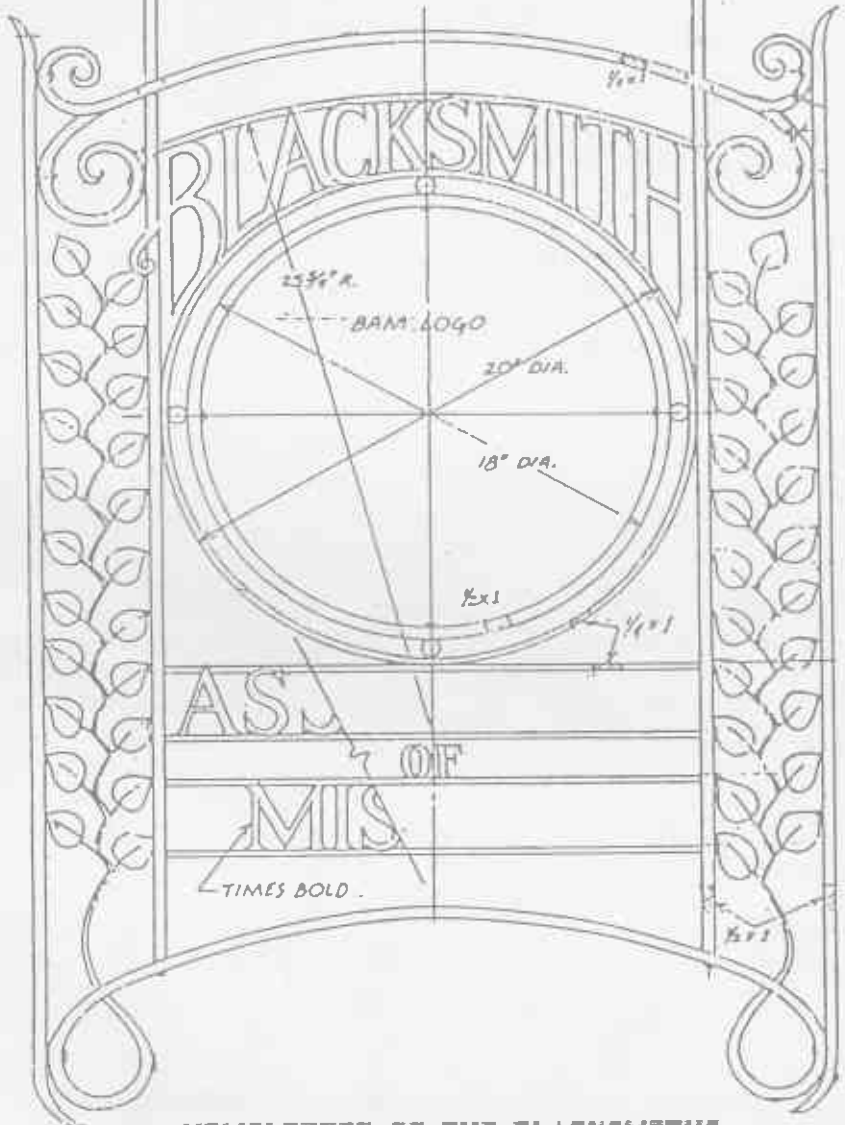


VOL. 4 NO. 1
JANUARY 1987



NEWSLETTER OF THE BLACKSMITHS
ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

The Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri is a chapter of The Artist-Blacksmiths' Association Of North America. This organization is devoted to preservation, advancement, and communication between blacksmiths of Missouri and surrounding areas. BAM's newsletters goal is to support these ideas. Letters to the editor, tech tips, tools for sale, or any ideas which further these ends will be considered for publication.

BAM welcomes the use of any material printed in this newsletter provided the author and this organization be given credit.

