

BAM

MAY - JUNE 2003



April Basic Workshop
at Lou Mueller's Shop
More Photos Inside

Also Photos from
the 2003 BAM
Conference Basic
Workshop



www.bamsite.org

Contents

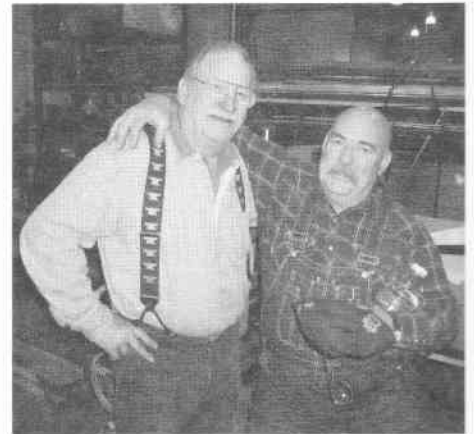
Ned Notes

5 Ned's Rambling Comments



Coal Location

6 Is your forge lonesome and getting rusty? BAM has plenty of Coal



Joe's jive

7 Jiving Joe from Hope, MO

Meeting at Asbee's

8 As always, a good meeting at Don Asbee's shop.



Memories

10 Some characters (From Warren County Sheriff Files)

Aw Shucks Page

12 Catch-All and maybe some other things

Scholarships

14 Words by Walt Hull

Trainer Meeting

16 Don Birdsall Speaks Out, He wants to see you on July 12th at Ham's Prairie!



Easy Tongs Project

19 Stolen from Anvilfire Web Site

Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri

Volume 20 No. 3
May - June
2003

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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 bherzog@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.

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: () _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

New Member Renewal ABANA member?

How did you learn about BAM? _____

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 mail\$60 yr.

Contributory\$100 yr.

Full time student\$35 yr.

Public library\$35 yr.

See reverse

Ned Notes

The BAM Newsletter hardware is in place and the learning curve is ongoing. Grandson Eric (a BAM member) and I picked up the new computer from Jim McCarty, he gave us a demonstration with lots of verbal directions. I am an IBM user, but Eric appeared to understand everything Jim said, so Eric is my tutor for the eMac computer. Thanks again to Jim for taking the time to install the software and to be only a phone call away for assistance.

Elsewhere, you will find my "Meet the New Editor" article which was handed out at the BAM Conference. Many members have given me suggestions for articles or features for newsletters, please continue to do so. Written articles with photos are most desirable, but photos and suggestions will be accepted. One word of caution, copyrighted material cannot be copied and published without permission from the originator.

Several folks have asked about a membership roster. That has usually been published in the Jan-Feb issue. Jim McCarty suggested that a handbook would be more useful and both Joe Wilkinson and Bruce Herzog have concurred with that idea along with suggestions for items that should be included, ie: roster, scholarship information and applications procedures, locations of coal, Officers and contact phone numbers. Suggestions for the contents will be welcomed, but the dust has to settle on my transition into this editor job, before I can take on the handbook.

The scholarship committee, chaired by Walt Hull and assisted by Kirt Sullens and Don Birdsall has done a super job of establishing revised scholarship rules. That information is also published in this issue.

I have heard nothing but positive reports on the 2003 BAM Conference. I was there for the "Mueller Basic Training Class" on Friday, but

had to depart on Saturday morning to attend Esther's 40th high school reunion in Indiana. For the last year, I had promised her that she would not miss this event, even though it conflicted with the BAM Conference. She occasionally said "you really don't have to go, if you really don't want to". All husbands know the implications of that type statement. Oh well, she said I don't have to attend another until her 50th, well maybe she said the 45th!

Don Birdsall and President Joe are organizing a training session for members who are willing to be trainers and assistants for the mobile training shop. The Saturday session will be held at Ham's Prairie Christian Church Multipurpose Building. Ham's Prairie is a blink on State Route C, 7.5 miles South of Fulton. The church has a near new multipurpose building with kitchen, so lunch will be provided. My wife, Esther will handle the lunch end of the meeting. If you have questions about the meeting, call Don or Joe, but if you need directions, call me. Our farm and shop is located nearby, so overnight camping spots are available.

The mobile training concept, spearheaded by Lou Mueller is likely to be the most innovative idea afloat among our sister blacksmith associations. I have mentioned this to a number of local folks, many who say they would be interested in attending a session. In addition, the Director of the VocTech school in Mexico, where I seem to be a permanent student, says he wants to sponsor a session at his school. This looks like an ideal opportunity to gain new members and provide additional shop opportunities for our members.

Several people have mentioned that BAM needs to have another gas forge building workshop. Larry Huilts has told me that he will serve as the coordinator for a workshop. I know that he has coordinated with Bruce Herzog to learn about the

last workshop and gather information on materials needed. The current issue of Jerry Hoffman's Blacksmith Journal also has a plan for a small gas forge. Stay tuned, Larry says he will make this one happen.

Another workshop is the making is a Treadle Hammer Workshop, using the Clay Spencer plans for an in-line hammer. Lou Mueller has volunteered his shop and his expertise. Lou and Bruce Herzog are currently figuring the materials needed so as to make a cost estimate. Lou has requested a minimum of 12 participants and a maximum of 20. I currently have a list of 34 people who have expressed an interest, but will add names and see how the numbers shake out when the estimate on cost is finalized.

