vises.

- Bob Alexander, who built the forges used in the demonstrations.

- Sid Suedemeier and Fred Caylor (we claim both of you) for donating and restoring a 25-pound Little Giant and donating it to the Iron in the Hat.

- and myself, I was the publications chairman and spent most of the conference chained to a computer doing desktop publishing.

I hope I haven't left anyone out. This really was an impressive conference, with more to see than you could possibly take in. My favorites were the night forging demo by Art Jones on a monster Chambersburg hammer and Brian Russell's gate project. Walt Hull was one of the assistants that lent a hand on the gates.

Can't leave out Al Stephens, who provided us some cheap entertainment during one of the demos. Seems Al parked his backpack with his con-



ference notes and his lunch under the gas forge, perhaps not the best place.

When the demonstrator pulled her iron out of the fire she dropped it and it was a perfect bullseye in Al's backpack. The smell of fried banana and burning paper added much to the demo, as did the site of Big Al trying to stomp it out.

Another highlight was Doug H.'s frying pan demo. Not many demonstrators think to test their creation when done. So Don Asbee, Kate Dineen and Al Stephens brought along the fixins for a fine omelet and when Doug was done Al held a torch on the pan while the would-be chefs when to work. Not bad...

I hope to have many issues full of material gleaned from the conference. If anyone has notes they took during the demos please send them my way.

It wouldn't do to close without saying a big thanks to Stephen McGehee, who worked his Ozark Conference notes into several pages of material for the newsletter. If the rest of you would follow suit it would make my job a lot easier and we would all benefit.

Our next meeting should be a lot of fun. William Irvin is pretty excited to be hosting us. Don't miss this one! See you at the next meeting.

—Jim McCarty

1998 Ozark Conference Treasurer's Report

As promised, here is a report on how we fared at the 1998 Ozark Blacksmiths Conference. As you will see, the auction once again carried us. Thanks again to all who donated, especially our auctioneer Tim Ryan.

Income

Registration	\$3,100
Auction	\$4,043
Tom Clark Fund	\$1,100
BAM Boutique	\$680
Donations	\$3.50

Total income **\$8,926.50**

Expenses

Demonstrators	\$310
Auctioneer	\$500
Supplies	\$629.84
Lions Club Rent	\$520
Boutique Banner	\$95
Housing	\$236.70
Meals	\$81
Total Expense	\$2,372.54

Profit: \$6,553.96

Thanks to the following for their role in making the 1998 Ozark Conference a success:

Chairman

Bruce Herzog

Demonstrators

John Medwedeff
Uri Hofi
Ken Markley
Pat McCarty
Kevin McCrackin
Lou Mueller
John Murray
Roy Warden

BAM Boutique

Mara Harper
Ruth Hull

Forging Contest

Doug Hendrickson

Equipment

Bob Alexander
Tom Clark

Maurice Ellis
Ken Markley
Pat McCarty
Kevin McCrackin
V.J. McCrackin
Lou Mueller
John Murray
Roy Warden

Auction

Kevin Farris
Mara Harper
Andrew Herzog
Tim Underwood

Registration

Maurice & Bess Ellis

Weather

Sunshine: Bruce Herzog
Hail storm: Maurice Ellis

Philosophy

Rainbo Clary

Plus thanks to all who came!

BAM's Ring

BAM had only three entries in the Ring Project for the 1998 ABANA Conference:

- Kate Dineen
- Walt Hull
- Pat McCarty

These three voted, and each had three votes (bad planning on my part, the results were a tie between Walt and Pat.)

We flipped a coin (Kate did the flipping) and Walt won.

It's too bad we had such a poor turnout but we did get a good ring to represent BAM in the national project.

Signed,
Doug "Lord of the Rings"
Hendrickson

Bob's Business

Well, because of all the many things happening in May, June, and July I'm not sure which issue this will be in. Seems our overworked and underpaid Newsletter Editor might be an issue or so behind. I'm sure the lack of articles and such are a factor. I'm afraid that I'm as guilty as anyone. All of the neat stuff that I've been learning, and I just haven't the time to write about it all. In May, I had the opportunity to attend class at Potosi with Tom, Uri, and Shlomo. The main focus of this advance class I believe was yet another alternate method of hammering to move larger amounts of metal quicker than we discovered the class before. We also did some interesting projects which helped us tone up on our fullering, slotting and punching, but these are entire classes themselves.

One evening because I commuted back and forth, I missed a demo about changing 10 of 12 inches of 1/2 inch round into a dog, neat transition. Just about mastered the portions and may be able to demo sometime.

Because of HOT temps we were experiencing at the time and eleven forges blasting away, the school was a bit WARM to say the least, but the minds came together to solve most of the heat problems, with a new design twist on the forges. The following weeks' classes were much cooler. If you can't stand the heat in the kitchen get out of the kitchen, or in this case get the heat out of the kitchen. Maybe Tom will give us an article on their solution.

In June the family gave up their chance at a summer vacation so that I could attend the Asheville conference.

One big problem that I had with the conference was between the tailgate sales, product sales, galleries, eleven demo sites, three demos a day, etc.... Trying to take in as much as possible made for a long rushed day.

This was a trip well spent, but I was going to have to cancel a class at J.C. Campbell with Jerry Darnell on Colonial hardware because of limited funds. But low and behold, during a

talk with Jerry one day at the conference, he came up with a solution in the form of a scholarship which led me to another trip back to North Carolina in July and another story for later.

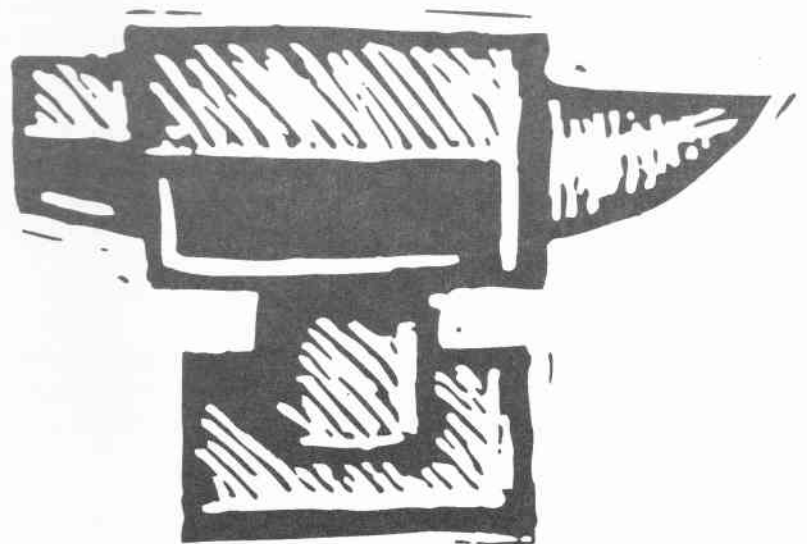
Well, this class happened to be the week before our July club meeting. Friday the last day of class, after working all day in class, leaving North Carolina at 6 p.m. and arriving

home at 6 a.m., I could not drive another 4 or 5 hours to make the meeting. Sorry I missed it. One thing I will mention about J.C. class is that there was only one person to completely finish the last project, a pair of cathedral hinges and here is a picture of the class with him holding one.

— Bob Alexander



Bob Alexander completed the third round of Jerry Darnell classes at the John C. Campbell Folk School this summer. This time he made hardware. Bob was the only one to get the BIG hinge done. Nice try Bob but I only see ONE hinge. Can't wait to see his next demo!



BAM

MAY MEETING

by Jim McCarty

You've heard the saying "He who dies with the most toys wins." Todd Kinnikin, who in the past was our odds on favorite for the honor, took one look around Ray Chaffin's shop and instantly conceded:

"Ray wins."

Small wonder. When Ray hosted BAM's May 30 meeting we were awed by several buildings housing, among other things, a 10-foot sheer capable of nipping 8 gauge stock, a new hydraulic press, a 50-pound Little Giant, a Little Giant EZ helve hammer, a double drill press, huge lathes, benders, numerous forges coal and gas, every kind of welder imagineable, a foundry, hydraulic hoist, fork lifts, tractors, trucks — and the list goes on.

What an incredible place! Most of the tools were on a John Murray scale, meaning extra extra large.

About 50 members made the trip to Warsaw, including a number of folks who weren't members before the day started. They kept treasurer Maurice Ellis busy raking in money, prompting Maurice to start talking about that trip to the Virgin Islands again.

Ray had one of his neighbors, a knifeman named Bill Miller (how many Bill Millers does that make?), lined up to demonstrate on the hydraulic press. We couldn't tell if that was hydraulic fluid dripping on the floor or wet paint, as Ray confessed he was up late putting the final touches on the machine.

He's got a few bugs to work out of it but it performed admirably under Bill's direction. Ray had several billets

stacked up and Bill kept them hot in Ray's gas forge. When they were at welding heat Bill welded and drew them out with ease under the press.