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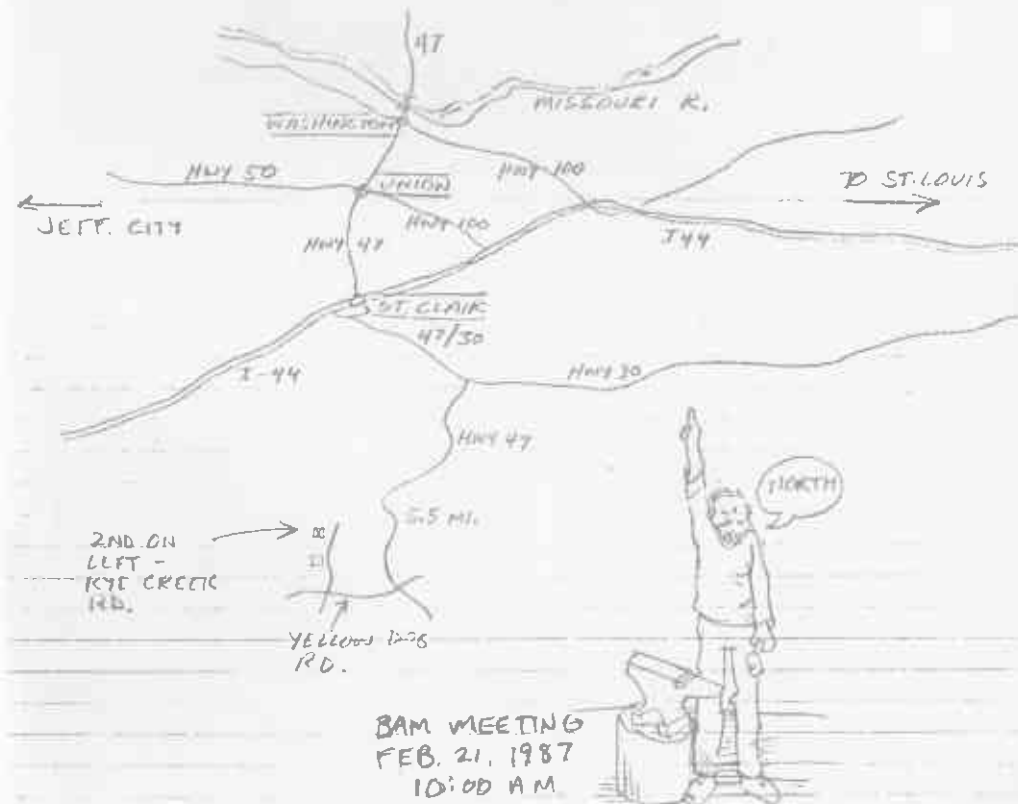
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COMMISSIONS RECOGNITIONS EXHIBITIONS

Culver Stockton College, by the banks of the Mississippi in Canton, Missouri, is hosting an exhibition called ORNAMENTAL IRONWORK IN MISSOURI. The show runs from January 18th to February 14th in the Nabee Gallery. There was an opening reception on Sunday the 18th from 3-5 p.m. Hope all who attended enjoyed the refreshments and fine ironwork. A special thanks to Al Beck of Culver Stockton's Art Department for arranging for the space and also to BAM's members included in the exhibition.



MY FLOOR IS MY BIOGRAPHER

or Think Dirt

by Doug Hendrickson

In the spring of 1983 I had the opportunity to build a new smithy. Planning the shop was great fun, analyzing my movements, locating tools, benches, windows, and doors forced me to consider many things previously unthought of. Possible expansion of the smithy, the direction I thought my work was going, ventilation and heating are but a few of the numerous considerations I made in the planning stages. The funds for this project (a bank loan) were enough so that they did not influence the building's design until I came to the floor. I had intended to pour a concrete floor, but the deep pocket was empty and the alternative was obvious--dirt. Dirt in the Ozarks really means gravel. This was a little disappointing as the smithy seemed to have an incomplete quality about it. It looked like a gravel bar in a small barn--I had envisioned a fine flat concrete floor.

