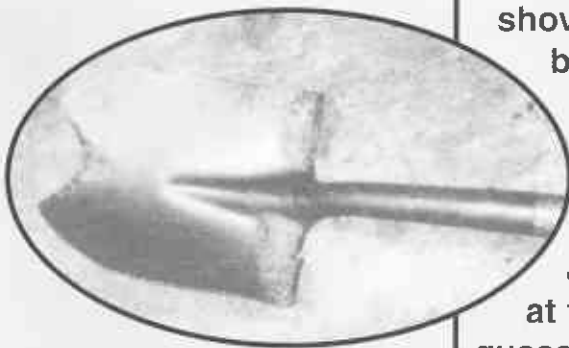


BAM

May - June 2004
www.bamsite.org



The BAM Coal Bin



The Shovel at left is the "Retired BAM Coal Shovel," worn out by Bob Alexander. This shovel has been used by Bob to fill coal bags since the BAM Bin was built in 1998. Guess the number of bags this shovel has been used for and win a free bag of coal. Enter your guess at the meeting in Willard on July 31, 2004. Bob Alexander will be at the meeting and determine who guesses closest to the actual number of shovel loads he has put in BAM bags.

**THE 13th ANNUAL OZARK BAM CONFERENCE
AT WARRENTON, MISSOURI APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2004**

Our annual conference was a huge success, even with less than desirable weather conditions. Positive comments have come from so many officers and members about the conference and praise for the super jobs done by the committees, BAM Boutique folks, demonstrators, auctioneer, and so many that will go not mentioned, but did so much to make the conference a success. With the event of the conference, BAM has new officers and new committee appointments. They will all need the support of the membership to continue the good work of those they (and we) follow. Without a doubt, the future of the BAM legacy is in good hands and the future holds more exemplary service and dedication to the craft of Blacksmithing.

Committee Assignments by President Don Nichols

Conference

David Smith - Chairman 573-237-2286
Pat McCarty
Larry Hults
Bob Stormer

Conference Gallery

Walt Hull - Chairman 785-865-5771
Doug Hendrickson

Coal Captain

Bob Alexander 636-586-5350

Scholarship

Kirk Sullens - Chairman 417-863-8628
Don Birdsall
David Smith

Mobile Training Station

See Note: Lou Mueller - Chairman **314-842-0796**
Don Birdsall-Asst Chair 573-364-7223
Ed Harper
Bruce Herzog

BAM Meeting Site Planner

Kirk Sullens 417-863-8628

Note> Mark your rosters: This Phone # is for Lou Mueller's New Shop Location

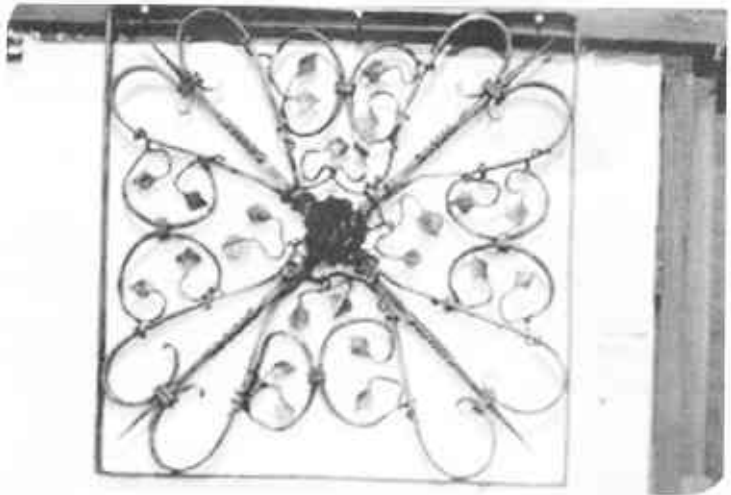
Masters of Damascus - (BAM Ozark Conference of 2004)

Left to right: Devin Thomas, Rick Dunkerley, Cliff Parker, Don Hansen, & Hank Knickmey



Bob Stormer Photos

2004 Conference Photos by David McCord



These are a selected few of the photos sent by David McCord. All photos received have been added to the BAM Master Album and will be shown in the BAM Slide Show at the 2005 Ozark BAM Conference.

The BAM Boutique at the Conference *by Ned Digh*

As we have come to expect, the ladies of the BAM Boutique did a super job at the Conference. In addition to the operation of the boutique, they had an additional volunteer job, serving as "surrogate grandmothers" for William Pieh. Amy Pieh brought young William to the conference and a number of the ladies babysat William, rolled him for rides in his buggy, and entertained him. Not only did William have the attention from the "Grandmas", but he also had a teenage baby sitter, daughter of Kirk and Mona Sullens. She has completed a course in school on child care and proved in helping with William that she knew her subject well. As you will see from the photos below, William had a good time.

Back to the BAM Boutique, our spouses look younger and more attractive every year. I can't say that for the men of our membership. Maybe it was the bad weather, but some of them seem to be getting older and I am glad that I am not a part of that group. The ladies that worked to make the boutique a success are listed below. Thanks to all and we will look forward to a super performance again next year.

Ruth Hull

Mara Harper

Jan Weisenborn

Registration Duties: Mary Ann Shepard

Mona Pieron

Esther Digh

Phyllis Wilkinson

Jane Herzog

William & Danika Sullens



FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT JOE WILKINSON

JOE'S JIVE

This is my final letter as President of BAM. Don Nichols is now president and I have every confidence Don will do an excellent job managing this position. All committees, with the exception of the Scholarship Committee, which serves a rotating two-year term, are here-by relieved with my thanks for your service. Your new president is entitled to choose those members he wants to serve on the committee.

I believe each president tries to make our organization better with each passing term and I guess history will judge the performance of each of us. In any case, it has been an interesting experience, some good, some not so good, but all interesting.

For the past three years, BAM has held the central focus of most of my thoughts, only my home and family held a higher priority. I am sure those thoughts will continue for some time as I adjust to being a "civilian" again. In any case, I stand ready to assist our new president and BAM in general in any way I can.

With the very successful conference still fresh in my mind, I am reminded of the efforts of the many people it takes to make all this happen. Many volunteers who provide power hammers, gas bottles, torches, leaflets, notices and on and on. I was particularly impressed with the roll spouses play in managing the business of the conference. At any time of the day I could see some smiling lady at the registration desk or in the Boutique, which this year also displayed A BAM Good Cook Book, helping arrange the auction items, etc... and so I say to all you wonderful people who helped make the conference a success, my most heartfelt thank you, your efforts do not go unnoticed. Happy Hammering, Joe



Left: Joe at Boy Scout Demo, first day out of office as President - looks relaxed!

Right: Joe, the teacher: with Bob Booska, MTS student at the Mexico, MO class.



BAM ELECTION RESULTS (at the 2004 Conference)

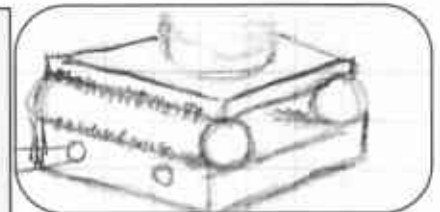
President: Don Nichols 1st Vice President: Doug Clemons
2nd Vice President: Ed Harper Secretary: John Murray Treasurer: Bruce Herzog

Letter to the Editor: I wish to express my appreciation of the BAM workshop that was put on by Bruce Herzog on the treadle hammers. After a few "tweaks", my hammer works great! My appreciation, also, of the others members who worked with us, putting the hammers together. THANKS A LOT! Hope that we can have other similar workshops. This was a great opportunity to work together, get to know each other and learn from each other. Appreciation goes to Lou Mueller for the use of his shop. Dave Smith

Dave's removable handle:

Top: Drill & tap
1/2" holes.

Bottom: Weld 3/4"
bar to handle.
Drill 1/2" holes for
bolts to attach
handle



dlssmith@mail.fidnet.com

^ yep, Dave says 2 s's here

From President Don Nichols

To Whom It May Concern,

(May 16,2004)

We just had our conference so I hope it concerns every member of BAM. It was again a really good conference. It was a little cold and a little wet, but what's cold and wet to a blacksmith; just stand closer to the fire. When it comes to "thank you" where do you start and end? First, the demonstrators Dan Nauman, Toby Hickman, and Devin Thomas did a superb job. Many new things were learned and a big thanks goes to them. The conference committees many months of planning were greatly appreciated. Thanks to Fred Weisenborn, Dave Shepard, Dave Smith, and Bob Stormer. Did you notice some of them were wet part of the time or was it all of the time? Bruce Herzog a tremendous thanks to you for handling all the registrations and to Jane and Mary Ann for taking care of those checking in at the conference.