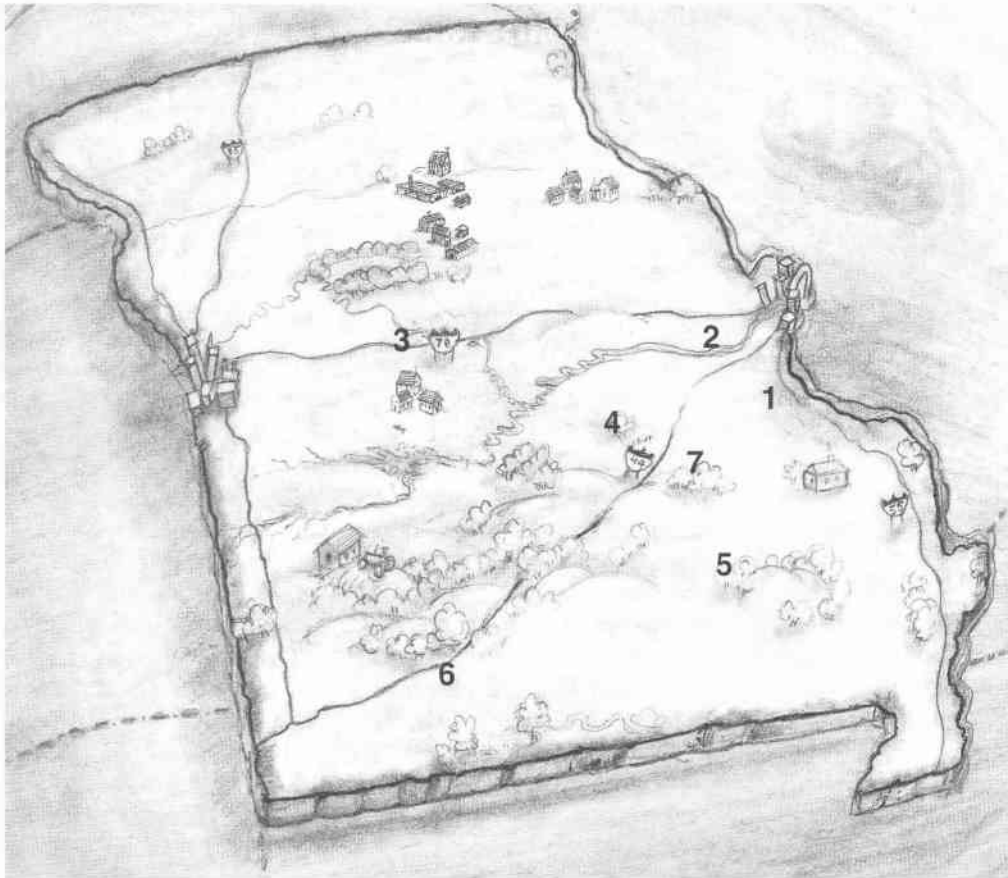
Peggy Williamson is still seeking volunteers for the BAM event at the Missouri State Fair. All who have done this in the past say it is an enjoyable event. Peggy says that you will do more talking than you do hammering. When I do my sometimes junk sales, my wife says I do more talking than selling, so I should be a natural for Peggy's crew.

Just after the BAM Conference, and the reunion, Esther and I went to Germany for eight days. We have a daughter there and needed to be present for her Army promotion. Family schedules did not allow a lot of time for bumming around, but Esther hit her favorite shops in Nuremberg and we took a one day trip to Cheb, Czechoslovakia. I knew where a hardware was and my ulterior motive was to find big cheap anvil and somehow get it back to Mannheim for our daughter to ship home as house hold baggage. What a shock, I must have looked like a tourist (10 Kg, about \$250 and 20Kg, over \$300). No Sale! NOTE! Esther gets the last word: For the July 12 trainer meeting, she will have take spouses to town to shop and browse local antique shops, after lunch.

Need Coal ?

Plenty Available!

Coal Captain: Bob Maes



1. Bob Alexander, DeSoto, MO
(636) 586-6938 Lotsa bags

2. Ken Jansen, Moscow Mill
(636) 366-4353

3. Doug Clemons, Malta Bend
(660) 595-2257

4. Jerry Rehagen, Rich Fountain
(573) 744-5454

5. Doug Hendrickson, Lesterville
(573) 637-2576

6. Jeff Willard, Willard
(417) 742-4569

7. Keith Barrick, Cuba (573) 885-3799
(Note corrected phone numbe!)

Price \$7.50 per bag

Coal keepers earn 50 cents a bag

Bob's bunker has just been restocked so we
have plenty of coal

Joe's jive

Good turn out for Don Asbee's meeting on May 31. Don has been a blacksmith all his working life and is an accomplished artist. We can learn a lot from him. Don brought up an important point at his demo, and that is, when an artist demonstrates his techniques used to construct a particular work of art, he is inviting the audience to use his techniques but not his artistic designs. The designs are his private property and is the source of his income and reputation.

There are times, of course, when the design is freely offered, such as Dorothy Steigler's rose. However, we should not assume permission is granted just because we are allowed to look at it. Many of us are just "Hobbyist" and feel imitation is the highest form of flattery and copies are expected and freely offered, but serious artists deserve our respect for their designs

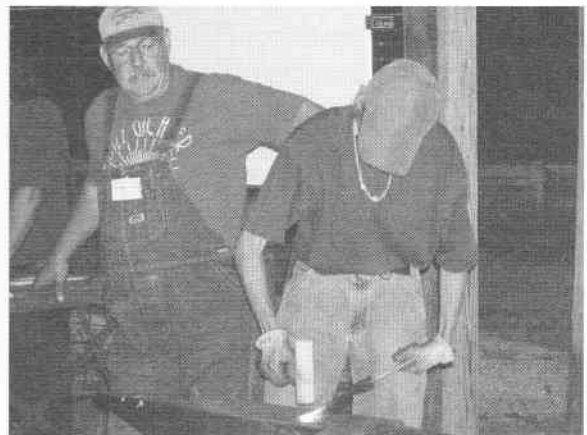
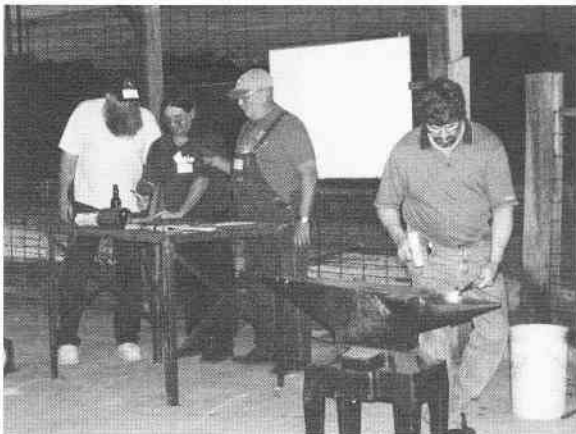
All members are encouraged to keep their e-mail address current with Bruce Herzog. This is important when blanket e-mails are used for notification of recent changes and announcements.

Don't forget Peggy Williamson still needs volunteers to man the Blacksmith Demo at the State Fair in August. This is a fun and important thing to do - we generate new members there every year.

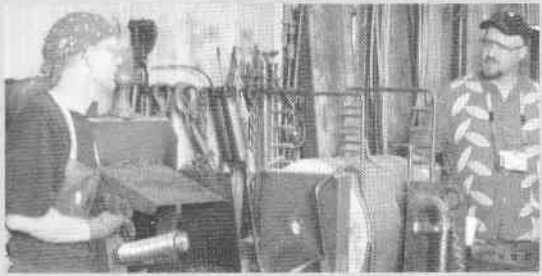
Conference Committee for next year : Chairman: Fred Weisenborne
Members: Dave Shepard Bob Stormer Dave Smith

Thanks to all who have volunteered for instructor training, an Instructor trainer meeting is set for July 12 at Fulton, MO Point of contact: Don Birdsall 636-677-5398.

