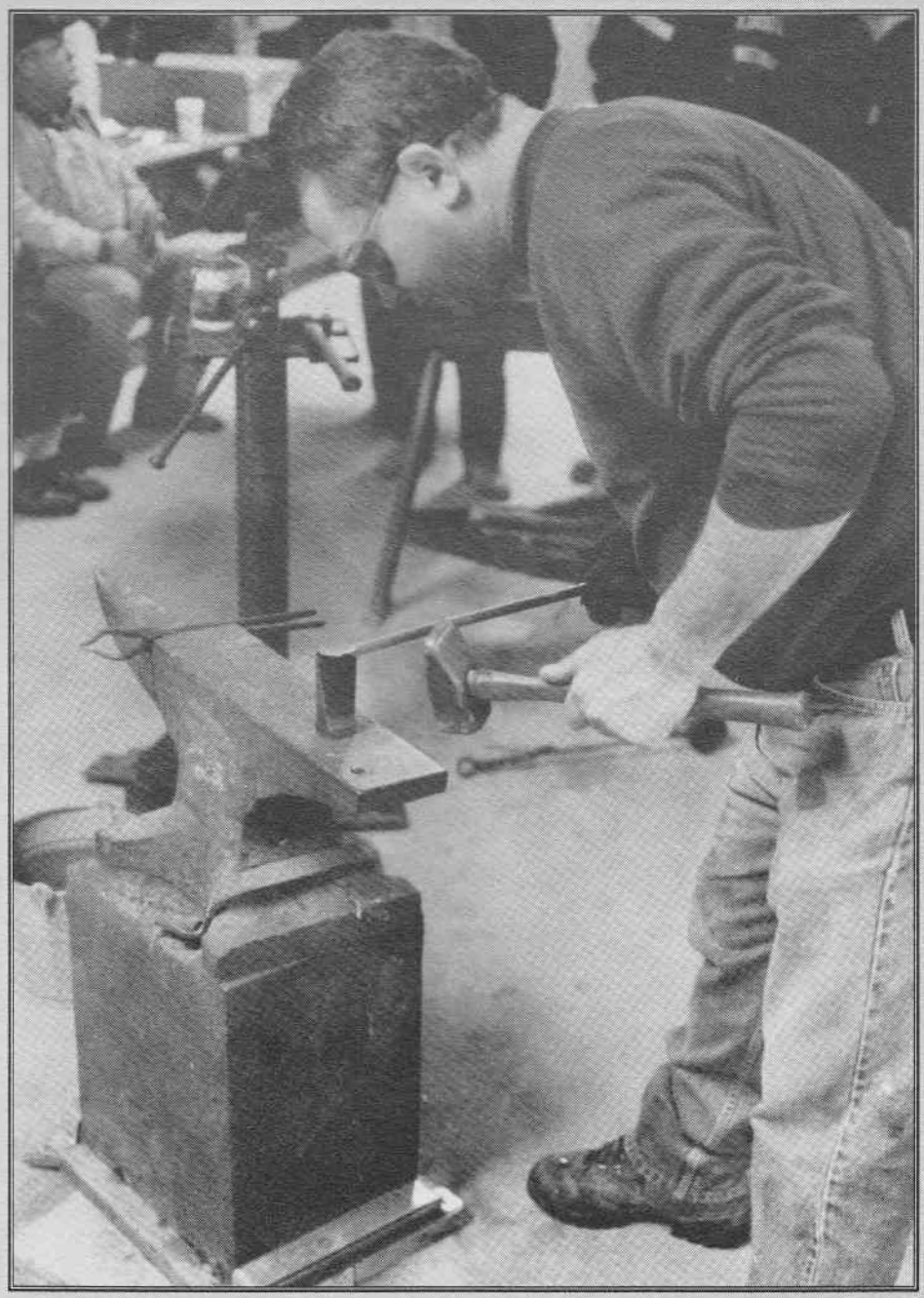


RAM

INSIDE

January—February 1999

Conference challenge13
Herb chopper14
Ozark Conference16
Walt's knot.....18
Next meeting23



NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

Contents

The coal bin

5 We've got coal — learn the details on how it happened from Bob Alexander.

Dear BAM

6 Thanks from two members and a first look at Dr. Iron's hand forged pad lock.

Bob's business

8 Our president Bob Alexander talks about meetings past and present.

January meeting

9 Dale Kirby again hosted BAM's winter event at his cooperage in Higbee.

ABANA news

10 ABANA President Lou Mueller takes a look at what chapter members want.

Bulletin board

12 Whatever you need — books, anvils, power hammers — we've got it here.

Conference challenge

13 Here's the challenge for the 1999 Ozark Conference so you can practice.

Herb chopper

14 An easy project is the herb chopper sort of like Doug and Doug make 'em.

Ozark Conference

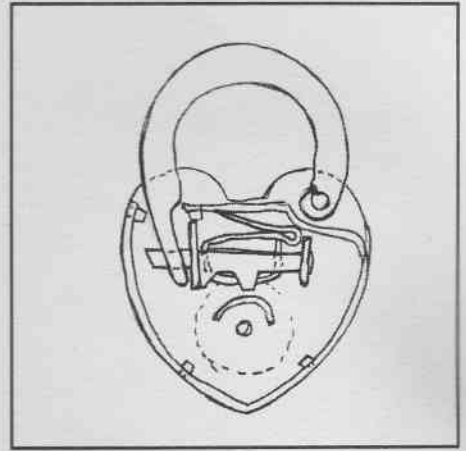
16 Here's the long-awaited details on BAM's big Ozark Conference.

Shop notes

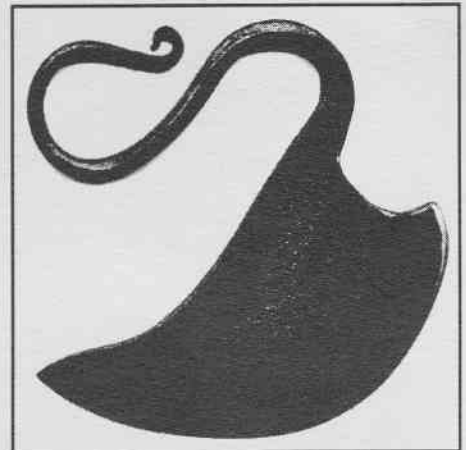
20 Earn your merit badge, questions about clay, books for beginners and more.

Next meeting

23 We check out a new shop when we travel to Steve Stunkel's in Troy, Illinois.



Page 6



Page 14



Page 23

**Newsletter of the
Blacksmiths
Association
of Missouri**

*January — February 1999
Volume 16 No. 1*

Our cover: John Murray heats up the anvil as he pounds out a medieval arrowhead during the January BAM meeting at Dale Kriby's cooerage in Higbee.

Editor

Jim McCarty

Contributing Editors

- Bob Alexander
- Doug Hendrickson
- Doug Merkel
- Walt Hull
- Bruce Herzog
- Roy Warden

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

Building A Coal Bin (In December and January)

On December 5, at Ken Markleys BAM meeting, the decision was made to buy coal in bulk and then having it bagged as needed. To store this loose coal a bin was in need.

The day we decided to build this bin the weather was wonderful, as it had been for several weeks. To construct a bin before January should be a cinch, but only if the weather prevailed. IT DIDN'T.

The day after the meeting my wife and I set to work laying out the site location and shooting grade. After much consideration a site was selected that would allow delivery from a tractor trailer. To allow for safe unloading, we needed an extension on the existing culvert pipe, and additional gravel for the driveway.

After discussion with the coal miser, Doug, the decision was made to increase the bin width from 10 feet to 12 feet to allow maneuvering room for the semis.

Excavation came next with the use of our tractor and front loader, weather was still cooperating. After receiving bids from several contractors for pouring the footing and concrete walls, Nash Construction was given the job. His price was \$2 a foot cheaper and he was able to start immediately.

With a few rain delays he was still able to complete before Christmas. I felt the need to add 4 feet of wall at each front corner for the purpose of retaining the backfilled dirt and to add strength to the corner in case of any bumping. All was well so far.

This is when the weather changed to remind us that it is really winter. Temperatures dropped to the single digits and the ground began to freeze deeper. With no end in sight, I decided to winterize the site.

First further excavating was needed to remove more dirt to enable grading the floor area. To remove the necessary dirt, layers of frozen dirt, some 8 inches in depth, were removed and used to backfill the foundation. Next gravel was used to grade the floor giving it a 2 inch slope.

My son Robert and myself spent

most of a day picking up a Bobcat at the rental shop and moving dirt and gravel. By afternoon the surface was beginning to thaw which meant MUD. This led to a trip to the car-wash to save having to pay extra to clean the machine up.

To prevent any further freezing to the floor area, insulated concrete tarps were borrowed and used to cover it. This worked well.

The middle of the first week in January we had a day that provided a window in this foul weather.

I put in some calls to the Ready-Mix plants, Doug Hendrickson, Tom Clark and we decided that it was either now or much later. So we set the wheels in motion to pour the floor. I summoned my wife and son, Doug called upon Maurice Ellis, Tom grabbed his helper, John, and time was set for a one o'clock pour. As the others were enroute, my wife, son and myself went to work to ready the site for pouring.

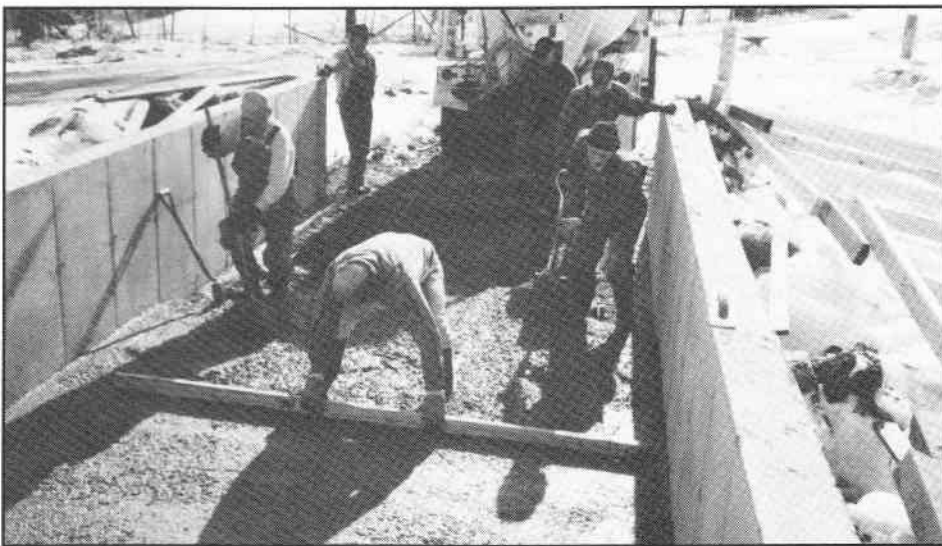
Tarps had to be removed, a wood frame and plastic structure had to be removed, grade line had to be established, rebar needed cut and tied in place, and an apron had to be formed up in front of the coal bin.