We have a great group of ladies who help in the BAM boutique each year. They always have everything displayed so nicely and we appreciate all those who donate items for this. A big thank to all of you.

The gallery was awesome this year. Walt and all of his helpers did the gallery "uptown" like. Thanks to all that displayed art work and please more of you start making something for next year.

Good comments were heard about our mobile training station. The students appreciated the patience of all the teachers at the fall class on Friday. Good Job! Thanks to Lou, Don, Ed, and Bruce and all the others who took part and helped out.

Thanks to Tom Clark for all that he does for our Conference by providing power hammers and equipment for our demonstrators. As I understand, Tom was the one that started our Conference. Tom said, BAM has one of the best Associations and Conferences in the U.S. THANKS Tom!

To anyone else who helped at the Conference and at our other meetings throughout the year a huge thanks. You make me proud to be a part of this Association. Without each and everyone pitching in and helping out we could not be a successful Blacksmith Club.

I definitely want to thank Doug Clemons, Ed Harper, John Murray and Bruce Herzog for being part of the team of officers for next year.

So remember. Don't ask what can BAM do for me, but what can I do for BAM?

So don't let your hammer get rusty. From Rusty Hammer Forge, Don

June 21,2004

Well, I did it in my first letter for the BAM Newsletter. I thanked everyone, well almost everyone, except I forgot one of the most important people Joe Wilkinson. So better late than never. Thanks Joe for all that you did for BAM as President. You will be a hard act to follow. I hope all of the BAM members will be patient with me and forgive me for not remembering people's names. It will be What's-his-name or What's-her-name when we talk. Or who was that guy?

Our May meeting was at the Mark Twain Cave and Campgrounds. We had good weather and a nice spot for a meeting. David Williams demoed a copper flower for a water fountain. This was a pay back for a Scholarship from BAM. Fine demo Dave. Then Kenneth Janson demoed an angled cross peen hammer head with What's-his-name as a striker. Kenneth showed us even though things don't go as planned we can overcome if we just don't give up. The pipe welded on for a handle, to hold the material, broke off, but Kenneth like a true blacksmith, went on and finished making the eye in the hammer head. He also made a nice candle snuffer. Great job!

We had lunch and Doug sold Iron in the Hat tickets. There was a good selection of items for this and of course, a John Murray hammer. As always, we filled the cup full with tickets for the hammer. We had only two items for the Trade Item table. As I've said before, please try and participate in this. You will never learn until you use what you hear and see at our meetings. So, pick up those hammers and go to work. Use it or lose it.

Remember, mine is the only Rusty Hammer Forge. Bye for now, Old Don What's-his-name

Letter to the Editor:

Recently I was able to represent Pieh Tool Company, Inc. at BAM 2004 conference. It was just as I remembered...full of wonderful and talented people. Being busy in my booth, I was unable to watch the demonstrations, however I enjoyed visiting with everyone who came by. I want to say thank you to all the 'grandmothers' and the 'babysitter' who looked after my son, William and I during the conference. I would also like to comment that the volunteers really did a spectacular job in helping us. I am sure many appreciated their planning and effort.

I look forward to seeing some of you at ABANA, and if not then at BAM 2005!

Sincerely,

Amy L. Pieh, President, Pieh Tool Company, Inc. Farrier, Veterinary, Equine, Bovine and Blacksmith Supplies

BAM Focus on Youth

Eric Qualls



Veronica & Dad Dwayne Schneider with Stan Stevens



Yes. Veronica threw this tomahawk at a target and hit it dead on! >>>>



OK, Dad, we like it. When can we leave?



Cale Comstock - A Heck of a Salesman!

Dad, I like this hammer!



A Conversation with Tim Ryan *by Ruth Hull*

When Ned Digh approached me at the BAM Soucoue in Warrenton and asked me if I would do an interview for the newsletter, it took me a minute to recognize the honor attached to the request and say yes. But deciding on the subject of the interview took only a few seconds.

My first encounter with Tim Ryan was when I attended the auction at a BAM Ozark Conference in Potosi several years ago. I was struck by the way he could bring a crowd of folks together for a warm and happy evening devoted to parting with their money. His humor, which ranges from tall tales, to too-true, to self-effacing, to the pure corn of jokes your grandpa told you, plays a large role in creating that feeling we all share at an auction conducted by Col. Ryan.

Shortly after Tim arrived on Friday night, I asked him if he would be willing to be interviewed and we arranged to take some time Saturday morning for a conversation. Topic: Colonel Tim Ryan, auctioneer, blacksmith, and Resident Gardener at John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina. This had to be a man with an interesting history.

Tim was born in Logan County in Southern Kentucky which served as home base until the family moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in order for him to attend the high school affiliated with David Lipscomb College, a Church of Christ school founded in 1891. His parents were set on the idea that their son should receive a good Christian education. Tim's mother was the secretary to the vice president of the college and his father worked as a tobacco buyer for the American Tobacco Company. Many of us can remember (and those of you who can't, can ask your grandpa) those radio spots that ended, "bobbobobobobobob, sold American!" Tim says his father didn't smoke and didn't allow him to smoke. Tim did take up smoking in his late twenties and these days occasionally smokes a pipe, usually a corncob.

While a high school and college student at Lipscomb, Tim worked for a garden center and did yard work for elderly ladies, many of whom turned out to be the president of the local rose club or petunia society. This gave him early experience in landscape and water gardening and the opportunity to work with people very knowledgeable about various plant species. Tim majored in biological sciences in college and planned to go to graduate school. As part of the application process, he took the Graduate Record Exam, a nationally administered test of knowledge in a number of subject areas. Many graduate schools use the scores received on this test as one of their selection criteria. Tim created quite a stir by achieving the highest score in biology that had ever been received by a Tennessee undergraduate. This led to his being granted a NASA Fellowship for graduate study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Tim elected to carry on Adam's work - botanical taxonomy (the scientific classification and naming of plants). However, after a time, he decided that graduate study was not for him and he left UNC without completing his degree. He does, however have an honorary doctorate in Metal Arts, bestowed upon him by the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association.

He went back to Logan County, Kentucky, as "home base." Since Tim's father was a tobacco buyer, he followed the tobacco harvest from Georgia to North Carolina and on through West Virginia into Ohio, where he was the only buyer in the country of "green burley" tobacco. Summers, Tim accompanied his father on those buying trips. Tobacco, like most other farm crops, was sold at auction. Farmers brought their crops to an auction house where professional buyers bid on them and the auctioneer conducted the sale. Unlike the auctions most of us are used to, nearly all communication at a commodity auction is silent, with the buyers using hand signals to indicate their bid. Tim's love of auctions grew out of these early experiences and, obviously, remains to this day. He says both his house and shop are filled with items purchased at farm and estate auctions. And he can still demonstrate the hand signals the commodity buyers use.

Tim's move into blacksmithing and auctioneering is, like the red rose and the briar, intertwined. In 1986 he took classes in blacksmithing from Fred Caylor at the Appalachian Center for Crafts. That same year, as a fledgling blacksmith, he attended an Alabama Forge Council conference at the historic village in Tannehill, Alabama, where he met Clay Spencer and Jim Batson, a past president of ABANA. "Big John" Kierbow had been scheduled to conduct the auction, but was unable to attend. Tim says he and Jim were standing near the front of the village schoolhouse, which was packed with people waiting for the auction to begin, when Jim announced that the auction would be conducted by Tim Ryan. Tim gauged the possibility of making it through the crowd to the exit and carried on with the show. To his surprise, he was invited back to conduct the next auction.

Continued on next page

Continuation of Ruth Hull's Conversation with Colonel Tim Ryan

By 1988, Tim had done enough blacksmith auctions to see a niche for himself. As he put it, he realized he might never be a world class blacksmith, but he could certainly become a world class auctioneer for blacksmithing. He enrolled at the Nashville Auction School and received his official designation of Colonel Tim Ryan. He explained that the reason for auctioneers using the title "Colonel" goes back to British tradition, carried on by the American military, that when the spoils or surplus supplies of war were to be sold, it was done by auction. The auctioneer had to be at least of the rank of colonel. Tim is a Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky Colonel.

