

December - January 1987-88

Newsletter ^{of the} Blacksmiths Association of Missouri



VOL. 4 NO. 6
 DECEMBER 1987 - JANUARY 1988

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 newsletter's 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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BAM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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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 New Member Renewal

Name _____

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mail to: ARTIST-BLACKSMITHS' ASSOCIATION OF N. AMERICA
 P.O. Box 1181 Nashville, IN 47448

Membership Renewal

January is here. It's time to ante up again. \$15.00 for your membership in BAM is peanuts. HAY! You get this fantastic newsletter 6 times a year, not to mention the 6 meetings where we heat it, beat it, trade it, buy it, float it, and most important, teach each other how to be better blacksmiths.

BAM is a fantastic organization. Can you believe this? How many other groups of competing individuals get together to help their competition be better? Not the NFL, not the American League, not hardly anyone else but folks like us want others in our trade to get better. That's what BAM is all about, getting together to learn together. The fun, fellowship, and general good times is OK too.

If you have joined recently and feel your full dues aren't up yet just send our treasurer what you think is right. We are not real slick in the bookkeeping department and run from January to January. Do it now!

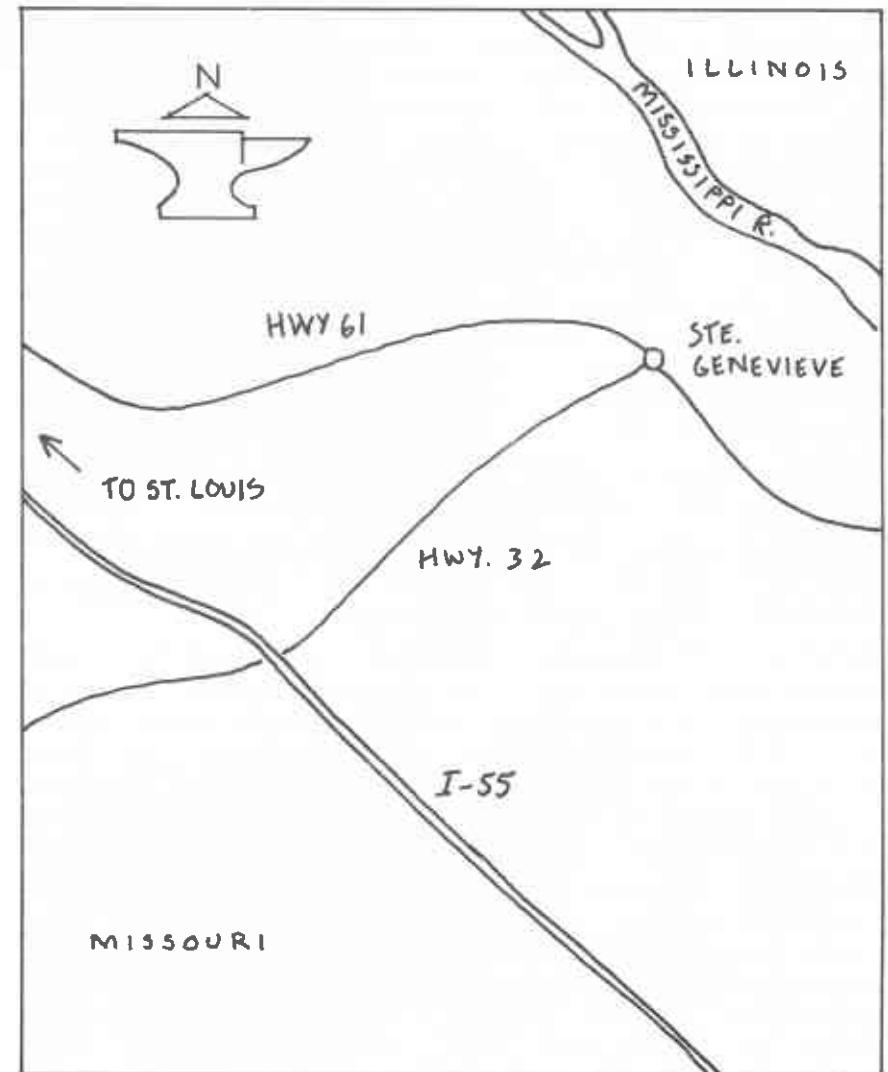
Next Meeting

Daryl Meier of Carbondale, Illinois will be the demonstrator for our January 23rd meeting at Stan Winkler's Muleskinner Forge. Daryl is a knife maker and one of the original pattern welded steel (damascus) revivalists. The quality of Daryl Meier's work and investigations have earned him a national reputation. We are lucky to have him demonstrate and talk with us. This will most certainly be a fine workshop.

