

### July-August 2003



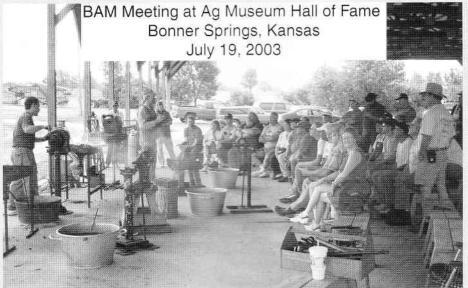
Left to R: Clay Spencer

Pres Joe

Tracy McCarty

Maurice Ellis

Pat McCarty



Demo by Walt Hull

Assisted by Chilton Ng

www.bamsite.org

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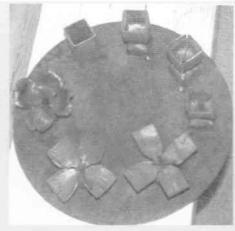
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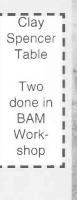
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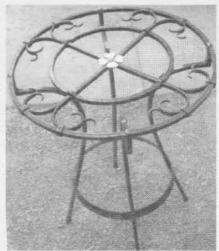
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Flower Bases by Kirk Sullens







#### Letters to the Editor

Ned, welcome aboard. I know that for someone without professional experience, Jim will be a hard act to follow, but I am sure you will have lots of support from the membership. Don't be afraid to remind people that it takes lots of input to make a good newsletter possible. Kirk Sullens

I just received your first newsletter and am tickled at what you pulled together. Please change my ad, as noted, and good luck with the learning curve. Stephen McGehee, Irony Publisher

This may be used any time you desire. Jim Thomas
(Note: Jim sent info on a portable anvil stand, sharpening a cross cut saw, and Civil War era wrought iron hitching posts.

#### Letters to the Membership

Dear BAM members.

I know you all love to attend as many meetings as you can, and I try ro schedule in as diverse locations as I can so everyone has a couple of chances each year to come without driving outrageous distances.

It's impossible for me to schedule meetings in such a way that no one has to choose between coming to the BAM meeting or doing something else. Indeed, even when you don't have other options, you still have to choose whether to come or not. I hope you understand that it's not my job to make everyone happy all the time, but only to try to make everyone happy some of the time.

I am starting my third year of scheduling meetings, and on the surface the job doesn't appear too hard. But then, you've got to find someone with enough shop space, who's willing to host; maybe help line up demonstrators; get them to decide on trade items; and get them to send a map and directions to the editor and webmaster, all in time to get the info into people's hands in a timely fashion. I hope I've done OK so far, but if I'm flagging, I'd be happy for an assist. In the meantime, I hope I'm not booked too solid to make it to the next meeting (choices, choices), and I will talk to you there. *Kirk Sullens (Raoul)* 

The meeting in Kansas was just about the best thing I have been to since Uncle Hune died and all the neighbors threw a party, because now he couldn't borrow any more of their tools. *Shad Lowdermilk* 

# Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri

Volume 20 No. 4

July - August 2003

President's Message JoeWilkinson

Editor

Ned Digh

Computer Assistant

Eric Qualls

**Photo Contributions** 

Bess Ellis - Ruth Hull

**Bob Stormer** 

**Editorial Review Panel** 

Bess Ellis Bruce Herzog Phyllis Wilkinson

Mailing Labels
Bruce Herzog

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:Ned Digh, PO Box 765, Fulton,MO 65251 or email to

bameditor@ktis.net BAM membership inquiries should be addressed to: Bruce Herzog, 2212 Aileswick Dr., St. Louis, MO 63129; (314) 892-4690 or send e-mail to bjherzog@msn.com. 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**

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Send this form in an envelope with your payment to:

BAM,

c/o Bruce Herzog

2212 Aileswick Dr.,

St. Louis, MO 63129

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**2nd Vice President** Ed Harper

**Secretary** John Murray

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Website www.bamsite.org

The Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri is a chapter of the Artist Blacksmiths' Association of North America, and is devoted to the preservation and advancement of blacksmithing and to communication among blacksmiths in Missouri and surrounding areas. BAM's newsletter's goal is to support these aims. Letters to the editor, tech tips, tools for sale or anything else which furthers these ends will be considered for publication.

The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri and its members do not manufacture, distribute, sell, test, warrant, guarantee, or endorse any of the tools, materials, instructions or products contained in articles or features in the Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri. The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri disclaims any responsibility or liability for damages or injuries as a result of any construction, design, use, manufacture or other activity undertaken as a result of the use or application of information contained in any articles or features in the Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri. The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, fitness, proper design, safety or safe use of any information contained in the Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri.

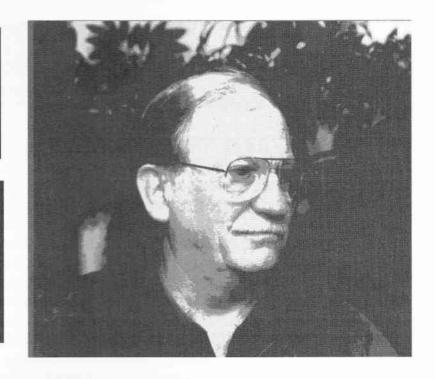
# Lou Mueller BAM Life Member

#### **BAM Life Members**

Fred Caylor \* Bill Gichner Jerry Hoffman Bob Patrick Tim Ryan Floyd Daniel Robb Gunter Jim McCarty Clifton Ralph Clay Spencer

Lou Mueller

Sid Suedmeier
\* Deceased



Meet Lou Mueller, a person with a passion for teaching blacksmith skills. During the 2003 Ozark Blacksmith Conference, Lou Mueller was made a life member, an honor only awarded to 11 other individuals. He has been metalsmith in some area for more than 60 years. He claims to be semi-retired from Mueller Industries, a metal company he started in his basement. He says the company is primarily operated by his children, but when you visit the shop, it is apparent that Lou is still very active in the company and has a lot of input into the operation of the business.

Lou's occupational life with metal began as a tool and die maker. He relates that he was fortunate early in his adulthood to work in precision forging, sometimes called pressings. Throughout his professional life, Lou Mueller has been a recognized industry expert in what is categorically referred to as press forging. The Mueller reputation for quality work took a quantum leap when Lockheed retained his company to produce forging dies. Lockheed was in a rush to build the L-1011 to compete with the Boeing 747, so the arrangement gave the Mueller Company both lots of business and also opportunities for accelerated R & D efforts. Lou relates when the industry was using 4140 and H-13 steel for dies, he made the decision to try S-7 and founded new techniques which resulted in improved methods and faster production time.

After several years of membership in the Blacksmith Association of Missouri, Lou became interested in the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of Amerca (ABANA), serving on the ABANA Board and later as the National President. In 1994, he chaired the ABANA conference in St. Louis, Missouri, which was a huge success. Lou Mueller is an expert on the work of Donald Streeter, a ledgendary artist blacksmith in the United States. Lou's semi retirement from his company has provided him time to share his teaching skills in a wide variety of locations. He has taught classes at the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina and demonstrated at a number of state and regional blacksmith conferences.