All was ready as the others arrived to help pour the concrete. The pour went well and we covered the area with a 2 by 4 framework, plastics and insulated tarps.

The concrete wasn't ready for troweling until 7 p.m., and with lights in place I gave it a good once over. With the temperatures dropping again and ICE STORMS moving in I borrowed kerosene heaters that I used to keep the bin around 40 degrees for a week. After two weeks of being covered and temperatures again rising, my helper and myself set out to dismantle the shelter. With a little additional excavation on the driveway and three loads of gravel, we were ready for COAL.

Coal arrived on Thursday afternoon, Jan. 21, ALL 48,000 pounds of it. Unloading took all of about 15 minutes, without a hitch. Post and cables across the drive will help keep unauthorized vehicles out. We are now adding underground electric to the bin for a night loading light.

Coal can be purchased at the coal bin almost anytime by calling Bob Alexander at HOME (1-314-586-6938) or at the SHOP (1-314-586-5350). Please call the shop first. To keep better records coal is to be paid for when purchased. Cost is \$7 for a 50-pound bag. This compares to nearly \$10 a bag had we purchased it bagged. One dollar of this money goes toward the purchase of bags and labor for bagging. Six dollars goes back into BAM's bank account which is how we were able to do this in the first place.



Tom Clark, Bob Alexander, Bob's son, Tom's helper John, and Doug Hendrickson work to pour the floor. Maurice Ellis showed up later for the important job: paying for the concrete.

Dear BAM,

I wanted to thank the members at the blacksmithing meeting in Higbee, Missouri, for making me feel like a long time member. I joined the group to be able to learn blacksmithing techniques and knifemaking. The demonstrations were informative and all members were happy to give me some advise on all my many questions. It's good to find people who like to share their experiences. I also was shocked to win that wine barrel. I just wanted to thank the members and to let them know I appreciate it. Thanks again,

*Kevin Gearhiser
Holden, Mo*

Thanks for the \$200 scholarship. I used it at the John C. Campbell Folk School in early January. The class I took was taught by Tom Latané. The subject of the class was the forging, filing and fitting of a copy of an antique padlock from Tom's collection. This was the first formal class I have taken since 6 weeks at Frank Turley's school in 1981. It was a great experience.

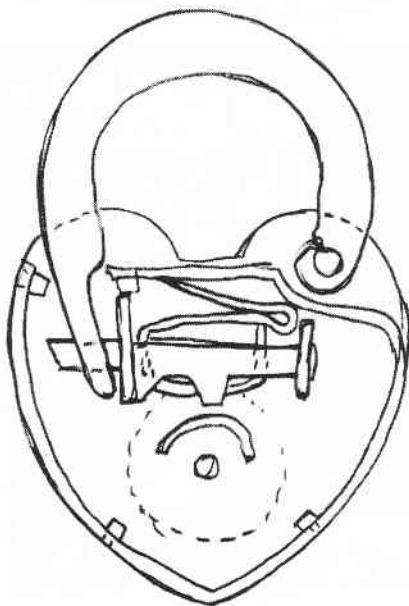
My classmates were all highly skilled smiths and Tom was prepared, tooled up and filled with information which he freely shared in the form of handouts, demos and discussions.

If you ever have a chance to attend a workshop, demo or class with Tom do it. The \$300 bucks covered half of my tuition, board and room, and materials. I got my \$\$s worth with 15 hour work days the result of which is a nearly finished lock.

I figure with my expenses, work missed, traveling and recovery time this lock is worth about \$4,500.

It's worth every penny. Thanks again for the money. My payback will be a demo at Bob Alexander's this summer.

*I gotta beat it,
Doug Hendrickson
Lesterville, Mo.*



New Salem Hammer-in

Phil Baldwin is the demonstrator for the 17th annual New Salem Hammer-in set for April 10-11 at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site in Petersburg, Illinois. Phil is from Snohomish, WA. He will be showing us reconstructive toolmaking along with contemporary architectural metalworking and design and non-ferrous forgings.

For more information contact Jim Patton, Lincoln's New Salem, Rt. 1 Box 244 A, Petersburg, IL 62675 or call (217) 632-4000.

Phil Williamson dies

Just as this issue was about to be shipped to the printer I learned the sad news that BAM's second vice president Phil Williamson had died on Saturday, Feb. 20, of an apparent heart attack. It was a rare month that Phil and his wife, Peggy, and son, Mike, ever missed a blacksmithing event within four states of their home in Warrensburg, Mo. Phil and Peggy were heading to Nebraska for a meeting of that chapter when Phil died. He spent his last day doing something he loved, searching antique stores and flea markets for more tools.

Phil will be forever remembered for his dedication to BAM. He was always the first to arrive and the last to leave. He could be counted on for a demo, always made a trade item and bought most of the iron in the hat tickets, donating a number of the prizes as well. He was glad to help unload someone's new treasure or to help set up forges and anvils at the meetings or the Ozark Conference.

His true calling in life should have been teacher because he loved to show others things he had learned the hard way. One of his gestures was to donate a number of hammer heads which were handled and given to young smiths just getting started.

A memorial was held for him on Friday, Feb. 26 in Warrensburg. Some of you have been asking what you can do to remember him and some suggestions were donations in his name to the Salvation Army or the Heart Foundation.

Phil, we enjoyed our times with you and you will be missed. Peggy assured me she and Mike will continue to make the meetings.

Bob's Business

It's February and I'm writing this for the January-February newsletter, seems we are back on track with the newsletter.

I just came from the January meeting held at A&K Cooperage. Dale Kirby is the owner and our host. His shop is located on the north side of Higbee, Mo. Dale's crew blessed us with another demo on making barrels, while Pat McCarty and John Murray kept the gas forge and anvil HOT!

Pat made a pair of V-jawed bolt tongs, and John showed us a hand forged arrow point. Both items were well received in the Iron-In-The-Hat. There was a great turn out despite the snow and cold. Participation in both the Trade Item, which was a fork, and the Iron-In-The-Hat were great.

Iron-in-The-Hat netted around \$394. After these activities were taken care of we conducted our business meeting. Among the topics of discussion were the arrival of coal, scholarships from J.C. Campbell, the upcoming conference, and the approval to purchase another sound system and dry marker board.

One thing when it came time to mention, I could not find was a note from Joe Wilkinson about a new BAM member, Ron Fritts, who passed away. Our condolences to his family.

On February 27, 1999, Lou Mueller is hosting and demonstrating at his shop in Fenton, Mo. Topic is believed to be focusing around Donald Streeter's technique. For information please contact Jim McCarty or Lou Mueller.

The spring conference is quickly approaching and as of the last meeting only one item had been received for the auction. These items are an important part of making the conferences work.

Also pre-registration can save you

a lot of time standing in line waiting for registering and is a must for meal tickets.

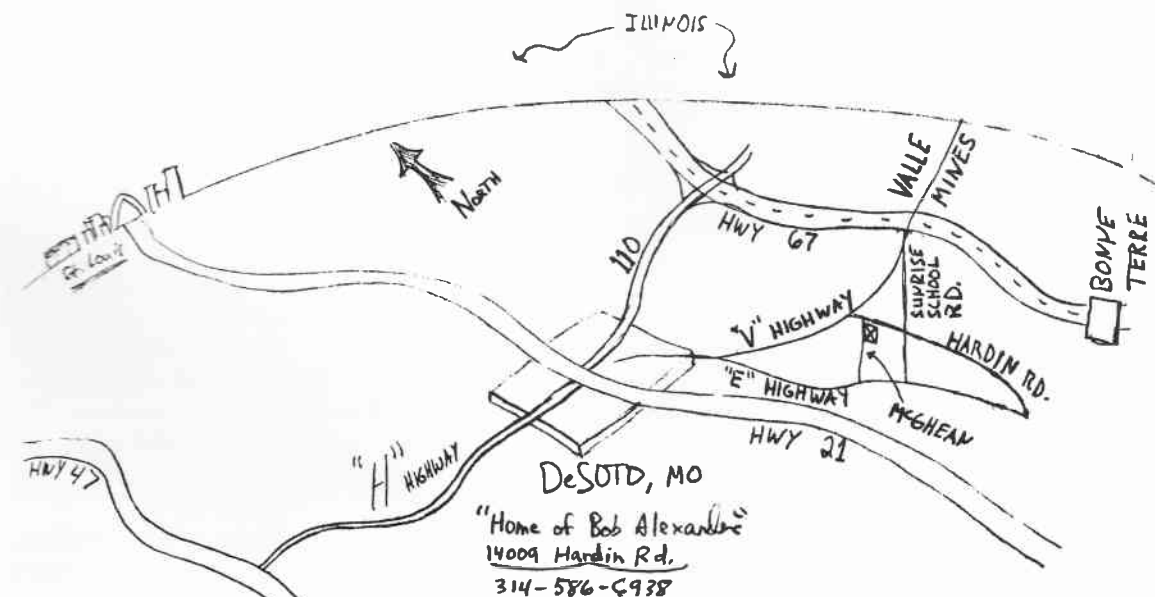
Next meeting is at Steve Stunkel's in Troy III. Trade item is a power hammer tool. This is Steve's first time as a host and I am looking forward to seeing his shop.

Hope all is well with everyone and see ya at the next meeting. Keep On Hammering,

— Bob Alexander



A pretty site is the finished coal bin with 24 tons of coal in it. When you need it Bob will have it bagged and ready to go.



Map to the
BAM coal
stash

BAM

JANUARY MEETING

by Jim McCarty

BAM's January meeting was again a fun event with barrelmaker Dale Kirby as the host at his A&K Cooperage in Higbee, Mo. I think as usual Dale had more fun than anyone. This time the event was better organized and we got to break in Dale's new gas forge. He told me Preston Williams helped with the design and it did a good job.

Dale uses it to heat a big cone-shaped tool he uses to burn the bung hole shape in his barrels. He showed us how this worked and it was almost as exciting as the anvil shoot we did two years ago. When he sticks the red hot tool into the hole pressure builds up inside the barrel. He pulls it out and smoke, steam and flame shoot out of the hole with a big WHOOSH! Lotsa fun.

Once again Dale had his workers make some barrels using the antique equipment he puts to work every day. He also showed us a new piece of equipment with a hefty price tag that puts the edge on his staves.

Meanwhile Phil Williamson got things started in the forge by making some nails on Dale's battered anvil. He got the anvil nice and warm for the next demonstrator, Pat McCarty.