Tim enjoys making cooking gear for and taking part in Civil War reenactments. His work includes tables and canopy beds, but somehow frequently seems to involve plants and gardens, particularly ornamental work for gardens. He is currently building two-inch black pipe "bamboo" railings for the Cheekwood Botanical Gardens in Nashville. Tim considers Jim Batson and Fred Caylor his main mentors in his blacksmithing pursuits. He says one of his most meaningful experiences was at a BAM conference in Potosi, when Fred presented him with the first hammer he had ever made.

As we were finishing up our conversation, Tim said that an important part of blacksmithing to him is what could be called "the company of good men." He explained that at about the time he got started in blacksmithing, his father and an uncle had died and he missed the relationship with them. In the blacksmithing community, he says, he has found new fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and brothers, as well as sisters and aunts. Tim is a member of ABANA and serves on the ABANA board of directors. He is a lifetime member of BAM, the AFC and the Appalachian Area affiliates. He has been the auctioneer at a number of ABANA conferences as well as those of ABANA affiliates. He bought a house in Brasstown last year and got his shop there built just last fall. Tim has a daughter who lives in Austin, Texas, and works in the film industry there. He is currently single and will entertain offers from upright ladies who aspire to be blacksmith widows. So the pieces do all come together. Like following a meandering garden path, you eventually end up right where you are.

With thanks to Ned for giving me the opportunity to sit down across the table for an uninterrupted conversation with Tim Ryan, something I've been looking forward to for years and especially, to Tim for his graciousness and time.

Ed Note: Ruth Hull is the wife of BAM member Walt Hull. Ruth is a fervent supporter of the BAM Newsletter and including spouses and other family members as part of the "BAM Family". She previously authored The History of the BAM Boutique, as published in the July-August 2003 issue. Thanks Ruth, we will look forward to additional article written by you. Tim Ryan is a Life Member of the Blacksmith Association of Missouri.

Fig 1

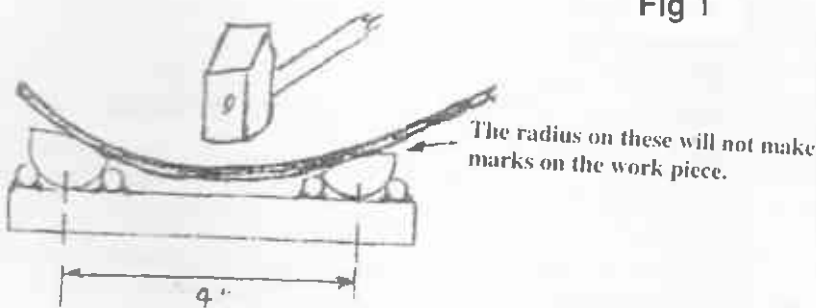
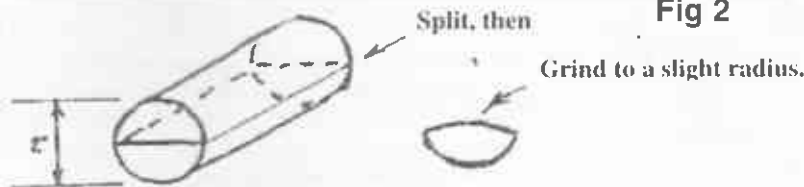


Fig 2



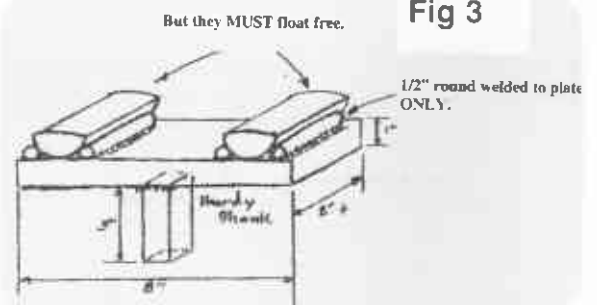
Shop Tip

Quick and Easy Radius Jig

by Richard Sheppard
Pittsburgh Area Blacksmiths

Published
New England Blacksmiths
April 04

Fig 3



Lewis & Clark Scout events feature BAM

by Linda Walker Stevens

Under two sizeable, spreading elm trees on the grounds of the Missouri National Guard Training Center in Jefferson City half a dozen BAM blacksmiths set up one of the most popular living history displays offered to Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts during the Cupbord Creek Encampment. Despite such competition as the Fort Riley Cavalry show, Mic-O-Say Indian dancers, Conservation Department exhibits, physical challenge courses, the presence of the St. Charles Corps of Discovery, a riverbarge excursion and a full-scale Osage Indian Village, the BAM group drew crowds of Scouts and leaders, throughout the day on Saturday, May 29.

Cupbord Creek Encampment, held over Memorial Day weekend, embodied the Boy Scouts of America's signature Lewis & Clark Bicentennial commemoration. It was a project of the Great Rivers Council, hosted in the Five Rivers District, and had been planned for over two years. CCE planning committee member Stan Stevens, a BAM member, suggested the blacksmith participation and made arrangements through president Joe Wilkinson.

The principal souvenir for the event was a leather-covered Lewis & Clark style journal, designed and edited by Linda Walker Stevens, who is a writer and historian, in addition to serving as BSA's Five Rivers District Commissioner and Stan's wife. The idea is based on "passport" booklets given to Boy Scouts attending National Jamboree. Activities the boys take part in are rubberstamped in the booklet. The CCE journal project was funded by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lewis & Clark Conservation Grant Program and the Circuit Court of Cole County. Every Scout and Scouter registered to attend the encampment received a copy, as did participating VIPs.

Considering the heirloom quality of this journal, and its purpose to document participation in the Lewis & Clark event, the idea evolved to make a brand that could be applied to the back of the journals. It served as a special stamp for Scouts who visited the blacksmith exhibition. BAM member Joe Wilkinson designed and forged five branding irons. The result was that over nine hundred lucky Scouts lined up and got their journals branded on that Saturday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Some attendees also requested brands on other leather articles, such as boots and belts.

Besides wielding the branding iron, the blacksmiths demonstrated how nails and other simple items were forged. One of the highlights of the day was a request from the Corps of Discovery's blacksmith to forge a link in a chain. The chain will eventually contain one link from every blacksmith encountered during the 2004-2006 Voyage of Discovery. Joe Wilkinson forged the link, doing yeoman service under less than ideal conditions. His will certainly not be the weakest link in this historic chain.

Total Scout attendance at Cupbord Creek was around 2500. Additionally, the Jefferson City Transportation Department ran free shuttle buses, allowing the general public to visit between noon and five on Saturday. JCTD reported that 1800 people rode the shuttle into Cupbord Creek.

On the following weekend, June 4-6, another Boy Scout Lewis & Clark celebration was held near Boonville. The Franklin Island Rendezvous, sponsored and staffed by Missouri Department of Conservation, hosted about 400 Boy Scouts and the St. Charles Corps of Discovery. MDC staff taught outdoor skills and conservation. BAM member Kelly Stevens, who is an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 116 in Hermann and a junior in Mechanical Engineering at UM-Rolla, again impressed the BAM brand on journals and other items brought by Scouts.

Ed Note: Linda Walker Stevens is a professional writer. The leather covered journal she produced is truly a masterpiece. Every Boy Scout in attendance was presented a copy of the journal and most had BAM members brand the leather cover. Linda is the wife of BAM member Stan Stevens, and the mother of Kelly Stevens, both are active in scouting and blacksmithing. Thanks Linda, we are looking forward to future articles from you. Linda and Stan reside in Hermann, MO.

More photos on next page



Keelbottom
boat at left.

Boat
Blacksmith &
BAM member
Preston
Williams at R



Doug Hendrickson's Scholarship Report

With generous assistance from the Francis Whitaker Blacksmith Educational Foundation I attended the John C. Campbell Folk School from October 26 to November 8 to study advanced traditional joinery. Clay Spencer was the teacher with assistance from Tai Harris. Clay's table building workshop at Lou Mueller's place last summer peaked my interest in joinery. Through careful planning, good tooling, and hard working interested students two traditionally joined tables were forged and assembled in two days. During the table workshop Clay and I talked about his class at the folk school and it seemed like something I should do. For most of my blacksmithing life I have been a sculptor who has chosen the medium of iron and a production smith with a thriving wholesale business. In production work the goal is to make many things fast. Not much time to work with traditional joinery. My approach to sculpture is not tied to any particular technical entity rather to use appropriate technology. When something needed to be forge welded I did, when MIG was right I did it, forging and fabricating made ideas visible. Now after selling my production business I find myself with enough time to delve into other things, which in this case, is traditional joinery. What I picked up at the folk school will certainly apply to future sculpture and commission work.