Continued on Next Page

#### A Tribute to Lou Mueller

**Continued from Page 5** 

Lou has been deeply involved in the community life of his home city, St. Louis. He has organized and served as coordinator of the St. Louis Octoberfest for 5 years. Much of the equipment used, mobile stages, etc, have been fabricated by Mueller Industries. Lou can always be located at the blacksmith kiosk, either teaching or talking about blacksmithing techniques.

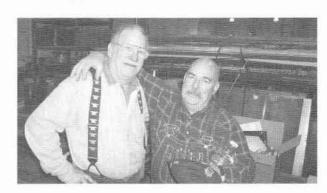
One member of the Blacksmith Association of Missouri referred to Lou Mueller as the "Dean of Education" for that organization. It is difficult to track all of Lou's teaching efforts, because he is constantly involved. In the past 12 years, countless workshops have been hosted for BAM members at Mueller Industries for building both coal and gas forges, treadle hammers and many beginners workshops. Presently Lou is the prime mover in establishing a mobile training station that will be moved around the state for teaching blacksmith skills. When Lou was asked why he puts so much time and effort into teaching, he replied "that it would be a sin to spend a lifetime acquiring knowledge and not pass it on to assist others in learning". Lou also offered that of all the honors and recognition he has received as a blacksmith, the award of the lifetime membership by the Blacksmith Association of Missouri was a special highlight in his career. He relates that to be recognized by the association or your peers and contemporaries is a superb honor and very much appreciated.

by Ned Digh









July - August 2003

#### Jiving Joe from Hope, Missouri Sometimes called President Joe (BAM, that is!)

It was a good day for a meeting in Bonner Springs, KS, hosted by Mike Nave. Summer weather but a nice breeze in our assigned pavilion. The Agriculture Museum was impressive, particularly to someone my age. I remember working with some of this equipment when I was a boy on the farm. The blacksmith shop does, indeed, have the largest anvil collection I have ever seen.

I received several "thank you" comments for having a meeting close to their home. Got to see many new faces and a couple of new members; Stan Stevens of Hermann, MO and Al Robinett of Oak Grove, MO, had a visit from Fred Hungholtz, a previous member from long ago who now lives in Oklahoma. Nice of you to visit Fred.

I would like to congratulate members Liz Aman and Richard Riepe, who were married July 16. I forgot to ask if they exchanged hammers during the ceremony.

Please make a note, ABANA has informed me the date and location of the next conference is July 7 thru 11 2004 in Richmond, KY. I understand this is the site of Eastern Kentucky University. The 2004 conference chairman is Dave Koenig, Houston, TX.

For those of you who didn't make Clay Spencer's workshop at Lou Muellers, I'm happy to report the whole event was impressive. Let me first say the occasion for Clay Spencer to come here was a result of Lou Mueller and Doug Hendrickson buying Clay at an auction for a session of their choosing. They generously donated the session to as many members who could and would attend on June 20. Thanks Lou and Doug.

What impressed me most was the end result of two fancy tables (to be auctioned off at our spring conference that were made by ten (10) 3 person teams (including some lady smiths), who had never before worked together nor made a table exactly like this. Each team working on a different element and in the end, all pieces came together like clockwork, and presto! Two beautiful tables using primitive joinery of Clay's design.

This was possible due to Clay's clear instructions and excellent tooling which we used to check our progress. And all this in about 7 or 8 hours.

Thank you Clay Spencer. We had a wonderful experience that day. Happy Hammering, Joe

P.S. To Ray & Katie Carpenter: Thanks for the hat & T-shirt donation for Iron in the Hat, it was a popular item and accounted for a number of tickets sold. Hope all is well in Washington. Joe

July - August 2003

#### **New BAM Members**





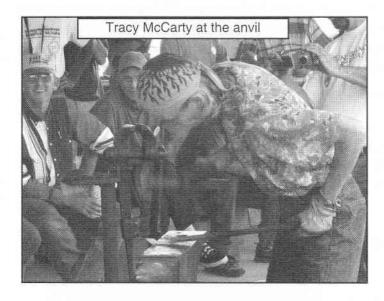
# July 19th Meeting at the Ag Museum Hall of Fame **Bonner Springs, Kansas**



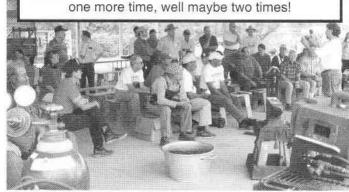
"Make it about this big" Walt Hull: & Chilton Ng



Just how many anvils are there in Kansas?



Now listen up folks, I am going to explain this one more time, well maybe two times!



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#### **Ned Notes**

BAM has been awash with activities since the last issue! Events are happening faster than I can type and folks are beginning to come forth with ideas for future articles. Several people are contributing photos and those are very helpful, but we also need some written input by our members. In the Aw Shucks column, you will see an invitation to publish the "other story", so fire up the pen, typewriter, word processor or send by email and share your thoughts. Letters to the Editor are also welcome.

## **Clay Spencer Workshop**

First we had the Clay Spencer Workshop at Lou Mueller's Shop in Fenton. On the first day of the workshop, there were 32 people in attendance, with just a few less for the second day. Clay expressed surprise that everyone worked. After the initial orientation, the attendees divided into teams and everyone went to work. By the end of the second day, two tables were completed and those will be sold at the annual conference in Warrenton next May. Although Clay is a life member of BAM, his time is limited with a schedule of demonstrations around the country. How did BAM get him to come to St. Louis for two days? That will be explained elsewhere in the article about the workshop. Clay has also sent a CD disc of the plans for the table and due to the length, those will be published by sections in two or more issues.

## **Trainer Meeting**

Next we had a trainer meeting at Ham's Prairie, MO. Nineteen people attended, some traveling significant distances to volunteer as trainers and coaches. This was a preliminary strategy meeting and some parameters were formed to get the ball rolling. Although nothing was set in concrete, a summary of the planning session is elsewhere in the newsletter. My wife Esther fixed lunch and got the spouses in attendance to downtown Fulton for a chance to tour our antiques shops. Fulton has an abundance of antiques shops and lately a big increase in Chinese Restaurants, five at the moment. One Chinese restaurant owner said not all will survive and he is going to move to a location where there are absolutely no Chinese. Fulton used to be like that, but obviously we are becoming multi-cultural.

## **BAM July Meeting**

Wow, what a great meeting at the Agriculture Museum in Bonner Springs, Kansas on July 19th. Mike Nave was the host and even though he was up all night due to the death of the wife of his assistant pastor, the meeting was well organized and executed. Ed Harris, Walt Hull, Tracy McCarty all had super demonstrations. What talent we have in BAM. For those of you that are not aware, Mike pastors a Community in Christ church. Thanks Mike for a super meeting, although under difficult circumstances for you.

More on the next page....

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#### **Ned Notes Continued**

Now for the Reipe Story. Richard and Liz Reipe were married in Harrisonville, MO on July 16th and they came to the BAM meeting as newly wed Blacksmiths and new Grandparents. Liz has two children from a previous marriage and Richard likewise has two, one of which just presented the first Grandchild. Richard gave the invocation & blessing for the lunch at the meeting, a beautiful message of thanksgiving for our blessing and safety. Thanks Richard and our best wishes to you and Liz.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard Reipe with Tracy McCarty in the background

# Read about the History of the BAM Boutique

Ruth Hull has written the History of the BAM Boutique. This is a really good article and Ruth has done a good job in relating the history, founding background and giving credit to some of the people who have and continue to make the Boutique a success.