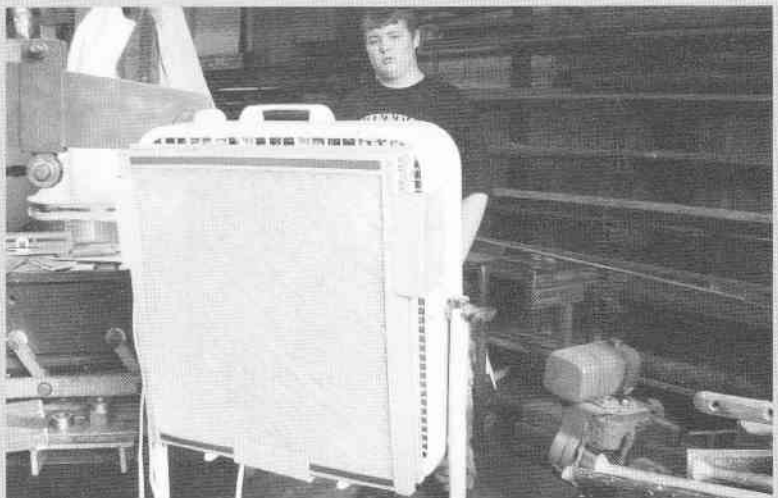
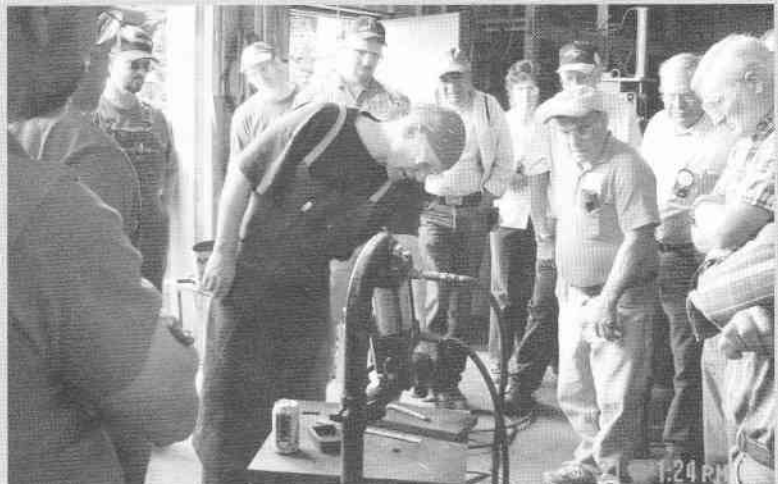
The next meeting is in Bonner Springs, KS, (just west of Kansas City) at the "Agriculture Hall of Fame". Trade item is a candleholder. We have agreed to pay a \$3.00 entrance fee (normally \$6.00) but we get the grand tour for our three dollars. I've heard they have a huge anvil collection there. Sounds interesting. See you there. Happy Hammerin' Joe



May Meeting at Don Asbee's



It is always fun and educational to go to Don Asbee's shop. The May 29th meeting was no exception. Don is sort of a ball of energy fellow and he moves from one project to another with a purpose (a term learned from a Drill Sergeant). Don is an accomplished artist blacksmith as well as an innovator of numerous labor saving practices and safety devices. In February, Don hosted a meeting at his shop titled "Saving Your Body". His presentation included tips on saving your back while lifting, bending, safety tips about grinding and using a wire brush, etc. Don is a strong advocate of filtering the shop air to reduce the amount of bad stuff we breathe while doing metal work. He demonstrated a welding helmet with filtered fresh air flowing through the top of his helmet and down across his face. This was operated by a battery operated fan. My favorite is Don's shop air exchange system: he has a system of small pipes lining the interior wall of a large exhaust tube. In heating season, the air being exhausted warms the incoming fresh air. There is a large pedestal in the center of Don's shop, with arms that swing over about 75% of his shop. These arms are used for lifting devices and an array of equipment and tool hangers. During the recent meeting, Don made copper lily pad type leaves for a commissioned sculpture. The final result will be a fountain fixture, with a stainless steel ring that sprays water to cascade down over the spiral stack of copper lily pad leaves. Another interesting event at Don's shop is watching his shop cat climb the ladder to a shelf about 10' above the shop floor.



FROM THE NEW EDITOR OF THE BAM NEWSLETTER

First. I want to thank Jim McCarty for his assistance in this transition and tutoring me on the duties of the Editor of the BAM Newsletter. In the tradition of service that Jim has rendered over the past 10 years, he has given advice on what hardware BAM should purchase and has taken time to install the software. Jim has agreed to be available for consultation and suggestions and his assistance is very much appreciated. I do not have professional editing experience as my predecessor does, so there will be a learning curve, but I have a passion for working with metal and I am thankful for BAM, which has opened avenues for me to learn from others. President Joe Wilkinson has spent a considerable amount of time with me and expressed his vision of the future of the BAM Newsletter and some suggestions for additional features that we should explore. BAM has purchased an EMAC computer, printer, scanner, and digital camera to be used for the BAM Newsletter. This equipment will be used exclusively for BAM media coverage. The computer will be installed in an office in downtown Fulton, which Esther and I own and is currently vacant. President Joe inspected this facility recently and concluded that with free rent it is an OK place. I will put my phone and fax numbers at the bottom of this letter and will also publish those in the newsletter. The downtown office currently does not have a phone, but I am available at home in the evenings and most every afternoon at the farm/shop. In addition, I will list my cell phone, which I always carry, but can seldom hear it ring, so my wife says. The fax and email communication avenues are always available. All information submitted will be acknowledged, by some means: email, mail, phone, or in person. Please submit articles, photos, suggestions, letters to the editor, etc, any information that will be of interest to our membership. If you have made something you would like to share, send photos and details, or perhaps you have made a tool that could be of interest to others, send the photo or drawing and photos. I have suggested to President Joe that BAM appoint an Associate Editor. This would not only provide a back up person to get the newsletter out, but would also give additional depth to the editorial thinking. I am looking forward to this challenge and will appreciate your support and suggestions.