Real strange to see metal taking shape without the usual pounding, save for when Bill headed to the anvil briefly to keep it straight.

On display were a number of finished knives by Bill and several works in progress. It was nice seeing the steps involved in crafting a nice knife.

Bill joined BAM before he left, so we have another Damascus maker to add to our ranks.

Lunch was smoked turkey and lots of trimmings, good stuff judging by the many trips back to the food line. We had a good turnout for the iron in the hat, with John Murray showing up at the last minute with another of his hammers.

John timed it just right so most of us had to go back to Joe Wilkinson and buy more tickets. Got to do this again, John. We made about \$100.

Somehow the ticket seller won the hammer. He estimates that he has \$5,000 in that one hammer. There being no rope handy, we let him keep it.

All in all it was a great day. It's always good to see a new shop, especially one with so many good ideas in it. One that I really liked was the piece of tubing welded to the side of Ray's forge that serves as a removeable stake holder. The square edged stake lets him forge the small stuff before it gets cold, being just inches from the fire.

He also has a stand with a removeable piece of 1/2" round. On the top of the stock he welded a vise grip. Other tools could be welded to the same stock and interchanged in the stand.

He also had a stainless water bucket hung from the front of the forge, real convenient when you need to wet the coal or keep a little scroll from burning off.

Before the meeting was over Ray unloaded his new toy from the back of a truck — a big air hammer that used to belong to Todd.

Ray's wife has him figured out pretty well. When she spied the beast sitting on the back of a truck at the Ozark Conference back in May she told Ray, "You're going to buy that

aren't you!"

Thanks to Ray for hosting us. Hope we can come back soon.

Minutes

State fair demonstrators needed. Call Jim McCarty to volunteer. Ray Chaffin to bring portable shop to fair-ground.

Jim McCarty spoke on BAM's coal supply and next coal buy. More info to follow.

Lou Mueller has moved into his new shop.

A tuition only scholarship to John C. Campbell Folk School has been donated to BAM. Drawing held and Mark Williams wins it.

Walt Hull's ring will represent BAM at the 1998 ABANA Conference. Good show!

BAM's 1999 Ozark Conference will be organized by a committee of Pat McCarty, Bob Alexander, Maurice Ellis, Bruce Herzog and Lou Mueller.

Treasurer's report

Maurice Ellis spoke on BAM's finances. At present we have a balance of over \$11,000. Maurice spoke on the Ozark Conference finances. He said the conference was a success.

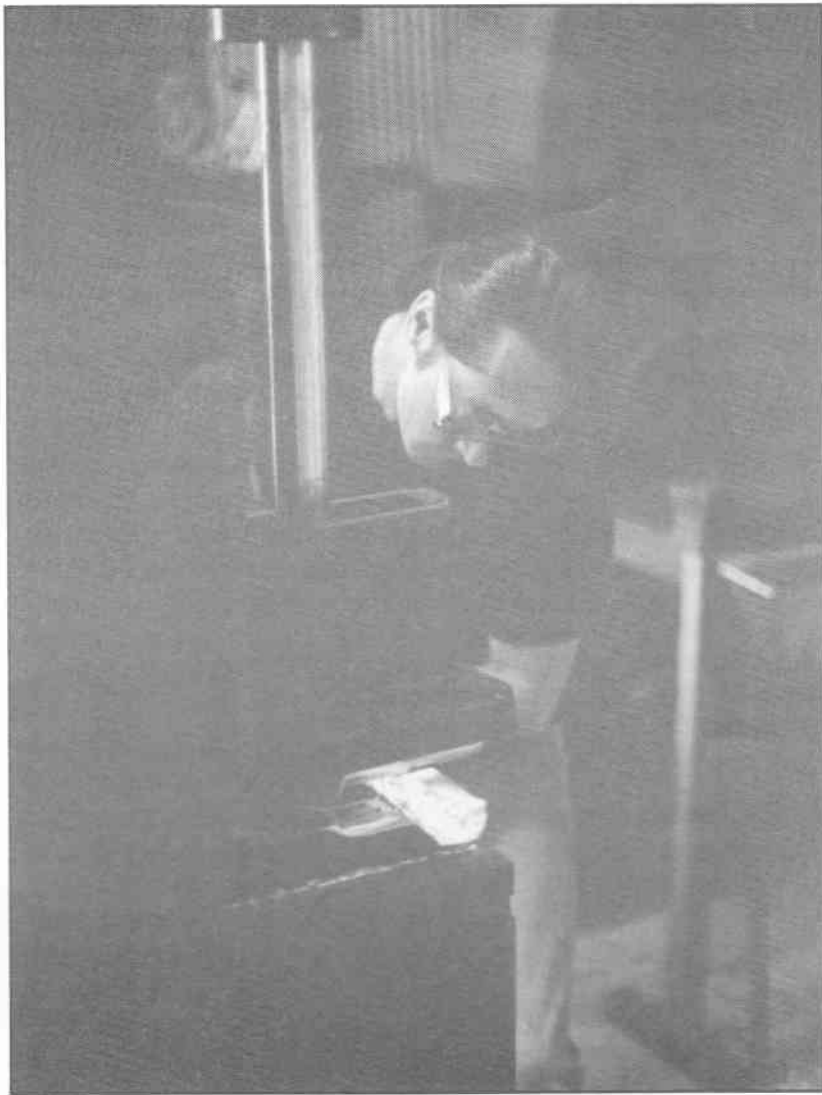
*Respectfully submitted,
John Murray, secretary*

Thanks to the following for their iron in the hat donations:

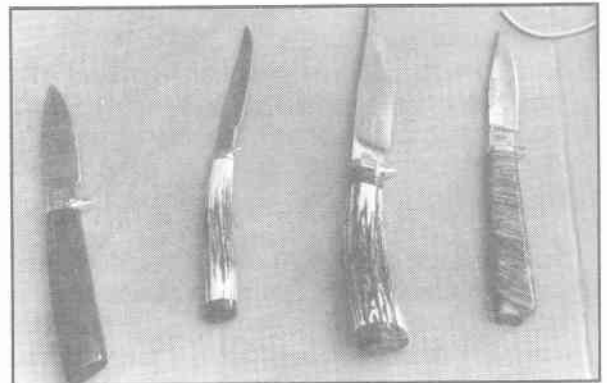
Phil Williamson
John Murray
Mara Harper
Fred Weisel
Harold Weber
Jim McCarty

Trade items were made by:

Phil Williamson
Joe Wilkinson
Pat McCarty
Ed Harper
Maurice Ellis
Don Nichols



Above: The problem with knifemaking is the work just starts when the forging is all done.



Above: Some nice knives forged by our May meeting demonstrator, Bill Miller.

Above: May meeting demonstrator Bill Miller welds a Damascus billet on Ray Chaffin's new hydraulic forging press. The press still had a little wet paint but Ray got it together just in time for the meeting. Bill proved an excellent knifsmith. Below: Ray admires his new toy while trying to figure out how to get it unloaded.





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
June 1998***

Dear ABANA Chapters,

Have you ever considered being an ABANA director? Of course not a large percentage of you will, but I encourage everyone to consider being a candidate for election to the board this year, if not this year then maybe next year or the year after.

Every year five members of the board are elected. I don't know yet how many of the incumbents are going to run for reelection but rarely do they all do so. The elected term of a board member is three years. There is a total of fifteen directors. To be an ABANA officer you must first be elected to the board. With the exception of the President all officers are elected annually. The term of the President is two years. It's all in the By-Laws.

And speaking of the By-Laws, if you do consider running for the board you should get a copy of the ABANA By-Laws and become familiar with them. A lot of thought went into writing the By-Laws twenty-five years ago and they have served us very well. The directors can suggest changes to the By-Laws but all By-Law amendments must be approved by the membership.

The board meets for three days every November to put together and approve a budget for the following year and to take care of numerous items that find their way to the agenda as a result of the efforts of our various committees. The board also meets for a shorter period of time at all of the ABANA Conferences. Thus in odd numbered years the board meets once and in even numbered years the board meets twice.

During the year the board members keep in touch with each other by telephone, US Mail, e-mail and FAX. Once each month a mailing is sent to each board member. The mailing contains board member comments on current subjects, reports from the chairpersons of the various committees and anything else that a board member wants to share with the rest of the board.

All of this is with hope of prompting a few of you to consider being a candidate for election to the board. If we can answer any questions that may help you make up your mind give us a call. All of the Chapters have a list of the directors along with their addresses and phone numbers. Each Chapter also has an ABANA committee list showing the members and a brief description of what the committee does. We would like to hear from you.

Have you ever taken an inventory of everything you need to make your shop a safe shop? Safety glasses, first aid kit, adequate ventilation, and proper wiring are just some of the items to consider. I am sure we all give some thought to some of these safety items every time we go in the shop but it wouldn't hurt to make a proper list and make corrections if necessary.