## **Triple Treat from Scholarship Winner - Dave Williams**

Dave Williams reports on his scholarship class at John C. Campbell and we get a tour of his shop in Columbia, MO. Dave started in metal work as a tool and die maker, later he became a machinist, then did farrier work in the Mid Mo area for 10 years before he opened his full time blacksmith shop. He is a member of the Columbia Homebuilders Association which has provided a significant amount of commissioned work for new homes. Although Dave is soft spoken, he must be one heck of a persuasive sales person. He and Glenda have now been married for two years, but he convinced her to let him establish his blacksmith shop on her property, before they were married. Maybe Glenda's OK was influenced by the metal rose he crafted with a knot in the stem to signify love, that he gave her when he proposed! Dave has to be a romantic!



Dave can make other flowers too, but he made a special rose for Glenda!

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# **Treadle Hammer Workshop**



The Treadle Hammer Workshop is on the roll and final assembly is scheduled for January 2004. Mini workshops will probably be held in November & December. Dates will be finalized later. The design of the Hammer is based on Clay Spencer's Inline Treadle Hammer. This design was used by George Dixon at the BAM Conference. Cost is estimated to be \$350-\$400.

To purchase a Treadle Hammer, you must be a BAM member, make the required deposits and participate in some of the workshops. The first deposit of \$150 is due Sept. 20, 2003 and the second deposit of \$150 is due Nov. 15, 2003. The final payment will be made at the workshop in January, 2004.

The maximum number of Treadle Hammers to be built is 50. Currently we have a list of 47 people who are interested. Probably not all of them will make the deposit, so that leaves room for additional people to purchase a Treadle Hammer. If you want to participate and are not on the list, send me a check. I will hold the check until Sept. 20 and will return it if there is not enough room.

There is a possibility of welding together subassemblies in your own workshop. We will supply the material and possibly a fixture. If you are interested, please let us know.

Read the Disclaimer below before sending any money.

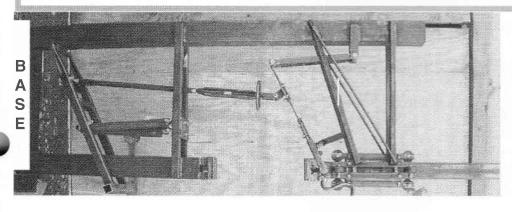
Send your \$150 Deposit (made payable to BAM) by Sept. 20,2003 to:

Bruce Herzog, 2212 Aileswick, St. Louis, MO 63129

Email: bjherzog@msn.com

#### Disclaimer of Responsibility

The Blacksmith Association of Missouri (BAM), its officers and members specifically disclaimany responsibility or liability for any accident, injury, incidental and consequential damage, death and attorney fees as a result of any construction, design, use or application of information contained in the Treadle Hammer plans and / or workshop. Use of any information or finished equipment is solely at the users risk. In other words, if you participate in the workshop and / or use the Treadle Hammer you agree to assume all responsibility and hold BAM, its officers and members harmless.



# THIS IS THE TOP END!

# **Gas Forge Workshop**

#### By popular demand, here it is......a GAS FORGE WORKSHOP, coordinated by Larry Hults!

The forge design will have a fire box: 4 inches high X 8 inches wide X 14 inches long. This is the same design and size as those made at the previous BAM Forge Workshop. The forge will have atmospheric burners and burn propane. Total estimated cost: \$100 - \$150.

Estimated cost of miscellaneous required components: (Prices based on data as of (07/03/03)

Adjustable Fisher Regulator	0-30 psi	\$20.00
Pressure Gauge	0-30 psi	4.00
POL Hand wheel (tank connect	tion)	7.50
3/8 inch propane hose *		2.00 per ft
3/8 inch hose ends		6.00 pair

<sup>\*</sup>motor fuel hose with heavy duty steel reinforcement

Due to the amount of work to be done, there will be 2 or 3 small workshops prior to the last session in December for final assembly. The following is Larry's vision of the progressive workshops:

Workshop # 1	Tentative Date - October - Drill sheet metal forms, weld in the
	burner nozzle, make the core for casting, and wooden forms.

Workshop # 2 DATE - TBA Mix and pour castings

(CEMENT MIXERS NEEDED)

Workshop # 3 DATE - TBA Work on Burners

Weld on stock for holding brackets

Final Assembly Session.....December 6, 2003

Anyone willing to host any of the mini-workshops, contact Larry Hults. Donations of materials to keep the cost down will be appreciated. Here is what is needed: fire brick (new or used), cement mixer(s), experienced welders, etc. Larry has done significant research on gas forges, plus consulted with Bruce Herzog on the previous BAM gas forge workshop. He is ready, willing, and eager to get this effort underway. At present he needs an estimate of the number of people who will participate.

# Contact Larry Hults, 41 Quail Ridge Drive, St Clair, MO 63077 Phone 636-629-7411 email lkhults@yhti.net

**Disclaimer:** Participants must assume all risks and liability in the use of all information in buildling and using the gas forge. The Blacksmith Association of Missouri (BAM), its officers and members disclaim any and all reponsibility for any damages or injury as a result of construction, design, use, or application and dissemination of any information pertaining to the subject or specifically the gas forge workshop. Gas Forges are inherently dangerous, think safety! The user must assume all risks and responsibility. **Now that you have read the safety stuff: Give Larry a call and sign up!** 

# ---- UPDATE -----**Mobile Training Station (MTS)**

## Summary of the July 12th Meeting at Ham's Prairie

The following is a brief summary of the MTS meeting and the parameters that were discussed for the start and operation of the MTS. A tentative schedule, prepared by Don Birdsall is shown below. The current thinking is that each Forgemaster should hold at least two classes, each one day long during the time the MTS is at his or her shop, which will be approximately six weeks. It is preferable that students have a break between classes and not take classes on two days, back to back.

Forgemasters will be responsible for obtaining adequate space, arranging for LP gas to be on site for use, and place any local advertising for the classes. In addition, the Forgemaster will collect the appropriate fees (currently \$20.00 per day) and send to the BAM Treasurer. Standardized forms for administration and inventory use will be made for use by the Forgemasters. BAM will budget for purchasing of LP gas and other necessary expenses.

Specifics regarding the size and type trailer needed as well as the towing requirements were deferred until later meetings. It was decided that the "First Fires" instruction booklet (curriculum) needed to be revised in order for students to not only learn skills, but accomplish a project that could be taken with them at the end of the class.

#### A lengthy discussion on trailer hook ups and towing! (to be continued!)

Answer my question, Mr. B! Where did you get the specs?



Tracy McCarty on the right

Well, this is the way I see it! The trailer hitch and ball must fit!



Don Birdsall - last person standing

**Purpose: To Standardize Teaching Objectives** 

The following is the tentative schedule, for 2004, and part of 2005, coordinated by Don Birdsall. If you have questions or suggestions, call Don at 636-677-5398 email dbirdsall@networkusa.net

Jan/Feb Lou Mueller Jan/Feb 05 Jeff Willard Mar/Apr 05 Ray Scott Mar/Apr 05 Ray Scott Mar/Apr Bob Ehrenberger More Trainers and Coaches Needed

May/Jun Ned Digh Next meeting: Jul/Aug Ed Harper at Joe Wilkinson's Shop on Nov 22nd.