Ideas and knowledge come from a wide variety of sources. Obviously my teachers had insightful things to offer but others also had valuable input. One of my classmates, the youngest, seeing that I had numerous slots to punch and drift recommended a flat-bottomed punch rather than a sharp slitting chisel (fig. 1). The sharp slitting chisel leaves a "rag" if the back punch is not dead on. Sharp comers are also developed and may begin to crack. It is also hard to drift out a nice, well-formed hole with out little lemon ends being present. (Fig. 2) A punch will leave nice radiused ends that can be drifted out into a nice round hole.

I believe it was Michael Angelo who said, and I roughly paraphrase, that it is good to draw in the company of others for if you are better than your mates you will thrive with their admiration, if you are not up to snuff you will strive harder. As you can see school is a win, win situation

Not only did my teachers and fellow students assist in my advancement but also Charlie Orlando who happened to be teaching banjo while I was studying blacksmithing. The subject of the four half lap joints I was facing came up and Charlie offered this advice. Being that my half lap joints were to be on the ends of 1/2 by 1 inch bars Charlie suggested that I drive a bar of half the dimension into the parent stock. It sounded good but the test results didn't pan out to my satisfaction. Still intrigued with the idea of driving an iron bar of half the joint's dimension into the frame stock had my attention. What was cool about this is that the 1/4 X 1 inch, when driven into the 1/2 X 1 inch, functioned as a kiss block that stopped at the proper dimension. The problem with this approach is that the 1/4 by 1 inch bar was difficult to keep in position and consequently danced out of the corner (fig.3). The solution was to butcher down to define the 90 degree shoulder, then use the 1/4 x 1 inch as a set hammer/kiss block combination. Eureka! The half lap joints were forged fast and accurately. The point of this half lap joint story is to demonstrate how a student (me) can draw in information from several sources and cleanly solve a problem.

These anecdotes underline the fact that there is always more to learn in this wonderful craft/art of blacksmithing.

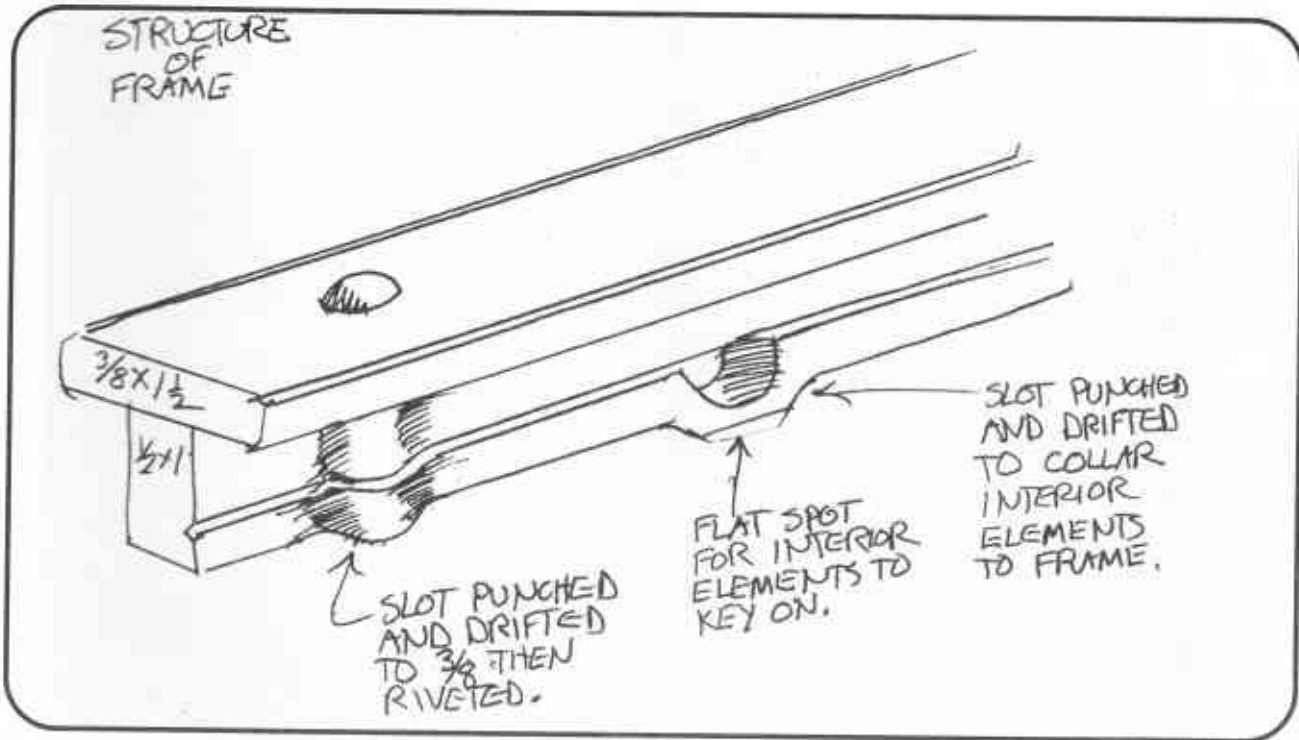
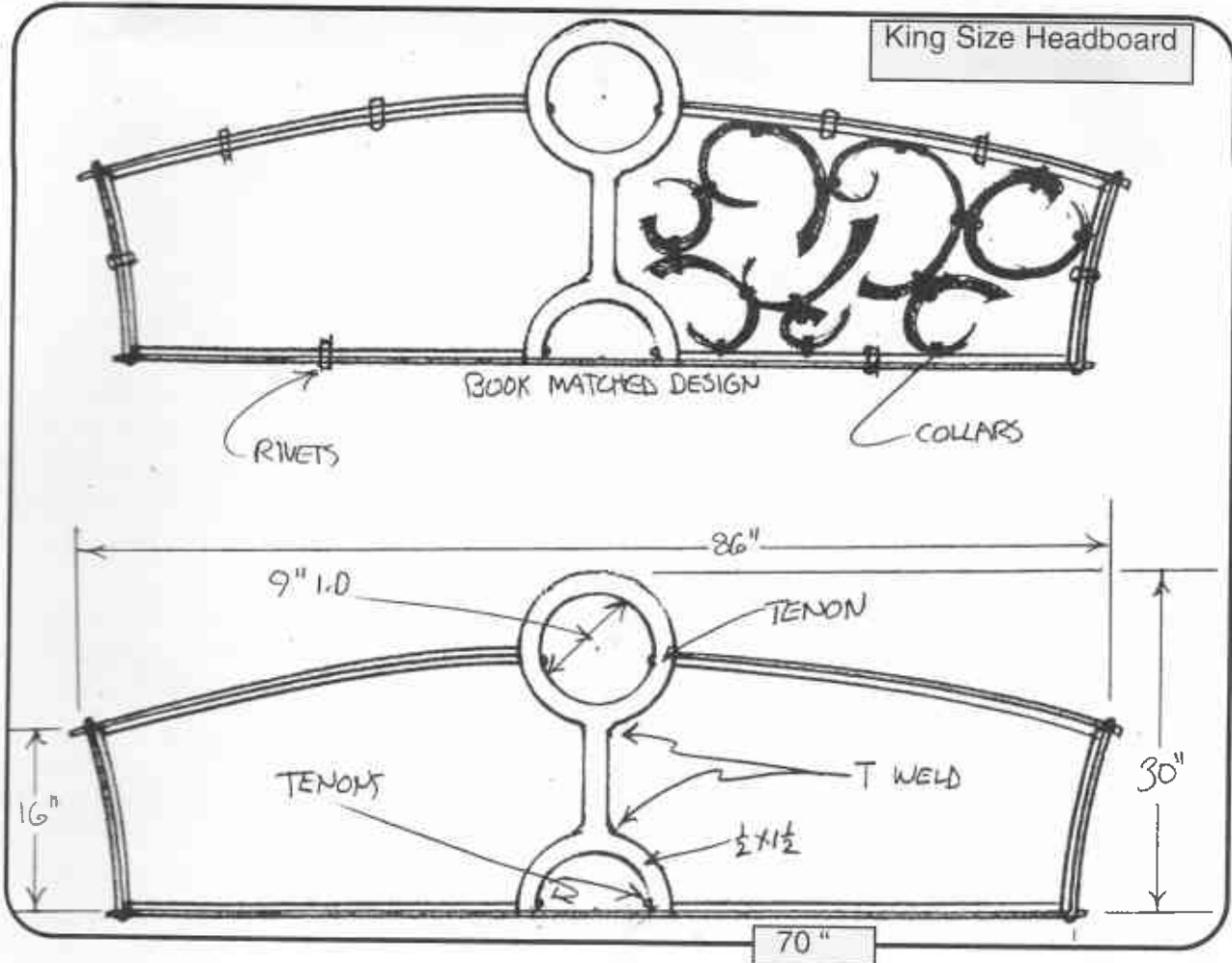
I really did know the craft of traditional joinery going into this class; after all I've been forging since 1972. I didn't, however, know the fine points and this is where my teachers, fellow students and friends played an important roll. What I did know going in was how to learn, ask questions and respond by seeing how others' ideas applied to my project.