Pat had tried the tongs shown in the September-October BAM newsletter and he wanted to show us how to make them. These tongs differ from most we have seen demoed in that they use flat stock instead of round or square.

An important part of Pat's demo seemed to be dropping the stock at critical moments which he assured us

added strength and beauty to the design. We remain skeptical however.

Enroute to a useful set of tongs, he demoed an interesting drawing technique which I think came from the Bob Patrick demo. The way it worked was to get a section drawn out that is the width of the anvil face. Then you take a little bite about an inch wide, hammering half on and half off the anvil. You continue taking little bites until all the stock is drawn out. This looked like a quick way to move stock as long as you keep it hot to avoid cold shuts.

Pat's tongs ended up in the Iron in the Hat.

John Murray showed up with an interesting piece of iron. John's been making English long bows and of course you can't shoot factory arrows in something hand made. So John did some reasearch in his usual in depth manner and found out how to forge iron arrowheads used in Medieval times.

When Pat got done John got to work demonstrating this technique. John had a little jar of stuff marked with Mr. Poison and a skull and cross bones. Turns out this is case hardening compound with some ingredients you don't want to mess with. (Maybe we should stick to something safe like anvil shooting?) John's arrowhead went to the iron in the hat, as did a Dale Kirby barrel that proved extremely popular.

Doug Hendrickson had just returned from a BAM funded trip to the Folk School where he took a lock-making class with Tom Latané. Doug had the results of his labor with him, a heart shaped lock that he could take apart to show off the inner workings. He promises a demo in July.

We had one of the best showings ever in the Iron in the Hat, over \$300. A new record? We all think so.

President Bob Alexander brought along 30 bags of coal from BAM's new stash and Bruce Herzog had the library set up. All in all, it was a pretty good day with the snow melting off before we left for home. Thanks to Dale for hosting us and to the Higbee Lion's Club for the food.

• Good show on trade items and iron in the hat (iron in the hat brought \$394, a new record?!!)

• Motion made to approve minutes as published.

• Bob Alexander spoke on two scholarships given to us by the John C. Campbell Folk School. One is for a basic class, one an advanced class (April 4-17). Check with Bob Alexander for more info. The basic class is available at any time during the year.

• BAM scholarships will be awarded at the '99 BAM Ozark Conference. Check with Scholarship Committee if interested.

• Bob mentioned a possible gas forge building workshop sometime in the future.

• Several members spoke on a workshop at Lou Mueller's shop at which Lou will demonstrate several Donald Streeter techniques — February 27.

• Bruce Herzog spoke on the possibility of buying a second sound system before the '99 conference. It would cost approximately \$600. A motion was made and approved to buy this.

• Another motion was made to buy some dry erase boards before the conference. Motion approved.

• Bob mentioned that coal is in stock and in the bin at his shop (24 tons).

• Thanks Bob and the other Bammers who helped in constructing the bin.

• Jim McCarty spoke on the State Fair. Call Jim, (573) 395-3304, if you would like to help demo.

• Reuben Funk spoke on his lecture on metallurgy at the Ozark Conference. Also his wife will put on a class in stained glass work.

• Bruce Herzog spoke on the 99 Conference and urged advance registration.

• Tim Underwood spoke on the auction at our conference — "We'll take anything."

• Bruce encouraged donations to the BAM Boutique at the 99 Conference.

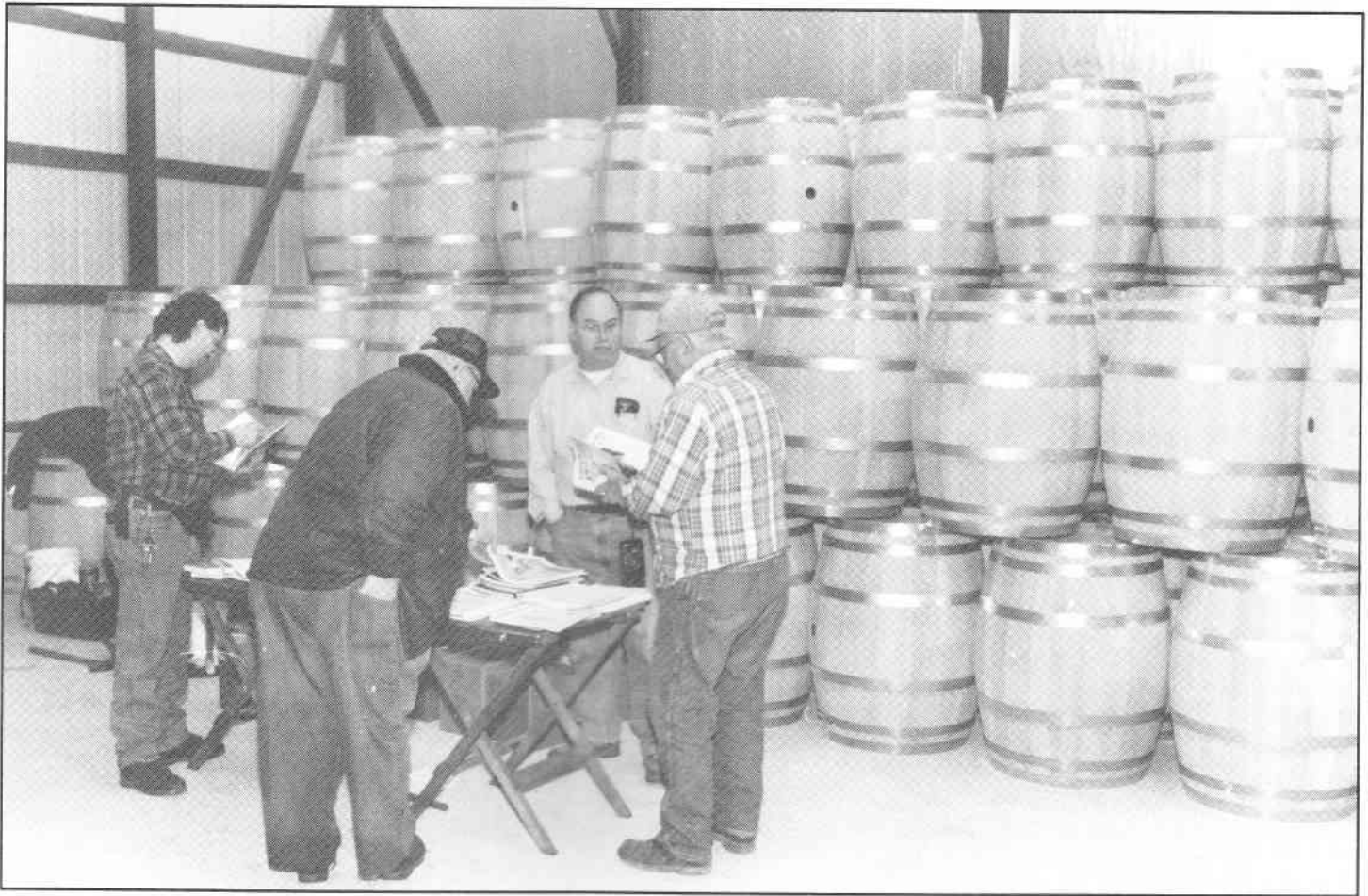
• Maurice Ellis spoke on registration for the conference. He has the details worked out and will send out a flyer to all BAM members.

• Happy birthday to Jim McCarty.

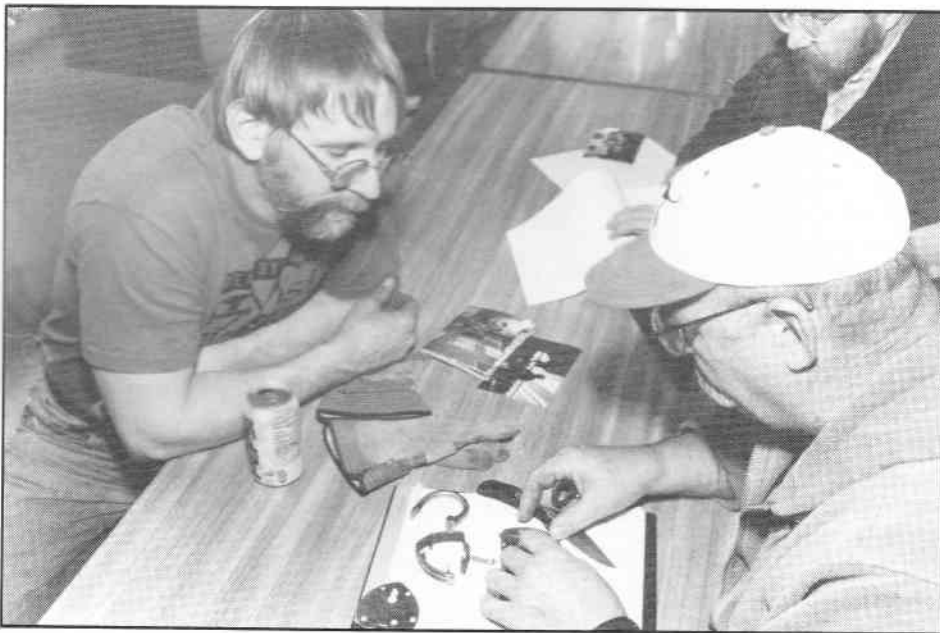
• Meeting adjourned

*Respectfully submitted,
John Murray, secretary*

Minutes

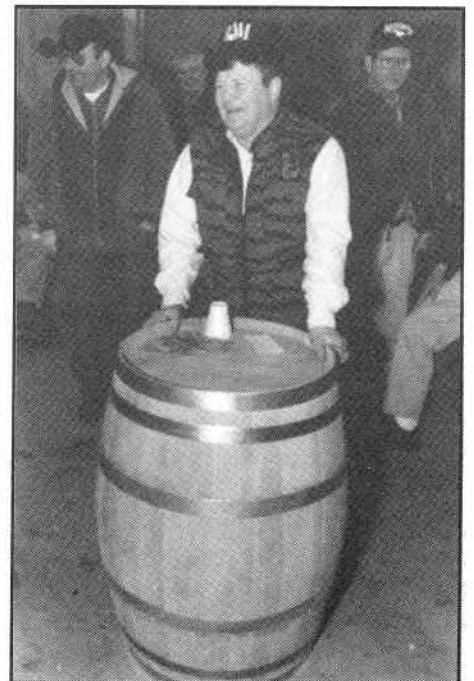


Above: Bruce Herzog held court with the BAM library in a room partially full of Dale's wine barrels. Our library has grown considerably since Bruce took it over from Ray Chaffin.



Above: Doug Hendrickson (right) shows off his lock made in a class he took with Tom Latané at the John C. Campbell Folk School to Pat McCarty. BAM sent Doug to school with a scholarship.