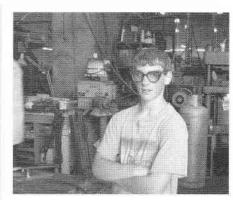
Sep-Oct Ray Chaffin Nov/Dec Tracy McCarty

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## BAM Focus on Youth by Ned Digh

#### Michael Crowder

Michael Crowder is the Grandson of BAM member John Huff, who is Mike's blacksmith and fishing buddy. Mike is from Girard, IL, but makes frequent visits to Grandpa John's in Louisiana, MO. He likes to hammer on hot iron and says his best projects are different kinds of hooks for family and friends. Grandpa and he are currently making a knife from a leaf spring. Mike was present for the first day of the Clay Spencer workshop. When asked if he liked school, Mike said "kinda"! With his love for blacksmithing and under the tutoring of Grandpa, hopefully Mike will do a demonstration at a future meeting. Mike is 14 and will be in the 8th Grade this Fall.



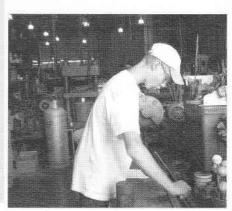
#### **Andrew Timbrook**

This is Andrew Timbrook, age 16, of Fulton, MO. Andrew's parents and I have been friends for many years, but I had not been with Andrew much until he became interested in blacksmithing. While Esther, Grandson Eric and I were doing a demonstration at a local craft fair, Andrew and his Dad approached and his Dad said, "Andrew is interested in what you are doing, teach him something" and his Dad disappeared. Andrew took to hammering like a fish takes to water and after some brief instruction, he became part of the demo team. Since then, he comes to my shop whenever he has an opportunity and he spent part of one day with Dave Williams. He has an anvil, hammers and a fan, so his next project is to build a coal forge. Andrew is the kind of kid that will get up early and go fishing in the pond behind his house while waiting for the school bus. Now you have got to love a kid whose priorities are blacksmithing and fishing!



#### Tyler Schaffner

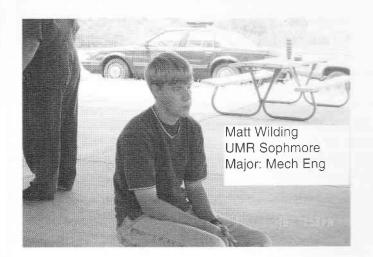
Tyler Schaffner is a regular in his Dad's fabrication shop, but he is showing a lot of initiative and creativity as a blacksmith. Tyler did a model DNA for a school science project, that is creativity extraordinaire! Tyler and his Dad Herb came to the Clay Spencer workshop with Ken Markley. He was an active participant in the workshop, performing as a team member with the making of the tables. Tyler is 14 years old and will be in the 9th grade in the Fall. This is a young person that we will see lots more of in BAM in the future. See the DNA project in next issue.

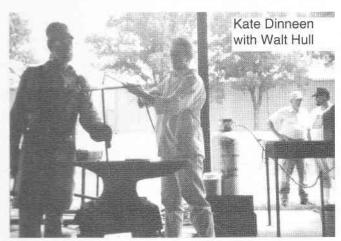


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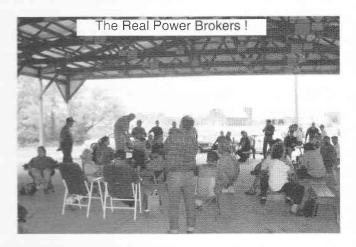
For the next issue, we need photos and your input for the BAM Focus on Youth. Got a youngster that frequents your shop?

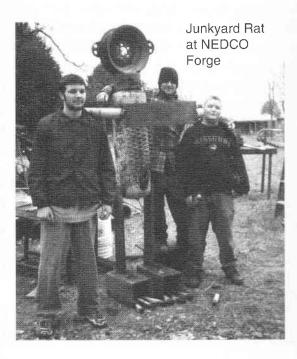
Give recognition with a photo and brief explanation.

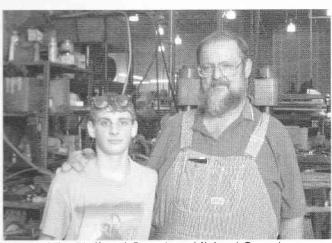












John Huff and Grandson Michael Crowder Blacksmith and Fishing Buddies!

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#### **History Corner**

## History of the BAM Boutique by Ruth Hull

The BAM boutique was born in the mud of Potosi, Missouri, where the early Ozark conferences were held. Mara Harper and I were sitting on hay bales in one of the barns on the fairgrounds there, bored silly, watching the rain make the grounds muddier by the minute. BAM had had some T-shirts made up and Mara had agreed to collect the money for them. The blacksmiths were there to attend the demonstrations, not sell T-shirts. Fair enough. The Grateful Dead didn't sell their memorabilia. They did their music and had folks to do that for them. We checked with whoever was in charge of the T-shirts (Pat McCarty if I recall correctly) and then dragged them out of their boxes and arranged them around the hay bales in the barn. We sold a few to the occasional BAM'er who wandered back there.

In the process we came up with the idea for the BAM Boutique: We could set up a venue at the conference each year to sell BAM memorabilia. None of the blacksmiths would have to take time away from the demos, and folks attending would have an opportunity to buy those T-shirts that proudly announce support of BAM. In the process, BAM could realize a little income from the sales.

Lou Mueller was the conference chairman for the following year and I agreed to write up our proposal and send it to Lou to see what he and the board and the membership thought about it. They seem to have thought it was a good idea because the November-December issue of the newsletter, which outlined plans for the 1997 Ozark Conference announced, "Something new for this year is the BAM Boutique." The Boutique was up and running. And we've been doing it ever since. More accurately, I should say it's been done ever since. Mara was the real instigator and has been involved every year from the beginning. She deserves credit more than anyone else for the Boutique's contribution to BAM. Beth Chaffin and Phyllis Wilkinson joined us early on. Over the past few years, I've had to miss some of the conferences. Becky Barringhaus and others have stepped in.

We set up the first Boutique on tables in the dining hall at the Potosi fairgrounds with a home-made paper banner identifying it as such. Getting the merchandise out of the barn and into the main hall where everybody attending had the chance to see it made a big difference in sales. The number of BAM T-shirts to be seen in Missouri and elsewhere increased by quite a bit. We also got some suggestions for improving the Boutique. One was to lose the paper sign and have a banner done by someone who could make all their letters the same size! The next year we had that attractive banner you see at the Boutique today.

Another suggestion came from Tim Ryan, our auctioneer at the conference that year. He suggested that the Boutique could serve as an outlet for items priced at less than \$25.00. His thought was that if the auction had a minimum \$25.00 bid, it would move more quickly and allow more time to be given to the higher value items, resulting in greater total proceeds for the auction. It seemed logical that if items valued below the auction's minimum bid were donated to the Boutique it would keep the auction from getting bogged down with a lot of small items. But it would also have the positive benefit of allowing people who (a) didn't think their item was worth at least \$25.00 or (b) didn't feel quite confident in donating to the auction to still be able to contribute to the fund-raising efforts for the association.