There are total immersion camps where only foreign language is spoken and I wanted to be involved in this type of situation. I wanted to be in an environment where only traditional joinery was tolerated and allowed. I wanted to be in a total emersion traditional joinery camp. My two weeks at John C. Campbell were exactly that. Not being able to rely on Mr. MIG to hold things for me made me consider alternatives. That is exactly what I was hoping for. I highly recommend this type of program to all blacksmiths no matter what their level.

I would like to thank the Francis Whitaker Blacksmith Educational Foundation, My fellow students. Clay Spencer, Tai Harris and the folk school. All of who were an important ingredient in my total immersion project which just happened to be a king size head-board. (See the drawings)

It's the process; the product will follow.

Doug Hendrickson's Scholarship Report Continued



FORGING INTERIOR ELEMENTS FROM $\frac{3}{8}$ " AND $\frac{3}{4}$ "

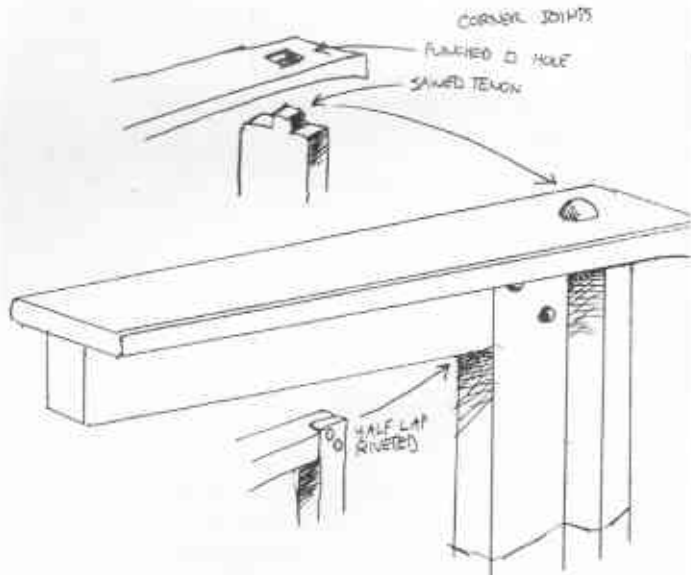
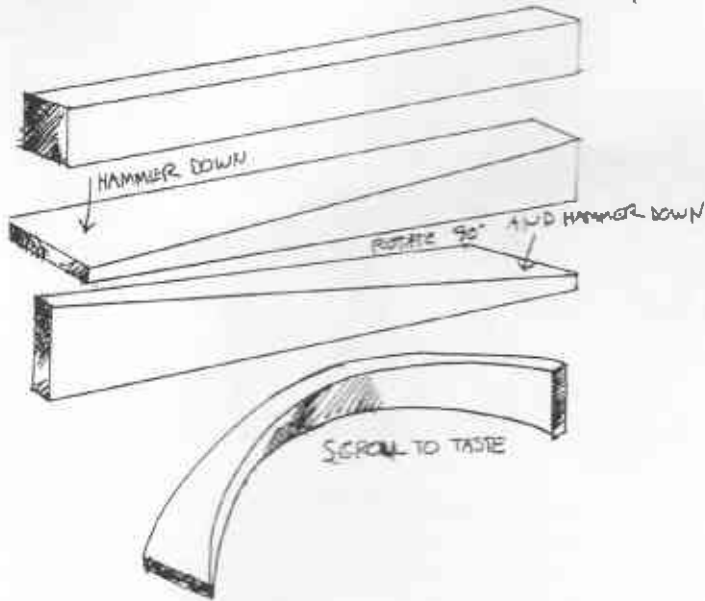


FIG. 3

FIG 1

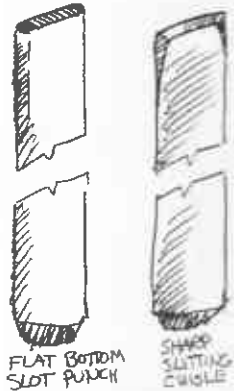
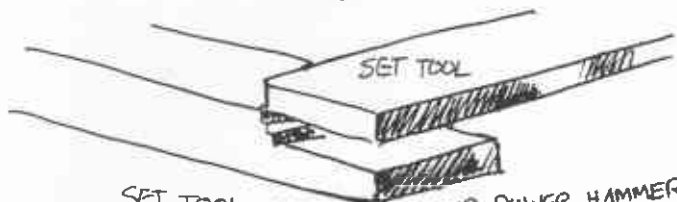
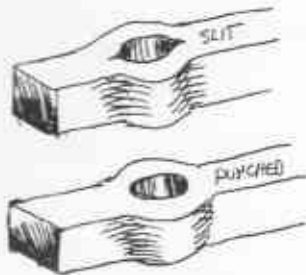
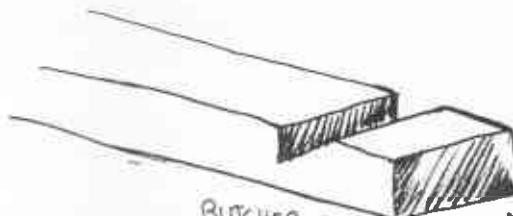


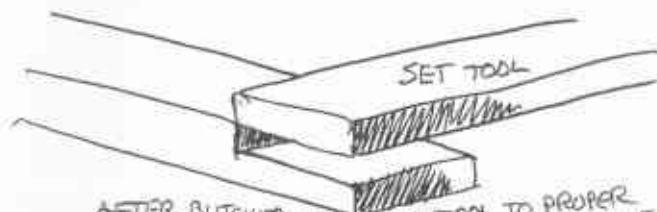
FIG 2



SET TOOL CHATTERS UNDER POWER HAMMER MAKING A 90° CORNER IMPOSSIBLE. A BUTCHER IS A MUST TO DEVELOP A 90° CORNER.



BUTCHER TO SET A GOOD 90° CORNER



AFTER BUTCHER DRIVE SET TOOL TO PROPER DEPTH. REPEAT PROCEDURE FOR SECOND HALF OF LAP JOINT AND RIVET IN PLACE



FINISHED HALF LAP JOINT



History Corner
(at left)

A bronze vessel created by Doug Hendrickson and Lee Ferber in 1974.

This piece of art was purchased for the Renwick Collection in 1975.

A Tribute to Joe Wilkinson *by Esther Digh*

During the past three years BAM has been under the presidential management of Joe Wilkinson. In his three year tenure Joe kept quite busy. He oversaw the creation of the coal supply substations; established the committee for the Mobile Training Station as well as organized the trailer for the first round of classes; secured new insurance for the organization; appointed an assistant editor for the bi-monthly publication. In this three-year period the membership of BAM has continued to increase and the offering of forge and treadle hammer workshops has helped members equip their shops more completely.

Joe has been a member of BAM since 1992. He held the office of 2nd Vice President prior to becoming president. As one member commented, he has the ability to keep the strong personalities of the organization in check and serve as a mediator on many occasions. Joe says that he enjoys the camaraderie of BAM and chatting with people at tailgates. Teaching others blacksmithing is a carryover from his industrial experience. He is known for always having pad and pencil in hand. Joe likes to fabricate items of metal that imitate real like objects He has made purses, books, safety pins, and the baseball cap sold at the annual BAM auction. Joe has also restored an antique cook stove for a neighbor.