Due to our Lost Valley Lake Festival, the Turley Workshop, and the group project we

have not done our usual trading of iron. We are back at it now, everyone make a nutcracker for the trade item.

Stan's shop is at 202 Main, Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670, on the corner of Jefferson and Main in the downtown area. His phone number is (314)883-7670.



ABANA Conference

The International Blacksmith Conference in Birmingham, Alabama looks like a good one. I attended the ABANA Board Meeting in Kingsport, Tennessee in November, where Bill Manly (conference chairman) reported on activities, demonstrators, and programs. Birmingham is a major center of ferrous activity and has a rich history in our industry. Vulcan, the Roman god of fire and metalworking is the symbol of this conference as those of you who have received your fall issue of THE ANVIL'S RING already know. Mr. Manly has lined up the mayor of Birmingham and several other city officials to welcome us and kick off the conference. Can you imagine that, the mayor of a major American city, addressing a bunch of raggedy, dirty fingered, smoke breathing, anvil smiting guys like us? Sounds like fun. The conference runs from June 15-18 and should not be missed.

Francis Whitaker, a good friend of BAM's, and Jud Nelson are honorary chairmen. Jud, Francis, and a host of luminaries from around the world of blacksmithing guarantee a nonstop world class event.

Dorothy Stiegler, ABANA's president, has asked BAM members to donate high quality ironwork to the fund raising auction that will take place at the conference. We can designate where the money should go, either to the ABANA coffers, the Metal Museum, the Yellin Foundation, or the conference fund. So why don't you guys be thinking about this. Let's show the rest of the ABANA membership just how good we are and send some really fine stuff to the auction. Your editor and president Bernie Tappel will be collecting work at each of our meetings for this purpose. Do it guys.

Dear ABANA Members,

Well I'm happy to tell you that the board meeting was a positive success. We had five chapter presidents attending for much or all of the meeting. They entered the discussion along with the board and asked questions and gave suggestions. We all felt this was one of the best things we've done to date and I hope to continue the example. The political hoop-da-la that existed for the past few months is something none of us need and fortunately we feel it is now at its end.

A committee has been formed to boost membership in ABANA. The membership, of course, is our life blood. You will be hearing from Chairman, Nol Putnam, about The Anvil's Ring raffles and the other things that his committee has planned. The bottom line is to be able to get benefits to you, the members, for free or for very little money. To do this, we must get these programs self-funded.

Susan Showalter is stepping aside from the Treasurer's position to spend her time making the library self-supporting and will in time turn this position over to someone else. We need a good A.V. person to take over this volunteer position. If you know anyone interested or qualified, please contact:

Jim Fleming
P.O. Box 1212
Breckenridge, Colorado 80424
Phone: (303) 453-4477.

We also need an ABANA member who is a CPA to help with the 1987 audit. To get grants and NEA money for projects in the future, we need more than an Opinion Audit. If you know of anyone, please contact:

Michael Bondi, 1st Vice President
1818 Shorey St., Oakland, California 94607
Phone: (415) 736-1327 or 658-2409.

We also need an ABANA member who is able to give legal advice as we implement more and more programs. If you are interested or know anyone, contact:

Joe Pehoski, Secretary
P.O. Box 84, Salado, Texas 76751
(817) 947-5389 or 947-5740

These are the types of people who need to be running for the ABANA Board, so keep your eyes and ears open. We will all agree that we have grown too big to elect armchair advisors to the board. We need hard workers to keep ABANA going.

Bill Callaway is resuming the Treasurer's position and Joe Humble is taking the 2nd Vice President's spot. Mr. Bill Manly is advisor to the board for a long range plan for the board.