Ned Digh

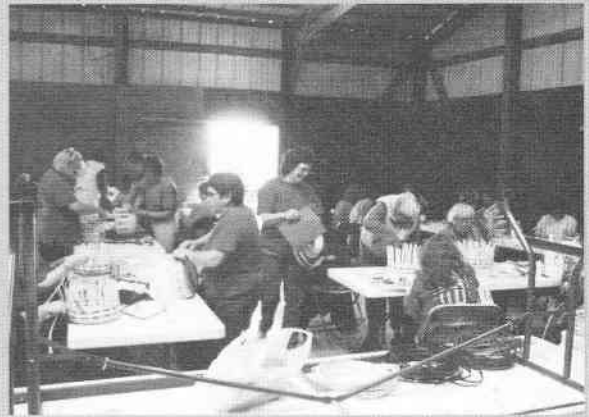
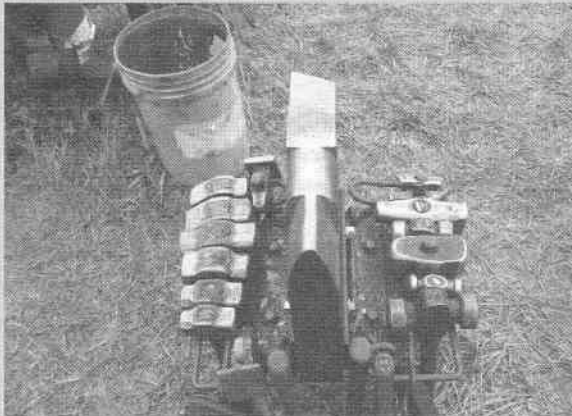
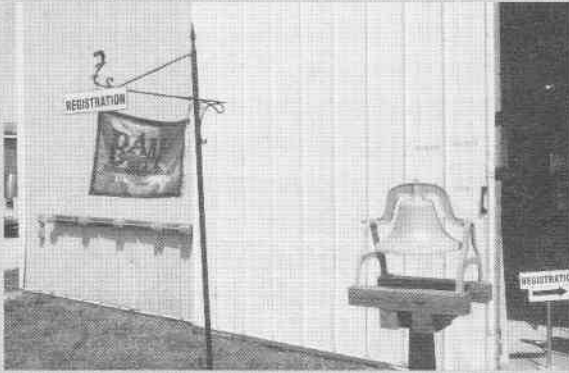
Phones: Home 573-642-8332 Farm/Forge 573-642-9502 FAX 573-642-0364

Cell 573-220-0421 Email bameditor@ktis.net

Mail: PO Box 765. Fulton, MO 65251-0765 or 300 W. 7th St, Fulton, MO 65251

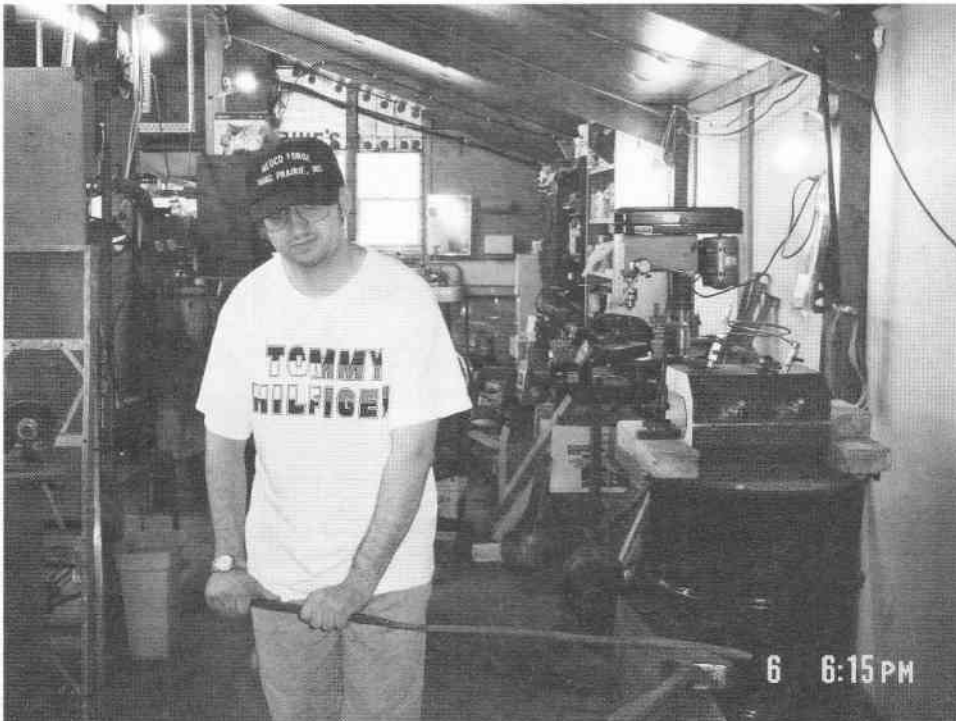


Memories from the 2003 Conference



BAM Focus on Youth

Do you have a youngster that frequents your shop? I have several, including a couple of grandsons, one local and one in Alabama, who spends his visits working in "our shop". The young man pictured below is Joseph Masek. Joe's family lives across the road from our farm at Ham's Prairie. Joe has been part of my shop ever since we have had a shop. He doesn't like to hammer, but he is one super blacksmith helper. Joe has a unique gift of perception to see what is wrong when something doesn't fit. At times, I have hammered on something and got very frustrated that it doesn't fit or work. Joe will calmly say "let me ask you something, are you trying to make that fit?" After answering yes in a frustrated voice, Joe says "well you can hammer on that all night, but it is not going to work until you fix that piece right there that is sticking out". When I muttered "well, why couldn't I see that", Joe will usually say "well I don't know what to tell you about that, but you need to fix that piece, right there". Joe just turned 19 and graduated from High School. He has won a number of Gold Medals in the Special Olympics and also participated in the school choir. Last Summer, Joe worked on the custodial crew at the public school, they liked him so well that he is now employed full time there. Since Joe is working full time, he will not have as much time to spend in my shop, but he is a special friend, always polite and friendly. I should also mention that Joe has the fastest pencil in the West for writing down license tag numbers and vehicle descriptions when anyone prowls around our farm. Such a friend, we all would be fortunate to have. By Ned Digh

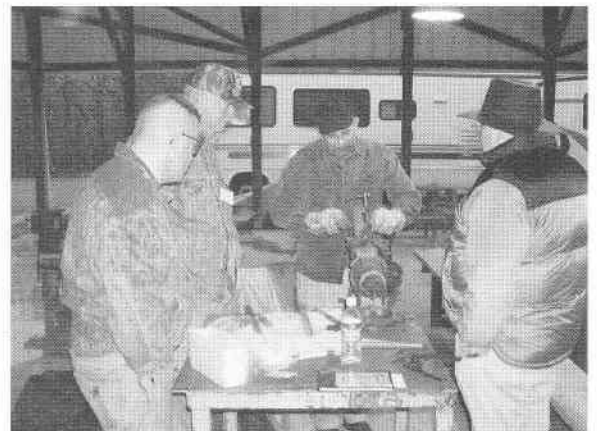


“Aw Schucks”

The “aw schucks” page is a catchall for miscellaneous stuff. Now some folks say Aw Schucks with a bit more emphasis. All our four grandsons are a head taller than Grandma Esther, but they toe the line when she calls the shots. I heard her reprimanding one of them the other day about a conduct matter and as soon as he got out of her hearing range, he muttered “aw schucks, I was hoping that she would not find out about that”!