A stint in the Navy provided Joe with a background in aviation metal work. Joe worked at McDonnell-Douglas for 28 years, retiring in 1988. He started as a flight line mechanic, advanced to management and supervisory positions and ended his career as Harrier foreman. At one point in his working life he left McDonnell-Douglas to be the Director of Operations for 17-40 Pizza Huts in the St. Louis area but returned and stayed until his retirement. The lure of the open road enticed Joe and Phyllis to become full-time RVer's for 5 years before settling in Hope (near Morrison), Missouri.

Joe and Phyllis, his senior prom date, have been married for 51 years. They have four children, 8 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. One granddaughter, Becky, is a member of BAM. We thank Joe for his dedication and leadership to BAM!

From Richard Postman, Author of *Anvils in America* and new book: *Mousehole Forge*

I am working on a supplement to the book *Anvils in America* which will be titled *More About Anvils*, which will focus primarily on European anvils as well as to correct and update material in *Anvils in America*. During this process, I realized that I had much more material on the Mousehole Forge than I could fit into the book so I am producing a book on just the Mousehole Forge. The Mousehole Forge book is being sold for \$2.00 above production cost and all books will be signed and dated.

About the Mousehole Forge Book

A history of the world premier anvil maker from about 1800 to 1860, with current history update.

122 Pages in 8.5 X 11 inch format, spiral bound, color laminated covers.

Photos: 80 photos with 40 in color, plus 27 graphics.

This book corrects all my conjectures in *Anvils in America* about Mousehole Forge plus adding more information about the anvils they made. If you like anvils and industrial history, this book is for you.

The cost of the book is \$20.00, plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling, sent by priority mail in the U.S.

Send check or money order (we do not take credit cards) to: **Richard Postman**

320 Fisher Ct.

Berrien Springs, MI 49103

(For more info: call Richard at 269-471-5426)

The BAM COAL STORY
Photos and Narrative by Bob Alexander



Top Photo: 40" Trailer, dumping 24 tons of coal.
 Middle Photo: Side view of full coal bin (05-19-04)
 Bottom Photo: Approx 30 Lbs - prior to resupply.

The BAM Coal Bin was constructed in December 1998 and the first coal was sold in January of 1999.

A bag of coal has approximately 10 shovels of coal.

The BAM coal comes from West Virginia.

BAM Coal price: \$7.50 per 50 lb bag.

Ed Note: Bob Alexander has been the "Coal Coordinator" and "Distributor" for the entire life of the BAM Coal Bin. That effort has taken dedication and a lot of work, but no one has ever heard Bob complain. He is dedicated to the craft, preserving the craft, and supporting BAM. Thanks Bob, you are a super asset to BAM. Bob, regularly does demonstrations at local schools, as well as teach courses at John C. Campbell Folkschool.

See the "retired BAM coal shovel" on the front cover.

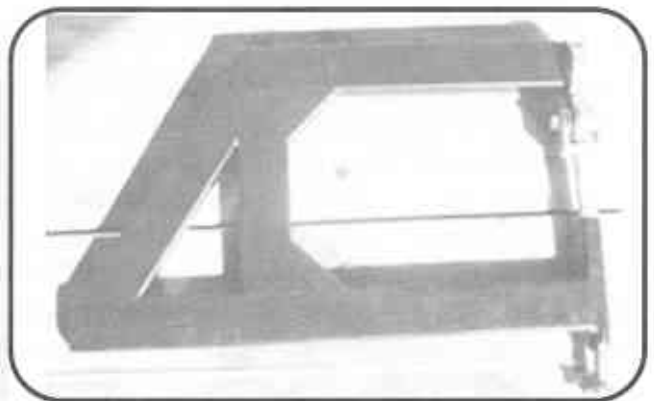
Coal for your forge:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Bob Alexander, DeSoto, MO (636)586-6938
Hardin Road, 63020-5586 | 5. Doug Hendrickson, Lesterville, MO (573) 637-2514009
Rt. 1, Box 16D, 63654 |
| 2. Ken Jansen, Moscow Mills, MO (636) 366-4353
2257 Carter Road, 63362 | 6. Jeff Willard, Willard, MO (417) 742-4569
P.O. Box 416, 65781 |
| 3. Doug Clemons, Malta Bend, MO (660) 595-2257
(RR 1, Box 124, 65339-9801 | 7. James Rumbo, Oak Grove, MO (816) 625-8675
P.O. Box 215, 64075-0215 |
| 4. Jerry Rehagen, Rich Fountain, MO (573) 744-5454
Rt. 1 Box 97, Freeburg, MO 65035-9714 | |

Dave Williams - Scholarship Demo at Hannibal Meeting May 29th



Left Photo:
 Knife by
 Daniel
 Ehrenberger
Right Photo:
 Mini English
 Wheel by
 John Burcks



BAM Membership Application

Mail to: Bruce Herzog, 2212 Aileswick Dr. St. Louis, MO 63129

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____

Check **New Member** _____
One: **Renewal** _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Volume 21 No. 2 MAR - APR 2004

The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri is published six times a year and mailed to members. The annual fee for 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: 573-642-8332 (email: bameditor@ktis.net). Membership inquiries should be addressed to: Bruce Herzog, 2212 Aileswick Dr., St. Louis, MO 63129; 314-892-4690 (e-mail: bjherzog@msn.com.)

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At Left: Jaheth Howard and Alice James with son Cyrus, future Master Blacksmith of Flicker Forge. Conference photo by Ned Digh

At Right:
Preston Williams branding leather covered journals for Boy Scouts at Cupbord Creek



Shop Tip:

Hammer Handle Treatment

It is easy to spot a blacksmith's favorite hammer, the handle is usually coated with a layer of polished dark crud. Slick tool handles hinder control and often cause skin blisters. Here is a fix: Scrape handles down to clean wood. A curved piece of broken glass works best, I prefer brown glass, from my personal stash of empties. This is a method used by old gunsmiths, but perhaps they used broken jars. After the handle has been scraped clean, apply a coat of Johnson's wax, let dry, and wipe with a dry clean cloth. The handle will practically stick to your hand and the finish will last for months. *By Don Grammond, The Rusty Recluse*

ABANA Membership Application Mail to: ABANA, PO Box 816, Farmington, GA 30638

Name: _____	New Member: _____	Renewal: _____
Address: _____	Annual Cost: Regular \$45; Senior \$40; Student \$35	
Phone: _____	Contributory \$100; Library \$35 Includes subscriptions to	
City: _____ State _____	Anvil's Ring and The Hammer's Blow magazines	
Zip: _____ Phone: _____	ABANA Phone: 706-310-1030 (For Credit Card Charge)	

Blacksmith Association of Missouri

President: Don Nichols 660-862-9252 1st Vice President: Doug Clemons 660-595-2257 2nd Vice President: Ed Harper 660-946-4460

Librarian: Mike Williamson 870-445-2779
sabforge@bullshoals.net

Editors: Ned Digh 573-642-8332 & Lou Degginger 573-657-4555
npdigh@ktis.net loudegg@century.net

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.

BAM WORKSHOPS

Treadle Hammer Workshop

The Treadle hammer workshop has been completed. 40 Treadle Hammers were built. To complete the 40 hammers, we used about 20,000 lbs of steel cut into 3,160 pieces. Approximately 4,160 holes were drilled for the 8,520 bolts, nuts and washers. 2 of the Treadle Hammers were in the BAM Conference auction and 1 Treadle Hammer was completed for BAM to use as needed. I would like to thank everyone for their help and especially Lou Mueller for the use of his facilities.

Submitted by Bruce Herzog bjherzog@msn.com

Gas Forge Workshop

The gas forge workshop was a success. Thirteen signed up and took home gas forges. We made a total of fifteen forges with two to be sold at the annual conference. I would like to thank everyone that showed up to help. A special "thank you" to Charlie Comstock for donating the refractory.

submitted by Larry Hults lkhults@yhti.net

Future Workshops

At present, no future workshops are planned. Perhaps someone will step forward and volunteer to be the "workshop coordinator". BAM has always given financial support to workshops which are approved in advance by the BAM officials. Several members that made treadle hammers have voiced the desire for a workshop to make tools for the treadle hammer. At least two members are taking the upcoming class at John C. Campbell, by Clay Spencer and Alan Kress, so at least we will have a demo or two on their class experiences. Larry Hults indicated that he could be perhaps be persuaded to coordinate another gas forge workshop. Interested members should contact Larry, as soon as possible, so he make an estimate of people interested.

