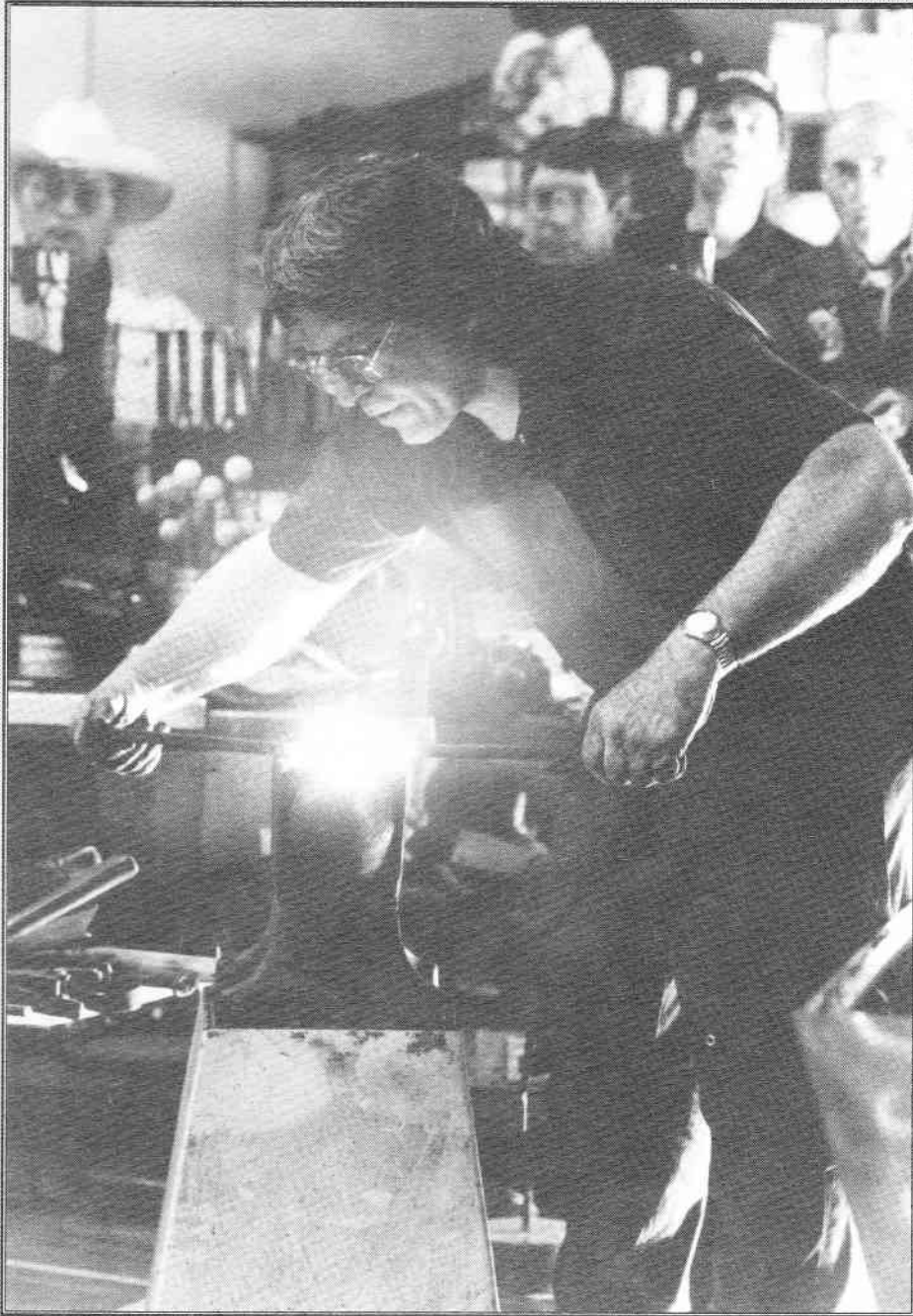


RAM

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NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

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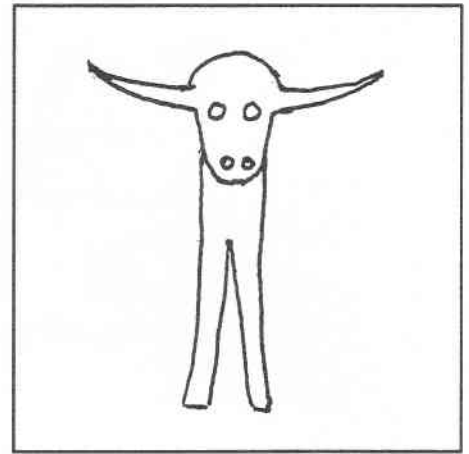
16 A hastily prepared workshop by Bob Patrick teaches traditional techniques.

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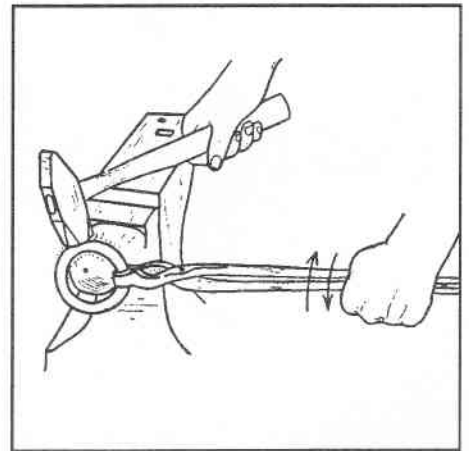
20 Working tool steel, picking up metal filings and all the best tips we could find.

Next meeting

23 It's back to Higbee, Missouri to Dale Kirby's cooerage on Jan. 23.



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Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri

November-December 1998

Volume 15 No.6

Our cover: Bob Patrick gets his iron together before forge welding it during the Traditional Blacksmith Techniques workshop he did at Lou Mueller's shop in November. Photo by Jim McCarty.

Editor

Jim McCarty

Contributing Editors

Bob Alexander
Doug Hendrickson
Pat McCarty
Fred Weisenborn

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

Editor's anvil

Boys, it's winter now. All I have to do to be reminded of that fact is to look out the window where the wind has drifted snow and sleet 3 feet deep. I have been contemplating a trip to the shop all day but fear I'll be lost in one of the drifts.

My frigid anvil probably wouldn't like me waking it up today and I don't even have to look to know the slack tank is frozen solid. It's New Year's Day. I got up early and headed toward brother Pat's house for his annual New Years "Hangover Hammer In."

About the time I got to Linn I heard the weather forecast and changed my mind. Didn't think I wanted to get stranded in Washington for a week or so.

Since it's too cold to forge anything I may as well get the last newsletter of 1998 completed, even if it is now 1999. Should I get this thing done I have some arm chair blacksmithing to do.

Janice got together with Norm Larson and Norm supplied her with a few Christmas presents for me. Not that the catalog I marked up and laid where she would see it planted any seeds.

She got me three books that belong on everyone's shelf. First was the "Blacksmiths Cookbook", Francis Whitaker's must-have reference for most techniques. I have a project in the works that requires passing a 1/2-inch round piece through another piece of 1/2-inch round. There is a section in the cookbook that tells you how to do this.

Francis organized this book like a cookbook. It begins with "The Kitchen," and "Cooking Utensils" which is about the tools of the trade.

It gets into techniques like "Frosting the cake" (Collars), "Decorating the cake" (Scrolls), "Square noodles" (Curving angle iron), and "Pretzels" (twists). There's even "What should I cook tonight" (Random thoughts). Of course no cookbook would be complete without recipes, like "Animal stew" (Four animal heads), "By Candlelight" and the "Fallen soufflé"

(Sag factor in gates).

There are too many projects and techniques covered to tell you about all of them. Suffice it to say that when you get to a certain level where letting the stock come out how it wants to no longer works and planning must be done you need to have this book by your side.

Another book I received is pure inspiration. It's called "Designs and Products of the Forge" by C. Zimmer. The dozens of line drawings in this book have a decidedly German look to them as the author's last name would indicate. However the notes that go with them are in Spanish. The book is published by Norm, I'll have to ask him the book's origins.

The book is organized in 10 chapters, including Gates and Entryways, Garden Gates, Railings and Staircases, Window Grills, Screens, Fireplace Tools and Grates, Lamps and Candlesticks, Hinges, Sign Brackets and Miscellaneous and Grave Crosses.

Along with each overall view are details from different views so that all of the projects are clearly explained and require little in the way of text.

The third new book in my library is one of the German books by Fritz Kuhn called "Geschmiedetes Eisen". I've borrowed this book from Pat so many times he probably begged Janice to get me my own copy. While the text is in German the photos need no cutlines though in many cases I wish someone could tell me how in the heck they did some of these impossible techniques!

There are some truly beautiful works in this book and great ideas for railings, grills, fireplace tools and the like. Let's hope Norm can make this year's Ozark Conference.

I missed the last BAM meeting at Ken Markely's and will have to rely on Pat's report to know what's going on. Most notable is the coal situation. At this writing I understand Bob Alexander will be storing coal for us. Look for details elsewhere in this issue.

We had one heck of a good demo from Bob Patrick right after Thanksgiving. I'll have a write-up about this in this issue too. Bob came to Lou

Mueller's shop courtesy of some money from the Missouri Folk Arts Program's Folk Arts Apprenticeship. One of their teams for 1998 dropped out and rather than lose the money the center's director asked me if we could use it.

So I became Bob's lowly apprentice for two days while he educated, entertained and insulted us. Altogether about 50-60 people took part. Some made two days, others just one.

On a personal note, our daughter Emily was back in the hospital in December so that we could start her on a special Ketogenic diet to help control her seizures. So far it seems to be helping her but it's not easy for us to administer. Thanks to everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

Our next meeting is back at Dale Kirby's cooperation in Higbee, Missouri Jan. 23. See you there.

—Jim McCarty

BAM 1999

Blacksmith Conference

BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

April 30, May 1 & 2, 1999

Knights of Columbus Grounds - Washington, MO

Demonstrations - Saturday & Sunday

Michael Saari

Traditional Forging Skills

Jeff Mohr

Contemporary Forging

Knifemaking

Also

Tailgaters

Slide Lecture - Friday Evening

Forging Contest - Friday Evening

Family Program - Saturday

Auction with Tim Ryan - Saturday Evening

Registration - \$35 for Entire Conference - \$25 for a Single Day Pass

Friday Evening and Saturday Evening will be Open to the Public

Send Registration to Maurice Ellis

Rt.1, Box 1442, Belgrade, MO 63622 573-766-5346

Bob's Business

Happy Holidays to all

I think this issue will bring us up to date with our newsletter issue. Thanks to all of you who contributed to the newsletter throughout the year especially to Jim our editor and Maurice for the mailing labels.