Joe Harris
ABANA President



CHAPTER LIAISON NEWSLETTER

June
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

1998 ABANA Conference

Advance registration for the '98 Asheville conference is at 900 smiths plus family members. This will no doubt be the largest conference ever. The number of attendees is important, however the quality of the program is what counts most and I am personally overwhelmed with the content. Don't miss this one! Walk-in registration is available for those who may find at the last minute that they can attend. The schedule is still in the making, but I can tell you that it is so full there won't be a lunch break. However, food will be starting early and running late so you can chose your own time to eat and not miss any of your chosen demos. The conference schedule will be available at the registration table in Asheville.

Where is My Winter *Hammer's Blow*?

The winter issue (Vol 6, Issue #1) of the *Hammer's Blow* is running late for several reasons. The last in line was our good old post office who suddenly decided we were selling advertising under the non-profit permit. Since we don't have display ads or charge for classifieds in the *Hammer's Blow* you can understand the surprise. Seems they have decided to qualify our free-to-the-membership classifieds as commercial advertising. Don't let this stop you from sending in your classifieds. We will deal with the problem. By the time you read this in your chapter's newsletter, you will probably have this *Hammer's Blow*. Editor George Dixon says future issues will be on time or early. With the work George is putting into the '98 Conference, I don't know how he finds the time to do all he does. Thank you George.

Auction / Iron in the Hat / Gallery

Remember to bring your auction item, iron-in-the-hat donation and walk-in gallery items to check in at registration. Iron-in-the-hat which emphasizes tools, needs your help. Your donated tool may be chosen for one of the BAM boxes. Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the tax law. The iron-in-the-hat proceeds go to the ABANA scholarship fund.

We just received a lock from Mauricio Quezada made by the late Manuel Guerra. Mauricio, a nephew, is a practicing blacksmith in Ecuador. The lock is a masterpiece and we are thankful for this piece of art that has been donated to the auction.

Attending Events

The summer schedule is upon us and you are encouraged to attend as many blacksmith events as possible. More important is that you practice the new processes you see, as soon as possible. Also, don't expect someone else to send their notes to your newsletter editor, the *Hammer's Blow*, or the *Anvil's Ring*. Do it yourself.

Coke Is the One!

For those of you who have forges with electric blowers, you may want to try using coke. Coke burns cleaner, produces no smoke and is no more costly than coal. I am putting together a list of coke suppliers and will publish it soon. If anyone knows a producer of coke in your area, let me know and they will be added to the list. Name, address, and phone number is needed.

ABANA Board Elections

President Joe Harris has asked for people to consider running for the ABANA Board. Volunteers are also needed to work on most of our committees. If you have time and would like to be involved, contact the ABANA Office or any ABANA Board member.

Happy Trails to You

We always talk about shop safety, however, you should also be safe while traveling to and from meetings. Make sure your load is secured. Go prepared to safely bring home that new rusty treasure you may find and just can't live without.

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

BAM

Bulletin Board

real scarce in this part of the world and are handy for punching, pressing and about anything you can do with a hand hammer. For more information contact Andrew at (618) 549-1954.

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. (See this in action at the next BAM meeting.)

For sale: Royal Western Chief blower on stand, asking \$100. Contact Vickie Hardcastle, 11211 St. Charles Rd., Columbia, MO 65202.

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.

Power hammer history! *Pounding out the Profits — A Century of American Invention* by Douglas Freund (hard-bound, 317 pages, profusely illustrat-

ed) 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 now. Dick Postman, 10 Fisher Ct., Berrien Springs, MI 49103; (616) 471-5426.

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.

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.

Vernon Fisher has a 50-pound Little Giant for sale. It is in near perfect condition, came from the Army at Ft. Leonard Wood. Call (573) 365-1952 for details.

Little Giant trip hammer for sale for \$700 or trade for treadle hammer. Could be 50-pounder, doesn't say on the flywheel. John Lovin, (618) 756-2331.

Tom Clark has two 250-pound Little Giants and a Chambersburg hammer for sale. Drop him a line for the details. He is also selling Hofi hammers and the anvils he and Hofi designed. (573) 438-4725.

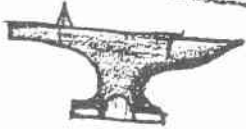
For sale: 70 pound air hammer, \$2,300. Custom metal spinning — brass, copper, steel, pewter. Contact Maurice Ellis, (573) 766-5346.

The editor has a 200-pound Columbian anvil, near perfect, \$400 and a ratchet forge in good shape, \$75. Might have more by the time you read this — if you need something give me a call. Jim McCarty, (573) 395-3304.

Andrew MacDonald still has a bunch of large fly presses for sale. These are

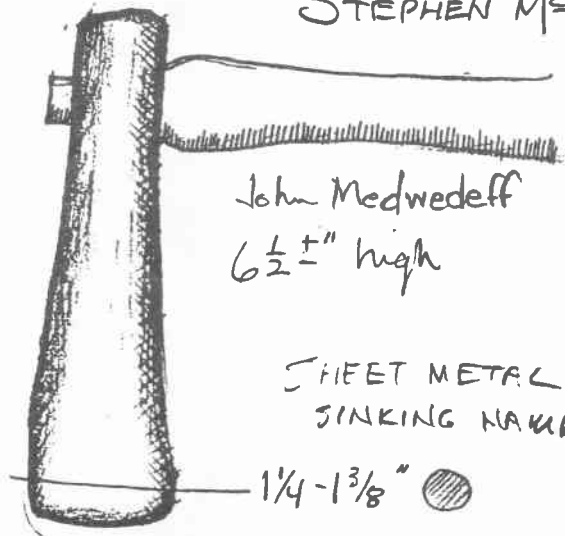
MAY 1, 1998

POTOSI MISSOURI
DARK
BLACKSMITH
CONFERENCE



HAVE HARDY
WILL TRAVEL

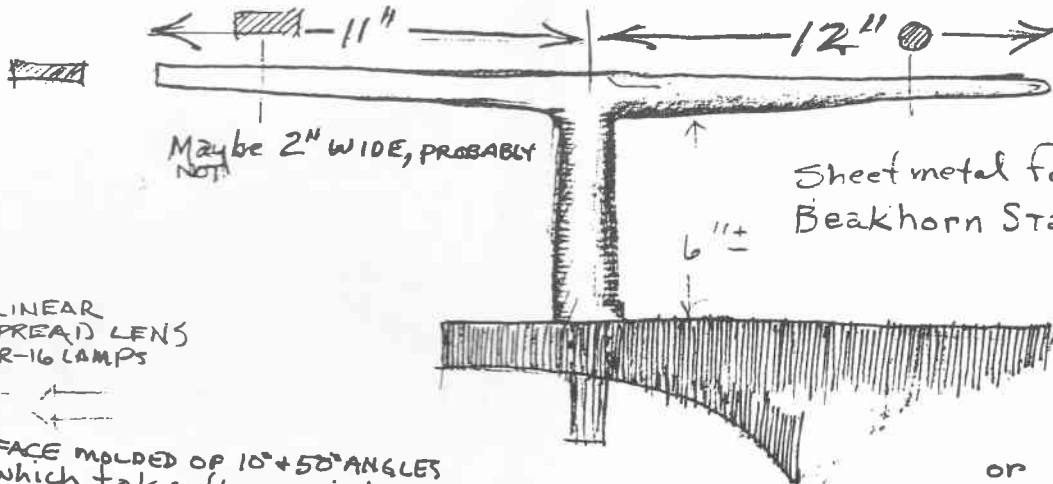
NOTES & DRAWINGS BY
STEPHEN McGEHEE



John Medwedeff
6 1/2" ± high

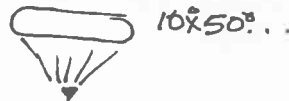
SHEET METAL
SINKING HAMMER

1 1/4 - 1 3/8"