MTS Results - Fulton and Mexico *by Ned Digh*

As the host of the MTS classes at Fulton (Ham's Prairie) and Mexico, I had several advantages and strokes of good fortune, which resulted in good classes and well motivated students. First, my class followed Bob Ehrenberger's initial "on the road class". After Bob's first class, I was able to consult with him on his experiences and especially how to improve the recruiting of students. Bob suggested calling everyone that had in the past expressed an interest and that significantly increased our number of students. Secondly, two members dedicated to the MTS effort volunteered to come to every class, two at Ham's Prairie and two at Mexico. The two were Joe Wilkinson and Don Birdsall and the travel time alone was significant for both of them. Our cross section on students was quite interesting, a variety of occupations, but all intrigued about the process of moving metal. The MTS trailer worked great, both Joe Wilkinson and Don Birdsall did a super job in getting it ready to haul and store the equipment. A cabinet to install in the trailer for safety glasses and admin supplies has been ordered, otherwise the storage racks and boxes by Joe and Don are adequate. For the first class, we did not have adequate tongs and this was apparently a concern at the MTS class at the conference. Don Birdsall ordered 10 additional tongs from Tom Clark and they arrived prior to the second class. We need some more tongs and Don Birdsall is on top of that situation and promises to take corrective action. Our instructional material is sort of disorganized and "catch as catch can". We need a standardized lesson plan or instruction booklet, at least for the basic instruction. I would be remiss in not talking about our students. The four above classes recruited 12 new members for BAM and several BAM members participated in the classes. The students were highly motivated and most are asking for workshops and hammer in's. Three graduates of the classes at Ham's Prairie, Bob Bailey, Rick Goins, and Joe Pope, assisted Lou Degginger, Esther and me with a demo at a local street fair last Saturday. It was a pleasure to see them work and observe how much their blacksmith skills had developed since the first class.

Mobile Training Station (MTS) Schedule

July and August 2004

Host: Ed Harper
202 East Fir
Browning, MO 64630
660-946-4460
aramed@grm.net
Dates: July 17th and 24th

September and October 2004

Host: Ray Chaffin
RR 3, Box 279
Warsaw, MO 65355
660-438-5720
rayzwelding@aol.com
Dates: September 4th and 18th

November and December 2004

Host: Ned Digh, PO Box 765, Fulton, MO 65251 573-642-8332 npdigh@ktis.net
Classes will be conducted at Fulton (Ham's Prairie Area)
and at the Mexico Vo-Tec School in Mexico Missouri
Dates TBA Call Ned Digh to reserve a space.

Partial Schedule for 2005

January & February 2005

Host: Jeff Willard
PO Box 416, Willard, MO
417-742-4569
jessjump@hotmail.com
Date: TBA

Tentative: March and April 2005

Host: Ray Scott
Date and Place: TBA
Ray is moving to Steelville and hopes to hold class there.
He presently lives in Eminence
573-226-5541
prforge@socket.net

May and June 2005

Hostess: Tracy McCarty
36028 Edgerton, KS 66021
785-883-4174
blacksmithbabe@hotmail.com
Dates: TBA
Location: TBA (in new shop)

Prospective students and members who will assist should contact the hosts for details, directions, etc. Safety glasses and gloves are required. No nylon, polyester, or highly flammable clothing, and no open toe shoes.

The first "on the road" location for the Mobile Training Station was at Bob Ehrenberger's shop in Shelbyville, MO. The following is Bob's report after the first session.

BAM held a beginners class at our shop near Shelbyville on March 20. Don Birdsall came with the MTS equipment and to help with the class. We only had one student, Lynn Meshko of Palmyra, a man I met while demonstrating in Hannibal last year. Lynn joined BAM in order to take the class. Lynn was a quick study and had good hammer control. The topics covered in class one were; drawing a taper, punching holes, splitting, and leaf making. Lynn went home with a couple nice leaves and a heart hanger, he is really looking forward to part two on April 3rd. The subjects planned for part two are; decorative twists, scrolls, turning an eye, upsetting, and square comers.

While we were having fun in the shop, our wives were having fun in the house making soap and in the barn playing with newborn kid goats. The ladies plans during part two are; making shampoo bars, 7 grain granola, and maybe goat milking if Jan can talk Jeanette into it.

As a side benefit, Don helped me adjust my gas forge. I had made it at a BAM workshop 3 or 4 years ago and have never been satisfied with it's performance. After Don's changes it worked much better and we used it for the class. Don tells me that Larry Hulst has come up with a new burner design for the BAM forges and has modified the burners for the MTS forges. We will test the new burners during our second session on April 3rd.

Bob Ehrenberger eforge@marktwain.net

Conference Photos by John Bouchilon



Book Tip: Make items that sell for under \$20.00
Hot Shop (Small Potatoes) Blacksmith Stuff
Cost \$8.95 plus \$2.00 S&H
www.oaknandron.com Author: Gene Chapman

Minutes: May 29th Meeting at Hannibal

Submitted by John Murray

Thanks to Kirk and Mona Sullens for hosting and driving 12 hours to do so.

Thanks to our Vets on this Memorial Day Weekend. They keep us free to enjoy BAM meetings.

Thanks to Joe Wilkinson for his time as our President.

Bruce Herzog called for a new treasurer and gave a report on our finances.

Bruce reports: 580 members at present, 225 registrations at the 2004 conference, the auction brought in \$9878 and the BAM Boutique brought in \$3500.

Peggy Williamson called for workers for the 2004 Missouri State Fair.

Kansas City Renaissance Fair starts Labor Day weekend, this is a good opportunity to demo/sell.

The Mobile Teaching Station (MTS) program can use helpers and instructors. Call Don Birdsall if you would like to help.

Consult the BAM Newsletter for the MTS schedule.

The conference committee for the 2005 conference: David Smith, Pat McCarty, and Larry Hults.

Kirk Sullens will chair our scholarship committee.

Fred Weisenborn will be ordering more BAM hats and tee shirts, call him if you have suggestions.

Next meeting will be at Jeff Willard's shop in Willard, MO (Springfield area).

MTS at the 2004 Conference



**Amy Lane
Hillsboro, MO**



**Susan and Jamie Tobler
Drexel, MO**

Scholarship Application

Name:

Address:

Phone:

What Class or Event do you Wish to Attend:

Where:

What are the cost:

Tuition
Travel
Lodging
Other

Briefly, how do you 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 _____

Websites ----- Blacksmith Schools ----- BAM Scholarships Honored

www.ozarksch@therural.net Ozark School of Blacksmithing, Potosi, MO

www.folkschool.org John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, NC

Reminder: Check the BAM website weekly for updates and changes: www.bamsite.org

For Sale (late entry): Free standing blower for coal forge. Star brand, made in Buffalo, NY. Has crank, air tunnel, and gate valve. Located in Fulton, MO Guy Cundiff, 573-642-6221

MTS at Ham's Prairie, Missouri

Location: NEDCO Forge Instructors: Joe Wilkinson, Don Birdsall, & Ned Digh
Assistant Instructors: Matthew Burnett & Eric Qualls



Left:
Don Birdsall
and
Charlie
Bates



Right:
Joe Pope



Left:
John
Huesgen



Right:
Rick
Goins
and
Richard
Garland



Matthew Burnett & Sister Sarah



Bob Bailey & Eric Qualls

MTS at Mexico, Missouri
 Facility Provided by Mexico Voc-Tec Center (Mexico Public Schools)

Amanda Booska - Waiting for Dad

Don Saylor



Brad Diehl, Sean Mullen, & Bob Booska

Sean Mullen



Sean Mullen

Left: John Wilbers Above: Don Birdsall,
 Glen Gregory, & Don Saylor

May - June 2004

Blacksmith Association of Missouri

www.bamsite.org

Want Ads
www.bamsite.org
has a buy, sell, trade
section

Contact Ed Harper aramed@grm.net
 Phone

From Ray Chaffin:

Exp 02/04

I have a computer operated plasma cutting system that can cut anything out of metal. Mail, call, or email your design for a price quote. I also have hardwood blocks (2-2.5" X 12-14"), for \$5 each. Blocks are available in curly maple, straight maple, english walnut, birch laminated in brown/white and blue/white. Call Ray at 660-438-6720 or email: Rayzwelding@aol.com
 Ray Chaffin, RR 3, Box 279, Warsaw, MO 65355