Congratulations are in order for the newly elected ABANA president Lou Mueller. This is Lou's second time as president. I believe Lou and his family also did a great job of registration at this year's ABANA conference.

November brought us two days of classes at Lou's shop with Bob Patrick teaching us many new things. I'm not sure of a total head count for each day but lots of people took advantage of a great opportunity. Bob showed us two different ways to weld gun barrels, several ways of doing tripod legs such as those used in lamps, etc. and lots of other techniques.

Thanks to Lou for the use of the shop, to Jim for putting the program together and to Bob for sharing his wealth of knowledge.

The first week of December brought us to Ken Markley's for a BAM meeting. The day was cloudy but warm. This was my first visit to Ken's forge so a friend of mine, Gary Koehler, and I left at 6 a.m. to find Ken's place. We were the first there to find Ken preparing for the day's activities. Pat McCarty gave us a couple of short demos and Pam Wallace from Carbondale showed us a slide presentation as part of her scholarship pay-back.

At our business meeting the decision was made to switch to buying coal in bulk form and then bagging as needed. This decision to change was in part because of a storage problem with pre-bagged, and the rise in price of bagged coal to nearly \$10 a bag delivered. By buying in bulk and then using local labor to bag we can sell bagged coal for the same as we did before the increased price or maybe even cheaper. The solution for a storage bin to store bulk coal was to build a concrete bin at my shop where coal

could be purchased nearly any time day or night, because that is pretty much my shop hours. I plan to bring bagged coal to the BAM meetings. The cost of the bin is to be paid for by the club with free use for at least three years and options afterwards.

Estimated cost was around \$2,500 for concrete work but after site location was determined the need for a culvert extension and several loads of gravel for the drive may increase it some. The savings of the first load will easily pay for construction and then some. Afterwards savings in doing our coal this way will save thousands each load. Progress on the coal bin began the day after the decision was made to proceed.

Up to January 3, the site had been selected, staked out, excavated, culvert pipe extended, footing and foundation poured, drive excavated, foundation backfilled, floor excavated of frozen ground and replaced with gravel, graded ready for warm-enough weather to pour the concrete floor. To speed the time necessary for defrosting, I have covered the ground with insulated concrete tarps and built a framework of 2x4s and plastic keeping the last wave of bad weather off the area.

Doug Hendrickson, our coal master for years, who is masterminding our plan is also searching for other sources of coal besides City Coal Yard. Some above freezing temps to allow us to pour a floor, a couple of weeks of curing time, and we should again be coal rich.

In the meantime for those of you who need coal immediately, contact Tom Clark, maybe he can help you out. Speaking of Tom, he teamed up with Bob Patrick this past November—December to offer at the Ozark School of Blacksmithing two separate week long classes on forge welding. I'm sure everyone who attended were welding after that. Check with Tom for upcoming classes or suggest to him any you may be interested in. We are fortunate to have such a school so close to home.

Rumor has it that Hank Knickmeyer has gone to Israel to teach pattern Damascus. What a great deal for all involved. Hope we can get some

stories from Hank upon his return.

In a couple of weeks our January meeting will happen at Higbee, Mo. This is the second time there, the first meeting was very nice. Dale Kirby has a wood barrel factory and he gave us a barrel making demo. Hope he does it again. Sorry, no anvil shooting this time, last time we had a near-mishap with Tom's anvil on landing.

Trade item will be a fork so let's try and participate. Also bring something of value for iron in the hat as proceeds benefit the club. Don't forget to bring any extra items for the tailgate sales and pass those unused treasures on. See ya at the next meeting.

— Bob Alexander

Dear BAM,

You asked the audience members at the Missouri Folk Arts workshop to write and tell what they learned so . . . I remembered the Hammers' Blow I had just gotten asked the same question of ABANA members about the Asheville Conference. One reply was that he found out not all good smiths are good demonstrators and good demonstrators are not necessarily good smiths. I discovered this weekend that there are excellent smiths that make excellent demonstrators.

Bob Patrick is like a Swiss army knife. Whatever tool is needed, he can produce it. And then make something with it. I also learned what a treasure BAM has in Lou Mueller as well as the others who put in long hours behind the scenes to pull these workshops off.

Thanks you,
Fred Weisenborn

BAM

NOVEMBER MEETING

by Pat McCarty

It was a beautiful fall morning as I made my way to Ken Markley's shop for the Dec. meeting. There was already a crowd there when I arrived, so I quickly put out my tail-gate items and went to see what else was for sale. Somehow I missed the Star hammer that went for under \$200. It was in sad shape but I hear Bob's neighbor has the restoration well under way. Ken was in the shop pounding out a Damascus billet on his 50# Little Giant, and the ham and beans were simmering on the fire.

Ken's demonstrators were unable to make it so Ken asked me to hammer something. I was itching to try the "sticken' Tommy" miners lamp that Bob Patrick demoed at Lou's, so I went to work. The 1st step is to forge weld 3/8 round into a "t".

This is always trouble for me, but it stuck good the 1st time. Of course it broke off when I went to draw it out.

But I rewelded it and finished it for the "iron in the hat" drawing. There were a lot of nice letter openers in the trade item drawing, I got stuck with Doug Hendrickson's.

Pam Wallace put on a slide show as payback for her scholarship, and Doug showed us the nifty twist he had on his letter opener. We had a great lunch and used Andrews truck hood for a table, I don't think the bean soup ate all that paint off his hood.

After the business meeting I had to rush off to do a demo with Bob Alexander at Faust park. Thanks to Ken and his wife for a great meeting, and hope to see ya'll at the next one in Higbee, Mo.

Minutes

- Thanks to Ken and Kathy Markley for hosting us. Nice day, good turn out. Trade item is a letter opener, lots of good imagination shown.
- Good show on iron in the hat, which brought in \$158.
- Minutes approved as published.
- Doug Hendrickson, BAM's coal czar (or is it fairy?) spoke on the coal situation. Doug reviewed the history of BAM's coal acquisitions. A proposal is made to buy bulk coal for about \$198 a ton. Approximately \$3,000 for a 20-ton truckload. This coal would then be available to BAM members for \$6.50 a bag (50 pounds bagged and ready to go.) A good coal bin would be built at Bob Alexander's shop at no cost to rent to BAM. (Volunteers needed for labor). Materials would cost about \$2,500

Bob also spoke on this proposal and laid out the financial aspects, as well as our options. Discussion ensued of all possibilities. Doug motioned to put up the money to build the concrete bin. Motion seconded and approved. Also a suitable tarp will be bought to cover the coal and prevent spontaneous combustion.

Bruce Herzog made a motion to set the price so that the bin would be amortized in 3 loads. Motion seconded and carried. Pat McCarty proposed bins everywhere (just kidding!)

• Discussion ensued about other varieties of coal available, quality, price, availability, etc. Tom Clark spoke on the Sewell and Cumberland-Elkhorn coal. Andy MacDonald, Doug, Lou Mueller, Tom and Ken Markley all raised good points about this. Motion made, seconded and carried to buy a 20-ton load of Pocahontas coal. We will explore other coals as time allows.

- Doug Hendrickson spoke on the BAM 2000 Ozark Conference and on seeking a grant to expand the conference horizons significantly. (A grant from the Missouri Arts Council is a possibility.) Discussion ensued, and a motion was made and carried by acclamation to have Doug pursue this.
- Bruce Herzog spoke on the 1999 Ozark Conference and showed flyers printed for it. Dates are April 30-May 2. He also spoke on the move to Wash-

ington, Mo. and the committee effort to pick this site. He also mentioned the importance of the BAM auction at conference time. Discussion ensued about the conference food situation, etc. Friday night's activities will include a slide show, forging contest and a lecture by Steve Rueben on practical metallurgy.

- Scott Stager and Doug Hendrickson spoke on a collective get well card for Paul Hubler.
- Bob Alexander spoke on new candidates for BAM officer elections.
- Bob also spoke on a metal patination workshop in Colorado.
- There being no more new business motion was made to adjourn.

— John Murray, secretary

Trade items

Trade items were made by Ed Harper, Phil Williamson, Steve Stunkel, Bob Alexander, Mike Williamson, Gary Koehler, Pat McCarty, Ken Markley, Maurice Ellis, Doug Hendrickson, Joe Wilkinson, and Steve Modert.

Iron in the hat

Joe Wilkinson ladle went to Scott Stager

Randy Barringhaus shirt to Lou Mueller

Randy Barringhaus poster went to Randy Barringhaus

Michigan Blacksmith Association shirt went to Becky Barringhaus
Pat McCarty "sticken' Tommy" went to Ed Harper

Posters donated by BAM went to Phil Williamson

Bob Alexander gloves to Pat McCarty
ABANA Conference notebook went to Becky Barringhaus, Joe Wilkinson, don Birdsall, Randy Barringhaus and Phil Williamson

Metalsmiths cap donated by Scott Stager went to Steve Stunkel
Anvil donated by Corky Helms went to Jeanette Birdsall

Maurice Ellis bowl to Bob Alexander
Whatever Doug Hendrickson donated went to Steve Stunkel

Drill bits from Bob Maes went to Mike Williamson

Stainless rods donated by John O'Conner went to Phil Williamson

The coveted John Murray hammer

went to Tom Moroni
Tom Clark's nail header went to Jeanette Birdsall

ANOTHER BILLINGSLEY BRIGHT IDEA

Alan Billingsley from the Choo-Choo Forge, frequently develops great jig ideas for creating unique items. He describes these at Chapter meetings.

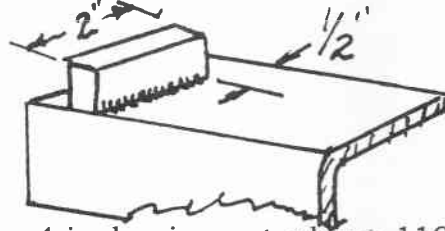
His jig for forming courting candles is one of the best. He sells them like hot cakes.