## **History Corner**

Continued

# **History of the BAM Boutique**

by Ruth Hull - Continued

The items donated by BAM members have been of high quality and amazing variety and always sell well. we often remind folks that the next Sunday after the conference is Mother's day, so why not buy your wife (or Mom) those towel hooks Joe donated? They're probably almost as good as the ones you've been promising to make for her for the last few years. A number of "blacksmith's widows" like ourselves have contributed their own crafts to the boutique in support of the organization. And BAM has had hats, mugs and patches made, in addition to T-shirts, and made them available through the Boutique. It's also been the place to find back issues of the BAM newsletter.

The initial purpose of the Boutique was, and still is, to provide a convenient way for BAM members to get their BAM memorabilia. From the beginning it has also provided "us girls" with something worthwhile to do at the conference. Over the years it has expanded to provide another way for members and their spouses to contribute to and support the organization.

In addition, the Boutique has been set up at some public events such as the State Fair in Sedalia and October Faust in St. Louis. Peggy Williamson was in charge of the Boutique at the State Fair in 2001 and reported good results. At public events such as these, the availability of small "souvenir" type items made by real blacksmiths has provided additional, outside support for BAM. As the Ozark Conference becomes a more visible event in the St. Louis area and public attendance increases, the Boutique should be able to continue to increase outside support for BAM and, of course, the need for donations to the Boutique.

The Boutique brought in several hundred dollars when we set it up in the dining hall at Potosi for the first time and has brought in over a thousand dollars at each conference for the past several years, which makes us very proud of our efforts. But it certainly is a team effort and we hope that teamwork continues far into the future.

Editor's note: While we've probably all noticed the BAM Boutique at the conferences, we may not have realized the contribution to BAM that the folks who operate the boutique and those who donate to it have made over the years. I bet that very few people knew the history of the boutique and how it came about before they read this article. Thanks, Ruth for writing up the Boutique history and thanks to all who have participated.

Doug H at theforge talking?



Farriers of Note

Left: Bill Miller Right: Toby Tobler



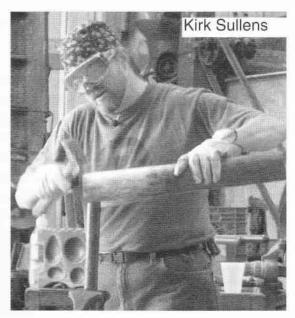
# THE BAM OUTREACH PROGRAM

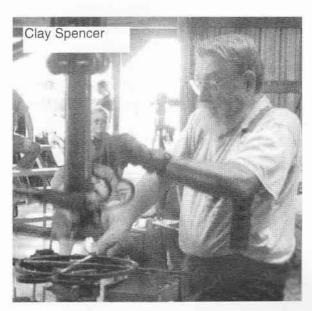
While the July 19 meeting in Bonner Springs, Kansas, BAM was well represented at the Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmithing Conference in Pontiac, Illinois. BAM Life Member Clay Spencer and BAM Member Kirk Sullens both demonstrated. Bess and Maurice Ellis were in attendance and submitted this report.

Clay Spencer demonstrated the making of the same table as was done at the Clay Spencer Workshop at Lou Mueller's Shop on June 21st and 22nd. Several photos from the workshop are included in this issue and the entire table project along with photos from Clay will be published in two or more sections in later issues. Clay has graciously furnished complete instructions with photographs on a CD for publication in the BAM newsletter. For those of you who have not witnessed a Clay Spencer demonstration, you should make every effort to do so. Clay Spencer is recognzed nationally as one of the best demonstrators and lead instructors in the blacksmithing community. At the St. Louis workshop, he kept 32 students all actively engaged. He has the unique ability to teach, demonstrate, answer questions, and carefully watch the performance of the number of teams working on segments of the project. BAM is fortunate to have Clay Spencer and those who attended the St. Louis workshop, are indebted to Doug Hendrickson and Lou Mueller, who invited Clay Spencer and underwrote the expense. Thanks to Doug and Lou for your support of this endeavor.

At Pontiac, Kirk Sullens demonstrated simple forgings involving animal forms that beginners could repeat at home. His projects were done in several stages to show the progression involved in forging the finished product. Kirk demonstrated flower forging basics, forging a frog, and making an alligator from copper. Kirk is very adept at demonstrating how common inexpensive items such as trailer hitch balls and rebar can be formed into items used in a black-smith or fabrication shop.

(report and photo of Kirk Sullens by Bess Ellis)





#### Report from Scholarship Winner Dave Williams

BAM awarded me a scholarship to attend the "Flowers in Metal" class at John C. Campbell Folk School, instructed by Clay Spencer and Bob Alexander. This was my first trip to Brasstown, N.C, and I wasn't sure what to expect. I was surprised that the other 11 students had all taken blacksmithing classes there before. That told me I would have a good week, and I certainly did.

Upon arrival, I was directed to the campground and started setting up my tent which was an experience because I had not been camping in decades. While struggling with the tent and trying to convince myself that this camping thing was a good decision, along comes Bob Alexander to say hello. He invited me to go with him to see Clay Spencer at his shop, so he could sharpen his Beverly Shear blades on Clay's surface grinder. Clay doesn't live very far from the school and his shop has almost every tool one could imagine.

The trip from Columbia, Missouri to Western North Carolina is a long drive, but the beauty of the mountains was beyond my expectations. The Smoky Mountains are truly a must see. After the Sunday evening orientation, class began immediately and continued until late. I went to focus on blacksmithing, but soon realized there were a number of different craft classes offered there. On the last day students display what they have made or learned, from blacksmithing to music to photogophy, etc. I started out making an Iris, which had more parts than I realized, but it was fun to see it come together.

The Francis Whitaker Blacksmith Shop was alive with hammering and the roar of the forges, from early in the morning until well after dark every day. I made several flowers, and I plan to demonstrate the techniques to other BAM members in the future. Bob and Clay were both excellent instructors, answering all questions with ease. Some of the techniques were new to me, enameling is something I had not seen. It is impressive. The flower is heated slowly with a torch and then powder enamel is sifted on. Soon the enamel gets wet looking and starts to flow like solder. When it cools off, you can see the bright color of the enamel. Clay's wife teaches classes on enameling at the School.

On the last day I made a rose, which was the only one made in the class. I was about ready to start shaping it at lunch. When I came back, Bob had brought a real rose so I could have a model for my rose creation. I recommend this school to anyone interested in learning more about blacksmithing.

Thanks to all who made this possible. It was very enjoyable and professionally rewarding. The only change I will make next time is to leave the tent at home!

David P. Williams

#### HOW TO MAKE A ROSE - DAVID P. WILLIAMS

(From my John C. Campbell Folk School Scholarship Class)

The rose takes six sheet metal pieces, 18-gauge steel or copper or whatever is handy. The stem can be a 1/4" round stock. In the sketch provided, you see the pieces are numbered.

First, you cut out the flower petals, hopefully with a Beverly Shear. Harbor Freight makes a spin off, which I have and it will do the job. If that is not an option, tin snips and patience, or maybe a band saw. Once they are cut out, be sure to deburr all the edges, these can be very sharp. A belt sander works really well. I have a small 1" wide sander that gets in the tight spots. Just be careful and use something more than your fingers to hold your work.