Someone asked me about a criteria for articles to be considered for publication. Well, I don't rightly know of a criteria, but if you write it, I will do my best to give it full consideration. We can not publish copyrighted material, but there is lots of talent in the BAM and I know many of you can write, draw plans, or send photos of projects. A recent suggestions was to publish some projects for beginners so I have included a plan to make a simple pair of tongs from the Anvilfire web site. You will find it some where in this newsletter.

This issue of the newsletter is done on a rush basis, along with my transitioning to a Mac computer and using software that I had never heard of before. So don't expect the professional quality in this issue that we have had from Jim McCarty in the past. In spite of these moanings, I hope to get the final draft to the printer in sufficient time for you to have it before the July 12th and July 19th meetings. I appreciate the assistance Esther has given in reminding me (no, I didn't say nagging) to call various persons and to include items. Then there is Eric Quails, our 15 year old Grandson. Eric went with me to pick up the computer from Jim McCarty. Jim gave us a tutoring lesson, much of which wizzed by my head, but Eric, typical of our young people today that have no fear of computers, took the ball and ran with it. I would be weeks more getting this issue out, but for his help. Eric is a BAM member and is on his way to becoming a pretty good blacksmith. He is learning to play the bagpipes and wants to take fiddle and banjo lessons. Yesterday he got his drivers permit, but like most kids around farms, he has been driving on the farm since he was about 10. We all owe Eric a big thank you.



Buy, Sell, & Trade (and maybe other things!)

Wanted: A small Metal Shaper. 7-10" size. Ammco, Atlas, Delta, Logan, South Bend or something similar. Contact Bruce Herzog. Call (314) 892-4690 or e-mail bherzog@msn.com

Looking for an anvil. Call Tim at (573) 546-6321.

For sale: 3-1/2" bench vise, opens to 8 inches, 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 e-mail 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 65355.

Heavy duty frying pan blanks: Steel, approximately 9 inch in diameter 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. Now 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 \$1,300; 20-pound table top model \$1,900; 20-pound floor model \$2,200; 40-pound floor model \$2,600. 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, Route 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. Now offering: 12" x 18" BAM logo signs plasma cut from 1/8" A36 steel plate, \$25 BAM members, \$35 non-members. Call (573) 474-8749 and ask for William Irvin.

Have you lit the forge and hammered some today? It is good for the Soul!

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

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. For more info on the tools contact him at (573) 438-4725.

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 Mingus 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.

George Dixon edits a blacksmithing publication called "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 is a new publication by BAM member Stephen McGehee. It's full of metalworking projects as well as his own brand of wit. Subscriptions are \$35 a year or \$65 for 2 years. Send checks to P.O. Box 925, Corydon, IN 47112.

Sponsor a young person as a member of BAM, they are the future of BAM and the craft of Blacksmithing!

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 foundry 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-FARM-BEL. Web site www.bellsandmoe.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.

Wanted: Articles for the BAM Newsletter. Email, FAX, or snail mail to Ned Digh.

Kayne and Son Custom Hardware, 100 Daniel Ridge Road, Candler, NC 28715. (828) 667-8868 fax (828) 665-8303, email: kaynehdwe@ioa.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 and Forgemaster gas forges. 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.

Wanted Letters to the Editor

Get yours in next issue
Good Stuff or Complaints!

The following is the report of the scholarship committee as of 5-4-'03, to be included in the newsletter:

At the 2003 Ozark Conference the scholarship committee met and awarded three scholarships. Japheth Howard will be going to Memphis to study engraving with Bruce Le Page, and David Williams and Rachel Jeep will each be doing classes at John C. Campbell.

The committee also announced some changes to the program. There have been a number of questions in the past about the exact structure and requirements of the program, and when we realized we didn't quite know, we decided to get something in writing. Here's what we came up with.

Scholarship Guidelines

I Scholarships will be awarded by the scholarship committee based on the quality of applications and the availability of funds. Decisions of the committee will be final.

II. The committee is to consist of 3 members who serve rotating 2 year terms appointed by the BAM president. The president will appoint one of these members chairman of the committee.

III. The committee will be responsible for publicizing the scholarship program and for suggesting changes to these guidelines as may seem appropriate. Changes are to be approved by the board of directors of BAM.

IV. The number and amounts of scholarships will be fixed by the board of directors and revised by them from time to time as may be appropriate. The scholarship committee will advise the board on these matters.

V. Eligibility: Only Members in good standing of BAM may receive scholarships. Serving scholarship committee members will not be eligible for scholarships. No member may apply for a scholarship within one year after receiving a previous scholarship. Applicants who have not received a scholarship within the three years prior to their application will be given priority.

VI. The board of directors will determine how often and on what dates scholarships are to be awarded.

VII. Applications must be received 30 days before the date of awards. The committee must confer 2 weeks before the date of awards.

VIII. Obligations of recipients: Scholarship money must be spent for the activity or program for which it is granted unless changes are specifically approved by the board of directors. Every recipient, within three months following the event for which the scholarship is granted must submit a written description of the event with notes, drawings, photos, etc. where appropriate, to the BAM Newsletter. Within one year, the recipient must demonstrate what was learned as a consequence of the scholarship either at a BAM meeting or on video tape to be placed in the BAM Library.

IX. The scholarship committee will prepare an application form and make it available to any member who requests it. In addition, the form will be published in the BAM newsletter. All the terms and conditions will be included with the application (i.e., items V, VII, and VIII, above, plus the number of scholarships and the maximum amount available).

A couple of comments are due here. First, with respect to number III., the committee would be delighted to receive suggestions at anytime as to how we can make this program work better. Please share your ideas, questions, gripes, etc. with Walt Hull (chairman), Don Birdsall, or Kirk Sullens. We also stand ready to help with the application or anything else we can do to help individuals or the organization as a whole to get some good out of this program.

With respect to number VI., we have decided to make scholarships available quarterly, counting from the date of the conference. That means that awards will be made August 1, November 1, February 1, and at the next conference, with applications due a month ahead of each of these dates. For the moment the board of directors has set the number of scholarships at 10 for the year and the amount at \$500.00 each. Four of those have been awarded, leaving six available.

Send form to:
Walt Hull, 2043 Massachusetts, Lawrence, Kansas 66046.

Scholarship Application

Name:

Address:

Phone:

What Class or Event do you Wiish to Attend:

Where:

What are the cost:

Tuition
Travel
Lodging
Other

Briefly, how do hope to advance in blacksmithing? Where do you want to go and how will this class or event help you get there? (additional pages if necessary - typing is OK)

I understand that as a requirement of receiving this scholarship, I must: 1) submit a written description with notes, drawings, etc, of the event to the BAM Newsletter, no later than 3 months after the end of the event, and 2) within 1 year of the event, I must demonstrate my new knowledge at a BAM meeting or a video tape to be placed in the BAM library.