It's three years later now and I'm still working on a dirt floor and have learned to love it. A patina of fly ash, coal dust, wood shavings, and iron filings has replaced the fresh gravel look. The floor changes and infact is a chronicler of my involvements. My floor is my biogragper. Pop tops abound after a BAM meeting, cigarette butts after my neighbor the logger and I work on his equipment and wood chips after my potter friend uses the drill press and spade bit for some building project. Instead of sweeping, which would be impossible anyway, I rake my floor once a week. This wipes the slate clean and the next project begins with only a trace of the previous one visible.



DUTCH DOOR BY WALT HULL - LAWRENCE, KANSAS

This is a photo of the top half of a Dutch door. It's 3'6" wide and 4' tall and made of 5/8 square stock. It looks like Walt paid attention at BAM's Lost Valley Lake workshop with Francis last May.



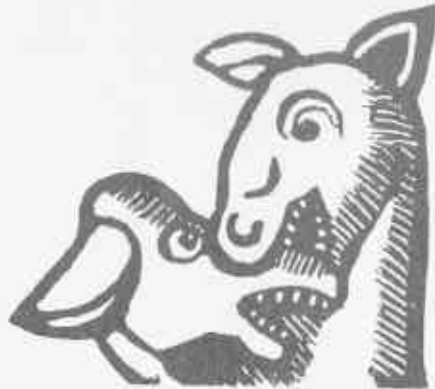
BAM DUES

At our December meeting we decided to have the membership dues due in January of each year. \$15.00 to support the goals of this organization is small change, so lets get those checks to Steve Austin, our Treasurer. This newsletter is our biggest expense, it costs \$150.00 per printing. You can see we can't continue long without your dues. This is the last newsletter for those who have dropped their membership.

A reminder to vote for Doug Hendrickson for the Board of Directors of A.B.A.N.A.

Thanks to Ruth Cook, A.B.A.N.A.'s Executive Secretary, for the reminder that A.B.A.N.A.'s dues will go up by 10 bucks after January. I hope many of BAM's members took advantage of the notice and saved themselves up to \$30.00 for a 3 year membership.

*Remember dues are due.
If you don't pay up
BAM's attack lama will
eat your face.*



BAM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip _____
 Telephone: _____
 New Member _____ Renewal _____

Memberships are for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. Dues are \$15.00, which includes a subscription to the bimonthly BAM newsletter.

Please make checks payable to Blacksmith Association of Missouri

SEND CHECKS TO: Steve Austin
 44 N.E. Munger Road
 Claycomo, MO 64119

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in ABANA includes a subscription to the Anvil's Ring

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 PRACTICING SMITH ARTIST TEACHER STUDENT AMATEUR

Fulltime Student	.....	\$15.00 per year
Regular Member	.....	\$35.00 per year
Family Membership	.....	\$30.00 per year
Senior Citizen	.....	\$20.00 per year
Overseas Member	.....	\$32.00 per year
Contributory	.....	\$50.00 per year
Library Subscription	.....	\$25.00 per year

mail to: ARTIST-BLACKSMITHS' ASSOCIATION OF N. AMERICA
 P.O. Box 1191
 Gainesville, Fla. 32602

CHECK MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION

The University of Missouri, Columbia and Lincoln University Extension Departments are Beginning the selection process for work to be included in the 2nd catalogue, BEST OF MISSOURI'S HANDS. The first catalog was published in 1986, the second will be published in the spring of 1988.

The second volume of the BEST OF MISSOURI'S HANDS will be printed in full color and aims to promote Missouri's craftspeople and their products. The catalog will be sold to stores and individuals throughout the United States beginning in the spring of 1988. If you are interested in being considered for inclusion in it write to:

Best of Missouri's Hands
University of Missouri
628 Clark Hall
Columbia, Missouri 65211

Get on it quickly, the deadline is March 31st. You will need to take slides as it is all you have to represent your work to the jury.