LINEAR
SPREAD LENS
MR-16 LAMPS

FACE MOLDED OF 10° + 50° ANGLES
which takes the conical beam of
light & spreads it



or 1/2 x 3/4 ±
1/2 x 1 ± 2
TWISTED



ANNEALED STAINLESS SAFETY
WIRE maybe .020 ±

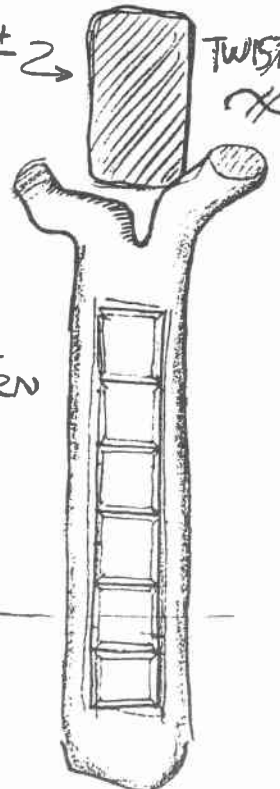
CHISEL PATTERN
EXAGGERATED

Thanks to Doug
Hendrickson

CHISEL
PATTERN



HANDLE
BEFORE
TWISTING



URI

sunday

HOFI

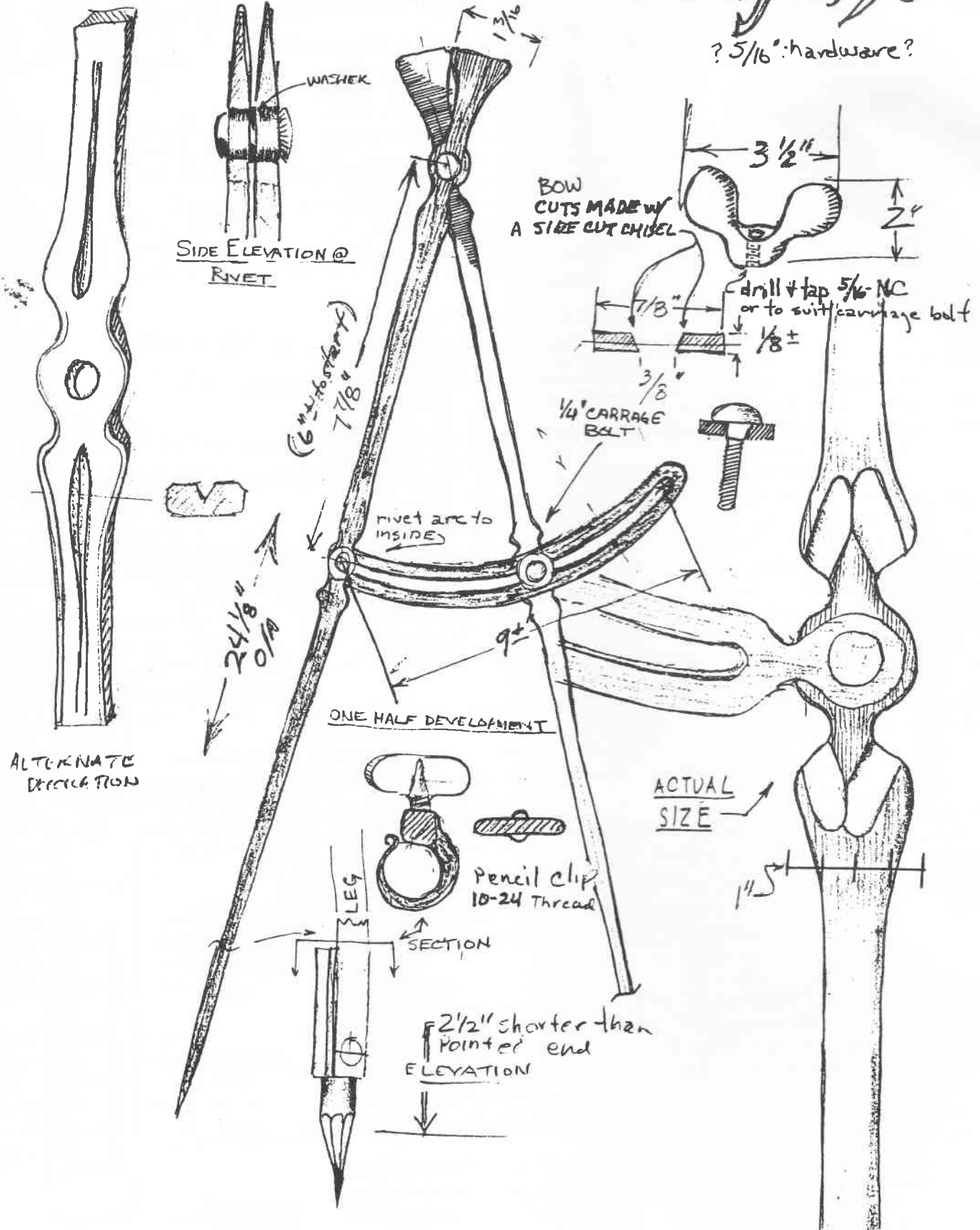
morning

AND FRIENDS

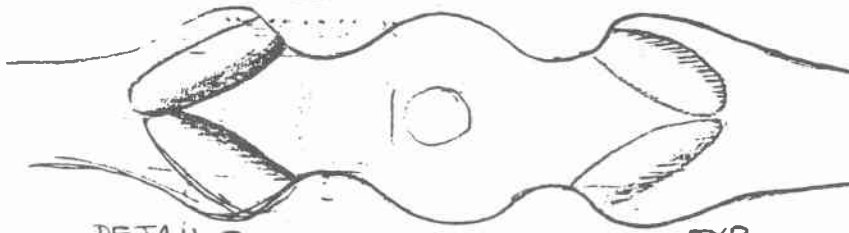
POTOSI

may 2, '98

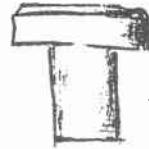
? 5/16" hardware?



THE COMPASS

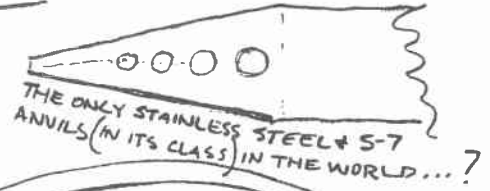


DETAIL @ MID JOINT

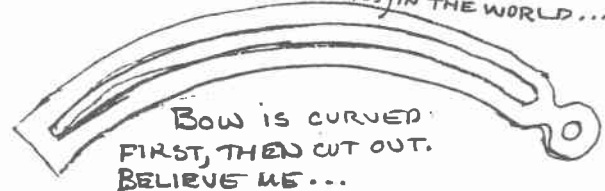


BOLSTER FITS INTO ROUND HOLE IN ANVIL

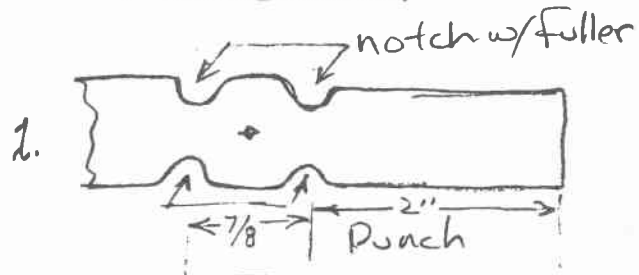
TYP. BOTH SIDES



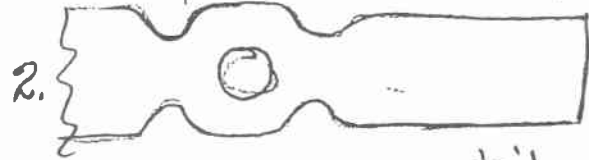
THE ONLY STAINLESS STEEL 5-7 ANVILS (IN ITS CLASS) IN THE WORLD...?



BOW IS CURVED FIRST, THEN CUT OUT. BELIEVE ME...

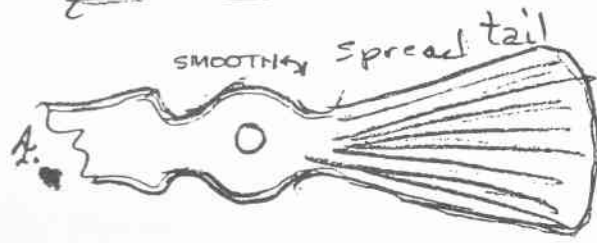


1.

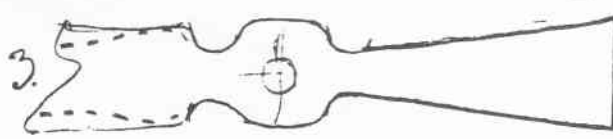


2.

MAYBE 1/4 x 3/4"

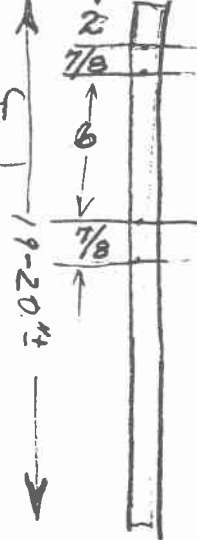


4.

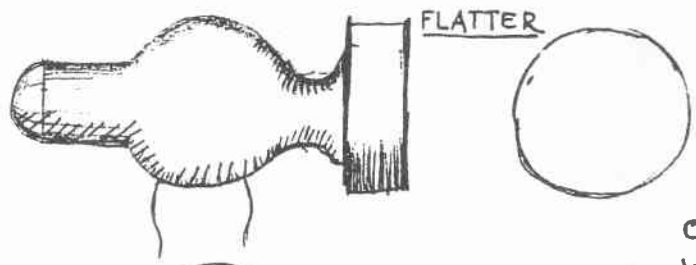


3.