Below: Has anyone ever seen Dale Kirby when he wasn't having a good time? Dale was the host of the meeting held at his A&K Cooperage in Higbee, Mo.





President's Message to the Chapters February 1999

Dear ABANA Chapters & Members,

One of the advantages of being President is hearing from our members with so many good ideas. I would like to share a sample of one of these ideas with you. It comes from Ernie Dorrill, Vice President of the Mississippi Forge Council. They sent out a questionnaire, and although there is not enough room to publish the entire results of the survey, I wish to share a few of the results. (The answers may not apply to all the chapters.)

- | | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----|
| 1. Number of years associated: | | 5. Forging process technique and application: | |
| a. less than 5 | 40% | a. traditional | 32% |
| b. 5 to 15 | 31% | b. contemporary | --- |
| c. 15 or greater | 20% | c. combination | 68% |
| 2. Blacksmithing as income: | | 6. Primary heat source: | |
| a. full time | 19% | a. gas forge | 6% |
| (greater than 75% of income) | | b. coal forge | 90% |
| b. part time | 4% | c. combination | 4% |
| c. hobbyist | 77% | 7. What is the primary benefit from ABANA: | |
| 3. Primary interest at chapter meetings: | | a. publications | 93% |
| a. see friends | 3% | (<i>Anvil's Ring & Hammer's Blow</i>) | |
| b. education | 83% | b. biennial conference | 7% |
| (process & technique) | | 8. What sections of chapter's newsletter is | |
| 4. Exposure to wide variety of demonstrators: | | most beneficial: | |
| a. strongly agree | 70% | a. meetings & activities | --- |
| b. agree | 23% | b. shop talk - how to | 46% |
| c. neutral | 7% | c. president's message | --- |
| | | d. activity schedule | --- |
| | | e. all of the above | 54% |

I have been getting feedback from the membership for some time. And after reviewing this survey, it reinforces what I believed all along --education is the number one concern of our members. Demonstrations at our chapter meetings should be our first consideration along with handouts of drawings and descriptions of items, available books and supporting chapter newsletters with how-to projects.

As president of ABANA I intend to make education my priority for 1999. Also, I strongly urge each chapter to do a survey of their membership.

Lou Mueller
ABANA President



CHAPTER LIAISON NEWSLETTER

February
1999

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

CHAPTER INCORPORATION

Here is additional information about why your chapter should be incorporated.

On September 18, 1997, the federal "Volunteer Protection Act of 1997" (P.L. 105-19, 111 Stat. 218) became effective. Under the new law, "volunteers" (less than \$500/year compensation in addition to reimbursed expenses) including officers and directors of non-profit corporations are immune from suit with certain exceptions under state law. Even under the exceptions, a volunteer's exposure is limited to the amount of damages allocated to him/her (in contrast to liability for the whole judgement heretofore).

A "non-profit organization" under the new Act is either a 501c or a non-profit corporation. Chapters that have not yet complied with ABANA's request to incorporate under their state laws now have an additional motive to do so to protect the personal assets of their members, officers, and directors from civil liability.

CHAPTER NEWSLETTERS ARCHIVE

As mentioned in previous liaison letters, the chapter newsletters are collected by the ABANA Chapter Liaison and forwarded to the Metal Museum in Memphis, TN for historical records. Last month I listed the names of sixteen chapters who thought enough of their publication to have it archived. This month I can add six more chapters to this list:

Appalachian Blacksmiths Association
Mississippi Forge Council
Philip Simmons Artist-Blacksmith Guild
of South Carolina
Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmiths Assoc
Southwest Artist Blacksmiths Assoc
Western Reserve Blacksmith Association

There are currently fifty-nine chapters in ABANA, so what happened to the remaining thirty-seven newsletters? The address to use in sending your chapter newsletter or to add to your mailing list is:

ABANA Chapter Liaison
PO Box 238
Vilas, NC 28692

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ABANA will be letting new contracts for services in a couple of areas in the near future. Might it be time for a career change, or to have an outlet for your creative talents, maybe pick up a few coins for doing something you enjoy? Watch your *Hammer's Blow* and *Anvil's Ring* for details/specifications of the jobs along with submission requirements and dates.

Additional experience/training/employment may also be obtained by locating a willing employer/mentor by using the ABANA Journeyman Program. It is located in the ABANA web site. Go to www.ABANA.org and click on **Education** to find the **Journeyman Program**. A schools directory is also there.

BLACKSMITH EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

I just returned from a week of blacksmithing classes. It's amazing how much one can learn in addition to the taught subject when you are together with a bunch of other folks who like to "bang iron". Consider taking a class this year. There are forty-three schools listed on the ABANA web site who offer instruction for all levels of smiths. No funds to go to school? Then consider an application for a scholarship from ABANA or your local chapter. Scholarship funds are available and some go begging each year for lack of a student who did not apply.

ABANA applications can be obtained by writing to: ABANA, PO Box 206, Washington, MO 63090. Contact one of your chapter officers for how you can apply for their scholarships. Most scholarships only ask for a newsletter article and demonstration of what you learned as "repayment". You can double up your scholarships and end up paying for all your tuition, room, board and supplies.

WHERE'S MY HAMMER'S BLOW?

Your SUMMER 1998 issue of the *Hammer's Blow* is now being mailed. You may have it in hand by the time you read this liaison letter. The mailing date for the FALL 1998 issue is still undetermined at the time of this writing.

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

1-36" forge built from two steel wagon wheels and designed to be brick lined with a large duck in the middle with hand blower. 1-small, three legged pan forge with hand blower. 1-170lb Kohlsua anvil in excellent shape. 1-leg vice. 1-post drill-press. Numerous hand tools. 1 horizontal/vertical band saw. 1 S. Bader 2HP 72" belt grinder with several attachments and belts
Mark Jackson, 4537 N.Farm Rd., Willard, MO 65781; (417) 742-0133 (evenings); e-mail Mark-N0OCW@worldnet.att.net or mjackson15@juno.com

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.

Mike Boone is selling his property in Dolores, CO. It is 1.39 acres, with a 20' x 60' working shop. The property is on the Dolores River (both sides) and backs up to the San Juan National Forest and BLM land on the other. It is a beautiful place and would be an excellent place for a blacksmith to move. There is plenty of high-end

work in nearby Telluride, CO. Mike Boone, Boone Wrought Iron, 19838 HWY. 145, Dolores, CO 81323; Phone/fax 970.882.4019; e-mail boonewi@frontier.net

50-pound Little Giant, \$2,500, 25-pound Little Giant, \$1,800, Pexto 36-inch pneumatic bench shear with extra set of blades, \$1,700, all parts for Clay Spencer-style treadle hammer, \$400, 5 fly presses from \$1,800 to \$2,500, 225-pound Hay-Budden anvil, \$400, heavy duty floor crane, \$400. Andrew MacDonald, 401 E Kenicott, Carbondale, IL 62901; (618) 549-1954.

Nazel 3-B, very good condition, \$12,000 with free shipping anywhere in the continental United States. Can mail photo on request. Bruce Wallace, Wallace Metalwork, 1 Blacksmith Lane, Kempton, PA 19529; (610) 756-3377.

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.

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.

Donnie Briggs has coal for sale in the Linn Creek (Lake of the Ozarks) area. Call (573) 346-6023 for details. Call after 4:30 pm or leave a message.

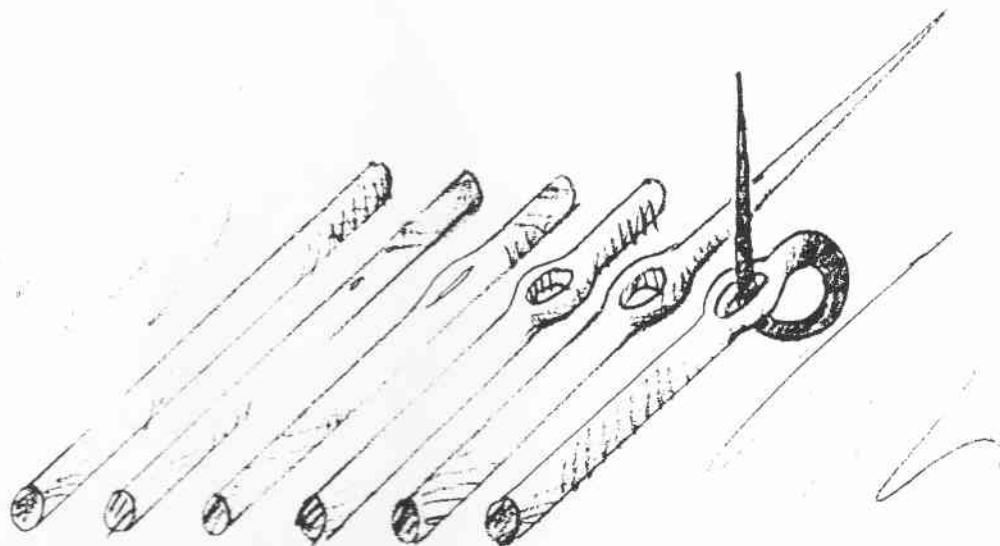
Jerry Hoffmann now has a nice line of blacksmith related T-shirts for sale. They come in a variety of colors and include the famous nude men striking, EZ Weld ad, Bradley Power Hammers, Hot Art and more. For a brochure drop him a line at the Blacksmiths Journal, PO Box 193, Washington, MO 63090 or call 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.

For blacksmithing books contact Norm Larson, 5426 E. Hwy. 246, Lompoc, CA 93436 or call (805) 735-2095. Ask for his catalog — he offers hundreds of books on blacksmithing and related topics and is a real nice guy too.