At our last meeting he demonstrated the following type jig for forming bull heads from railroad spikes. Materials required are:

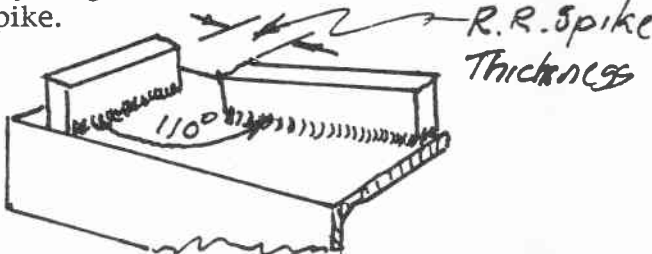
- 1--6-inch piece $3/16"$ x $2\ 1/2"$ x $2\ 1/2"$ angle iron
- 1 piece $1/2"$ x $1\ 1/2"$ x $4"$
- 1 piece $1/2"$ x $1\ 1/2"$ x $2"$

Procedure:

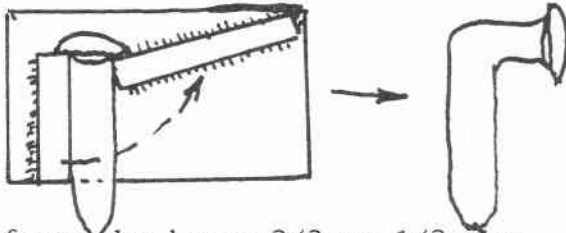
1-Weld the 2-inch piece along one end of the angle iron, back about $1/2"$ from the edge.



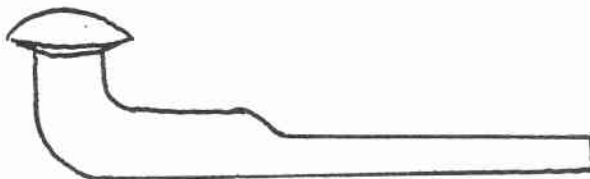
2-Then weld the 4-inch piece at about 110 degrees from the 2-inch piece leaving a space slightly larger than the thickness of a standard RR spike.



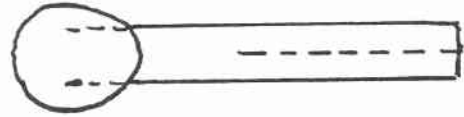
To make the bull head, heat the RR spike to orange, place in the slot between the two weld on pieces and bend through 90 degrees.



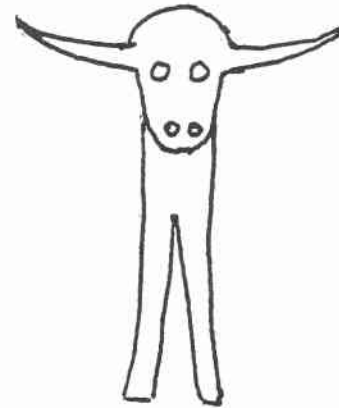
Then forge the lower $2/3$ to $1/2$ the spike thickness to form the legs.



Next with hacksaw or bandsaw, make two cuts in head for bull horns and cut in middle of body to form legs.



To finish the bull head, form the horns from previous cuts and with appropriate punches create eyes and nostrils i.e.



and finally form legs

By using two such bull heads, welded to a flat plate, they can make a neat napkin holder bookends, file holder or individually as a coat hook, door knocker, etc.

President's Message to the Chapters November 1998

As has been the case for many years the annual ABANA board/budget meeting will be held in November. The board meeting is November 12 - 15. Just prior to our annual meeting ABANA will receive an "Award of Distinction" from the American Craft Council. I will be attending the American Craft Council's annual awards dinner November 7th in Saint Paul, Minnesota, to accept the award on behalf of all ABANA members. We all owe a sincere thank you to the American Craft Council for this special recognition during our 25th anniversary year.

The 1998 ABANA election is over, the votes have been counted and we have four new directors and one incumbent serving another three years. Tim Ryan has been reelected to the board. The new directors are Jack Andrews, Bill Fiorini, Lou Mueller and Clare Yellin. Two of the newly elected directors are past presidents of ABANA: Bill Fiorini and Lou Mueller. My board term does not expire until 2000 so I and Dorothy Stiegler bring the number of past presidents on the 1999 Board to four. Were I not included in that number I may dwell a bit about dedication, but enough said.

Congratulations to the newly elected directors and thanks to all of those that were candidates for election. I encourage all of you to be candidates in future elections. More than one of the present directors, including me, have not been successful every time we ran for the board. Picking just five from a list of twelve well qualified candidates was not an easy task for the membership.

I am not sure how important it is but we have a board that is pretty wide spread geographically. Here is the break down, we have one director from each of the following states; Alaska, California, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Texas, West Virginia and Wisconsin. We have two directors from North Carolina and two from Tennessee.

In the next "President's Message to the Chapters" you will likely be hearing about what takes place at our annual meeting including the election of officers. Many thanks for the support I have had, during my term as President, from the other officers and directors, from Chapter officers and Newsletter Editors and from the ABANA membership.

This past weekend I attended a meet at Ripley, WV, the site of our 1982 Conference. Our demonstrator was Hans Peot. As always Hans stressed safety throughout his demonstrations. One of the safety points he dwelled on was the importance of wearing a leather apron and adequate eye protection when forge welding. Good advice. Remember it and heed it.

Be safe and be happy.



Joe Harris
ABANA President



CHAPTER LIAISON NEWSLETTER

November
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

WHERE'S MY HAMMER'S BLOW?

As I write this letter, the Spring issue of the Hammer's Blow (Volume 6, Issue #2) is being printed and mailed. Hopefully you will have it in hand by the time you read this letter. Every ABANA member will receive their proper issues (Spring, Summer, Fall) as they are published. All members on the roster, including those who were current during the corresponding season will get a copy. This is an extra bonus for the newest members of ABANA as they will receive these back dated issues even if they were not members during the season it was to be mailed. Keep the faith, issues will be on their way to each and everyone.

Note: Please do not use the ABANA membership application form found in the *Hammer's Blow*. The rates (other than the regular member dues) were printed incorrectly.

NEW CHAPTERS

Congratulations to the four newest ABANA Chapters:

Central Virginia Blacksmith Guild
Connecticut Blacksmith Guild
Northern Minnesota Metalsmiths
Northern Rockies Blacksmiths Association

Welcome to the ABANA family!

There have been some questions about forming new ABANA chapters. Any group of individuals can submit a request for chapter status as long as they meet the guidelines as specified in the ABANA bylaws. An existing chapter does not have a specific geographic boundary and if you plot them out you will find that many pull members from much of the same territory. I personally belong to four chapters plus ABANA. Two of the chapters even hold an annual joint membership meeting which is a great way to meet other smiths you would normally not come in contact with except at an ABANA conference.

ABANA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

Applications are accepted quarterly. The next due date is January 1st 1999 and should be sent to the ABANA office. The six page form has all the details on the requirements and additional information needed by the applicant. Being early helps ensure that the application can get the proper evaluation it deserves. Receiving an application three weeks

before the class starts does not allow for a sincere review before the applicant has to be given an answer nor is it enough time to get the applicant a check, so plan ahead.

Your chapter officers should have a copy or two available of the ABANA Scholarship Application Information form. If not, a copy can be obtained from the ABANA office (314) 390-2133, PO Box 206, Washington, MO 63090. Remember that you can obtain funds from more than one source to support the same class. Check with your chapter scholarship representative.

CHAPTER NEWSLETTERS

Chapter newsletters for all ABANA chapters are being archived at the Metal Museum in Memphis, TN. Doug Merkel is the single point of contact in the collection of these copies. Please send all future newsletters to him instead of Tom Clark or directly to the Metal Museum. The newsletters are collected and collated before they are forwarded on to the Museum. Use the address below for the mailing. A thank you goes out to those chapters who have been sending in newsletters.

Doug Merkel
ABANA Chapter Liaison
PO Box 238
Villas, NC 28692

E-Mail: dands@boone.net
FAX: (828) 297-1905
Work: (828) 297-2055 and messages
Home: (828) 297-3191

FALL SAFETY

By the time you get to read this, many of us will have the heaters on in our shops. Before you fire it up, please take the time to check its operational safety, ventilation, etc. In my area there have been two chimney fires already because of a rusted out flue and one plugged with birds' nests. Staying warm from a fire is no good if it only lasts until your shop burns to the ground.

Get it hot; hit it hard; quit when it's done!

*The content of this newsletter was submitted by
Doug Merkel, ABANA Chapter Liaison*

BAM

Bulletin Board

For sale: 70-pound air hammer, \$2,800. 40-pound air hammer, \$2,300. Also custom spinning in copper, brass, aluminum, steel and pewter. Maurice Ellis, (573) 766-5346.

The editor has one round forge with hand crank blower, works, even has the hood for venting smoke. \$75. Two post vises, one 4", \$60, one 5" for \$80, needs mounting bracket. Jim McCarty, (573) 395-3304.

Ken Rogers wrote to tell us that a friend of his is casting custom swage blocks in ductile iron for \$2.40 per pound. He says they can cast them in 4140 steel at slightly higher price. For more information call Ken at (415) 893-1886.

Wanted: a medium to large size old style drill press. The type I desire has the flat belt drive at the rear with a bevel gear drive at the top front and with a No. 3 or 4 Morse Taper. I have several modern 1/2" drill presses and want something heavier for larger holes. Will buy outright or trade for a 20 year old variable speed Rockwell Delta 1/2" drill press and some cash. This drill needs a bushing replaced and a key repair in the variable speed mechanism. This is a very clean machine with a coolant type production table without one drill mark on the table! Ruben Funk, rfunk@tranquility.net, (573) 445-8340

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

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

For sale: Large cannonball stove from the old Washington Forge. Actual blacksmiths stood around this stove warming themselves and occasionally spitting on it. \$200 or trade for ? Pat McCarty, (314) 239-3814.

Charles McRaven's classic "Country Blacksmithing" is back under a new title, "Tools and Processes of the County Blacksmith." McRaven ran a school near Branson for many years and much of the material reflects his time in the Ozarks. The book has been out of print for some time. Price is \$35 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling, from Ravenoak Press, PO Box G, Free Union, VA 22940.

Wanted to buy: Spinning tools. Also looking for information on a course in metal spinning. Dennis Anderson, 5910 Hillandale Rd., Davenport, Iowa 52806; (319) 391-1985.

John Murray has a power hammer he is selling. It's a MacGowan & Finnigan Perfect hammer made in St.

Louis. John has it tuned up and ready to go to work. He needs \$1,000 for it. Give him a call at (314) 828-4640.

New Heller Brothers cast steel hot-cut hardies produced for the war department for WW II. 3/4-inch shank, 3-1/4 inches tall. \$20 plus \$4 for shipping. Andrew Morrison, 2197 N. Allen Ave., Altadena, CA 91001; (626) 798-6588.