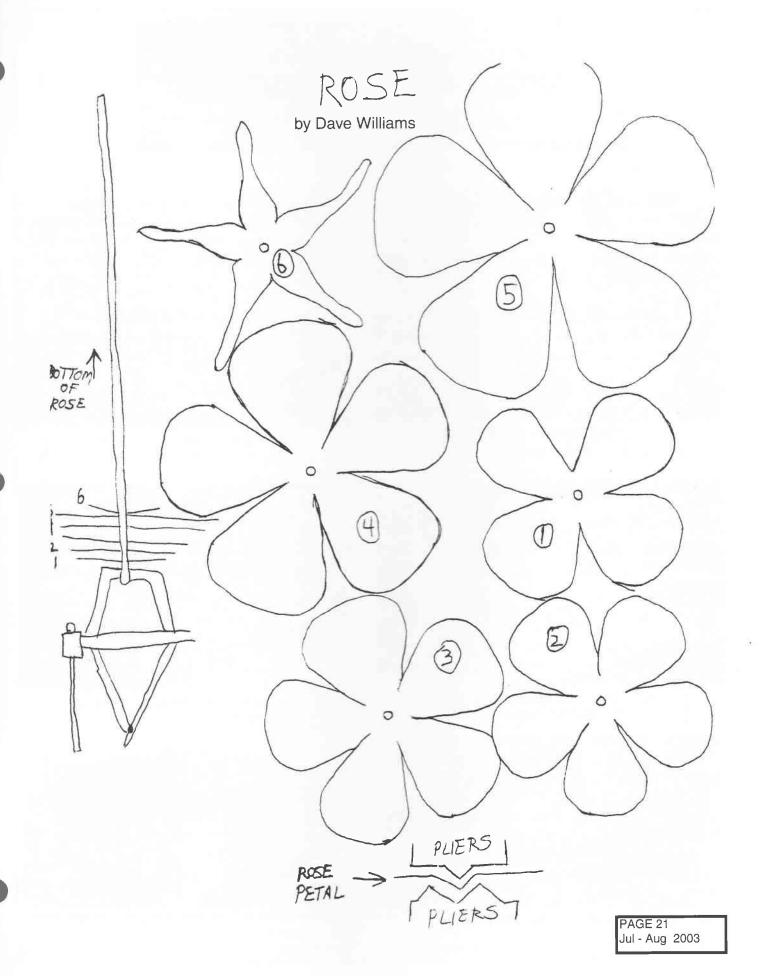
If you are new to the sander, you might want to work on a scrap piece first before you negotiate the tight spots of your flower. Drill the holes for the stem. If you use 1/4" hot roll, it is not very round, so you may need to drill larger by 1/64". Use pliers or bleed!

Next peen the edges of the petals. Take a light ball peen hammer and place the petal over the horn of the anvil if you wish to have peening on both sides. You can peen just one side by using the face of the anvil, close to the edge. There are a lot of blows involved in getting everything peened, so move the part around, not the hammer. When your peening is complete, the edges should have marks about 1/4" from the edges, and tapers to a feathered edge. This takes a bit of practice, but adds detail to the work.

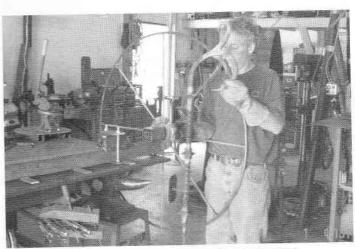
The petals are to be stacked in numerical order on the round stock in sequence, starting with the smallest (# 1). Number 1 is the four petal and at the other end will be the star shaped piece, that will be the bottom of the rose. On the inner 3 pieces, have the peening up and on the larger one, the peening is down. The small ones will fold in and the larger will fold out.

Turn the rose upside down and clamp the end of the rod in the vise. The small #1 petal closest to the vise. Next weld the petals in place. Move all the petals except #1 up the rod. Clamp out of the way with a spring clamp. Use the mig welder, lowest setting. Gas welding can be used. Bring #2 down tight against# I. If necessary hammer the pedal down tight. Use pliers around the rod and strike the pliers with light blows. Rotate the petals so they look good and alternate. Repeat the welds on each petal. Turn the rose over and bend up the petals.

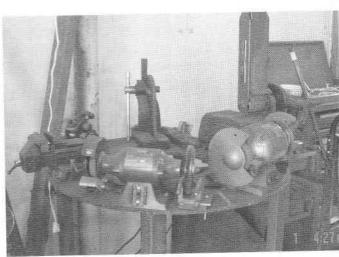
Use the torch, heat gently and bend petals. The first one folds in tightly, interlocking like a coin purse. This one is tight enough to cover the center rod. The next two will be folded in tight and the ends of the petals will have a crimp in them. (I made an old set of pliers into a crimper by welding on three small rods that when the pliers close, they will crimp). So between the crimp pliers and scrolling pliers, beautiful petals can be made. The outer petals will fold out a bit, so the peening will be more visible. It is best to have a real rose to look at while you make your metal rose. For a finish, use clear lacquer or perhaps a mild acid solution to get the color wanted. (see drawing on page 21)



# **SHOP TOUR** WILLIAMS FORGE, COLUMBIA, MO OWNER: DAVE WILLIAMS



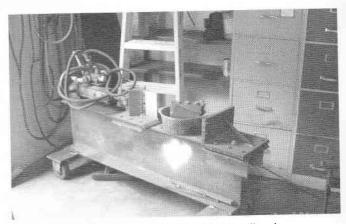
Dave credits Don Asbee with the design of this twisting wheel Max: 1.25"



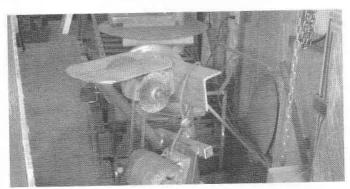
This is Dave's Donut Table Neat idea!



A Custom Made Table for a New Home The overlay leaves are copper



Log Splitter, powered by hydraulics from ironworker - used as metal brake



Recycled chop saw blade, also steel brush



## **EstherSpeak**

We have made the decision to downsize and move to a smaller living arrangement, all on one floor. I look forward to having a smaller place to keep up with but what does one do with all of the "stuff' accumulated over the past 22 years? Of course, there will be those items passed on to our three daughters and the grandchildren, if interested. I guess the rest of the "stuff' will go to a local charity or to the local landfill. I am beginning to observe an interesting phenomena. Why are all the extraneous items around the house considered "stuff' and all the extraneous items at the farm and around Ned's shop called "assets"????

I would define a lot of the "assets" at the farm as junk that needs to be discarded! When I suggest that, Ned's southern heritage kicks and says, "Those are assets and I may just need them someday". So, the "assets" continue to accumulate in the shop, outside the shop, under the trees and wherever, there is an available space. However, there is one asset that has a special place in our hearts and that is the Junkyard Rat.

Junkyard Rat came into being one Thanksgiving vacation when our four grandsons decided to help Grandpa enclose the machine shed so it could be converted into the shop. The boys worked hard, and so did Grandma! I have never prepared so much food and seen it vanish so fast as during that four day period. While here, the boys decided they wanted to go to the junk yard of our friend, Colleen Moore. Colleen has a warm spot in his heart for these four boys because his wife, Marcia, who is deceased, had all four of them in daycare. Marcia always had lots of stories to tell on the boys.

When the boys left the junk yard with around 300 pounds of junk, Ned knew they were truly his grandsons. He said "they brought back some good assets". They went back to the farm with their treasure trove and began to create the rat. The boys would weld awhile on their creation, nail a few more sheets of tin siding on the shop, eat, weld some more, argue, eat, put on some more tin, and weld some more.