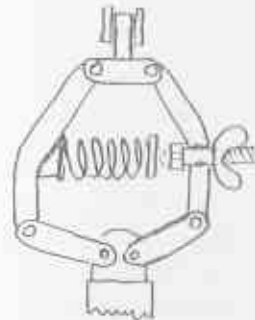


BUY, SELL, & TRADE

If you want to advertise anything for sale or if you are trying to locate a specific tool or material, send the information to one of the editors.

REPRINTED FROM THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NORTHWEST BLACKSMITHS ASSOC.

BUILD IT YOURSELF LOW BUCKS POWER HAMMER



Anvil - 3" round stock with part of a large radius fuller welded on at a 45 degree angle to center line of column. Other end has a flat surface. Base is hinged to tilt out, anvil piece is removed, flipped over and slid back into 3" pipe housing.

Hammer - 3" round stock 14" long with part of a sledge hammer head welded on.

Hammer Slide - 3" pipe split on one side with 1 piece of 1/4" x 1" flat bar welded on either side of split, clearance adjustment is by 4 clamp bolts.

Column - 6" pipe (well casing)

Base - 12" channel

Bearings - 2 1" pillow block

Rocker Arm - 2 pieces 1/4" x 2" flat bar 22" long.

Rocker arm ratio - 1 to 1

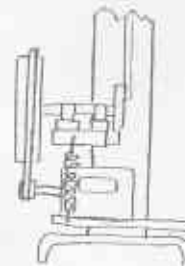
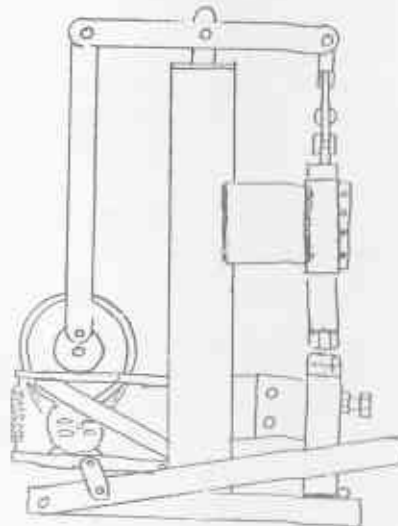
Lift of Hammer - 4" slow - 6" at speed.

Strokes Per Min. - Approx. 250, intensity is adjustable by stiff compression spring on yoke.

Motor - 1/2 h.p. 1750 rpm motor, sheave 2", fly wheel 14" approx. 30 lbs (from an old coffee grinder)

Drive - V-belt ran on outside of flywheel as if it were a flat belt, also serves as a slip-o-matic clutch to hold hammer up.

Eccentric Wheel - 6" for 4" stroke.