For sale: Bench buffer, 3/4 horsepower, 115/230 volts, 3,600 rpm. \$200. Call (573) 358-3865 and ask for Leland. Bonne Terre, Mo.

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>

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

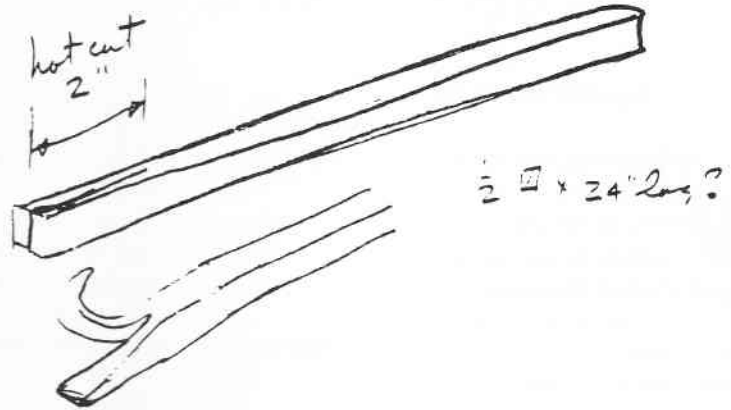
A new book for beginners and intermediate smiths has just been printed. It's called "A Blacksmithing Primer" by Randy McDaniel. It can be ordered through Dragonfly Enterprises, 3300G Kingston Dr., Dept. 44, Sinking Spring, PA 19608. Price is \$20 plus \$3 shipping.

Iron Age Primitives is the title of a new work by Gene Chapman. 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.

26 Apr 98

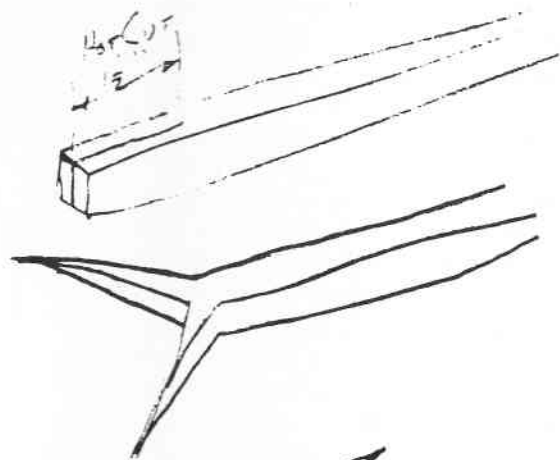
FRANK CLAYTON
POKER 9/16 steel head

HOT END



- Point one side, curve into hook.
- Other point to chisel tip

HANDLE END



- Split end, taper ends then close up again.

- Tight band (for face) shape to suit



- Horns nice & tight

- Open horns (eyes, mouth, ears etc)

- 6" down, twist about 4-8 FLATS



VANCOUVER ISLAND BLACKSMITHS ASS'N

Ralph Gustafson drawing

Shopwork on the Farm

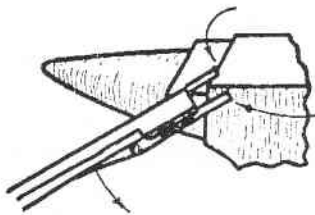
by Jim McCarty

While scouring a flea market in West Plains for blacksmith tools I stumbled on a real good book called "Shopwork on the farm". I have a number of these kinds of books. They were written in the '40s and '50s by University Extension folks to make work on the farm easier. In some cases these books were used as classroom text books in the vocational agriculture class. In every case they have a chapter or two on working iron.

This book had a section on working iron cold which has sections on drilling, filing, hacksaw operation and taping holes. It also had a nice section on forge work with an emphasis on the skills beginners would need.

I have another book called "Farm Mechanics". Much of the material in this one (which even had an old test in it!) was similar in nature to the other. Something else to look for are books like the one I have called "500 projects for the Farm" and its companion "500 More Projects for the Farm".

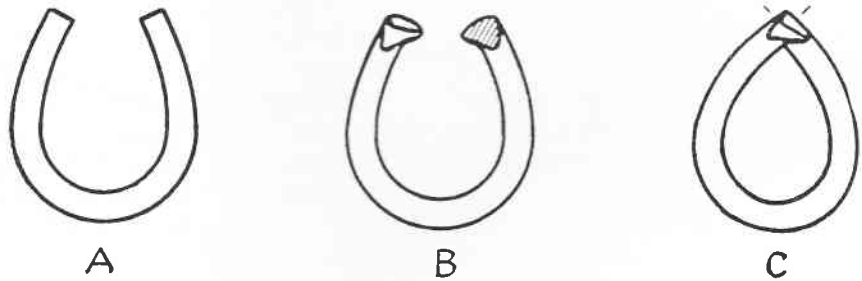
I pulled these instructions for making a ring from the Shopwork on the Farm book. The author was a professor of ag engineering at the University of Missouri.



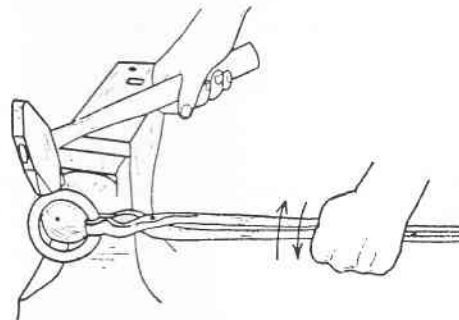
A good method for making the scarf.



Steps to making a chain link.



Steps to making a ring include: A. Bend to horseshoe shape. B. Scarf same as the chain link. C. Bend egg-shaped and weld.



Finish the weld on a link or ring by rolling it slowly on the horn while hammering with a series of rapid, light blows. Large rings may be finished by making the stock square, then eight sided, and finally round.

Welding in the forge

Although welding in the forge is somewhat more difficult than ordinary forge work, welding of links, rings and bars and rods is not particularly difficult if careful attention is given to the fire and to a few simple precautions.

A good fire is the first requirement for welding in the forge; it is important for any blacksmithing work, but for welding it is indispensable. Poor fires account for most of the difficulties when welding.

Scarfing the irons.

Ends to be welded should first be properly shaped or scarfed. Scarfed ends should be short, usually not over 1-1/2 times the thickness of the stock. They should also have rounded or convex surfaces so that when they are welded together any slag or impurities will be squeezed out rather than trapped in the weld. Avoid long, thin tapering scarfs because they are easily burnt in the fire, and because they cool and lose their welding heat very rapidly when removed from the fire, thus making welding exceedingly difficult. The ends of bars and rods should usually be upset before they are scarfed.

Heating the irons. Heat the irons slowly at first so they will heat thoroughly and uniformly. Turn them over in the fire once or twice during heating to ensure equal heating of all sides and parts.

After the irons reach a bright-red heat, remove them and sprinkle welding compound or flux on the scarfed ends. Then replace the irons in the fire, and quickly bring them to welding temperature. If one iron heats faster than the other, pull it

back into the edge of the fire for a few seconds. They should reach the welding heat at the same time. During the last part of the heating period, have the scarfed sides of both irons down so that they will be fully up to welding temperature when removed from the fire.

When the irons reach welding temperature they will be a brilliant, dazzling white; their surfaces will appear molten; and a few explosive sparks will be given off. It is then time to remove them from the fire, get them in place quickly on the anvil, and weld them together.

Getting the irons together.

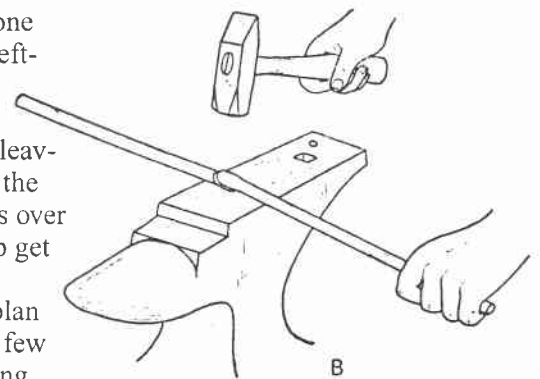
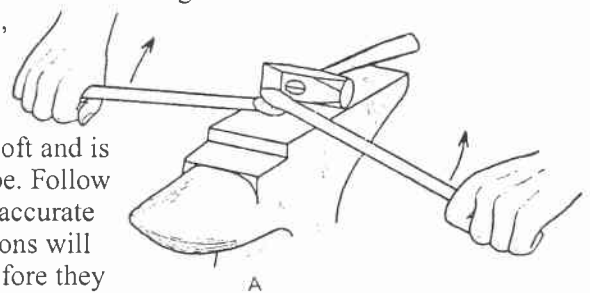
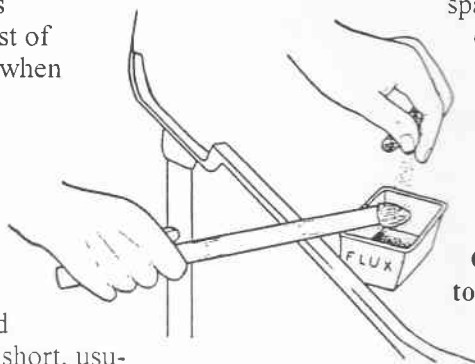
When the irons reach the welding heat or temperature, remove them from the fire, quickly rap them over the edge of the anvil to shake off the slag, place them together and hammer them in place. Strike medium blows at first, because the iron is soft and is easily mashed out of shape. Follow with heavier blows. Fast, accurate work is required, or the irons will lose their welding heat before they can be joined.