Signed _____ Date _____

Message From Don Birdsall

This message has two parts: The next meeting and The Teaching station.

The next meeting is July 19th, not the 29th as stated in the last newsletter!

All BAM members that have volunteered to hold training classes in their shops as well as as all members who are willing to be assistant trainers

Please attend a meeting on Saturday July 12, 2003 at:

Hams Prairie Christian Church (Muliti Purpose Building)

Hams Prairie is 7.5 miles South of Fulton on State Route C

(Ham's Prairie = Country Store, Church, Garage, Fire Station)

Lunch will be served.

Over night camping OK at the church parking lot or at Ned Digh's farm (1.5 miles from church)

Esther Digh has activities for the wives that attend.

Visiting local antique shops, etc

Please let Ned or Esther know if you are coming, so they can know how many to expect for lunch. 573-642-8332 email: bameditor@ktis.net FAX 573-642-0364

The purpose of the meeting is to iron out the details and set dates for the classes. For those members that I did not talk to about holding classes in your shops. Here are the basics for you to consider. Floor space needed is 350 to 400 square feet needed to set up 10 anvils and 5 forges, and 2-100 pound propane gas tanks. We will use gas forges instead of coal. We are going to try and have the classes in the months between the BAM meetings, there will be 2 classes 1 Or 2 weeks apart that will cover the basic blacksmith techniques, The reason for 2 classes is that the feed back from the members that took the first 5 classes asked that we do it this way so as not to get over loaded with too much information all at one time. They felt that with a 1 or 2 week space between classes that they were able to retain more. It will probably take about 18 months, for the trailer travel time around the state, so the shop owner and assistants will be teaching 2 classes in that period of time.

Page 2 of Don Birdsall's Message

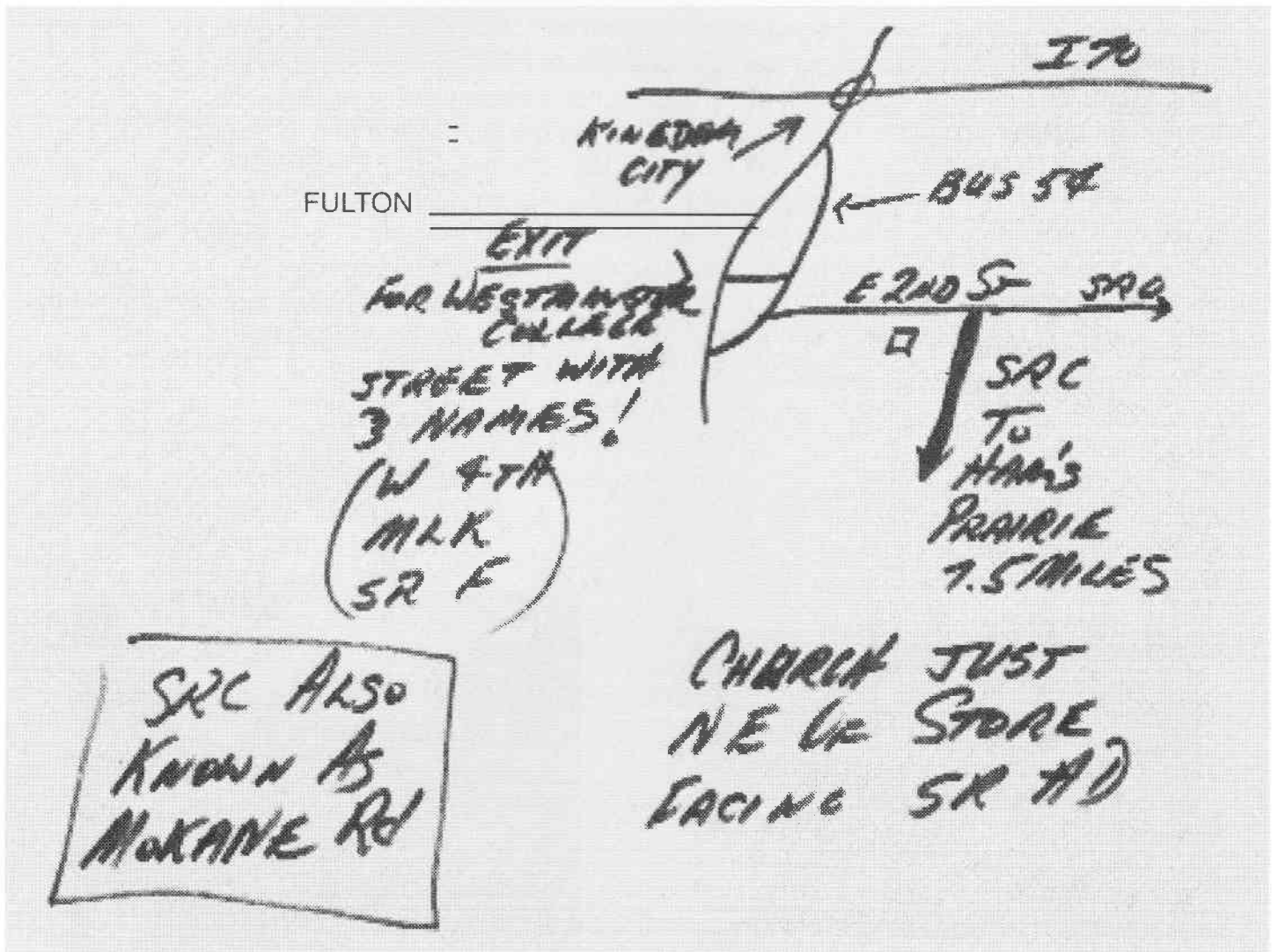
We need more assistants, we found In the previous classes that the more help we have creates a more productive learning environment. Ideally we would like to have 1 assistant for each student.

Watch For the Workshop at Lou Mueller's Shop in the FALL. This will be a training session for lead teachers and assistants.

If you have questions:

If anyone has any questions, about the workshop call Don Birdsall
636-677-5398 Evenings after 6 pm is the best time
e-mail: djbirdsall@networkusa.net

If you have questions about directions to Ham's Prairie, Call Ned or Esther Digh – 573-642-8332.



EstherSpeak

I encouraged Ned to attend blacksmith school because I thought that blacksmithing would be a compatible skill with his life long ambition of being a full time piddler. I had no idea it would lead to becoming the editor of BAM. Believe me, getting this first issue out has created some tense moments around the house this week. Thank goodness for our grandson, Eric, who has come to his grandfather's rescue. Hopefully, the learning curve will peak and level out soon.