Sources of Supplies and Equipment

Ozark School of Blacksmithing: 573-438-4725 www.ozarkschool.com (Classes Available)
 Pieh Tool Co, Inc: 928-554-0700 www.piehtoolco.com (Classes Available)
 Kayne and Son, Inc: 828-667-8868 or 828-665-1988 www.kayneandson.com
 Centaur Forge, LLC: 800-666-9175 www.Centaur Forge.com (Classes Available)

For Sale

Craftsman Contractors Compound Sliding Miter Saw. Can cut 2" X 12" lumber, used less than 10 hours. Cost \$450, will sell for \$250.
 Pexto Stake Plate, mounted on table. Includes 1 large stake and 4 small stakes. Excellent condition. \$325
 Joe Wilkinson 573-943-6779

We can do repairs on any or all components of your Little Giant front assembly. Call for details. Call or write for new parts list

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<http://anmetalsmiths.org/news/page4.htm>

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 Pine Bluff, AR 71611 (870) 540-014:
 Email: irony@epowerc.net

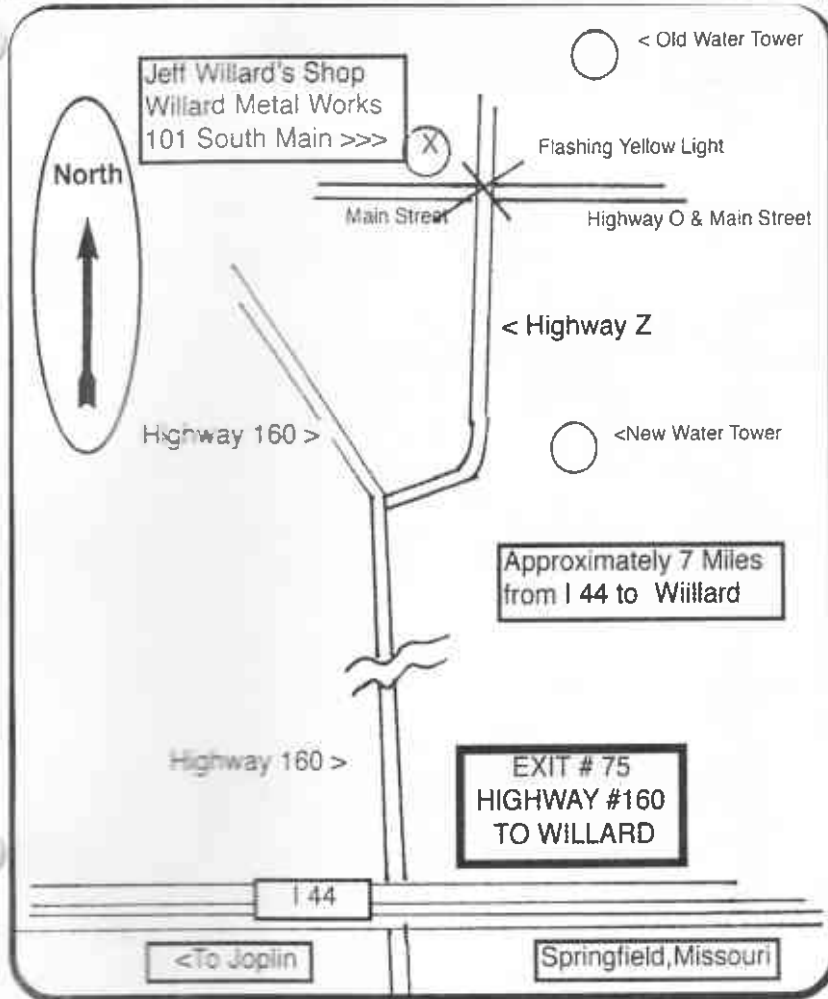
For Sale: Custom-built air hammers. 6# table-top model #1400; 25# table-top model (redesigned 20# air hammer) \$2000; 20# floor model \$2300; 40# floor model \$2800. Some modifications to the basic hammers can be made to your specifications. Also custom metal spinning in copper, brass, pewter, and steel.
 Contact: Maurice L. Ellis
 12486 Sutton Road, Belgrade, MO 63622-9197 Phone: 573-766-5346 E-Mail mbellis@misn.com

Note: New Address for Maurice & Bess Ellis

From Clay Spencer:

Inline (rollerblade) treadle hammer for sale. \$1200, loaded at my shop in Murphy. Treadle hammer plans for sale — Inline plans \$9.00, includes postage. Beverly shear blades sharpened, \$35 plus shipping, bring the shear to the Folk School or ship the blades to me. Clay Spencer, 934 Partridge Ln, Murphy, NC 28906
 828-937-0708 email clays@brmemc.net

Map to Jeff Willard's Shop in Willard, Missouri



Meeting Dates for 2005

January 22nd

Hosts: Don Nichols & Kent Harbit
Sedalia, MO

March 27th

Hosts: Maurice and Bess Ellis
Belgrade, MO

May

Annual BAM Ozark Conference
Warrenton, MO

June 5th

Host: Dale Gilman
Booneville, MO

July

Tentative: Bass Pro
Hosts: Kirk & Mona Sullens

September

Hosts: Bob & Jan Ehrenberger
Shelbyville, MO

November - Open

Call Kirk Sullens, if interested!

Reminders

1. Check www.bamsite.org weekly for changes & updates.
2. Join the Yahoo Around the Anvil internet group for instant BAM messages submitted by members: (announcements, items for sale, shop tips). This service is coordinated by Ed Harper - free to BAM members.
3. The ABANA Conference - Richmond, Kentucky - July 7-11, 2004

July 31st Meeting
Host: Jeff Willard
101 South Main
Willard, MO

Trade Item: Traveler
Lunch Provided

September 25th Meeting
Hosts: Ned & Esther Digh
6792 Cnty Rd 424
(Off Hiway C at Ham's Prairie Store)
Fulton, MO

Trade Item: Deck Rail Holder
for Plant or Bird Feeder
Lunch Provided

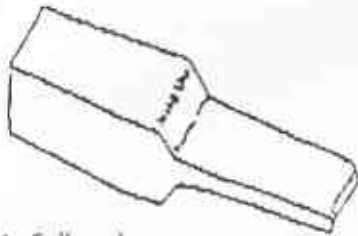
November 2004
Hosts: Japheth Howard
and Alice James
Salisbury, MO

Date & Trade Item TBA

Bob Patrick's Anvil Swedge

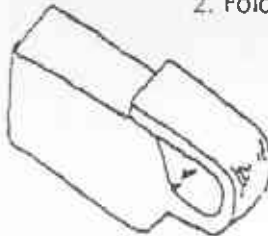
Demo by Bob Patrick at the '89 Quad State Roundup. Drawings by Larry Coregan, Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association. Reprinted from the Four State Iron Muncher's newsletter.

Start with 1 x 1 inch bar.

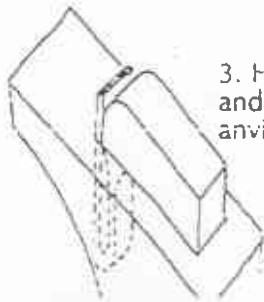


1. Fuller, draw out.

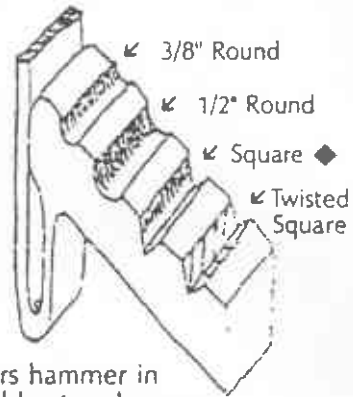
2. Fold over to fit hardy hole.



Ed Note: Bob Patrick is a Life Member of BAM



3. Heat, put in hardy hole and bend to 90 degrees to anvil face.



4. Heat again, and with cold bars hammer in desired shapes. Quench at a red heat and use.

Reprinted in Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association Newsletter May-Jun 04

BAM

2212 Aileswick Drive
St. Louis, MO 63129

Presort Standard
US Postage Paid
Jefferson City, Mo
Permit 210

Send address changes to Bruce Herzog, 2212 Aileswick Dr. St. Louis, MO 63129 or bjherzog@msn.com