Our Executive Secretary, Janelle Gilbert, has done a phenomenal job in getting the ABANA Office organized and running smoothly on our computer system. She is starting a Visiting Blacksmith's Program. This will be designed for smiths on all levels of expertise to visit in the shops of other blacksmiths for a negotiated period of time. Helpful suggestions are welcome. Contact:

Janelle Gilbert at the ABANA Office
P.O. Box 1181
Nashville, Indiana 47448
Phone: (812) 988-6919

The American Society of Metals is celebrating its 75th birthday in October, 1988. Your chapter president will be receiving information about this and we hope that you will participate in the celebration.

Please remember to set June 15 - 18, 1988 aside for the Sloss Furnace Conference. The committees are working hard to make this the best conference yet. We are still asking for auction items from each chapter. Please write:

c/o Randy Lawrence
Sloss Furnace, P.O. Box 11781
Birmingham, Alabama 35202

I will keep you posted every month through your chapter newsletters about the progress ABANA is making. Please feel free to call or write to me anytime:

4642 180th Way, S.W.
Rochester, Washington 98579
(206) 273-8670

Most sincerely,


Dorothy Stiegler
ABANA President

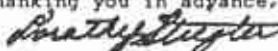
Dear Chapter Presidents,

The American Society of Metals, ASM, is celebrating its birthday in October - 75 years! You can see it is a firm which has withstood the test of time.

The ASM is interested in helping ABANA and all blacksmiths in furthering this wonderful craft we are in. There are several divisions of the ASM around the U.S. and abroad. They are very interested in watching blacksmiths at work in their forge.

I am asking you to please check your local directory and call or write to the division in your area. Invite their representatives to one of your hammer-ins or workshops. If you have none scheduled, it might be fun to schedule one for them.

I want to thank you in advance for the personal time you and your chapter members spend on this matter. Anything we can do to further blacksmithing in America will certainly pay dividends to us all.

Thanking you in advance,

Dorothy Stiegler
ABANA President

Turley Workshop

At 8:47 A.M. November 7th, the doors of Tom Gipe's sculpture studio at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville swung open. Pat, his cousin, Juanita, his wife, and himself, Frank Turley walked in, clutching his aluminum attache case to his breast. His colorful welding cap glowing in the florescent light, Frank took his place at the forge. Blacksmiths from several states greeted Mr. Turley, BAM's president introduced him to the rest, and we all settled back to see, hear, learn, laugh, and be amazed. Most of us, including Frank, didn't really know exactly what was to come. Quick thinking and slow moving being Frank's strength, he quickly set the stage for the two day workshop. A hot center punch with a handle from 3/4" O-1 was the first project. Tool making, heat treating no-no's and various other tips for working tool steels consumed the morning.



We broke for lunch and drove to a fast food barbeque joint. After experiencing several spills of water, food, and eating utensils, conversation turned to the quality of the barbequed meat. Discussions of what it exactly was along with whether we were, or should in fact, be responsible for what we eat ensued. Frank mentioned that he heard that this particular chain of restaurants imported its meat from Australia--kangaroo. This made us all a bit jumpy as we adjourned and hopped out to our cars and returned to the studio for the afternoon's session.

As the forge reached heat Frank peeled off his long sleeved shirt to reveal a red tee shirt which carried the enigmatic words "Maintain your sense of irony". The workshop continued with discussion of the color of hot iron and what it means to the blacksmith, sparking to black. Reshaping of hammer face, peen, and handles, kinds of blows, discussion of books, tool steel guides, and other miscellaneous and ambient folklore filled the afternoon. John Sherwood took Frank back to his cousin's house. The rest of us stood around, quaffed a few and retired to our respective abodes.

The Sunday morning session developed organically, one thing leading to the next, scrolls, tools, Tai Chi, welding, fires, clinkers, good practice, s.o.r., cornpone, and such. Near lunch, a group of civilians slipped into the studio. Frank greeted them and we broke for lunch, Frank with his relatives, and us with us.

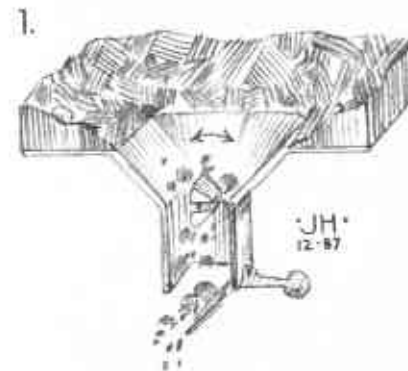
Upon return from lunch, Frank heat treated the punch in the fire, since no one could come up with a toaster oven, and fitted it with a handle. More metaphysical and physical stuff followed and we slowly ground to a halt. John drove Frank to cousin Pat's house and we cleaned up Tom's shop. It was over. Thanks Frank!