1999 OZARK BLACKSMITH CONFERENCE FORGING CONTEST----THREAD THE NEEDLE

Suggested by Walt Hull



1. 20" X 3/8" round stock
2. center punched 5" from end
3. slit on center punch
4. drift open to 3/8 round
5. draw taper
6. thread the needle

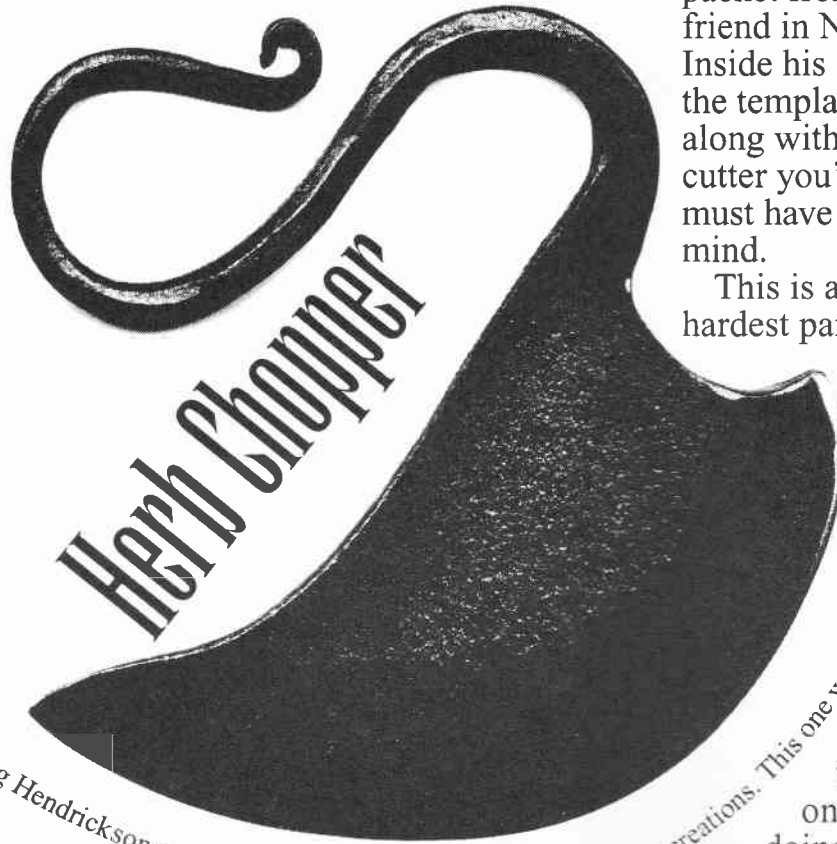
The task must be completed within 6 minutes and use no more than 4 heats. Your time will begin with your first hammer blow and end 6 minutes later.

The winner is whomever draws the most of his/her taper through the eye. You may not forge the taper after it has been inserted into the eye.

You may use only the tools and iron supplied by BAM: Hammer, anvil, tongs, slitting chisel, drift and center punched 20" length of 3/8" round.

Prizes: 1st John Murray hand hammer, 2nd \$40, 3rd \$30, 4th \$20, 5th 10 6th \$5

SIGN UP AT REGISTRATION DESK



Doug Hendrickson earns his living (no really) making these nifty creations. This one was forged by the editor

very
E once in
awhile I
get a chance
to slip away to the
shop. That's when The
Anvil's Ring is at the printer,
the BAM newsletter is caught
up, the kids are asleep and the
neighbors are away, the moon
is in the 7th house and Jupiter
aligns with Mars . . . you get
the picture. Anyway, when all
this comes together I have to
strike, as the saying goes,
while the iron is hot. I seldom
have time to plan things out
and pretty much just get a fire
going and stick the first piece
of iron that looks forgeable
into it.

Well, the planets lined up
and I got an opportunity the
last weekend in January. The
fire was roaring, the smoke
had cleared and what came to
mind, but a small piece of leaf
spring. I knew what to do with
it — a Dr. Iron herb chopper,
inspired by the onions I had

cut up
earlier for a pizza.

I had to do this from memo-
ry and using the stock at hand
I think mine is a little wider
than the doctor's. What you do
is cut the shape, draw out the
tang and then just forge the
cutting edge. As you hammer
the blade gets a nice curve to
it. If you work real close to
the anvil edge you can forge
the edge real close, leaving
only a little filing or grinding
to finish.

Keep in mind that Dr. Iron
uses mild steel for his piece.
The tool steel I used was
overkill and real tough to
forge.

As luck would have it, once
I finished the piece I went to
the mailbox and there was a

packet from Doug Merkel, our
friend in North Carolina.
Inside his care package was
the template for the chopper,
along with a T-handled veggie
cutter you'll want to try. Doug
must have been reading my
mind.

This is an easy project. The
hardest part is cutting the

blank. I did
this with a
hot cut,
cutting
almost
through and
then bending
in the vise
until it broke.

If you're care-
full you can get
two blanks from
one piece. Since I was
doing this from memory
my blank looked a lot dif-
ferent than Mr. Merkel's.

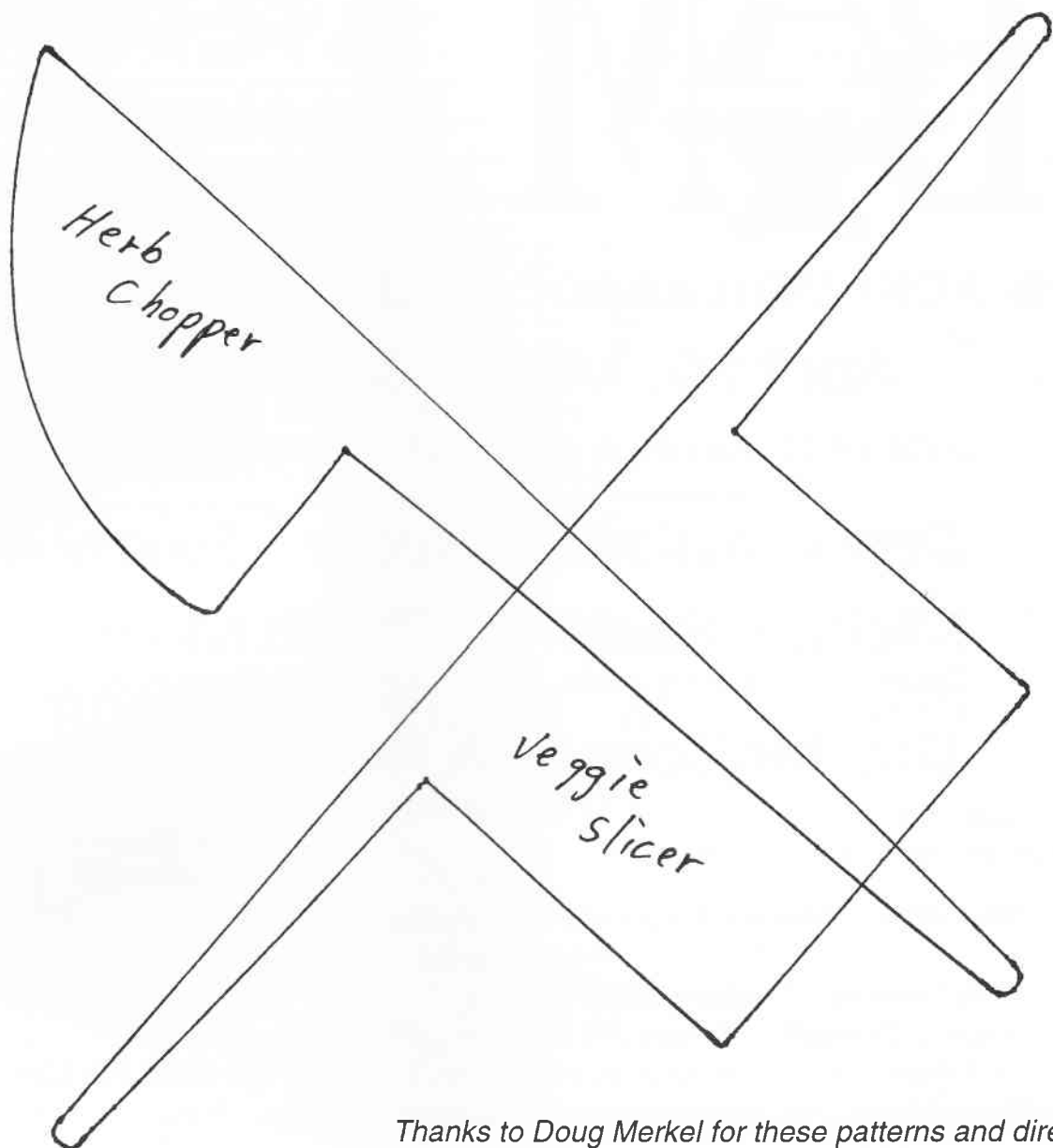
To make that easier see Bill
Irvin's ad in the Bulletin
Board section of this issue.
Bill can plasma cut the blanks
for you so all you have to do
is draw out the handle and
shape to your style.

Bill's a BAM member so he
will already have the patterns.

See the next page for more
directions and the full-size
patterns.

The image above is the full-
size piece I forged. I laid it on
the glass of my scanner and
scanned it directly into the
computer. Thanks to Gene
Chapman of the Northwest
Blacksmiths Association for
this idea.

— Jim McCarty



Thanks to Doug Merkel for these patterns and directions

Directions for making an herb chopper/veggie slicer:

Stock is 1/4 to 3/16 mild steel. Taper handles and round up. (You can leave profile square and twist if you like.) Leave straight for now. Forge/taper blade, keeping flat. Bend handles into desired shape. Wire brush to remove all scale. Grind or belt sand edge profile and then taper to edge. Put final edge on with belt sander or fine file. Flame color or leave plain. If you want to finish use vegetable or olive oil. Pam spray works nice. I like to clean it real good, dry, spray with Pam and then put it in a hot oven for awhile.

When you get it out wipe it real good and let it cool. After it sits for awhile wipe again and add more oil if necessary. Always finish food prep items with non-toxic finishes.

Note: My blank was quite a bit wider than this one and was cut to a straight line before shaping. I also had to do a lot more drawing out.

For a real nice touch carve a little wooden bowl that fits the shape of your herb chopper. Then grow a few herbs to complete the ensemble. This would make a nice Ozark Conference auction item . . .