On their last full day here the Junkyard Rat was finished. His body consisted of a cyclinder, the head of a wheel rim, ears of pulleys, arms of hydraulic cylinders, legs of angle iron ending with huge feet made from hollow steel tubing and each foot had three (3) toes of steel tubing. They found a long handle to use for a tail. The boys were proud of their creation and proudly posed for pictures with their sculpture "The Junkyard Rat". This creature has maintained watch over the shop for the past three years and will continue to do so. The only question which remains is which one of the grandsons will claim ownership of The Junkyard Rat and the other assets from the farm.

Esther Digh

July - August 2003

23

# Coal for your forge --- Coal Captain: Bob Mayes: Locations

Bob Alexander, Desoto, MO Ken Jansen, Moscow Mills, MO Doug Clemons, Malta Bend, MO (636) 586-6938 (636) 366-4353 (660) 595-2257 Doug Hendrickson, Lesterville, MO (573) 637-2576 Jeff Willard, Willard, MO (417) 742-4569

Keith Barrick, Cuba, MO

(417) 742-4569 (**573**) **885-3799** 

#### Shop Tour of NEDCO Forge & Population Data

As I mentioned in the Ned Notes, we had a productive meeting at Ham's Prairie on July 12th. A summary of the meeting is elsewhere in the Newsletter. I had the opportunity to take the attendees to our farm, 1.5 miles away, for a tour of our shop. I had compliments on not only the tools and shop, but also on the assets (scrap metal and junk), those who appreciate assets are my kind of people! One of my friends is a scrap metal dealer, so the assets are easy to come by. Every once in a while, I get some guidance from Esther to clean up and return some assets. I have learned that if I just drag it down a bit further in the woods, she forgets about it. I have been softening her opposition to the expense of expanding the shop and finally the solution came to mind. I proposed a lean to roof at the front entrance of the shop. Now Esther is smarter than me and she immediately recognized that to construct that lean-to, a lot of assets will have to be moved and that will be her opportunity to offer guidance on where they will be moved to, like out of sight!

Someone at the meeting asked what the population of Ham's Prairie is. I asked that same question to a friend who was raised there, but now lives in town. He said the population had been 23 for as long as he could remember. Although he and his two brothers moved away, the population figure remained at 23. He asked an older resident why the number didn't change when the three brothers moved away and he was informed they were "no counts".

#### The Blacksmith Daily Walk

A new YMCA has recently opened in our town, really a first class facility. The carpeted walking track is elevated above the air conditioned gym floor. Recently Esther announced "we are now members of the Y", I replied "who is this we, you obviously mean you and Karen (our local daughter)?". Well, I found out that Esther's concept of the "we" was Ned and Esther. A staff member at the Y, you know one of those skinny exercise types, said our walking program should include a goal, like losing so many pounds. I asked Esther what her goal was and she said for me to lose enough weight so that I could button the top button on the side of my bib overalls. I notice that some folks come to the Y with expensive looking exercise clothes and fancy shoes with the name of someone on the side of the shoe. Personally I wear bib overalls for our daily walk at the Y and so far I haven't seen anyone else there in bib overalls, but I am hoping to start a fashion trend.

#### The Other Stories

Paul Harvey has made famous his lead-in presentation line of "The Rest of the Story". I have heard from several members that an article was prepared, but for some reason, did not get published. Dig out that article, your opportnity is here to get it in print for others to enjoy. I never cease to be amazed at the amount of talent in BAM. We have a wide range of people from vocations and professions, yet everyone is part of BAM, because they like to work with hot metal and see things created. We all admire creativity with metal, but many of those same people can write and this newsletter needs more member input. Most blacksmith publications appear to be heavily oriented toward the experienced blacksmiths. The novices sort of get overwhelmed with the difficulty in making some of those projects. Our BAM Newsletter needs balance, some projects for beginners and novices and some projects for the more experienced blacksmiths. Those parameters should include everyone, so take a stab at writing or sending a plan to be published. Let's get "the other stories" printed!

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Buy, Sell, & Trade

Ads: free to BAM members

Editor may edit length.

Send changes to:

bameditor@ktis.net

Ads must be renewed

after 2 issues - email OK

For sale: 3-1/2" bench vise, small anvil on rear, 40 lbs., \$50; Canedy-Otto post drill, hand crank, automatic, has original chuck and Craftsman 1/2" chuck, mounted on steel post with feet, 5'5", \$130. Emil Bubash, 3151 Lin-Tel Rd., St. Louis, MO 63125; (314) 892-4086.

Ray Chaffin has a new computer operated plasma cutting system that can cut anything out of metal. Mail, call or email your design for a price quote. Also hardwood blocks 2-2 1/2" x 12-14" are \$5 each in curly maple, straight maple, English walnut, birch laminated in brown and white and blue and white. Ray Chaffin, (660) 438-6720 or Ray's Welding, RR 3, Box 279, Warsaw, MO

Heavy duty frying pan blanks: Steel, approx 9 ", with 2 inch sides. 12 gauge (2.5 lb.) or 14 gauge (1.75 lb.) thickness. Available with or without two 3/16 inch holes for handles. Tumbled clean. 1-4 \$9 each; 5-9 \$8 each; 10 or more \$7 each. Shipping \$4 plus \$.50 for each pan. Contact: Bob Tuftee, 3855 Aspen Hills Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722; bobforge@hotmail.com; (563) 332-4800.

Custom-built air hammers. 6-pound table top model \$1,400; 20-pound table top model \$1,900; 20-pound floor model \$2,300; 40-pound floor model \$2,800. Some modifications to the basic hammers can be made to your specifications. Also custom metal spinning in copper, brass, pewter, and steel. Contact Maurice L. Ellis, RR 1, Box 1442, Belgrade, MO 63622-9709. Phone: (573) 766-5346. E-mail: mbellis@misn.com.

BAM members, 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. From art to parts I do it all. 12" x 18" BAM logo signs plasma cut from 1/8" A36 steel plate, \$25 BAM members, \$35 nonmembers. (573) 474-8749 (William)

Subscribe to Jerry Hoffmann's Blacksmith's Journal, a monthly publication for blacksmiths. Call 1-800-944-6134

Tom Clark has expanded his line of hand forged Hofi style hammers to include a nice rounding hammer and punches, drifts, tongs etc. He's also importing a new line of air hammer, the Sayha from Turkey and just got a shipment of punches, shears, belt grinders and gas forges. (573) 438-4725.

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

Blacksmithing books contact Norm Larson, 5426 E. Hwy. 246, Lompoc, CA 93436 or call (805) 735-2095. Ask for his catalog.

George Dixon: "The Traditional Metal smith". For \$28 you will get four issues of how-to information. Contact him at 1229 Bee Tree Lake Road, Swannanoa, NC 28778.

"Irony", the sketchbook of an apprentice blacksmith is published by BAM Member Stephen McGehee. Drawings of demonstrations, shop ideas, cool tools, foundry practice, a bit of wit and philosophy. See samples:

htttp://lametalsmiths.org/news/page4. htm Subscriptions: \$37 per year or \$69 for 2 years. Stephen McGhee,PO Box Box 9822, Pine Bluff, AR 71611

Blacksmith postcards and calendars, from photos that are 60 - 100 years old. Gill Fahrenwald, PO Box 2323, Olympia, WA 98507 anvilman@@orcalink.com

L Brand Forge coke now packaged in 50 pound bags, 1,000 pound bulk sacks on pallets and 2,000 pound bulk sacks on pallets. Send your zip code for a quote on price including delivery. 1-800-441-0616 or LBrandForgeCoke@aol.com.