Tips & Techniques

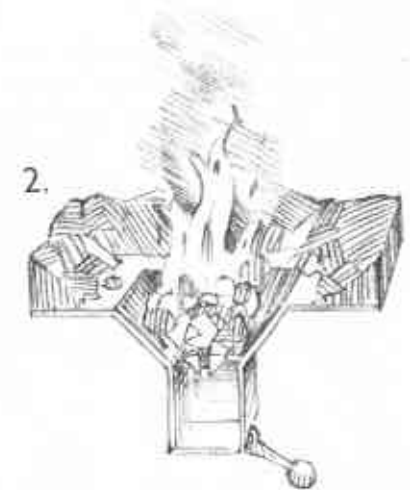
by Jerry Hoffmann

the BASICS

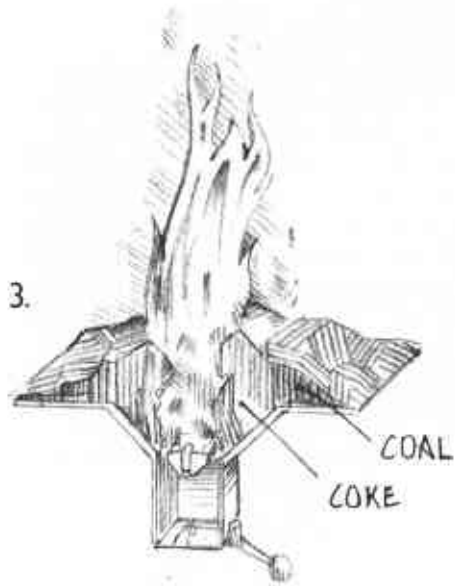
part 1 the fire



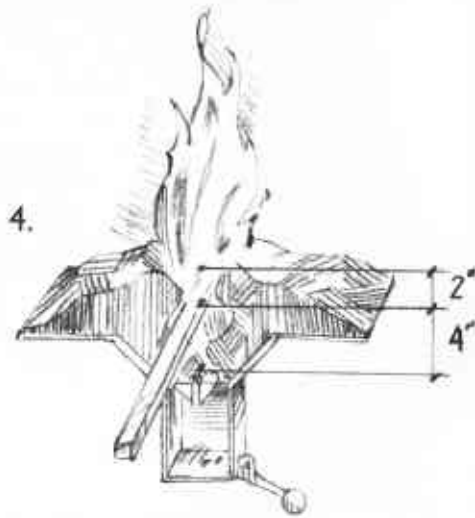
Rake green coal to the sides and pile the remaining coke on top of it. Dig out the clinkers and dump out the blast chamber.



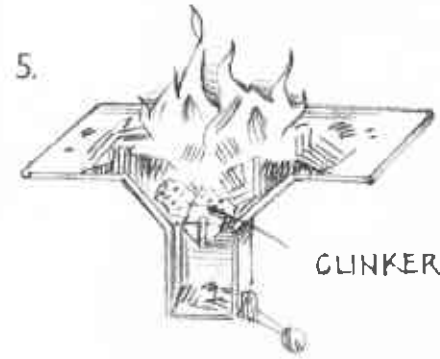
Wad up 3 sheets of newspaper, light, and place it in the fire pot. Start the blast and pile coke (no green coal) on top of the paper.



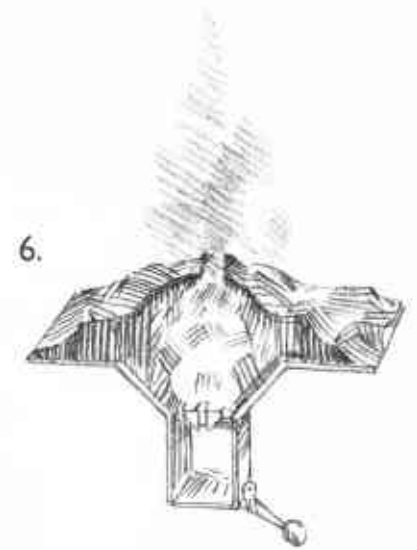
Once the coke is burning, rake in all the coke and start piling green coal along the sides and back of the fire.