I was certainly mistaken about blacksmithing requiring a minimal amount of equipment-an anvil, a hammer or two, a forge and some metal. When all this started, I had no idea that we would be proud owners of forges, anvils, and post vises but that there would be numerous hammers of various shapes and sizes and many styles of tongs hanging on the shop wall. We would also need a power hammer, a mig welder, chop saw, grinder, bender, sander and the list keeps on growing! I have also been introduced to hardies, fullers, swages, and quenching formulas. Also, I have learned that one can never have too much scrap metal on hands. Well, I guess that equates to my growing stash of quilting fabrics.

I really have no complaint since Ned's acquisition of blacksmithing equipment paves the road for me. Now, I can think about a newer and better sewing machine or some piece of quilting equipment that would enhance my hobby. Being a part of the BAM has provided the opportunity to meet many friendly and interesting people. In fact, it is one of the more congenial organizations we have been associated with. I enjoy the meetings when the spouses bring their chairs, and we sit and talk as well as complete some hand work we may have brought along. We haven't solved the problems of the world but that may come in time. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting in July. Spouses, bring your chair and we'll find a "cool" place to sit and share in fellowship.

Esther Digh



"Easy" Tongs



Demonstration by Sean Conner AKA Whitesmith of Blackstone Forge

April 24, 2002

Reproduced from anvilfire.com

GURU Sean is 10 years old and this is his second demo. Demo #112 was his first demo on anvilfire, at age 9. :)

His father is a professional photographer and a part time blacksmith. Sean insists on doing his on-line demos without his father's help other than the photos!

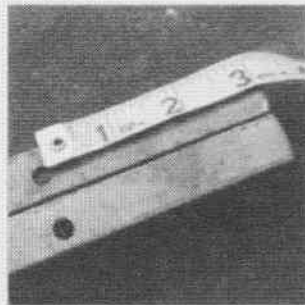


Figure 2

Tonight I am going to show how to make a pair of light weight tongs, the easy way. Start with 2 pieces of 1/4" x 3/4" x 20" long flat bar. Drill, or heat and drift, a 1/4" hole, 3 inches from one end, and in the center of the bar. To be sure both pieces match, clamp the bars together and make the hole in both bars at the same time if you use the drilling method.

WHITE SMITH Insert a piece of 1/4" round rod into the hole. Put a vise grip on the handle end to hold the two pieces together.

WHITE SMITH Heat the tong end to orange in the forge.

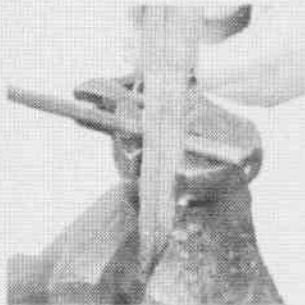


Figure 3

Place the tong end in a vise. Put a crescent wrench just under the piece of 1/4" round rod and adjust the vise so there is about 1 inch of space between the bottom of the wrench and the top of the vise.



Figure 4

Turn the wrench 90 degrees or 1/4 turn. You are turning BOTH pieces of bar stock at the same time, and in the same direction.

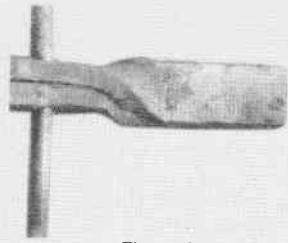


Figure 5

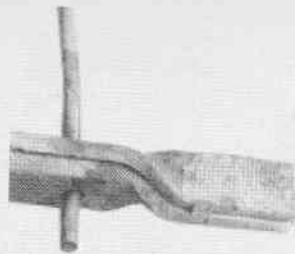


Figure 7

WHITE
SMITH

This shows how it looks from the top and the side.

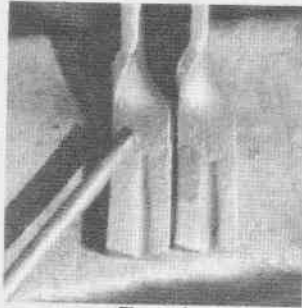


Figure 8



Figure 10



Figure 9

WHITE
SMITH

Remove the rod. Heat the tong end in the forge and then shape it for what you want it to do. This set of tongs was being built to hold 1/4" round stock. The tongs can be taken apart and worked easily in the forge. When you want to see how you did, put them back together with the rod.



Figure 11

When you have the tongs shaped the way you want, heat the end of the 1/4" round rod and put it in the hole in the tongs. Clamp it in the vise and peen the end of the rod to form a rivet head.



Figure 12

Once you have made a rivet head from the end of the rod, cut the other end of the rod off, leaving enough rod to make a rivet head on that side too. Put the whole thing in the fire and get just the end of the rivet hot. You can make the rivet head with the rod cold, but a little bit of heat makes it work a lot better.

WHITE
SMITH

Put it on the anvil and peen the end over to form a rivet head. Be careful not to get it too tight. You can always make it tighter later, just peen it again, but you can't make it loosen up by hitting it with the hammer.

WHITE
SMITH

Note: For the rivet, leave about 1-1/2 times the diameter of the rod to make the rivet head.

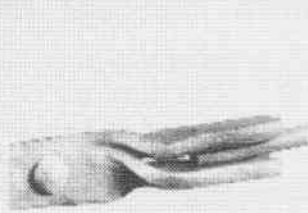


Figure 13

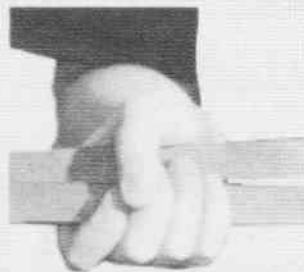


Figure 14

WHITE SMITH These tongs have just about the right space at the end of the handle to work for me. You can heat and bend the handles to adjust the space to fit your hands.