Don Grammond
Blaine, Wa

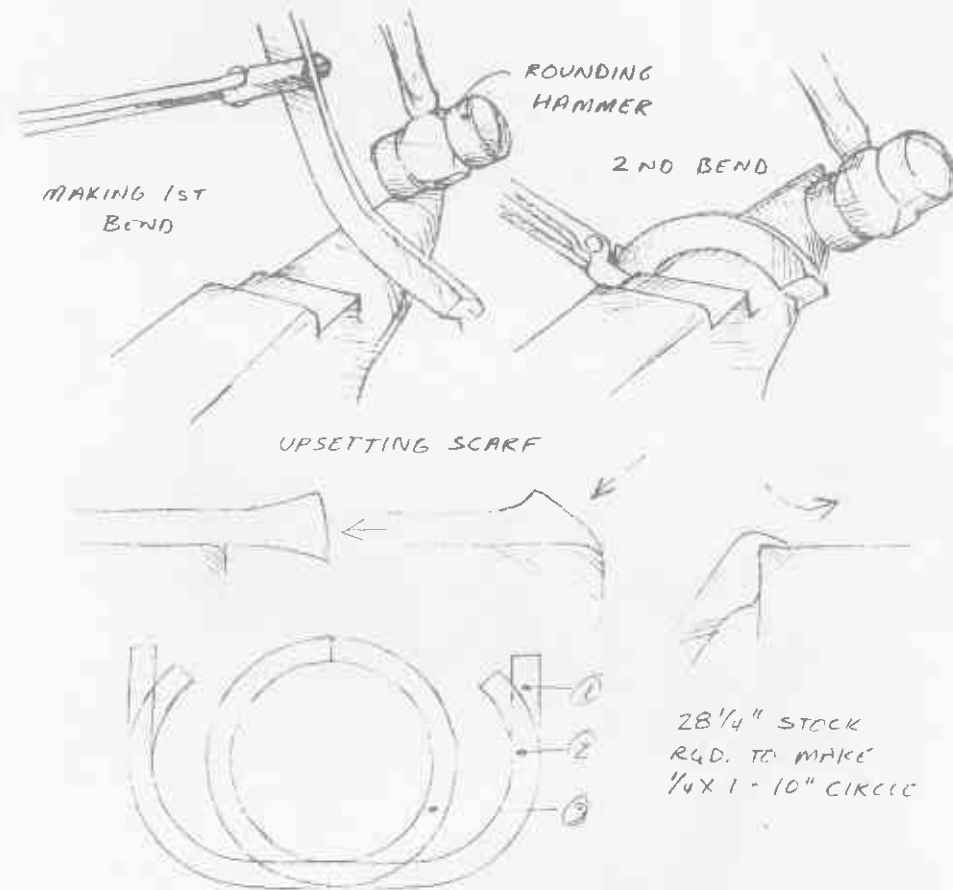
DECEMBER BAM MEETING

The December 14, 1986 meeting at Don Asbee's shop in Bland, Missouri went off well.

The usual milling around, casual demos, and discussions took place before we got down to business.

Don's shop is, as those who know him would expect, a reflection of his technical expertise, aesthetics, and his vision of blacksmithing as it applies to himself and his work. Fiendishly clever jigs, fixtures, and clamps abound. The day in Bland was beautiful as were the tongs we all brought as trade items. Steve Austin, Doug Hendrickson and Don Asbee tried to triple team a pair of tongs. Jerry Hoffmann witnessed their attempt and stepped in saying "Here, give me that hammer, is this what you're trying to do?". Whereupon he commenced to beat out an acceptable pair of tongs with a minimal number of heats. Jerry's demo opened the eyes of those who had previously been intimidated by the forging of tongs. The tong trade profitted all who participated.

During the business meeting we found the treasury down to \$600.00. Most agreed a fund raising project is in order. Bernie Tappel was elected co-editor with Doug Hendrickson. We all agreed to keep our original logo. A discussion of the Culver Stockton Exhibiton took place. Don Asbee & Jerry Hoffmann volunteered to deliver the show, Stan Winkler and Doug Hendrickson will pick the show up and return it to Bland. Each exhibitor should pick up his work from Don Asbee's in Bland as quickly as possible to save Don the inconvenience of storage. Jeff Davis discussed the possibility of a blacksmithing contest. Don Asbee and Jeff volunteered to be the committee to work out the details.



NOTES

1. SCRIBE 10" CIRCLE ON STEEL PLATE - REFER TO WHEN MAKING BEND # 1+2
2. STAND ON END AND HAMMER TOGETHER FOR BEND #3

WELDING NOTES:

1. USE CLEAN DEEP FIRE.
2. STAND CIRCLE IN FIRE SO BOTH SCARFS BECOME HOT.
3. REMOVE AND WELD WHEN FIRST SPARKS APPEAR OR STEEL BECOMES SAME COLOR AS FIRE.

BUILD YOURSELF A LOW BUCKS POWER HAMMER

I think this little machine might be of interest to the amateur or hobbyist like me who does not want to lay down big bucks for a manufactured power hammer. I just happened to stumble on to this one in a 1982 estate sale. The credit for building this machine belongs to some blacksmith that has gone to Pearly Gates Forge and could not take it with him. I could not find his name, the only history I could turn up was that it was made during the thirties by a blacksmith who reworked a lot of plow shares.