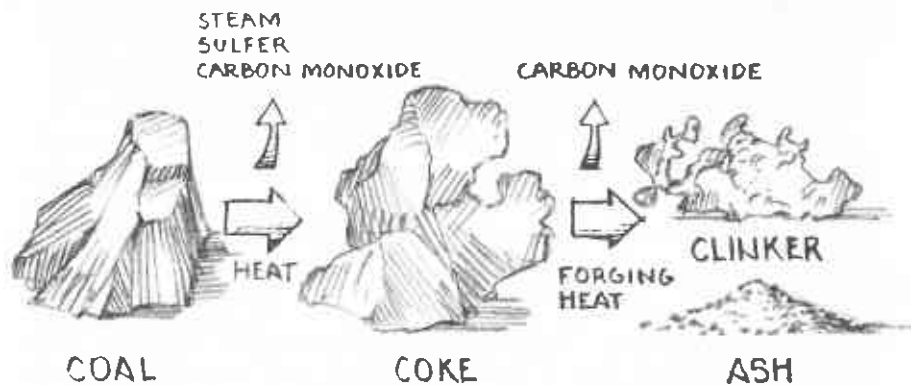
Place stock in the center of the fire with about 4" of coke below and 2" of coke above it.



A poor fire is shallow and has a build up of clinkers above the blast opening. Rake the coke aside, then clean out the clinkers and ash. Add coal and repack the fire.



To keep a fire that will not be used for a while: pack in the sides and establish a strong blast. Shut the blower off, but leave the air chamber open. Spread some green coal on top of the fire and poke a small hole in the middle.



Progression of changes in the coal as it is first packed around the fire and then added to the fire until it is completely consumed.

Warning! Never leave the blast on while working at the anvil, if you don't need to. This irritates the hell out of those who know better!

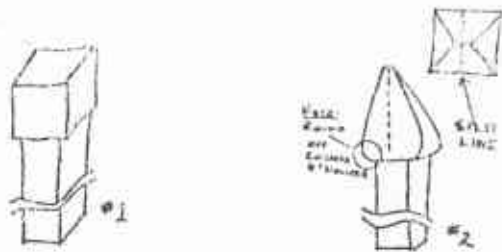
MAKING A ROSEBUD IN IRON

by Barry Wheeler

Reprinted from Ohio Blacksmith News

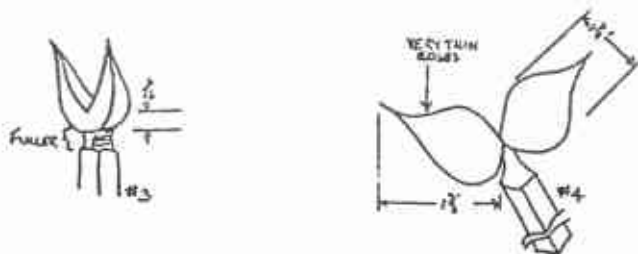
1. From a 3/8" square bar, upset a cube on one end approximately 5/8" on a side. Bar should be about 8" or longer.

2. Taper cube to a point leaving two opposite sides wide at point. This will make splitting the center easier. Hammer or file corners off bottom of cube.

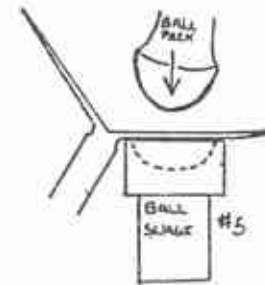


3. Split taper along wider face to within 1/16 or so of bar. Fuller bar around right below the split to about 5/16 or so.

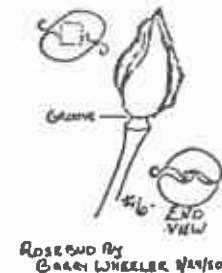
4. Spread split ends out until about perpendicular to bar. Fuller each half until very thin, especially the edges. Edges can be further worked with peen and rounded edge of anvil to make them slightly ragged.