In placing the irons together on the anvil, put the right-hand one down first, and then put the left-hand one down on top of it. The pieces can thus be held together with only one hand, leaving the right hand free to use the hammer. Steadying the pieces over the edge of the anvil will help get them accurately and quickly placed together. It is a good plan for the beginner to practice a few times before taking the welding heat. Pieces that are long enough to be held in the hands without tongs

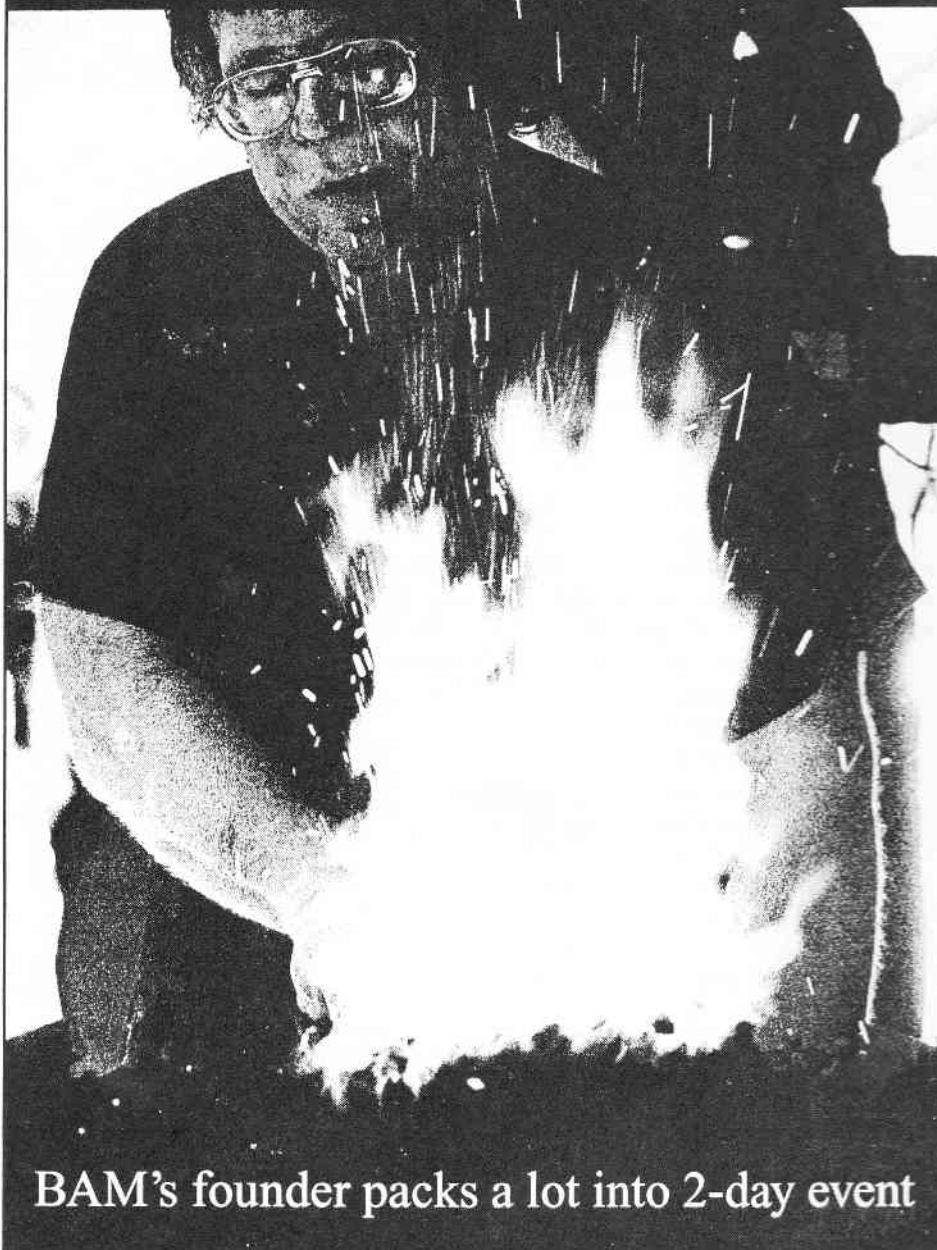
are handled more easily than short pieces.

If the irons do not stick on the first try, do not continue hammering, but reshape the scarfs and try again, being sure that the scarfs are properly shaped, that the fire is clean, and that it is deep and compact. Irons will not stick if there is clinker in the fire or if it is burned low and hollow. It is generally not possible to make irons stick after two or three unsuccessful attempts because they will most likely be burned somewhat, and burned irons are difficult or impossible to weld. In such cases, cut off the burned ends before rescarfing.

Finishing the weld. If the irons stick but the lap is not completely welded down on the first heat, simply reapply flux and take another welding heat. In taking an extra heat, be sure to have the lap down in the fire just before removing for placing on the anvil and hammering.



Traditional Blacksmithing with Bob Patrick



BAM's founder packs a lot into 2-day event

by Jim McCarty

According to Bob Patrick, tradition is what your experience. It's not what you learn in books or by research.

Bob's traditions go back many years. Much of what he knows — and that's a lot — came from hands-on experience with the old timers that are now long gone. His mentors were the real thing, struggling to earn a living taking whatever work came in the shop. These were the guys who made hinges for people who had nowhere else to buy them.

On November 28 and 29 Bob passed on to us much of his years of knowledge in a two-day demo held at Lou Mueller's shop in Fenton. All told, about 50-60 people took part.

Bob's demo was the result of funding from the Missouri Folk Arts Program, which receives its funding from the Missouri Arts Council through the National Endowment for the Arts. The Folk Arts Program sponsors the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program which pairs a master and an apprentice so that some traditional skill can be passed on. Bob and also Darold Rinedollar have been masters in the program. Currently a man named John Glenn from St. Joseph, Mo. is the blacksmithing master.

I have worked closely with the Folk Arts Program since I was in college (back then it was the Cultural Heritage Center). Many of the stories I have done in Rural Missouri have come from this program. I also served on the selection committee for this year's apprenticeship program. One of the teams we selected for funding had a falling out and the money wasn't spent. The director, Dana Everts-Boehm, called me in late October to see if we had a project in mind.

I had earlier applied for a grant from the center to fund a workshop on traditional blacksmithing techniques, but my proposal wasn't selected. While the funds weren't enough for what I had in mind, I knew Bob would put on a show for us and that Lou would let us use his shop.

But time was short. I didn't get final approval until after the last

newsletter went out so I called on Maurice Ellis to do a postcard mailing and he came through.

For purposes of the paperwork, I became Bob's lowly apprentice for two days, which meant I fetched coffee, carried coal, dumped the clinker and bore the brunt of Bob's abuse for the weekend.

Of course Bob is best known for his forge welding mastery, but I didn't want this short course to focus on that topic alone. What I hoped for was a primer on the techniques necessary for mastering the craft — scrolls, twists, upsetting, collaring, riveting, splitting and punching. Bob covered all of these and more, throwing in forge welds when necessary and making all of the necessary tooling as he went along.

He started with a three-legged candle stand without welding the third leg on. Using a piece of 1/4x1 inch stock, he drew one half until it was 3/8 inch square. The other end was then split in half forming three legs.

Now we've all made a bunch of splits but Bob taught us a trick that should make the job easier. Suppose you are making a fork and need to split the tines. So you start by punching a hole where the split will end and chisel up to it. Now you have two little burrs where the punched hole was. If you aren't careful these will become cold shuts.

Instead Bob uses a teardrop shaped punch. The point of the teardrop goes in the direction the chiseling will be done. No burrs to deal with! This was worth the price of admission right there.

The legs were opened in the vise using two radius jigs he made in a couple of minutes. The jig was a study in contrasts to one Lou Mueller offered Bob. Lou is a machinist by trade. His tradition is very much different than Bob's. Lou's finely crafted jig probably took a day or so to make and was very precise. Bob made his in a minute using only his hands and eye. Different tools for different reasons...

Bob also made a swage using a piece of 1/2 inch by 1 inch, heating the swage stock and driving a piece of cold stock into it. The swage was used to create a half-round on the legs once

they were all drawn out to the same length and width.

The feet on the legs ended in half pennies, not to be confused with penny feet which matched the English coins they were named for. (Half penny feet are smaller, Bob said.) The center was punched and the legs bent in the radius jig held in the vise.

Bob kept the patter going while he worked and we learned much anecdotal information. One of his lines of thought was on teaching us how to be effective demonstrators. One point was to consider who your audience is. You demonstrate different for blacksmiths than you would if your audience was the general public. For the public, he said, demonstrate what you know. For blacksmiths you can show how to develop an idea.

To complete the candle holder he showed how to make a tenon, using just the anvil and hammer. He drew a taper on what looked like far too little material but the finished product was in good proportion to the legs.

Tongs are important to the blacksmith so Bob showed how to make these. He likes to make them from 3/4-inch round medium carbon tool steel. He can make a pair in a half hour by hand, even quicker under the power hammer.

His technique is to put an inch of

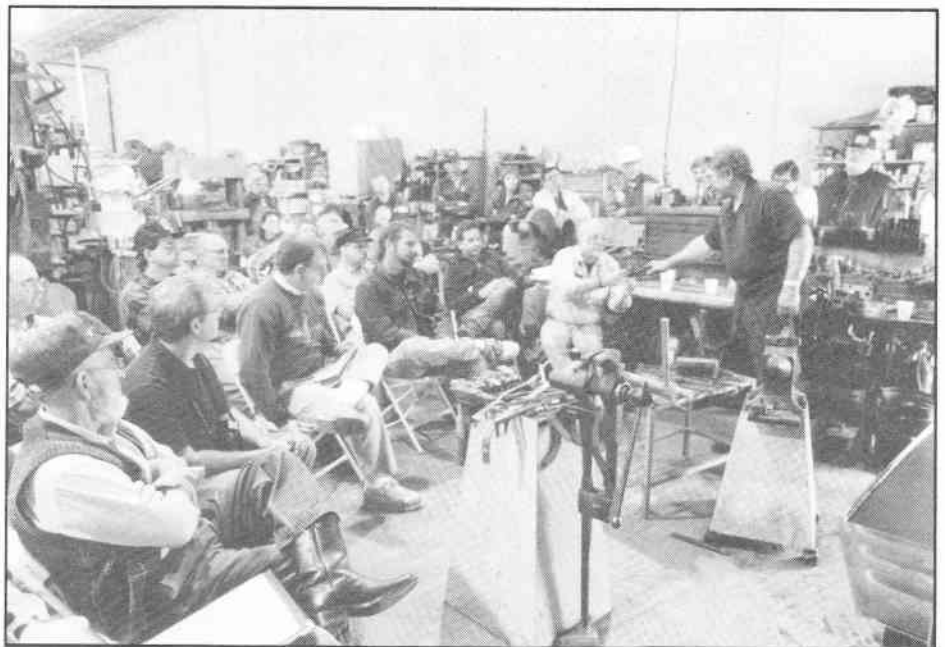
the hot stock on the sharp edge of the anvil, hammering to half the stock's thickness, rotate 90 degrees, move to the opposite edge of the anvil and forge the boss, rotate 90 degrees again and start the reins.

He encouraged us to learn to forge weld the reins on, saying we will soon lose this skill. Welding the reins saves a ton of drawing out with 3/4-inch stock. This was our first lesson in forge welding, and Bob let us know he didn't like the coal.