The beauty of this hammer is its simplicity. It was built using salvaged parts and materials right down to the flywheel eccentric shaft bearings which were the top 4 inches of 2 connecting rods cut off and welded to a plate, the shaft running in the wrist pin bushings. I have replaced them with pillow block bearings but they were still serviceable. The center pivot which is only a 3/4 inch bolt in a drilled hole shows war but not bad for a 50 year old machine.

This hammer could be scaled up to a more powerful hammer. It can be made from most any shape of steel. The column could be square tube or I-beam. The hammer could be square stock inside square tubing. The flywheel could be a steel wheelbarrow or farm implement wheel with concrete cast into the spokes for weight. Maybe a gearbox from a lawnmower could be added to allow for different strokes per minute.

Anyhow I have passed on the idea. Take it and see what you can do with it.

Don Grammond
Blaine, Wa.



The attachment with my floor is practical as well as emotional. Maintenance is minimal, it doesn't crack or heave and it ages with grace--unlike its concrete counterpart, which never looks better than the day it was poured. If you spill oil, overspray paint, or even if you neighbor's beagle pees on your floor it makes no difference, just rake it in.

My anvil is bolted to a white oak stump which is buried several feet in the ground. If I have lots of light forging, I just scrape a few inches of dirt away on the smiths side, which in effect raises the anvil and saves my back. The opposite is true for heavy work, a scoop or two and the anvil is at knuckle height again. Variable anvil height is just another tool, it will work for some and seems silly to others. Buried in the ground as the stump is does create a real problem if you want to move it a few inches one way or the other, at least it doesn't dance across the floor.

Finding a flat level spot on a dirt floor is impossible and probably the biggest draw back. Benches, tools, stands, and layout tables simply need a big foot, to keep them level.

A dirt floor has its problems and is not for every smithy, but it works for me.

If you are building a new shop think about dirt, it's cheap, quiet, easy to maintain, and visually warm. I love dirt.



NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 21
(February 28 bad weather date)

The next meeting will be at Jerry Hoffmann's, Rt. 1 Box 189, Lonedell, MO (314) 629-4061, on Saturday February 21 with the 28th as a rain day. Call Jerry if any doubt about the weather conditions. Instead of a trade item, this time we are beginning a money raising project.

Members are to bring a 10" O.D. of 1/4" x 1" bar stock turned on edge. This circle is for you to do something inside of. Use it as a drawing in iron, do your favorite moves in it, or just let your imagination run wild. The circle will be joined and form a screen, room divider, or just a decorative crazy quilt in iron. Stan Winkler says he can sell whatever we make. He sold the park bench, didn't he? We need a minimum of 18 of these elements to put a respectable screen together, bring more than one if you like.

See Jerry's drawing in this newsletter for complete instructions on welding the ring.



Several issues from now your editor would like to publish a sampler of BAM members work instead of the usual newsletter. This publication would give each member two pages. One page for copy, anything you would like to write, your resume, philosophy, price list, or whatever. The facing page would be for photographs of your work. I think this would be a fine thing to do for many reasons. All BAM members don't know all the other members. This would be an opportunity to get acquainted with each others work and ideas. This sort of publication could be promotional material for our organization as well. We have talked at length about how to get the word out about BAM. The printed page is one way.

If this book is well done and sent to the right places it will remain on book shelves for years and years. Just check your own book shelf if you don't believe it.

We each have different reasons for being involved in blacksmithing. Our members persue, among other things, horseshoeing, restoration, architectural ironwork, and cutlery. The world out there should know about it. We should print a large number and each of us concentrate on distributing it to people and places where it will do us and our organization some good.

What do you think? If you would like to see this go grab your pen and drop me a card quickly, I'll need lots of encouragement on this one. Those who participate, as usual, will probably have to cover the cost overrun.



BAM
R.R. 1 BOX 16D
LESTERVILLE, MO 63654

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



B.A.M.