Beginning of stock:



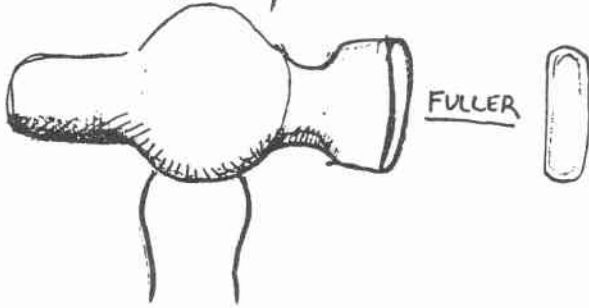
FULLER GRUES.



FLATTER



SET

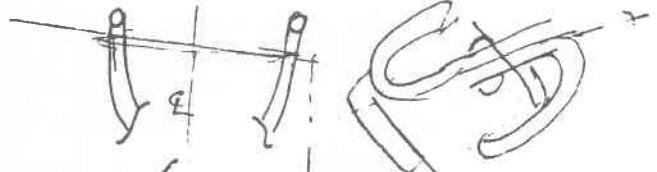


FULLER

ONE OF THE AMAZING THINGS WAS THAT EVERY ONE OF THE TOOLS ON THAT TABLE WAS MADE BY THOSE MEN AND NO OTHER CRAFT DEMONSTRATION COULD EVEN COME CLOSE: TRULY, BY HAMMER AND HAND... SM

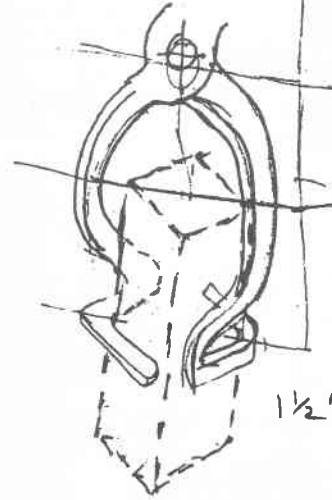


JAW ON T. USED TO GRIP ASHTRAY STOCK.

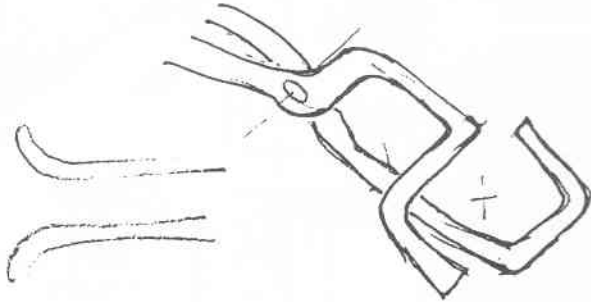


THE VIEW AS YOU GRIP THE REINS

the rain in Spain falls mainly on the plane of reins...



1 1/2" stock



HAMMER TONGS

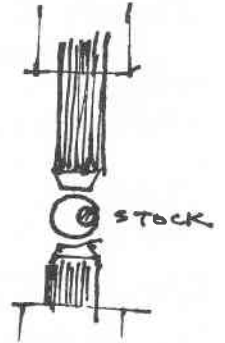
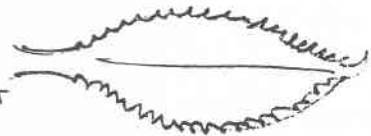


You change the volume 7 times

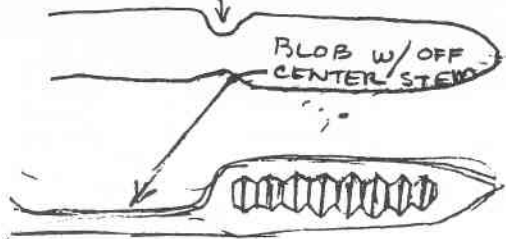
3/8 or 5/16 ±



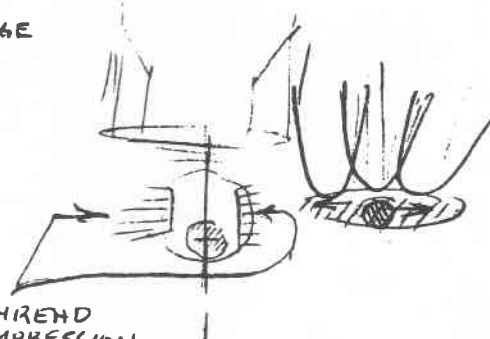
BLUNT POINT



FORGED OVER ANVIL'S EDGE



DO NOT MAKE THE IMPRESSION TOO DEEP. THREAD IMPRESSION



OPEN WIDE TO FILL OUT PROFILE

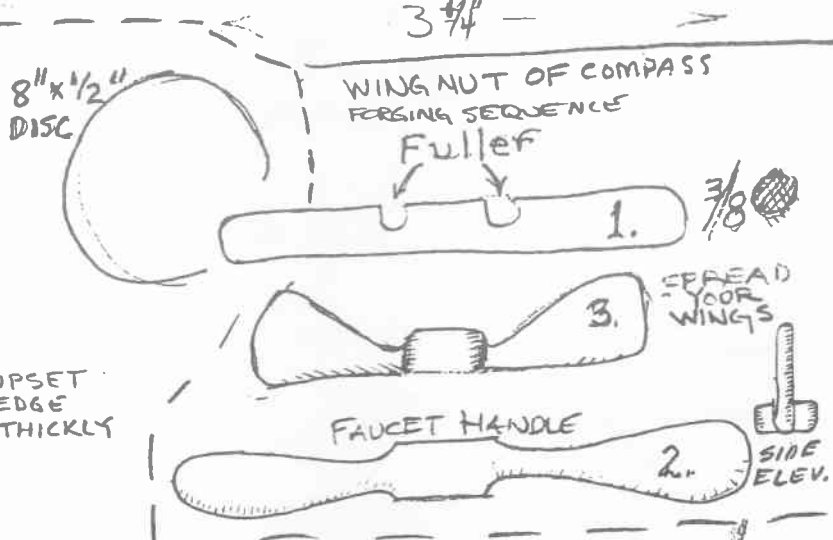
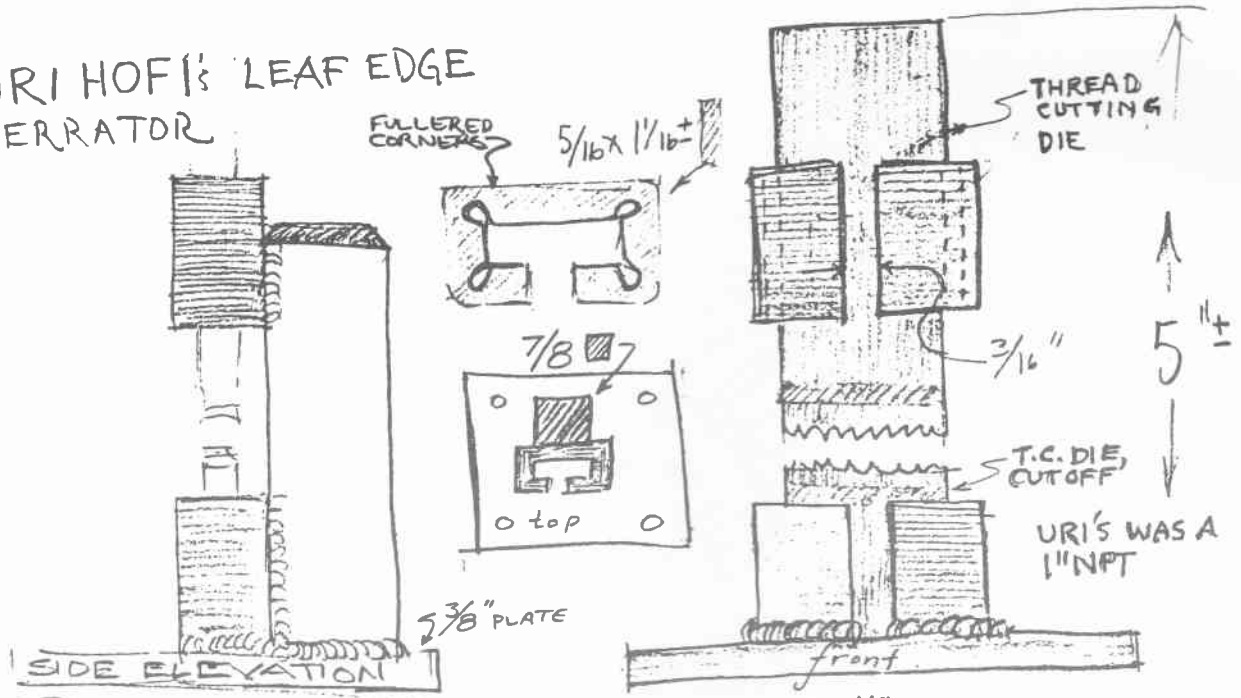
LEAF FORGING SEQUENCE W/ THE PIPE THREAD SWAGE ON PAGE (5)