Figure 15

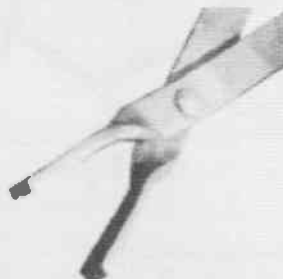


Figure 16

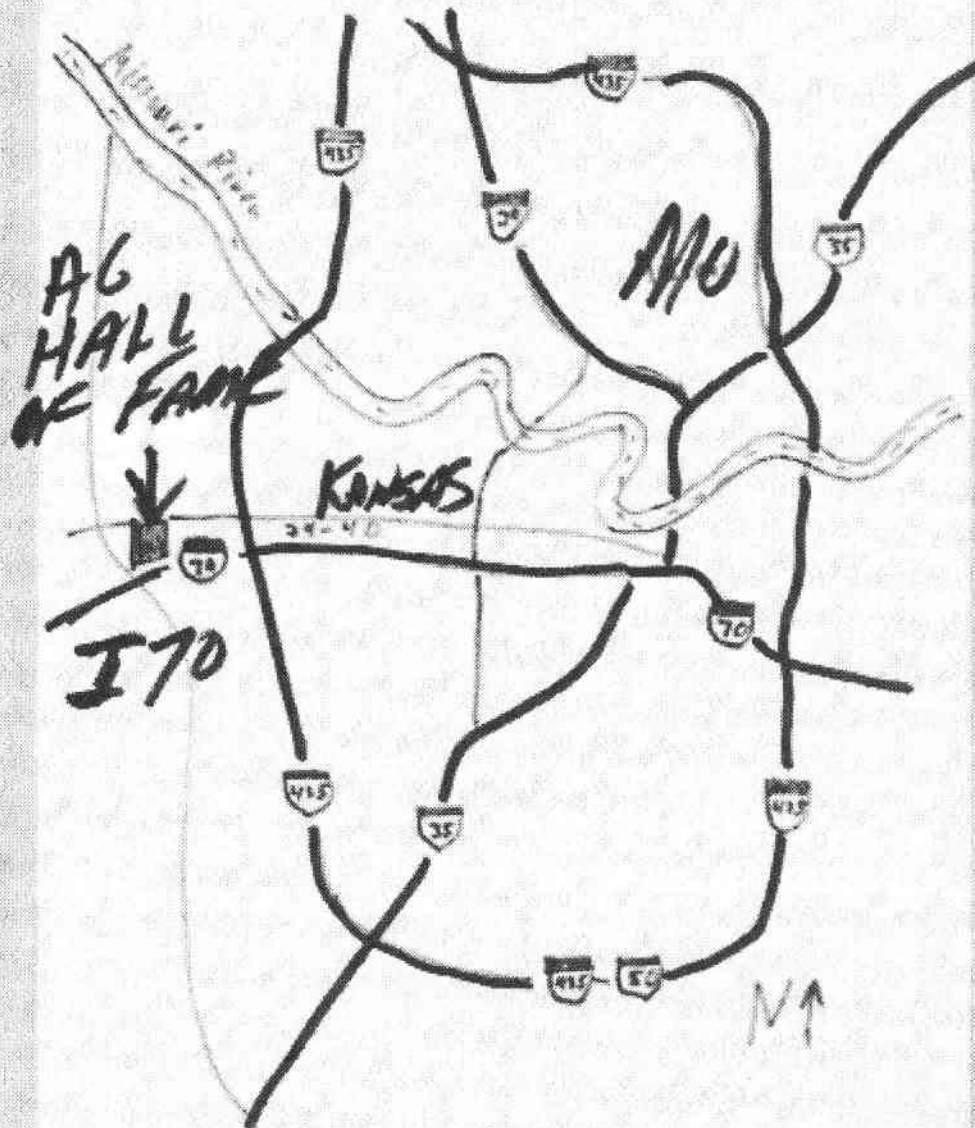


Figure 13

WHITE SMITH These are not heavy tongs, and will not do the work of heavy tongs, but they will do a lot of work and are quick and easy to make.



Next meeting: July 19, Bonner Springs, Kansas



Our next meeting will be held at a place many of us have wanted to visit for years: The Ag Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, Kansas. The site features many unusual exhibits, including the world's largest collection of anvils. You'll also see farm machinery, rare barb wire and a lot more. Mike Nave is putting this one together for us. He says demos are still in the planning stage but that we could count on him doing a forge welding demonstration to pay back his scholarship.

Lunch will be available on the site or at the numerous restaurants nearby.

Getting there is easy. It's just over the Kansas line right off Interstate 70.

Trade item is a candleholder. This should be an easy one for everyone to do. As usual bring something for the iron in the hat. For the newcomers this is any item that would interest a blacksmith. Your donation gets raffled with chances a dollar each.

See you all in Kansas July 19.



July Meeting

Agriculture Hall of Fame
Bonner Springs, Kansas
July 19

Trade item: Candleholder

2003 Meeting schedule

September Meeting

Bob Ehrenberger
Shelbyville, MO
September 20
Cheese slicer

November Meeting

John Murray
New Melle, MO
Trade Item TBA

REMOUNT PAGE

In the days gone by of the mounted calvary, a remount, as described in the dictionary, was to remount on a fresh horse and continue. Old cavalry soldiers relate that usually you remounted the same horse, but you had a new attitude, to sit tall in the saddle and think ahead. The printer has sent the proof copy of the BAM Newsletter for the editor to review, make corrections, and return for printing. Several spelling corrections have been made, but it is time to think ahead and inform our readers what to expect in future issues. Hopefully, this forward thinking does not portray the idea that the editor does all the scrambling for material. Your input is important and needed.

Coming Up: July/August Issue

Report on the June 21-22 workshop by Clay Spencer at Lou Mueller's Shop
Report on the July 12th meeting for trainers (more needed) at Ham's Prairie
Report on the July 19th meeting at the Ag Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, KS
BAM Focus on Youth, featuring BAM member Andrew Timbrook
Article by Dave Williams on his scholarship week at John C. Campbell
Shop Tour of Williams Forge in Columbia, MO
Book Review: Catching the Fire (About Phillip Simmons)
EstherSpeak: If she knows her topic, she is not telling
Aw Shucks: Draft is in progress, but needs cleaning up, this is a family newsletter
Update on workshops: Treadle Hammer and maybe a Forge Making Workshop

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER SPECIAL ISSUE

WANTED: Plans, photos, descriptions, directions on how to make.... items for Christmas. Let's not limit our thinking on this, Blacksmith and Spouses are some of the most creative folks around. Think about Christmas tree ornaments, decorations (inside and for the yard), Christmas gifts, lighted yard figures and stars. Needed by September 20th to get in print, or bring to meeting at Bob Ehrenberger's shop. (THE SOONER, THE BETTER)

November/December Issue

To be filled with articles, plans, letters, book reviews, and Aw Shucks type stuff from our BAM Members! In researching the BAM Newsletters from 1987 to the present, one has to be awed by the talent in this organization. Lets do a Remount and unleash some of that creativity, if you published a plan years ago, maybe it needs updating or perhaps you have discovered a better way to make something.

A special thanks to Darla Porter and the staff at the Modern Litho Company for getting this issue into print in a timely manner. Eric and I missed some links in getting the software to do everything we thought it was doing. Darla sent it to a gal named Mickey, who made it look good!

Opportunities

- July 12 Instructor Training at Ham's Prarie, MO
July 19 Meeting at Agriculture Hall of Fame, Bonner Springs, KS
September 20 Bob Ehrenberger's in Shelbyville, MO
November Meeting at John Murray's Shop in New Melle, MO

NOTE.....Articles, Plans, and Photos needed for the next Issue!

Demonstrators Needed: Paris, MO • July 12th • Contact Preston Williams • 660-291-8740



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