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

Guy McConnell & Ken Markley
Knifemaking

Also

Tailgaters - Centaur Forge - BAM Boutique
Friday Evening

Slide Lecture - Michael Saari

Forging Contest - Thread the Needle - Doug Hendrickson

- Prizes: 1st - John Murray Hammer, 2nd \$40, 3rd \$30, 4th \$20, 5th \$10

Basic Metallurgy for Blacksmiths Lecture - Rueben Funk

Saturday

Family Program

- Make a Jointed, Acrylic Fur, 15" Blacksmith Bear - Mary Laubinger
- 5" X 5" Stained Glass Suncatcher - Leigh Funk

Saturday Evening

Auction with Tim Ryan

- Donated Auction Items Gladly Accepted

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

Friday Evening and Saturday Evening will be Open to the Public

Family Program - Blacksmith Bear \$35.00 - Stain Glass \$8.00

Saturday Lunch - \$3.50 Saturday Dinner Buffet - \$7.25

Pre-Registration is Required by April 1, 1999 for Meals & Family Program

Send Registration to Maurice Ellis

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

You Must Pre-Register for Saturday Meals & Family Program by **April 1, 1999**
 Pre-Register Will Guarantee Quick Checkin and Preprinted Name Tags
 Sunday Lunch will be Available for Purchase Only on Site
 Conference Registration will also be Available on Site
Send Your Registration to Maurice Ellis – Rt. 1, Box 1442, Belgrade, MO 63622

	Cost	Qty	Total
One Day Registration	\$25.00		
Two Day Registration	\$35.00		
Spouse and Children Registration	\$0		
Saturday Lunch – BBQ Beef, Salad & Potato Wedges	\$3.50		
Saturday Dinner Buffet with Dessert	\$7.25		
Family Prog.– Bear Making – Classes Limited 5–6 Hours	\$35.00		
Family Prog. – Stain Glass – Classes Limited 3–4 Hours	\$8.00		

Make Check Payable to Blacksmith Association of Missouri Total _____

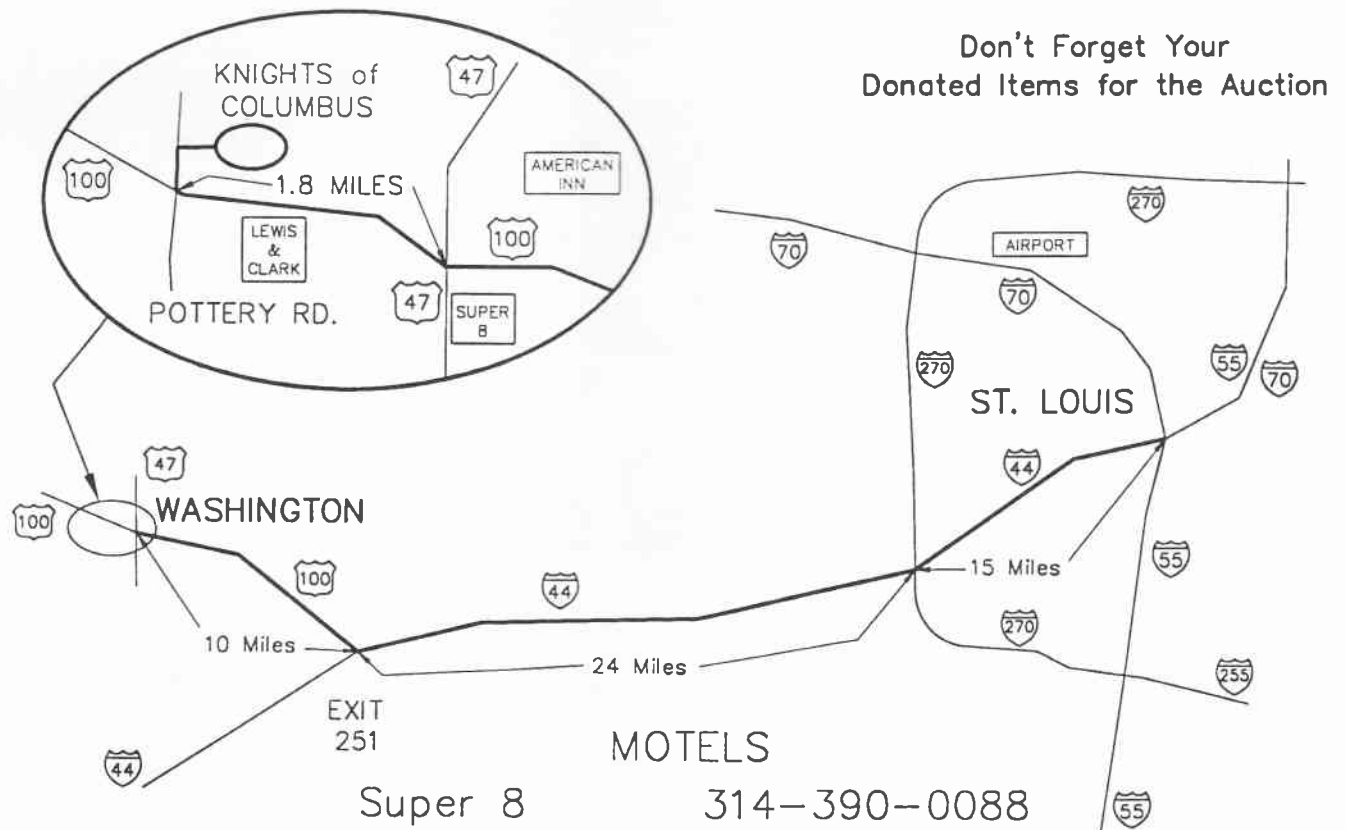
Name _____

Attending Family Member's Names _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

----- Cut or Copy and Mail in Registration -----

April 30, May 1 & 2, 1999



Don't Forget Your Donated Items for the Auction

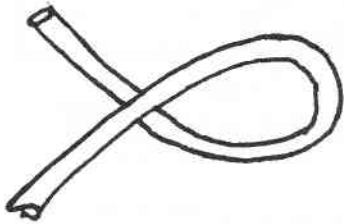
MOTELS
 Super 8 314-390-0088
 Lewis & Clark 314-239-0111
 American Inn 314-239-3172
 Camping Available

Jim —

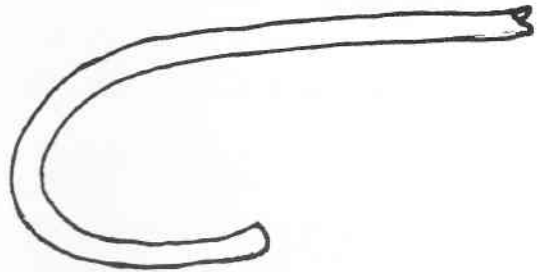
AS PROMISED SO LONG AGO, HERE'S THAT "CELTIC KNOT" YOU ASKED ABOUT.

THIS IS A REAL KNOT, AND ITS NAME IS THE CARRICK BEND, USED FOR JOINING TWO ROPES. IT'S NOT MUCH USED, BUT IT IS VERY DECORATIVE. THERE'S NO MAGIC TRICK FOR MAKING IT THAT I'VE FOUND — YOU'VE JUST GOTTA DO IT. TRY IT FIRST IN ROPE.

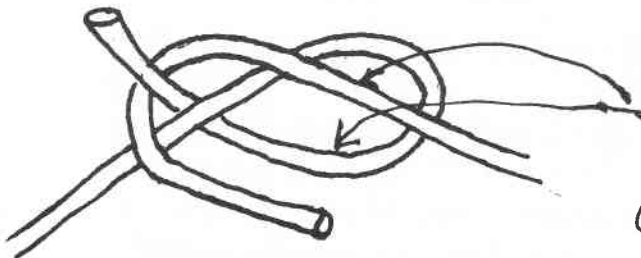
① MAKE A BIGHT IN ONE PIECE OF, SAY, $\frac{3}{8}$ " ϕ BAR:



② BEND A LOOSE HOOK IN ANOTHER PIECE:

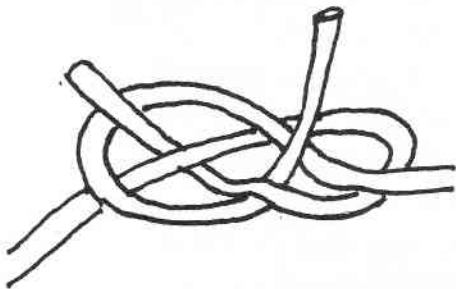


③ PUT THEM TOGETHER LIKE THIS:

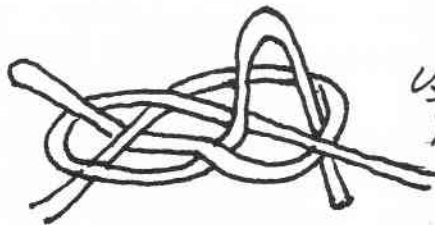


④ BEND THIS UP A LITTLE,
AND THIS DOWN A LITTLE, AND

⑤ PASS THE END UNDER AND UP:

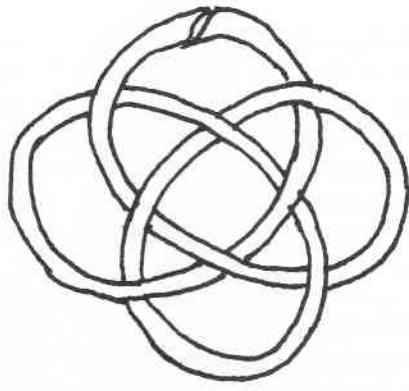


THEN ⑥ BEND IT OVER AND PASS IT
DOWN THRU THAT LAST HOLE:

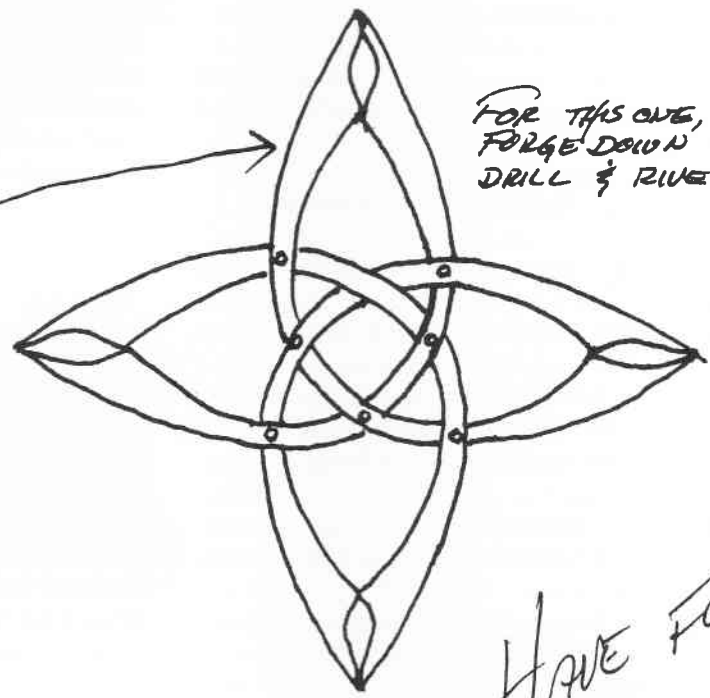


USE HAMMER, VICE, FLAT, TONGS, WHATEVER, TO WORK THE KNOT UP NICE AND SYMMETRICAL. YOU CAN WELD SOME PINS

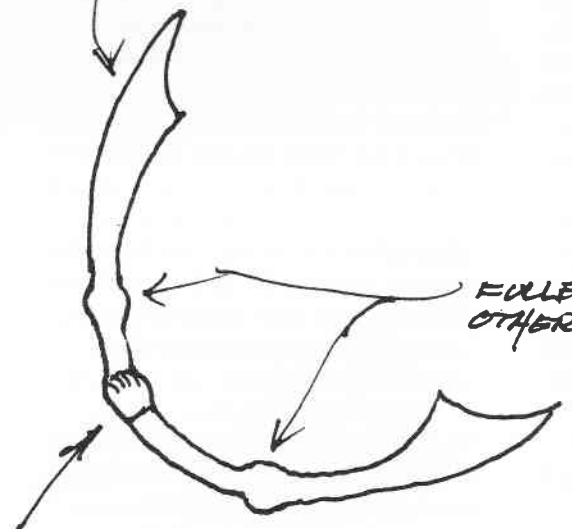
TO A BIG PIECE OF PLATE TO MAKE A JIG TO TRUE IT UP ON. USE THE GAS FORGE FOR A GENERAL, EVEN HEAT AND THE RECH FOR SPOT TWEAKING.