HAMMER TONGS

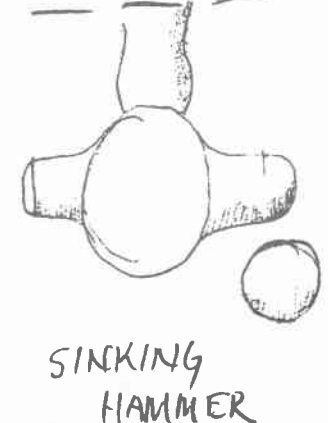
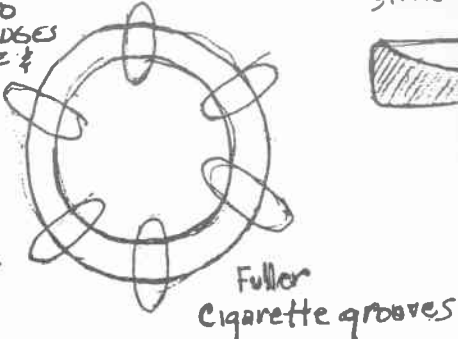


I HOPE YOU CAN PICTURE THE GEOMETRY OF THESE TONGS. I HAVE TRIED TO SHOW AS MANY VIEWS AS I COULD

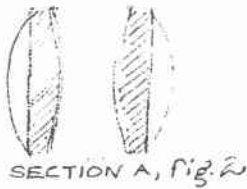
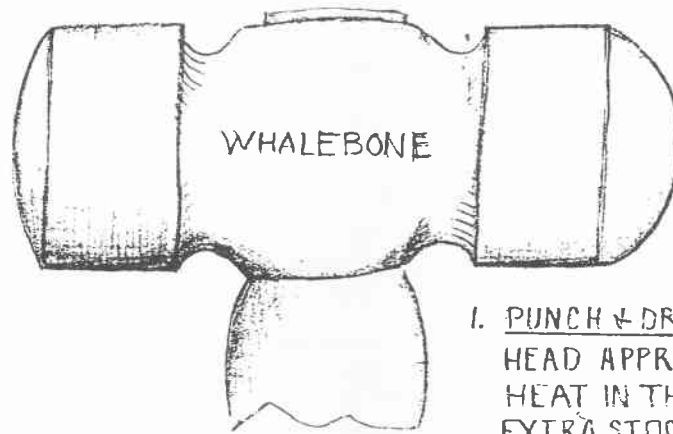
URI HOFI'S LEAF EDGE SERRATOR



AFTER SINKING, BOWL IS HEATED UPSIDE DOWN TO KEEP BOTTOM COOL, EDGES VERY HOT TO GROOVE & FINISH EDGES.



a rounding hammer



SECTION A, fig. 2

allow extra...

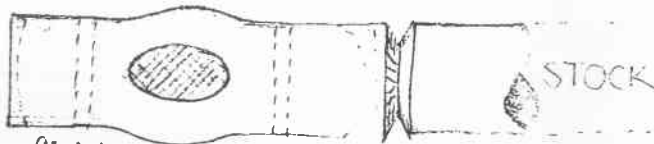


fig. 1

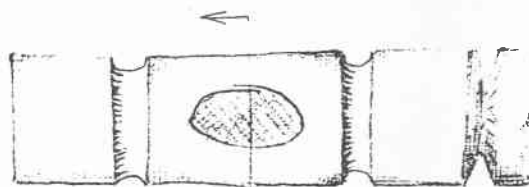


fig. 2

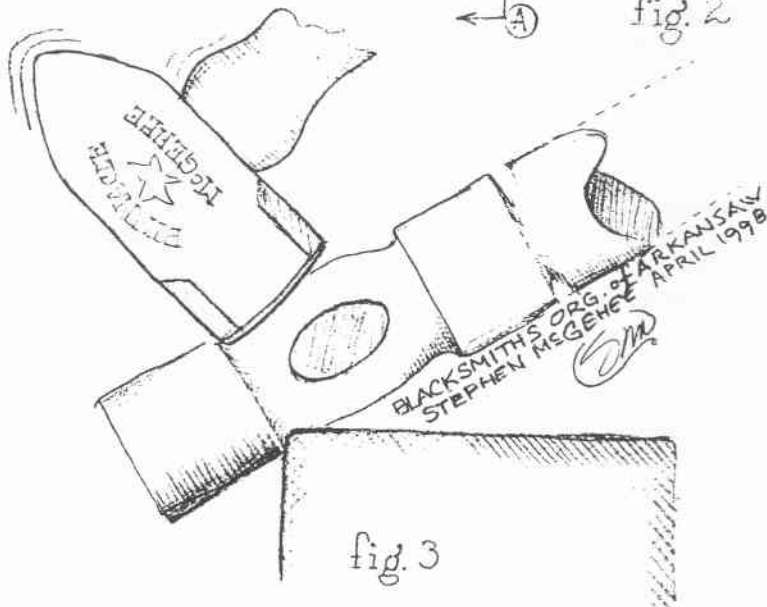
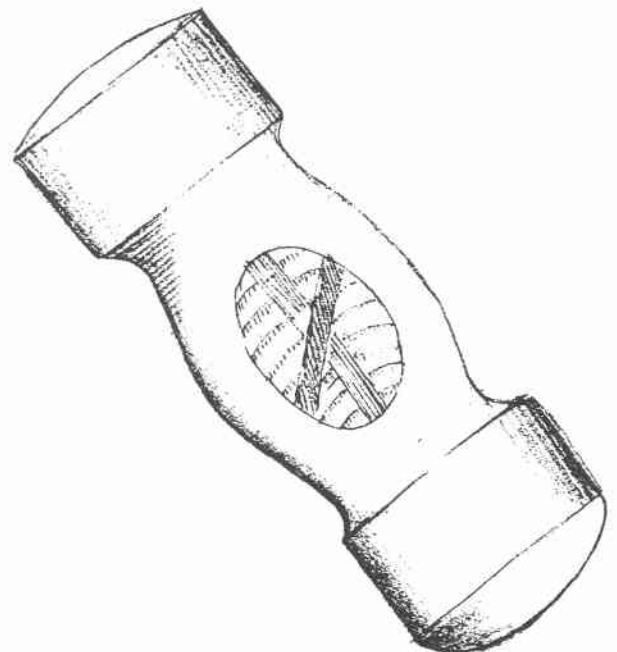


fig. 3

1. PUNCH & DRIFT EYE. CUT AROUND HEAD APPROX. 50% TO ISOLATE HEAT IN THE WORK. ALLOW A BIT OF EXTRA STOCK ON EACH END.
2. USE A FLATTER & SLEDGE TO FLATTEN SIDES OF EYE. FULLER GROOVES.
3. USING THE EDGE OF YOUR ANVIL BLEND SIDES OF EYE INTO GROOVES.
4. USE YOUR DRIFT AT LEAST 4 TIMES TO KEEP HOLE SHAPE.
5. FINISH CUTTING HEAD FROM STOCK. GRIND TO APPROX. $1/16$ " OF FINISHED PROFILE. NORMALIZE.
6. HEAT TREAT PER YOUR STEEL'S SPECS.
7. REMOVE SCALE, BELT SAND FACES & SIDES PER YOUR STYLE. FINISH.
8. MAKE ONE FROM 1 or 1-1/8" & ANOTHER OF 1-1/2" OR 1-3/4" BAR



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

Helpful hints from Doug Merkel

Forge/fire management

Wet down green coal and keep it wet/damp while in the bucket. This assists in making coke, controls the size of the fire, saves fuel and keeps the coal dust down.

Use 3 or 4 sheets of newspaper balled up to start the fire. Keep the flame burning to carry away smoke when starting, don't smother.

Clean out clinker when starting the fire, as you work and before welding.

Add green coal from the sides, not the top of the fire.

Keep coal and coke from the front and back of the fire pot. Feed fuel in from the sides. Your steel goes in the front and the back so leave room for it.

Don't let the fire burn hollow. Feed coke in from the sides.

Forge and fire tools you need: shovel, rake, poker, watering can, flux spoon.

Shut off air blasts between heats to

conserve coal and coke which is a limited resource.

Don't chase the fire down into the pot. Keep adding coke so that your work stays at least level with the top of the pot.

Leave enough dry coal and coke to start tomorrow's fire.

Anvil

Height of anvil: Your knuckles should reach the face of the anvil when standing next to the anvil. Lower it if using many top tools with a striker.

Keep scale, flux, water, oil, etc. off of the anvil when working.

Ensure anvil is secure to stump/mount before using. Chain it down tight. This makes work easier, more efficient and reduces the noise.