He said the hard part is to make your first set of tongs without tongs or your first hammer without a hammer. For this reason one rule of the old-time blacksmith was to loan his shop to a new smith to make tools even if the newcomer would be a competitor.

Backing up to the legs, Bob got to talking too much and of course burned off one of the legs, apparently beyond salvation. He had already invested considerable time in the project so he decided to fix it. He made a forge weld, got it stuck but it came loose when he tried to bend the legs.

Undaunted, he showed us a neat trick. Lou brought him a thin piece of sheet copper. Bob cleaned and fluxed the leg, then fluxed the copper and forge brazed the crack in the leg by showing it to the fire until the copper melted. When he cleaned it up it was a near



A crowd of 50-60 packed Lou Mueller's new shop for each day of the demonstration.

perfect fix.

Another interesting project was the "Sticking Tommy," or coal miner's lamp. The lamp holds a candle and can be hung on the miner's hat or stuck in a wall.

This required a T-weld which Bob nailed right away. He offered to demonstrate how he throws the sticking Tommy using the apprentice as a target but I declined.

He moved into twists and this was an education. It's tough to get an even twist, so Bob showed us two ways to fix it. You can cool the part that's right or add heat to the part that's too loose. Bob said you can use a torch to get the heat right where you want it or you can just be real clever. The old timers didn't have torches, so they had to be clever.

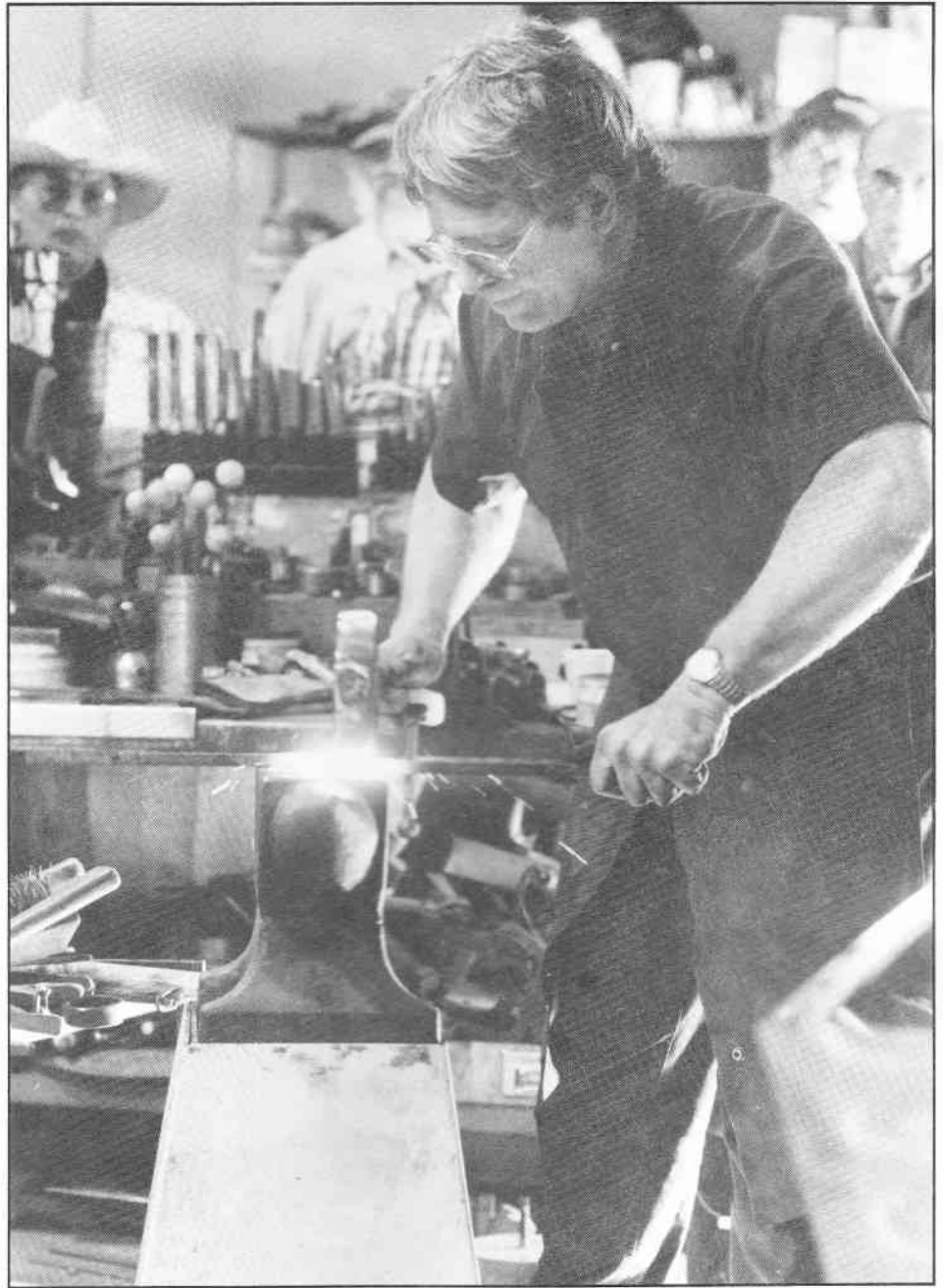
Bob recommends twisting with the stock flat in the vise instead of vertical. A twist is the same diameter as the diagonal of the original stock. To get it straight put it in the vise on the diagonal and squeeze, rotate 90 degrees and squeeze again. Do both ends, then do the middle.

The most interesting part of the day was when he showed how to weld a gun barrel. He has two techniques for this. The first was done in a V-block, which Bob used extensively. He started with a piece of 2 inch or so and bent it into a U shape in the V-block. He recommends a long handled hammer due to the intense forge welding heat. Bob doesn't like to wear gloves.

With the piece still in the V-block he drove 1 inch together, fluxed, and welded it, brought another inch together and so on until he had about 5 inches done. He says you have to cut off both ends as these don't weld properly. When it's all welded do it again.

To test gun barrels the tradition was to load them with a double charge and two balls on top of each other. If there are no cracks after firing it was deemed safe. They also put the weld down...better to lose a finger than an eye I guess.

Bob had a nice piece with him he had forged in Damascus, a pistol barrel about 6 inches long.



Above: Bob refines a forge weld. While welding wasn't the focus of the workshop, Bob did a lot of welding making different items.

We had to wait to the next day for the second gun barrel demo. This involved wrapping a length of 1/4 x 1 inch around a mandrel made of sheet metal.

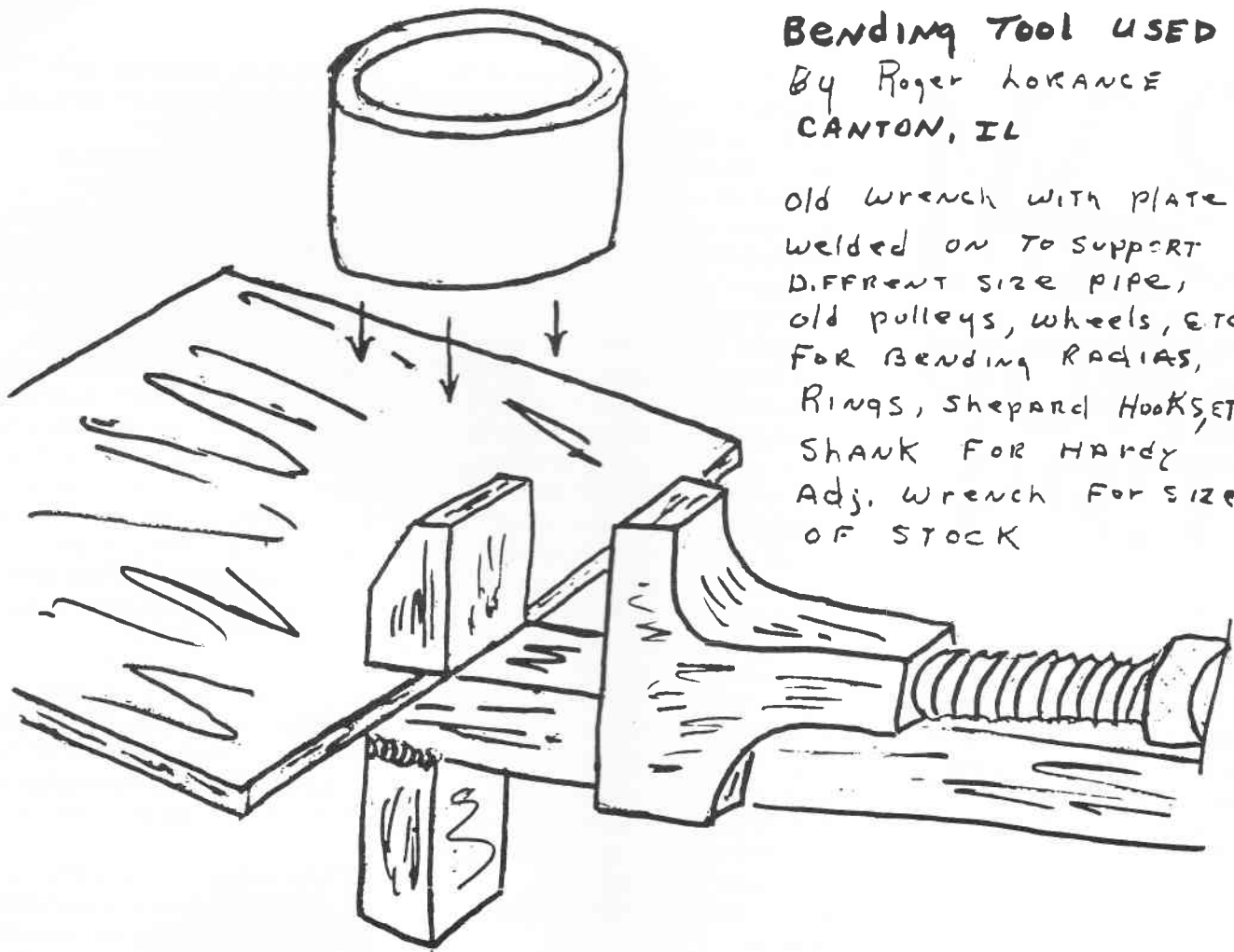
In this method the stock actually welds to the mandrel, which is lost when the barrel is bored and rifled.

Bob worked slow and careful. He says you can count on one hand the number of blacksmiths who can weld up

gun barrels with any hope of using them later.