5. After fullering, curve each half on a ball swage with ball peen. A hardy hole will work in lieu of ball swage if done carefully. Be careful not to burn the edges of the petals from now on.



6. By now, the petals should resemble two spoons with bowl facing each other. Turn the edge of one inward, and the other outward. Do the opposite to the other petal. Close the two petals to produce shape in diagram. Draw out rest of stem taking time to make it slim and graceful to about 12" or more. Cut end hot on a slant. Weld three leaves together (See O.A.B.A. letter of December, 1978, or Anvil's Ring Vol. 7, No. 1 of March, 1979). Then jump weld to stem.



Note: Serrate edges of leaves in vise with sharp chisel before welding together.

TIPS

When you have left your fire unattended and it will not be revived no matter how hard you crank it, try this.

Sprinkle a hand full of saw dust over the still hot coke, if you haven't cooled it with your frantic cranking, it will burst into flame. It will take some fussing, but you will be back in business soon. Darryl Nelson of Washington showed me this trick.

Bert Elliot-Francis, a BAM member from Cobden, Illinois, sends in this address for rivets.

Jay Cee Sales & Rivets
32861 Chelsey
Farmington, Michigan 48024
(313)478-2150

Centaur Forge Ltd., 117 North Spring St., Burlington, WI 53105; has a fine collection of tools, books, etc. for the blacksmith and horseshoer. Write for a catalog.

Robert Owings Metal Design, 615 2nd St., Petaluma CA 74952, (707)778-8261; sells fine imported blacksmithing tools. Write him for a price list.

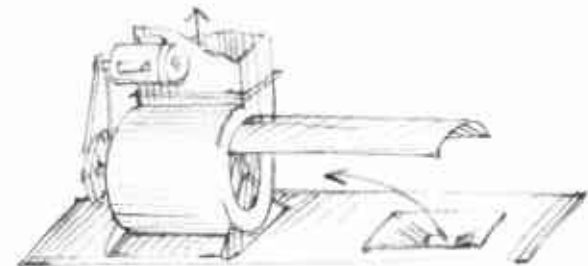
Jim Fleming sells vintage blacksmithing books. Write him for his catalog at: P.O. Box 1212, Breckenridge, CO 80424. Jim published Francis' Blacksmiths Cookbook.

Reprinted from Upper Midwest Blacksmith's Association Newsletter:

This summer I stopped in Conner Prairie Settlement, a village museum outside of Noblesville, Indiana. I visited with the head blacksmith, Tom Sanders, and he showed me the whole place. What interested me a lot was the blower exhaust setup that they had in their workshop. Now this is not the museum display shop, this is back in the barn where they do real work for the community. It is a similar setup as they have in Williamsburg, and a nice place to visit. With Tom's help, I have tried to sketch out the idea that I got there.

They have used squirrel cage blowers that are 15 1/2 inches in diameter and 14 inches long, driven by a 1/3 hp. motor mounted on the top. Inside mounted motors burn out too easily. The hood is about 24 inches long and covers the top half of the intake hold. The fire pot is 12 inches from the blower to the near edge of the pot. They have a 2 1/2 inch pulley on the motor and an 8 inch pulley on the blower. This exhausts the smoke right into the chimney and keeps the place smoke free. And with 3 coal forges going at once, that sometimes can be a job.

They tried one smaller squirrel cage and it did not move enough air. You can probably get a used one at a furnace dealer.



The California Blacksmith's Newsletter published this curious bit of information on the age of Little Giant power hammers. Now you can tell those folks who ask, "Just how old is that old greasy trip hammer of yours anyway?".

Hammer

Model	1919	1927	1929	1935	1940	1945	1947
25#	2709	4097	4496	4723	5067	6770	7746
50#	3990	5178	5467	5650	5800	6345	6795
100#	503	797	871	899	1015	1232	1280
250#	191	321	332	341	355	478	510
500#	513	525	526	527			547

For many of our members the only contact with other smiths is our bimonthly meetings. Especially for beginners, this is not enough to keep the excitement burning at a welding heat. Norm Larson of Lompoc, California is a mail order book seller with a fine collection of titles. Norm has books for beginners and advanced blacksmiths. Jim Fleming of Breckenridge, Colorado also has many fine books for sale. Jim's books are mostly reprinted from old titles. I'm sure Norm and Jim will send you a list of books available. Just drop them a line at:

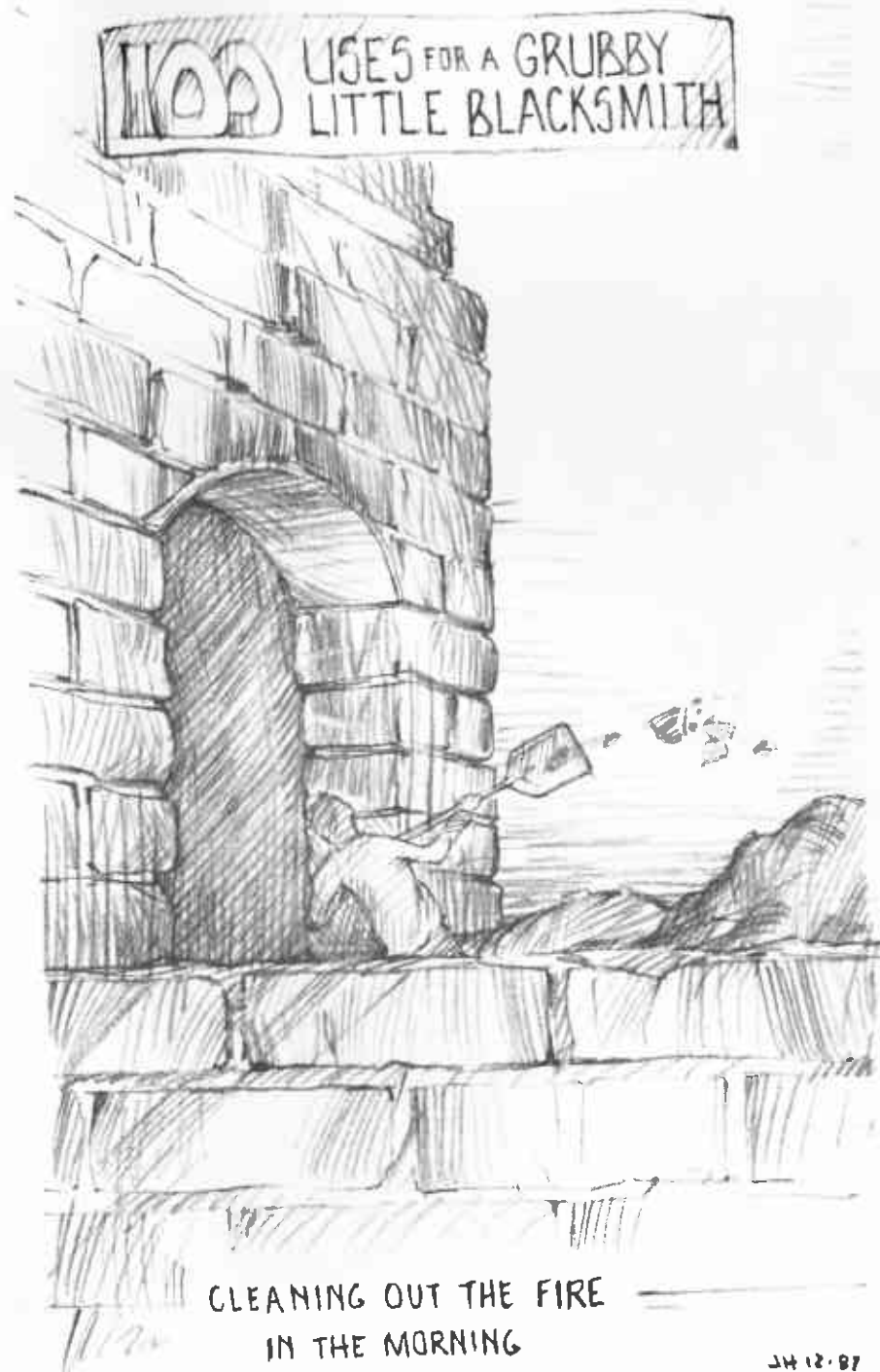
Norm Larson
5426 Hwy 246
Lompoc, CA 93436

Jim Fleming
156 Country Rd.
Breckenridge, CO
80424

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Forge with blower, cast iron hearth \$75.00

Contact: Phyllis Case
R.R. 1 Box 146
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