OR YOU CAN TIE IT IN THE ENDS OF A SINGLE BARE AND WELD THE ODD ENDS TOGETHER.



FOR THIS ONE, MAKE 4 IDENTICAL PCS., FORGE DOWN AT THE CROSSINGS, AND DRILL & RIVET.



FULLER FROM OTHER SIDE

FULLER FROM THIS SIDE

HAVE FUN!
AK

BAM

SHOP TIPS

so it sticks together when you press it. You are really lining the forge with sand, stuck together with clay. I pack this mess together by hammering with a stick of wood or mallet.

My forge is made of wood, lined with about 2 inches of sand/clay mix. Works just fine! When (not if, when) it cracks I just mud in some mix for repairs. Cracking is usually from hammering out clinkers, replacing grate bars (mudded in place), etc. Oh, in the "duck's nest" where the hottest fire is, I have about 4 inches of sand/clay.

— Morgan Hall
Wilsonville, Oregon

Earn your merit badge

Some time ago I saw a request for the requirements of the Blacksmith Merit Badge of the Boy Scouts. Last Saturday we picked up a Fifth Edition printed in January 1951. The following was found on page 468 in the Merit Badge section:

Blacksmithing

1. Make an open link of 3/8 inch stock.
2. Forge a chain hook out of 3/4 x 1/2 inch soft steel, or 3/4-inch round iron.
3. Make a bolt of 1/2 inch stock.
4. Bend and weld three links and form them into a chain, these links to be fastened to the hook of Requirement 2 by a ring, and links and ring to be made out of 3/8 inch round iron.
5. Make a straight lap weld of 1/4 x 1 inch stock.
6. Make a cold chisel out of 5/8 inch hexagonal tool steel.
7. Temper a rock drill.
8. Explain how to harden and temper a cold chisel.

— John Brozovsky

Free round cylinders

Another awesome free source for large round cylinders is old water heaters. Check the junkyard

and try to find one that is not too heavy. I've got six of them in the yard; gonna weld them end-to-end and make a chimney for my coal forge.

— Philip Habib

Books for beginners

I've posted this before a while back, but it seems we have some new people looking for information. These are books I have in my library and I've found them to be quite useful. To the new smiths, Read all you can and then find a local group to get involved with. This will get you going in the right direction.

— Rob Fertner

"New Edge of the Anvil" by Jack Andrews (Skipjack Press) ISBN 1-879535-09-2 \$25

"The Complete Modern Blacksmith" by Alexander G. Weygers (Ten Speed Press) ISBN 0-89815-896-6 \$20

"Practical Blacksmithing and Metalworking, 2nd Edition" by Percy W. Blandford (TAB Books) ISBN 0-8306-2894-0 \$19

"Basic Blacksmithing - An introduction to toolmaking" by David Harries and Bernhard Heer (Intermediate Technology Publications) ISBN 1-85339-195-6 \$28

"A Blacksmithing Primer - A course in basic and intermediate blacksmithing" by Randy McDaniel (Dragonfly Enterprises) ISBN 0-9662589-0-8 \$20

"The Blacksmith - Ironworker and Farrier" by Aldren A. Watson (W.W.Norton & Co.) ISBN 0-393-30683-6 \$15

"Professional Smithing" by Donald Streeter (The Astragal Press) ISBN 1-879335-66-2 \$23

This last one has been reprinted (Norm Larson carries it) but I have

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

Questions about clay

Q: I have devised a small forge, problem being is I don't know what to line it with. It is too small to be lined with fire bricks and I know nothing about clay. Do I have to buy a special clay or can any old clay be used like art clay?

— Heath Muirhead

A: Any old clay works just fine. I use clay from my garden. I just dig down about 2 feet (under the topsoil) and dig up the thick, goopy stuff from there. Look at a construction site. You'll probably see the slick clay down about a foot or two. Use that. Don't use surface dirt, it has too much organic material.

Add a LOT of sand to it. If you can't find free or very cheap sand, get sand in a bag from a building supply place. Mix 3 parts of sand to 1 part of clay by volume. Mix it up thoroughly and add just enough water

the original edition, so I don't know if publisher and ISBN are still the same.

"Practical Projects for the Blacksmith" by Ted Tucker (Rodale Press) ISBN 0-87857-312-7

Editor's note: To this list I would certainly add Alex Bealer's "The Art of Blacksmithing" and Charlie Sutton's new book "Under the Spreading Chestnut Tree". Also any of what used to be called the COSIRA books (Council on Small Industries in Rural Areas), now the Rural Development Commission, are excellent basic texts. All are available from Norm Larson Books at 5426 E. Hwy. 246, Lompoc, CA 93436 or call (805) 735-2095 or from Centaur Forge, PO Box 340-A, 117 N. Spring St., Burlington, WI 53105 or call (414) 763-9175.

Why "old styles" are better

Why old style Little Giants are better? They have "V" guides and the guides lined up vertically with the crank pin when the hammer is at rest. When the crank turns the ram moves up and down in the "V" guides in a smooth motion.

New style LG's have dove tail guides. The guides are to either side of the crank pin. When the crank turns the ram does not move as smoothly. The crank is pushing and pulling on the ram in the guides at the top and bottom of the stroke. New LG's tend to wear guide at the top and bottom because of this motion. When the guides wear the hammer will operate erratic. You can try to adjust the erratic behavior out of the hammer. What often happens is the ram will become tight in the middle of the stroke and it could even make the hammer run worse. It's better to have the hammer run loose than too tight and keep them well oiled. A good mix is 3 parts grease to 1 part 30 weight motor oil, mixed up and applied with a brush to the ram guides.

— Bruce R. Wallace

However it's rolled . . .

All rolled steel starts as hot rolled (HR) and this is the most common form. Most of what we as blacksmiths use today is A36, which is designed for structural use. You find it in square, round and flats as wells as angles and channels etc.

Hot rolled can be other than A36, but this is most common today. Most spring stock, for example is found as hot rolled, much of it 5160. Cold rolled (CR) is in general a 1020 steel which has been rolled part way down as hot rolled, then the scale (black oxide) is removed through pickling and then it is rolled the rest of the way to finish size by cold rolling, rolling at or near room temperature. It will be harder than hot rolled and somewhat stronger, as it already has some amount of cold work in it. It is not black.

Cold rolled can be other than 1020 — i.e. it can be 1045, or even alloy steels. Most round stock for lathe work, for example, is cold finished and comes in many grades and alloys. If you live where you find drops from machine shops at the scrap yard, in many cases this could be alloy steel, dependent on what the shop has been making. (One time I got a load of 4140 in 1/2 and 9/16 dia. about 3 to 4 feet long. Wish there was more, took all that they had.)

For smaller items I really like starting with cold rolled 1020, because it is just that, 1020 and not A36. If you can find 1008 in round smaller sizes (used for nail making) it is great stuff because of the very low carbon.

— Dave Smucker

The copper page

I wanted to share this website with everyone. It's called The Copper Page and was produced by The Copper Development Association:

<http://www.copper.org/homepage.htm>

It answered just about every question I had about copper (and some questions I didn't even know I wanted to

ask!

— James Cosgrove

Hot salt quench

Hot salts ain't salt water or mouth wash. It is two salts. One is low temp, (sodium nitrate and potassium nitrate). Looks like regular salt. It melts at about 250 degrees. Working range up to 900 degrees. High Temp salts is sodium boride I think. Have to look at paper work to be sure. Anywho, it melts at about 900 degrees I think, working range up to about 1850 degrees.

You need a high-temp pot to dip your piece in to heat it up above critical then you quench in the low temp salt. There ain't no scaling or other nasty stuff that happens when steel is heated in air. This hardens the steel and provides a temper that is determined by the temp of the low temp salt quench. In other words, if quenched in 200 degree low temp salt the hardness would be "greater" than if quenched at 450 degrees.

Got it?? I have been using it for a few months and so far I like it pretty good. It is not for "all" smithing applications by any stretch of the imagination. It is, however, pretty fine for what I am doing. The "low"temp salt is in actuality gun blueing salts. I'm not really an expert on it yet, but I do have some material source info, and using tips, and equipment sources, and advice to share if anybody is wanting to mess with it.

Brownells gun supply has the low temp. About \$80 for about 3 gallons dry, shipping included. Jeff Carlisle has the high temp, call 1-800-378-1246. \$10 gets you a large coffee can full.

That's the "cheap part". I use an electric kiln with a programmable cycle to control the high temp salts, about \$850, and a hot plate (\$25) with a programmable controller and pyrometer to do the low temp, about \$200. It is probably not for everyone, but it works for me and I enjoy messin' with the toys.

— Roy Warden

BAM NEWS

Smith needed for Bealer Forge

A position is open at the Bealer Forge in Historic Westville Village in Lumpkin Georgia. Westville is known as the birthplace of ABANA and the forge is named for Alex Bealer, ABANA's founder.

The position pays a salary which is negotiable and includes 90 percent contribution on a health plan. The village draws 45,000 visitors a year.

For more information write to Westville, PO Box 1850, Lumpkin, GA 31815 or call (912) 838-6310.

ABANA scholarships

Did you know ABANA offers scholarships? That's just another benefit of membership. If you are interested in applying contact BAM President Bob Alexander, he has applications. You can also get in touch with any board member.

New meeting dates

Two of our meeting dates for 1999 have been changed. They are: The July meeting is changed to July 10 at Bob Alexander's in DeSoto, Mo. and the September meeting has been changed to September 11 at Ray Chaffin's in Warsaw, Mo. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Auction items needed

With the Ozark Conference coming up, it's time

to start work on your auction item. We need all kinds of items both large and small to make the auction a success. Last year we raised around \$7,000. This goes to fund the coal purchase, the newsletter and to give us money for the next conference and any workshops we have throughout the year. Tim Underwood is in charge of auction items. If you can't make it to the conference get them to Tim and he will deliver. He says please don't ship them as they might end up sitting outside all day.

We also need donations to the BAM boutique, which is our store run by Ruth Hull and Mara Harper. These items should be under \$20 and can be blacksmith made items, crafts or anything of interest to our members and their families. Thanks in advance.