We covered many, many other things too numerous to mention. Bob stopped only for lunch and then got right back to work in what must have been a grueling day for him. He took no breaks.

I'll end this here and continue it in the next newsletter. There were enough ideas, tips and techniques to fill three newsletters or maybe more!

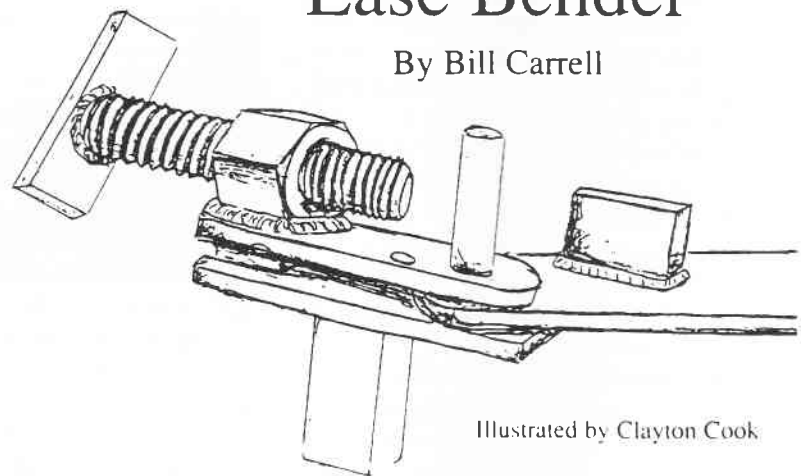


BENDING TOOL USED
 By Roger HORANCE
 CANTON, IL

Old wrench with plate
 welded on to support
 different size pipe,
 old pulleys, wheels, etc
 for bending radias,
 Rings, Shepard Hook, etc
 Shank for Hardy
 Adj. wrench for size
 of stock

Ease Bender

By Bill Carrell



Illustrated by Clayton Cook

You oughta try this. I made one 40 years ago. It's about worn out. It's easy to build, can be made any size and is quick in and out of the vice, makes an accurate bend in hot or cold iron and takes up less room than a Hossfeld.

reprint from **North West Blacksmith Association**

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

Filing picker upper

If you have a primitive compacted shop floor but a modern drill press that puts oily metal shavings all over, a good way to clean them up is with a magnet on a stick — the kind you buy at hardware stores. First put a cheap plastic sandwich bag over the magnet. After you pick up all the shavings pull the bag off the magnet while turning the bag inside out (like a kid taking off a sock). Then throw the bag and contents away.

— Fred Weisenborn

Points on working tool steel

1. Use a clean deep coke fire for heating tool steel, and heat it slowly

and evenly.

2. Heating in a poor shallow fire, or heating too rapidly, is likely to cause uneven heating, which results in unequal expansion, which in turn may cause internal flaws or cracks.

3. Proper hammering of tool steel at the proper temperature refines it, making grain size smaller.

4. Do not hammer tool steel unless it is at least at a dark-red heat and heated uniformly throughout.

5. Hammering below a red heat is likely to cause cracking or splitting.

6. Hammering when not heated clear through may cause the outer parts to stretch away from the inner parts and cause internal flaws or cracks.

7. Avoid light hammering even when the steel is well heated, because of danger of drawing the outer surface without affecting the inner parts.

8. Never heat tool steel above a bright-red or low-orange heat, and then only for heavy hammering.

9. For moderate hammering, as in finishing and smoothing a job, do not heat above a dark red.

10. Tool steel is ruined if it gets white hot.

11. In case tool steel is accidentally overheated somewhat, allow it to cool slowly and then reheat, being careful not to overheat it again; or heat it to a bright-red or low-orange heat and forge by heavy hammering to restore the fine grain size.

12. After a tool is forged, anneal it by heating to a uniform low red and placing it in dry ashes or similar material to cool slowly.

13. In quenching a tool like a cold chisel, move it about rapidly up and down and around — to prevent a sharp line of demarcation between the hot and cold parts.

14. Tempering colors should move slowly so they may be easily seen. If they move too fast, dip the tool quickly into water for an instant.

15. In the final quenching of a tool like a cold chisel, cool the end quickly but dissipate any heat left in the shank very slowly. Otherwise, the shank may be hard and brittle.

16. In case a tool is found to be too hard, retemper it and allow the temper colors to go out a little further before the final quenching.

17. In case the tool is too soft, quench before the colors go so far.

— From the book *Shopwork on the Farm*

Accident waiting to happen

A power hammer with an electric motor makes enough motion and noise to always cause the persons in the immediate vicinity to have the proper attention. But an air hammer (not one with a motor included) has a hidden danger because it's sitting there with static power waiting for the command, however errant, to smash something flat. If you aren't using the air hammer, disconnect the air!

— Alex Bealer Blacksmith Association Newsletter

Annealing and normalizing steel

There are two "softening" processes commonly used when metalworking: normalizing and annealing. The objective of both processes is to soften the metal and to make it less brittle. This makes further work on the piece easier and safer.

Normalizing is the heating of steel to above its critical temperature followed by an air cool. The piece is usually left somewhat warm (like near the forge). Normalizing is a quick method of softening a piece to the point where you could heat treat (harden and temper) it for use.

Annealing is the heating of steel to above the recrystallization point, followed by slow cool. In steel, the recrystallization point is near, but below the critical temperature for the alloy being used. Annealing is often accomplished in a programmable furnace which cools at a set rate. A cool in an inert insulation medium such as ashes, perlite or vermiculite also works well. The piece should be buried in the insulation immediately after removing it from the forge.

Normalizing is useful only for tools where you have not changed the cross section much, as when grinding or filing to shape, rather than forg-

ing. Also, normalizing is not good for any alloy with any kind of enhanced hardenability; it is really limited to plain carbon steels.

This is very important if you have drastically changed the cross section of a piece of tool steel. This creates incredible stresses in the steel from the heat and hammering, normalizing will not remove enough of the stress to provide a safe tool.

If you are grinding a spring to a chisel shape, you can probably get away with normalizing. If you forge to shape, anneal. If in doubt, anneal! Final filing and polishing before hardening and tempering is easiest when annealed, you can even straighten a slight crook, but try to keep from doing that, as you'll introduce stress again.

Normalizing is also useful in mild steel if you have hammered a fine point on something and need to bend or drill it later. The metal right behind where the taper starts seems to condense; when you try to bend it cold, it won't! Also, the same area will really screech a drill bit. Normalizing is the answer here. Just heat to a light cherry, and lay aside.

Cold rolled steel, if it is to be worked cold, also will need to be normalized. We used to twist 3/16 inch square into a tight twist over 10 feet with a half inch drill and a vise, but the cold rolled had to be normalized first or it would refuse to twist very much and then snap!

— *The Iron Muncher's News*

When 1/2 inch is not 1/2 inch

When I was building my treadle hammer I found out that what we think is one half of an inch is not always one half of an inch. The drawing calls for pivots for the two parallel arms that the hammer swings on to be 1/2 inch in diameter, so I drilled them with a 1/2 inch drill. The bolts used were 1/2 inch machine bolts bought at a local hardware store. These should provide a good fit, right? Wrong! This combination gave me a clearance of 15 thousandths of an inch, and this allows the hammer to move in the neighborhood of 75 to

100 thousandths of an inch (100 thousandths is 1/10th of an inch).

How could this happen? It turns out that a 1/2-inch drill bit actually drills a hole .505 inches. the bolts I used were standard bolts, and they measured .490 inches. According to the machinest at the local vo-tech, these are standard measurements. The difference in the two is 15 thousandths. But this allows the front of the parallel arms to move 5 to 6 times as much, and the hammer head to move also.

The method I am going to use to remove much of this slop is to make bolts or pins out of 1/2 inch cold rolled steel. Cold rolled is closer to size, and I can find a piece that will measure 1/2 inch or maybe a little more. By replacing the bolts, I can get the clearance down to about .005. This will take out at least two-thirds of the head movement.

— *Bruce Gillies, Appalachian Area Chapter Newsletter*

Points on pointing

Here's how I make a point that avoids a cold shut. Make a blunt point first, then work back and you end up with a nice sharp point. If hot enough this can be done in one heat so that the delicate tip can be put in a cooler part of the fire. On larger pieces (1/2 inch and up) I try to keep the point centered, on smaller bits I just keep the point to one corner. When done, a couple of blows will center it. My dad says this is how Joe Schwedelsky (blacksmith at Leipzig in the 1920s and '30s) used to do pointing.

— *Jim Gerlinsky, The Rivet, Western Canadian Blacksmith's Guild*

Two tips

Use bicyclists gloves to save your palm when doing heavy filing or whitemithing.

Hammers used for striking other tools should be annealed to minimize risk of flying chips. Clearly mark these hammers to distinguish

them from those used for forging.

— *Blacksmiths Guild of the Potomac Newsletter*

Steve White Sez

Stick a little piece of emory cloth in a large cotter key, chuck it in a drill and you've got yourself a mini hone. A little flap works for very light cleaning. With a roll that will nearly fill the hole you can quickly remove a lot of metal, rust or scale. A poor man's reamer...

On your hot file cut most of the tang off and weld on a big nut for a handle. Helps you to remember which file is which and takes up less room in your traveling kit. Don't use a file without a handle. Another handy file modification is used by pipe welders. Take your right-angle grinder and grind some deep notches in one edge. used in a sawing motion it will slag welds a lot o fplaces your chipping hammer won't reach.

Make patterns for leaves, etc. out of light galvanized sheet and put a big hole in them for hanging. If you make them like this your precious patterns won't end up in the fire (I've heard this can happen.)

From Ollie Juaire: Weld two nuts to a piece of scrap and you have a drill-grinding gauge. The 60 degree angle isn't perfect (58 degrees) but it's close.

A wood splitting wedge that is sharpened to a knife edge makes a great deburring tool. Just slide it along and let the weight do the work. Shears burrs right off. But watch your fingers!

Make your holdfast out of an old lug wrench, this is some tough steel. Leave the pointed hubcap popper end on. Works great for prying open slits and splits and adjusting small scrolls. Always there when you need it.

— *Steve White, UMBA editor*

BAM NEWS

Lou back as ABANA Prez

BAM's own Lou Mueller was not only reelected as director of ABANA, but he also received the support of the other board members in his election as ABANA president. This is his second term as president. Lou took over from Joe Harris at the annual ABANA board meeting held at the National Ornamental Metals Museum last November. Let's all give Lou a lot of support as president by joining ABANA today. There's a membership form in the front of this issue. Besides getting The Anvil's Ring and Hammer's Blow, you will have access to resources such as the ABANA slide and video tape library, suppliers lists and much more. Give it a shot — you'll be glad you did.