Bells Novelty Casting is a fourndary in Anniston, Alabama manufacturing blacksmiths' tools. We are currently looking for dealers to market our products. We have anvils of all sizes, swage blocks, hardies and drift pins. Call 1-877-FARMBEL. Web site www.bell-sandmoe.com.

Custom made Damascus knives for sale. Contact Daniel Ehrnberger at 573-633-2010. Watch for future article on Daniel and his Master Knife Maker Journey.

Kayne and Son Custom Hardware, 100 Daniel Ridge Road, Candler, NC 28715. (828) 667-8868 fax (828) 665-8303, email: Sales@kayneandson.com, website: www.kayneandson.com. Offering Big Blue 100 ram air hammers, Peddinghaus 2 horn anvils, Offcenter tongs and swages, etc, hammers, tongs, the Blu Crusher rolling mill, Forgemaster gas forges, and Fly Presses. We ship and accept Visa and Mastercard.

Coke for sale, \$10 per hundred pounds loose or \$9 per bag sacked. Bags hold 60-70 pounds. Call Japheth Howard for more info, (660) 777-3508.

For sale: A-366 deep drawn ultra low carbon steel sheet for repoussé work. Only .005% carbon. 14 gauge cold rolled. Call John Murray, (636) 398-4640.

David L. Cranson is publishing a book for beginners: "Becoming a Blacksmith in the 21st Century". Preview and order at www.storesonline.com/site/585834. The price is \$5.99 via internet download.

WOOD PLANER: Capacity: 24" Wide,8 "thick. 5 HP, 3 phase, \$2,000 Kent Harbit, 660-647-2349

# REMOUNT PAGE

As reported in the last issue of the newsletter, the Remount Page is an opportunity to put in all the things either forgotten or overlooked during composition, in senior moment terminology, both of those seem to be the same. Some good contributions have been sent for this edition and hopefully more members will do likewise. Thanks to Lou Mueller for the interview for the article on his selection for a Life Membership, Bess Ellis did a super job in reporting on the UMRB Conference in Pontiac, II, where Clay Spencer and Kirk Sullens demonstrated. Ruth Hull sent a bunch of photos from the Bonner Springs meeting and as always, Bob Stromer sent a CD wth photos. Thanks!

The title for the Remount Page actually goes back to US Cavalry Days of George Armstrong Custer, of US 7th Cavalry fame, not to mention his demise at Little Big Horn. The editor is not old enough to have served in the days of General Custer, but he has served in the 7th US Cavalry and thus the Remount title was reborn in the rice paddies of Korea in 1961. The title gave meaning to a review of what had happpend and an obligation to look ahead, make adjustments, and succeed.

Looking around the BAM publications office (nice fancy title), there are 28 pages of newsletter print taped to the walls and a box full of pages printed and discarded, due to changes, updates, and mistakes. When viewing the entirety, one cannot help but ponder the thoughts of who have been left out, who have not been given proper credit, or who has been misidentified. Last issue only produced one complaint and that was due to an incorrect address on the want ads, when the bameditor@ktis.net email address was not working. It is now in operation.

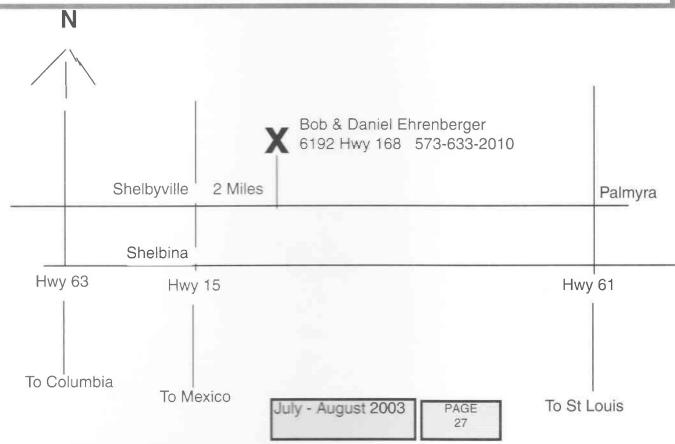
Three people have graciously volunteered to serve as an Editorial Review Panel, to review each issue before it goes to the printer, hopefully to avoid mistakes, etc. The panel members are Bess Ellis, Bruce Herzog, and Phyllis Wilkinson (actually Joe volunteered Phyllis!). Their efforts will ensure a better quality newsletter.

# A LOOK AT WHAT'S A COMING

#### In the September - October Issue:

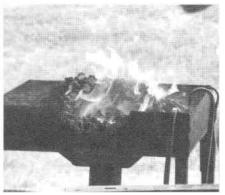
- 1. The book review on "Catching the Fire", about Phillip Simmons, deferred from Jul Aug issue.
- 2. Shop Tour Bob and Daniel Ehrenberger's shop and maybe an interview with Daniel.
- 3. Updates on the Treadle Hammer, Gas Forge, and Mobile Training Station (MTS), workshops.
- 4. BAM focus on youth, subjects not known, but one cute girl (BAM member), could it be Becky?
- 5. EstherSpeak she will write on a subject suggested by the editor, as long as it is her idea!
- 6. Aw Shucks: The Falling Lizard in the middle of the night a wake up call! And maybe more!
- 7. Publication of all the Christmas items & projects sent for the newsletter are you sending?

# Next Meeting - Shelbyville September 20th









Only the forge fire is worthy of note, the other photos, well they are perhaps void of descriptions!

#### MEETING SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 20TH
AT THE SHOP OF:
BOB EHRENBERGER
SHELBYVILLE, MO
TRADE ITEM: CHEESE SLICER

NOVEMBER 8TH
AT THE SHOP OF:
JOHN MURRAY
NEW MELLE, MO
TRADE ITEM: TBA

JANUARY 17TH
AT THE BASS PRO FAB SHOP
HOST: KIRK SULLENS
NIXA, MO

TRADE ITEM: TBA

# **Opportunities**

September 20 Meeting at Bob Ehrenberger's Shop in Shelbyville, MO

\*September 20 Initial deposit of \$150 on Treadle Hammer Workshop Due

\*October 1 Initial deposit of \$75 on Gas Forge Woprkshop Due

November 8 Meeting at John Murray's Shop in New Melle, MO

\* November 15 Second deposit of \$150 on Treadle Hammer Due

November 22 Trainer/Coach Practice Session at Joe Wilkinson's, Hope, MO

\*December 6 Gas Forge Workshop - Final Assembly - Lou Mueller's Shop

\* January 2004 (Day -TBA) Final Assembly of Treadle Hammers-Mueller's Shop

\* See Article on these subjects elsewhere in the newsletter

# Wanted - Not Later Than Sept 20th!

Plans for Christmas Items
Plans, photos, descriptions, directions on how to
make items for Christmas

Gifts-Yard Ornaments-Tree Decorations, Stars!!

## **Late Breaking News**

BAM Scholarships awarded to Eddie Ray Linn, Don Nichols, and Bob Alexander Three more scholarships will be awarded this year.....

Application Deadline is October 1st (Get Moving!)

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