Folk School scholarship

The good folks at the John C. Campbell Folk School have again honored us with a Tuition only scholarship to attend one of their classes during 1999. The scholarship is on a "space available" basis so you will have to be flexible. Material costs,

housing and meals are not included. We will draw names for the scholarship at the next BAM meeting. If you can't make it give Bob Alexander a call at (314) 586-5350 (shop) or (314) 586-6938 (home). Thanks to the Folk School for the donation.

Joe Baer doing OK

Our good friend Joe Baer suffered a heart attack this winter but reports he is doing fine. Says Joe, "I want to thank all the well wishers and prayers that I received while I was down. The prayers seemed to have worked as I am getting stronger each day. I am able to drive now but unable to work in the shop yet. It will be a couple months before they can accurately assess permanent heart damage. If anyone is in the area stop in. I always have time for friends."

Forging on the River

The River Bluff Forge Council is again sponsoring their Forging on the River conference at the National Ornamental Metals Museum in Memphis, TN March 26-28. It will feature demonstrations by: Scott Lankton, Brad Silberberg, Hoss Haley and Steve Yusko. Pre-registration until March 12th Full weekend: Pre-registration \$60 / at the door \$75. One day admission: Pre-registration \$35 / at the door \$40. Meals only ticket (not attending the demonstrations): full weekend \$20. Student Discount of 30% offered with valid student ID. TO REGISTER: Send checks payable to River Bluff Forge Council, to: Ray Tanner, Treasurer, 450 North Avon Road, Memphis TN 38117-1809, (901) 682-9771. Remember the preregistration deadline is March 12 postmark. QUESTIONS: Any and all questions should be directed to: Jill Brogdon, President of the River Bluff Forge Council, PO Box 1067, Memphis, TN 38101, (901) 529-1580. Or e-mail to: timbrogdon@mindspring.com

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL BLACKSMITHS' CONFERENCE

MAY 13-14-15, 1999

MADISON, GEORGIA

LIONS CLUB FAIRGROUNDS

REGISTRATION ----- Begins at Noon Thursday
Social at Morgan Madison Cultural Center-Thursday
Awards Banquet Thursday Evening

DEMONSTRATORS-----Begin Friday at 8 am
Manfred Brehdol Frank Turley
Page Davis Ward Grossman

AUCTION-Fri Eve ----- Demo Items Sat Eve.

Green Coal Classes-----Family Programs

Iron-in-the-Hat Show and Tell

(Please bring or send items)

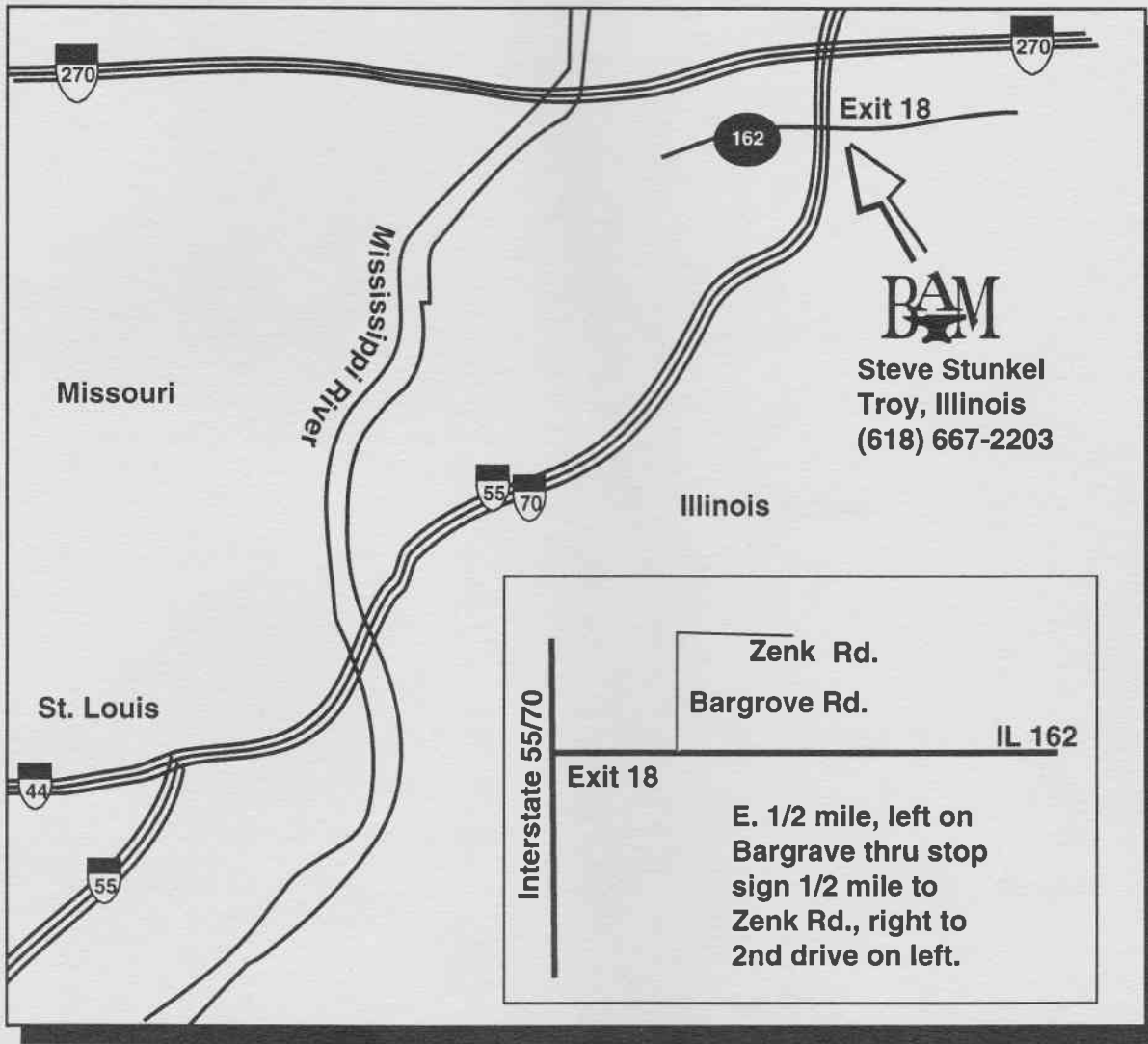
Camping on Site--FREE

Tailgate Space-----Tool Vendors Available

Special Guest Francis Whitaker will have
copies of his new book, Beautiful Iron

Contact for further info Mitchell Latsch
423-344-3306 --mjmlat@aol.com

Next Meeting March 13, Steve Stunkel's, Troy, Illinois



Steve Stunkel is the host for BAM's March meeting to be held at his shop in Troy, Ill. on March 13. Steve will have lunch on hand for us and plenty of demos to fill up the day, including: Basic Oxy/Acet. burning, arc welding for beginners or experts, brass candleholders, cast iron welding, leaf forg-

ing, fences and gates on rotating jig, metallurgy, scroll jigs and forging a ram's head.

directions are: Take Interstate 270 or Interstate 55/70 to the junction with Illinois 162 (Exit 18 off 55/70). Go east 1/2 mile to Bargrove. Turn north or left on Bargrove. Go through the stop sign 1/2 mile to Zenk Rd. Turn

right on Zenk and go to the second drive on the left. Watch for the signs.

The trade item is some kind of power hammer tool. As usual bring something for the iron in the hat and anything you have for sale. See you in Troy, Illinois on March 13. (Anyone going to Troy, Missouri will be sorely disappointed.)



1999 Schedule

March Meeting

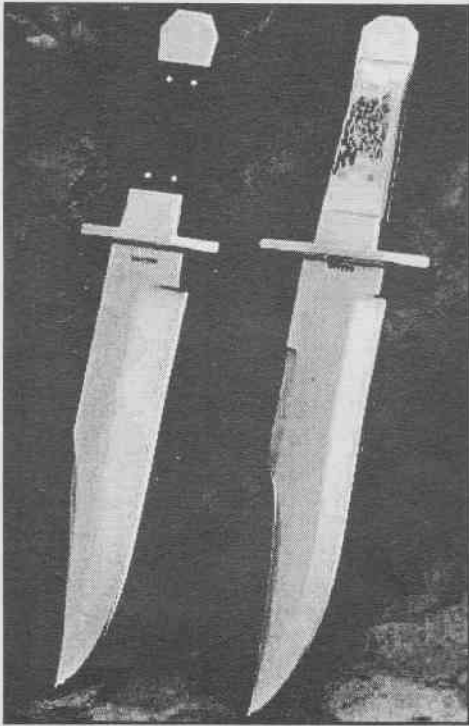
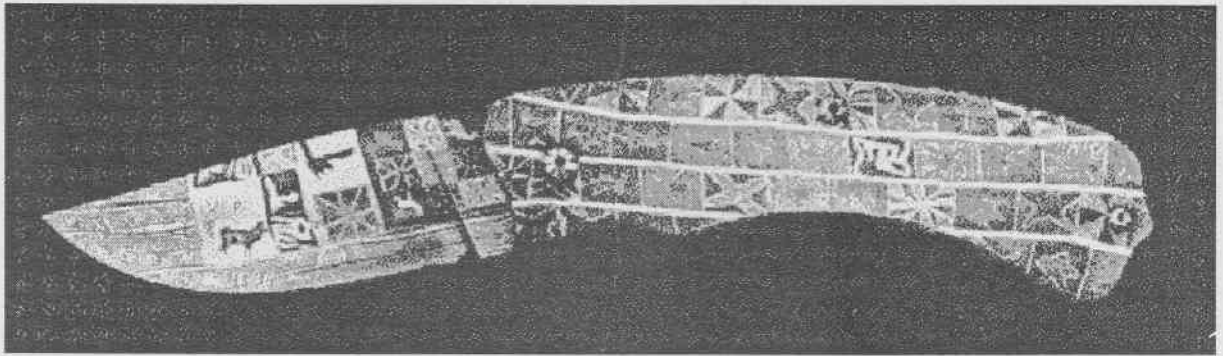
Steve Stunkel
Troy, Ill.
March 13, 1999
Trade: Power hammer tool

May 1999 Meeting

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

July Meeting

Bob Alexander
DeSoto, MO
July 10
Trade item: Corkscrew



Roy Warden Knives

I really don't think Roy Warden gets enough credit for the fine knives he creates. so if I have to be a one-man fan club so be it. Here are a couple shots of some of the master's latest, a pair of Bowies at left and a first for the maker, an all mosaic automatic. Roy is especially proud of the latter and we can see why. Now how did he get that little elk in that blade? These photos don't do the real thing justice. Here's hoping Roy brings some knives to the next meeting.

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