Spouse's program

This year the Ozark Conference will feature a spouse's program put on by Jim and Pat McCarty's sister Mary Laubinger who will teach you how to make bears.

We also have some interest from Ruben Funk's wife to host an alternate spouse activity. She is interested in teaching a hot glass bead class and the participants would make several decorative glass beads for jewelry or other pupose as well as a class on stained glass where the participants would make a small stained glass suncatcher. A suggestion was made to put an announcement in the BAM newsletter to gauge interest and assist in the planning related to class size. If this sounds like fun to you drop Ruben a line. More details will be coming. His address is: Ruben Funk,

rfunk@tranquility.net, (573) 445-8340.

Conference auction needs you

It's not too early to get started on your contribution to the 1999 Ozark Conference auction. The auction generates most of the money BAM uses to print and mail the newsletter, hold workshops and buy coal.

We need items large and small. It all adds up. Also consider making some smaller items to donate to the BAM Boutique, our store of blacksmith made items.

Other auction ideas include books from Norm Larson or Centaur Forge, tools both new and used or other items of interest to blacksmiths.

If your skills aren't good enough to contribute something, you can still help. Just show up at the auction with a wallet full of cash. Auctioneer Tim Ryan promises it will be a one-way trip!

Go to school

The options for learning blacksmithing are growing every day it would seem. Besides the folk schools, there are several for-profit schools to help you hone your skills. ABANA keeps a list of schools — you can get it from the central office (if you are a member, another good reason to join) at ABANA, PO Box 206, Washington, MO 63090 or check out the web site at <http://www.abana.org>.

Tom Clark has added Bob Patrick to his Ozark Blacksmith School. The 1999 schedule follows:
April 26-30 Bob Patrick
May 10-14 Uri Hofi
May 17-21 Uri Hofi
May 24-28 Uri Hofi
May 31-June 4 Uri Hofi (advanced class, requires intro class.)

He's also offered to do one-on-one courses where you bring your anvil and make hardy tools and bending forks. For more info call (573) 438-4725.

A new school has been started for beginning blacksmiths by BAM member Bill Printy. Bill is located in southeast Iowa in the Bentonsport

National Historic District where he and his wife, Betty, have a studio caled Iron and Lace.

The school is housed in a new post and beam building which has four complete forging stations with all the tools. Workshops currently being offered are an introduction to beginning blacksmithing which is a 16 hour weekend course in the basics. Workshops are limited to 4 students.

Cost is \$150, workshops begin in mid April. For more information call Bill or Betty at (319) 592-3222 or write to: Iron and Lace, Rt. 2 Box 241A, Keosauqua, Iowa 52565.

Fix yer hammer

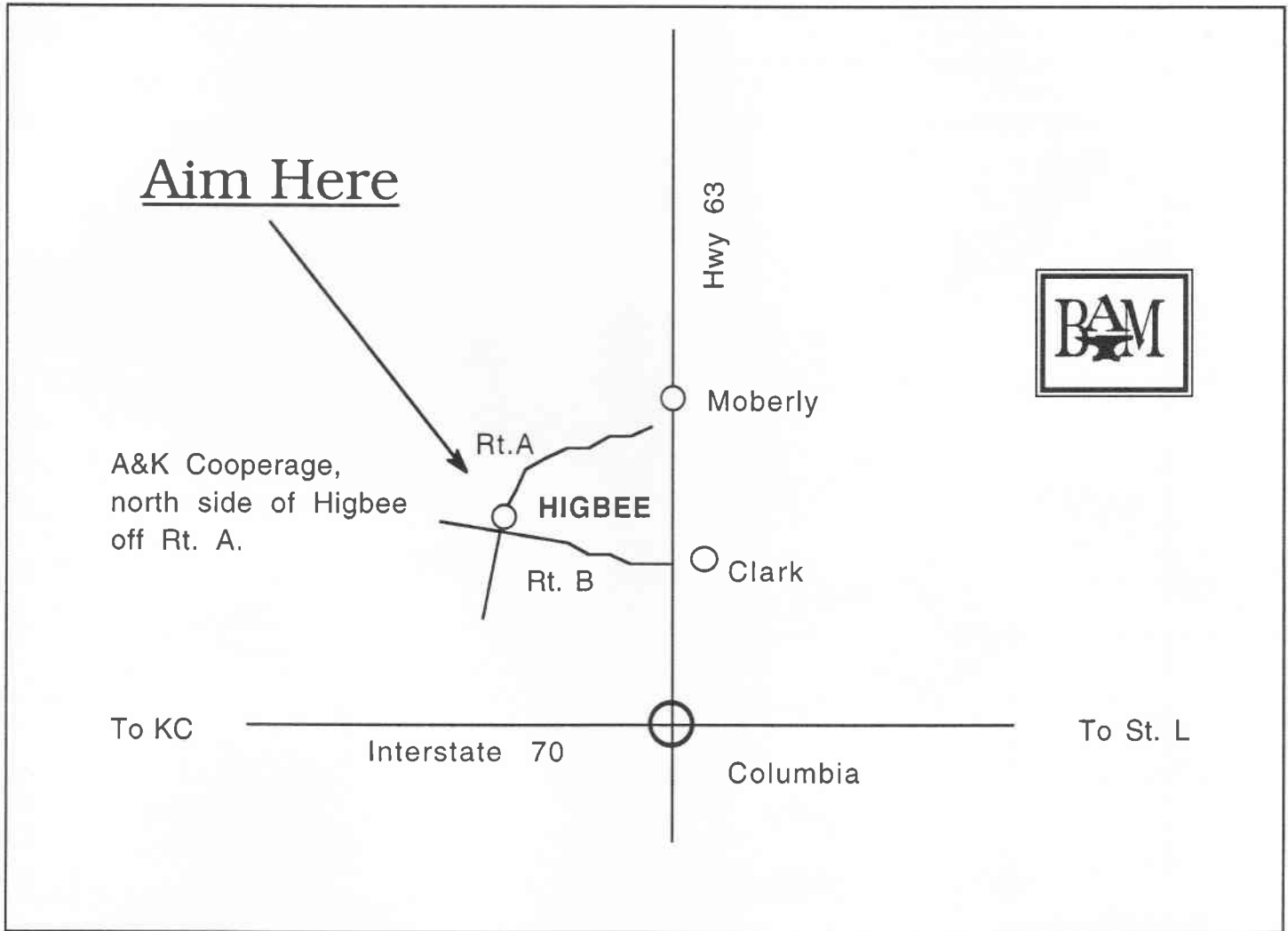
Sid Suedemeir is again offering a class on rebuilding the Little Giant power hammer at his Little Giant "factory" in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Fred Caylor is the instructor.

This time there are two dates to choose from: March 19-21 and March 26-28. There is a maximum of 25 in each class so reserve your space now. This will be a hands-on seminar with everyone participating. They will start with a worn out 25-pound Little Giant, transforming it into a working, totally finished hammer. This will include analyzing the old unit (good for someone still shopping for a hammer), pouring the babbitt bearings and repair of all parts, then assembly and adjustment of the machine. Hot iron will be hammered before you leave. Cost is \$95. For more info call (402) 873-6603 or write to Little Giant, 420 4th Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

Coming event

Lou Mueller, host of our Bob Patrick workshop, is going to do another workshop featuring himself demonstrating some of the techniques he learned from Donald Streeter. Lou demoed these at the first ABANA mini-conference a few years ago but not many of us saw them. He's going to rope one of BAM's finest into helping him (may be our Grubby Little Blacksmith.) The date is February 27. More to come!

Next Meeting January 23, A&K Cooperage, Higbee, Mo.



This month we travel again to that fabled spot called A&K Cooperage, site of one of Missouri's most unique businesses. Dale Kirby builds barrels here for the wine industry. Last time Dale gave us quite a demo on how he makes his product and even donated one to the iron in the hat. Those who made that meeting will tell you not to miss

this one. Dale's wife has an antique store next to the cooperage and it is full of great stuff, another reason to get there early to beat the other scavengers. Dale is a member of the Midwest Tool Collectors Club and he always puts his leftovers in the antique shop.

There always seems to be something blacksmithing related there.

The Lion's Club from Higbee will again be providing lunch and maybe even some breakfast items. Not sure who is demonstrating but it might be you! Come prepared to show us something new.

Trade items is a fork, as usual bring something for the iron in the hat and a few tailgate items. See you in Higbee on January 23!



1998-99 Schedule

January 1999 Meeting

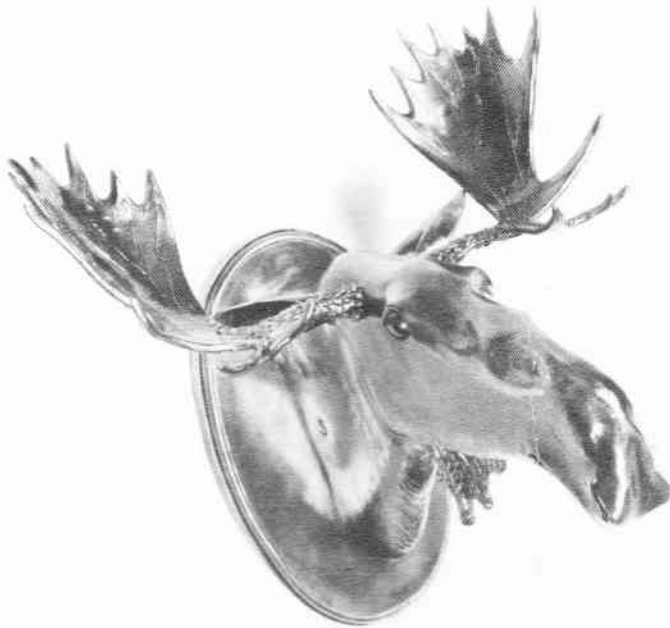
Dale Kirby
Higbee, Mo.
January 23, 1999
Trade item: Fork

March 1999 Meeting

Steve Steunkel
Troy, Ill.
March 13, 1999
Trade: Power hammer tool

May 1999 Meeting

Bennett Spring State Park
Lebanon, MO
May 22
Trade item: Fish



BAM'S own Kirk "Raoul" Sullen made this moose head and donated it to the auction at the 1998 ABANA Conference. It proved to be one of the highlights of the auction.

BAM
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