Learn your anvil's measurements and use them for a quick reference while forging instead of reaching for a ruler. You can also put chalk marks on the anvil for quick measurements. This saves time and heat while working the metal.

Personal preference, but the anvil horn is to the left for right handed folks and reversed for lefties. Can be either way.

Remove hardies from hardy hole as soon as you have finished with them. This will keep you from smashing your hand or cutting off your fingers.

Rest your hammer on the face of the anvil with the working face of the hammer facing toward you. The hammer is now ready for use as soon as you get there with hot metal.

Do not cut, split, etc. on the face of the anvil nor the anvil step. Use a cutting plate (mild steel, copper, aluminum) on top to protect the surfaces of the anvil.

Anvils have character, especially older experienced ones. Time and use will tell you where they are flat, curved, etc. This can be used to your advan-

tage when forging.

If the anvil's ring is too loud then check to ensure the anvil is chained down tight to the mount. You can also place a large magnet under the heel of the anvil.

Hammers

Hammer eyes should be tapered at the top and bottom to hold handles tight. The hole should be hourglass shaped. Ensure that wedges are tight.

Handles should be eight sided, your hand will become accustomed to the proper angles for each type of blow and you won't have to look at the hammer to know how you will strike.

Polished hammer faces leave smooth marks on your work. You may want to use a different hammer for striking top tools, punches etc. so that you don't mark up your forging hammer's face.

When making hammers do not harden the eyes, only the working faces should be hardened and tempered.

Do not leave the temper on your hammer faces too hard. They might chip and you will have to rework the face or a piece may fly off and hit you. Better a little soft and let the hammer faces work harden through use.

Don't stick the hammer in water to tighten the handle on the head. The water expansion will crush the wood fibers and the head will be worse than before when the water evaporates. Better to put in a new wedge or a new handle. Another option is to soak the head and handle in antifreeze overnight. It will swell the wood and prevent it from shrinking again. Caution: Antifreeze is toxic to humans and pets.

Remove the paint from new handles. The paint becomes slick through use and you have to expend more energy to hold the handle while you work.

Heating metal

Don't stick the metal down into the

fire, put it level with the forge table top. This keeps metal from a direct air blast, provides even heat and reduces the formation of scale.

Keep coke, not green coal, around all sides of the metal, with more below than above. This provides even heating and reduces excess scale on the metal.

Get it hot, then hit it; get it hot, then hit it; etc., etc. If the metal is not hot when you hit it all you are doing is wasting your energy and you may damage the metal or break your tool.

Brush or knock scale off of the metal before forging. This keeps you from driving the very hard scale into your work. Use a very coarse wire brush like a butcher block brush. The light wire brushes do not remove enough of the tough scale from the surface.

High carbon steels and some alloys are very red short, ie a high heat causes them to just fall apart when hit. Test out the metal you are working to find the proper forging temperatures.

A heavy, thick piece of metal needs a longer, soaking heat so that the inside is as close to the outside temperature as possible. This is so the inside and outside of the metal move at close to the same rate as you forge.

Burnt metal can sometimes be saved if you have not burnt it all the way through. But it is sometimes much better to start anew or forge weld on a new piece.

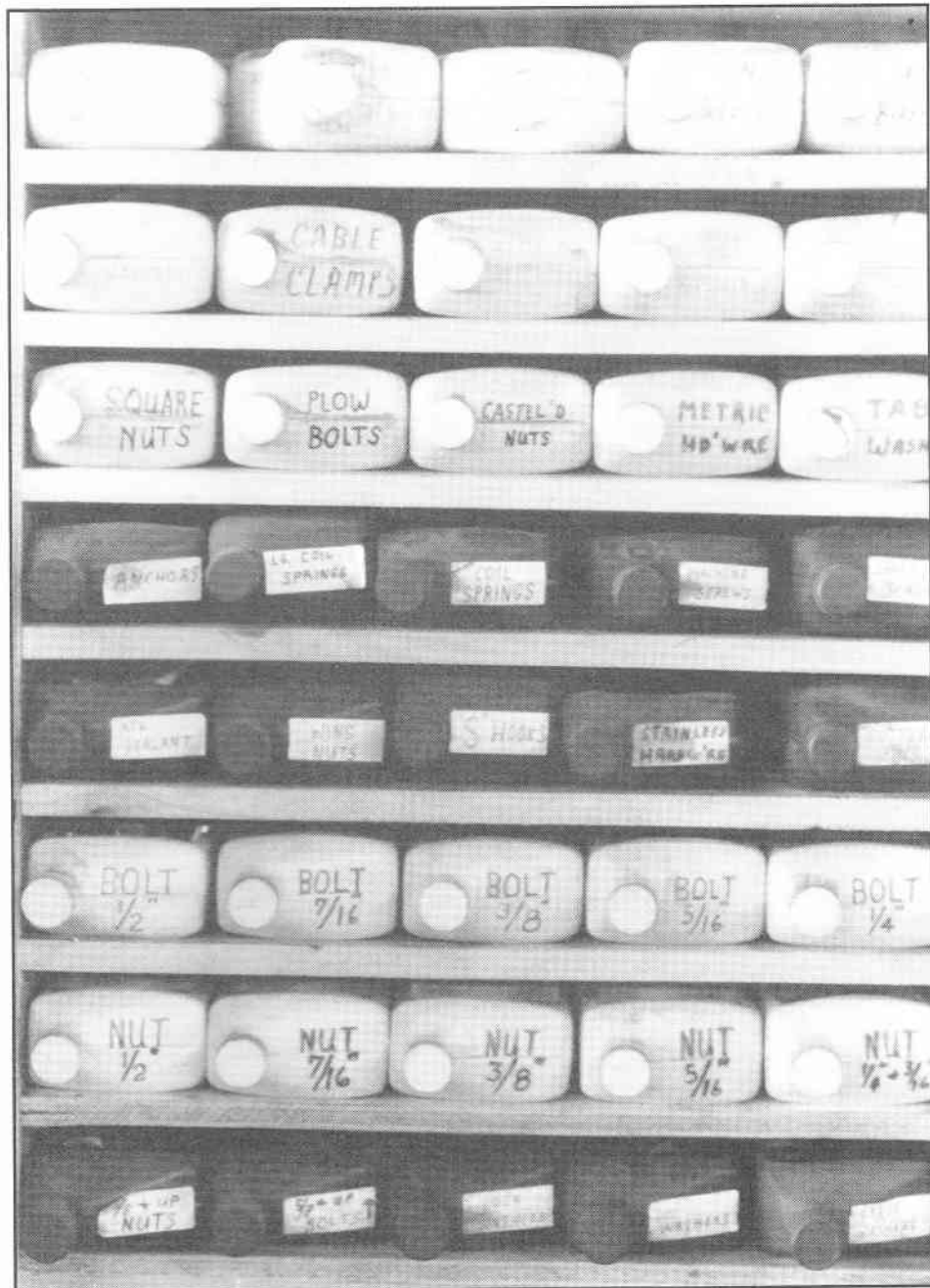
Straighten the metal before you put it back in for another heat. This way you won't have to waste time when it comes out of the fire. You can get right to the forging.

Twisting round stock keeps it round in cross section. This can be used to your advantage when forging special projects.

More to come!

Thanks to Doug, a BAM member from North Carolina, for these tips. How about the rest of you?

MAY — JUNE 1998



Joe's oil can storage bins

You just can't get enough storage. That's why those little parts bins go for so much money in the Grainger catalogs and at auctions. Joe Wilkinson has a pretty good idea for storage that you can make from recycled materials.

Next time you change the oil in that old truck save the containers. Buy Valvoline or Pennzoil or something that has light colored containers. This lets you write on the outside so you know what's inside.

Lay the oil cans on their side and cut out the top — or for a twist put them on edge with the spout side down to give you a narrow, deep bin. The spout is the handle.

Then line a bunch of them up side by side to get the dimensions for the wooden shelves.

You can use antifreeze jugs in the same way for a large bin.

Don't worry if there is still some oil in the container. This will keep your bolts from rusting.

You can keep just about anything in these—including oil!

BAM NEWS

OktoberFaust

Plans are complete for the first-ever OktoberFaust to be held October 3-4 in St. Louis' Faust Park. Lou Mueller has been coordinating this event, which he bills as an attempt to educate the public about the benefits of forged iron.

Highlighting the event will be demonstrations by Paul Zimmerman from Stuttgart, Germany, St. Louis' sister city.

Paul will demonstrate from 12 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days of the festival. In addition, BAM members can join in a slide show of his work on Thursday, October 1.

Besides Paul the festival will feature an architectural iron booth. We will also have warm-up demos by John Medwedeff and Pat McCarty. And any BAM member who wants to sell forged ironwork can set up at one of the 10-foot spaces reserved for this purpose. An 8-foot table will be provided to display work.

We want to present ironwork in its best light, so you be the judge whether your work is suitable.

There will also be several demonstration sites where those who want to demonstrate and sell can set up their own equipment. Teams of 2-3 smiths manning these sites would be ideal.

Portfolios and business cards are encouraged.

A gallery will open at 5 p.m. on September 13 with architects and interior designers invited. The gallery will include work by prominent ABANA members and will include a nice piece created by Paul Zimmerman. The gallery can be viewed from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays to Sun-

days until October 4.

OktoberFaust is being held in conjunction with the annual German Festival held in St. Louis. That event in the past has brought several thousand people to the festival. Besides the blacksmithing, there will be German beer, food, music, dancing and all the usual festival fun.

In addition, the park will have their historic craftspeople in costume demonstrating a variety of crafts to the public. They also have an old log barn that will be raised during the festival.

Of course all are invited to watch the demonstrations and share in the fun. Admission cost is \$2 per day. There is no charge for the booth space. However, each person is expected to donate something to the daily auctions which will be held at 4 p.m. to help defray expenses.

BAM members who want to sell their wares or demonstrate should contact Lou Mueller, 1521 Fencorp Court, Fenton, MO 63026. Lou can be reached during regular business hours at (314) 343-4223.

Blacksmithing Workshop

The Jefferson County (Illinois) Historical Society will host the 6th Annual blacksmithing workshop from 9 AM to 4 pm Oct. 24 and 25 at the Historic Village in Mt. Vernon, Ill.

The featured demonstrator is Billy Merrit of English, Indiana. Billy will demonstrate forge welding Damascus steel, pattern development, steel selection, and will use his considerable blacksmithing skills to forge knives, chisels, tomakawks and hammers. Metallurgy for the blacksmith and heat treating will also be covered.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn from a master.

There will be an auction Saturday evening of donated ironware, tools and supplies. The money raised will be used to fund the monthly open forge workshops held the second Saturday of each month year round.

Coffee, donuts and a weiner roast Saturday evening are free to registrants. Lunch is available at a small fee. Tailgate sales welcome and

encouraged. Please pre-register by Oct. 1, although walk-ins are welcome. Make check for \$20 payable to Jefferson County Historical Society and send to: Wilbur Haley, 19 Rush-ton Dr., Mt. Vernon, IL 62864. Any questions call John Lovin at (618) 756-2331 or Wilbur at (618) 242-1365.

State Fair demos

We need help from as many people as possible who would like to demonstrate at the Missouri State Fair. The fair starts Aug. 13 and runs through Aug. 23. We have the site starting on Monday, Aug. 17 and running through Sunday, Aug. 23. Prior to that, the Missouri Farriers Association will be demonstrating.

If you can lend a hand on one or more days please let Jim McCarty know. All the equipment will be there, you just have to show up and go to work. You can sell your work too. Please let me know ASAP so that I can get tickets from the fair folks — (573) 395-3304, leave a message if you miss me.

Host a meeting

Maurice Ellis is working on a meeting schedule for next year. If you would like to host a BAM meeting please let him know. Maurice can be reached at (573) 766-5346.

Hoss Haley demo

Hoss Haley will be the featured attraction Sept. 19 at SIU. If you missed his demo a few years ago at Webster U., now would be a good time to see him in action. Hoss is famous for his raised sheet metal forms. You can't imagine what he can do with a piece of plate.

The event will benefit the nation's premier university blacksmithing program. There will be an auction held following the demo, so please bring a piece of your work or a blacksmithing related item to donate to a good cause.

For more information contact Andrew MacDonald at (618) 549-1954.

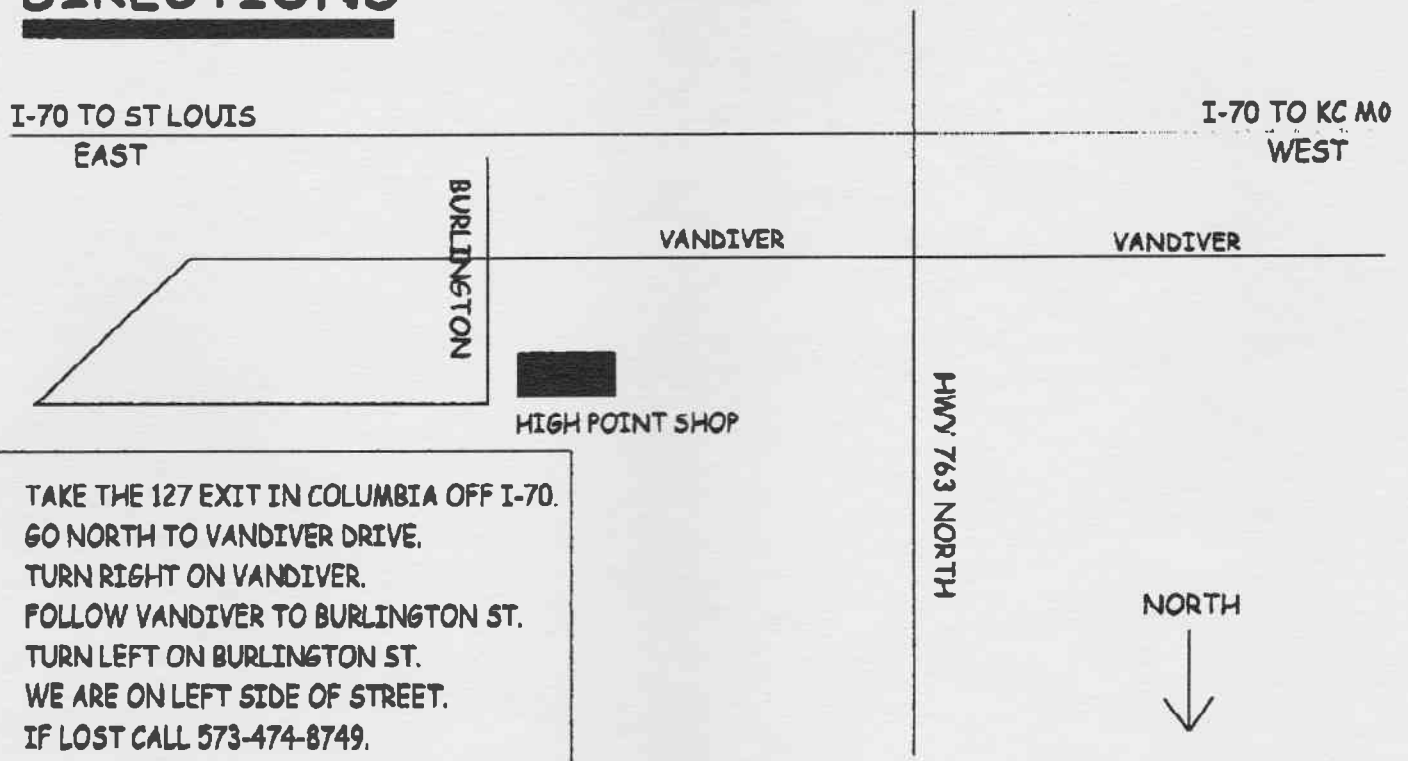
BAM MEMBERS



PLEASE JOIN US SEPTEMBER 26, 1998 AT HIGH POINT WELDING FOR A DAY OF FUN. WE WILL DEMONSTRATE LIVE THERMAL MACHINING WITH OUR PLASMA CUTTING SYSTEM. IN THIS DEMONSTRATION WE WILL BE CUTTING FLOWERS, LEAVES, AND OTHER ART DESIGNS. BRING A BUCKET OR BOX TO TAKE SAMPLES HOME. BRING SAFETY GLASSES/WELDING HELMET. FOR LUNCH HIGH POINT WILL SERVE FRESH HICKORY SMOKED PORK RIBS, BAKED BEANS AND CORN ON THE COB. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED. WE WILL OPEN SHOP AT 9:00 AM AND HAVE LUNCH AROUND NOON. BAM MEETING WILL FOLLOW LUNCH. DEMONSTRATIONS WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON. DON'T MISS THIS ONE. THE TRADE ITEM WILL BE A TABLE TOP WINE RACK. ONE TO THREE BOTTLE RACK. BE CREATIVE.

DIRECTIONS

WHEN YOU GET TO COLUMBIA TAKE
EXIT 127 ALSO KNOWN AS 763.



TAKE THE 127 EXIT IN COLUMBIA OFF I-70.
GO NORTH TO VANDIVER DRIVE.
TURN RIGHT ON VANDIVER.
FOLLOW VANDIVER TO BURLINGTON ST.
TURN LEFT ON BURLINGTON ST.
WE ARE ON LEFT SIDE OF STREET.
IF LOST CALL 573-474-8749.



Dynamic duo Len Ledet, left, and Tom Clark (aka The Energizer Bunny) teamed up to rake in \$8,000 from the Iron in the Hat at the 1998 ABANA Conference. With them is Pat McCarty's BAM Box.

BAM
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