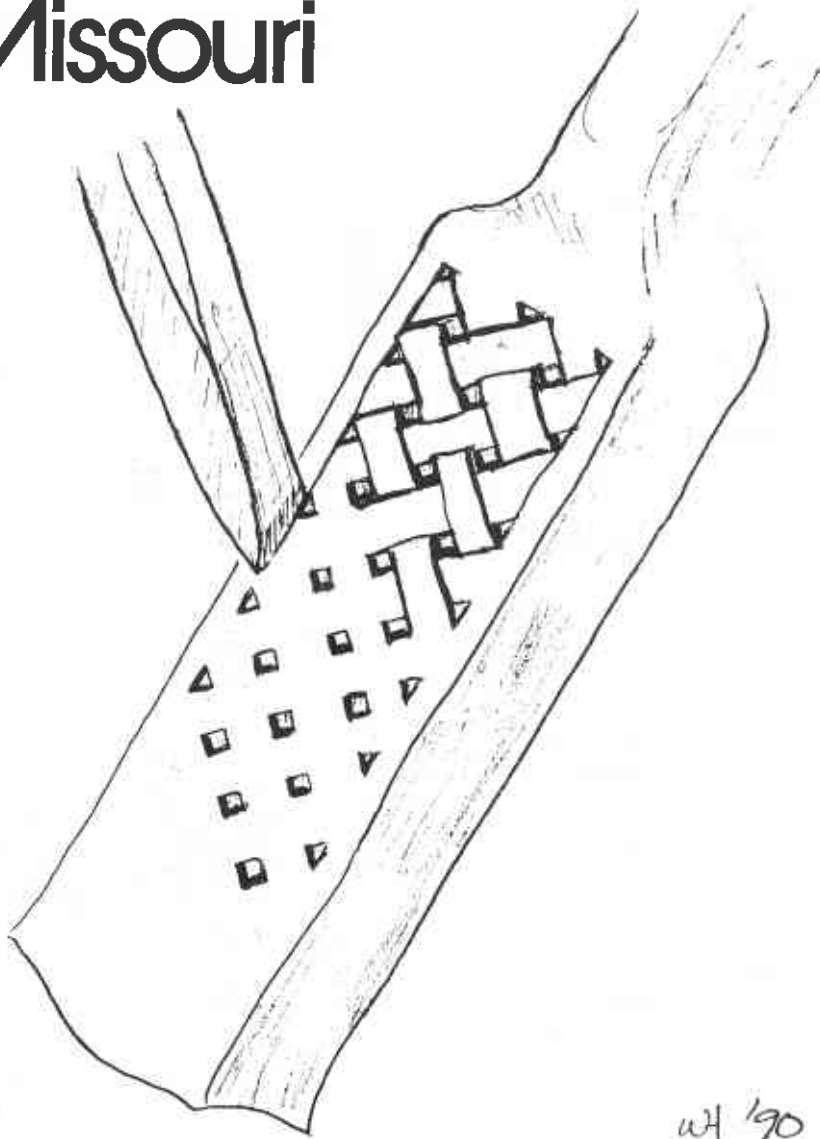


AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 1990

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 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.

Occasionally some material included in this publication will be copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written consent of the author. BAM welcomes the use of any other material printed in this newsletter provided the author and this organization be given credit.

OFFICERS

President
Steve Baker
519 Locust
Monroe City, MO 63456
(314) 735-4268

Vice-President
Colin Campbell
Rt. 1 Box 282
Union, MO 63084

Secretary-Treasurer
Steve Austin
44 N.E. Munger Road
Claycomo, MO 64119
(816) 781-1512

Editor
Walt Hull
2043 Massachusetts
Lawrence, KS 66046

Art Director
Jaquie Waller
5651 Heads Creek
House Springs, MO
63051

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 \$20.00, 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 Renewals

Be sure to check the date on the label of your newsletter. This is your membership renewal date. We will include a renewal reminder in your copy of the newsletter when your membership is due to expire. If the date on your newsletter label is not correct, please notify Bernie Tappel as soon as possible.



September Meeting, Sept. 15

Lawrence, Kansas

All these years I've been promising that as soon as I got a REAL SHOP I was going to take my turn and host a meeting. I really look forward to repaying some of the hospitality I've enjoyed these past years, and we're going to try to do it up right.

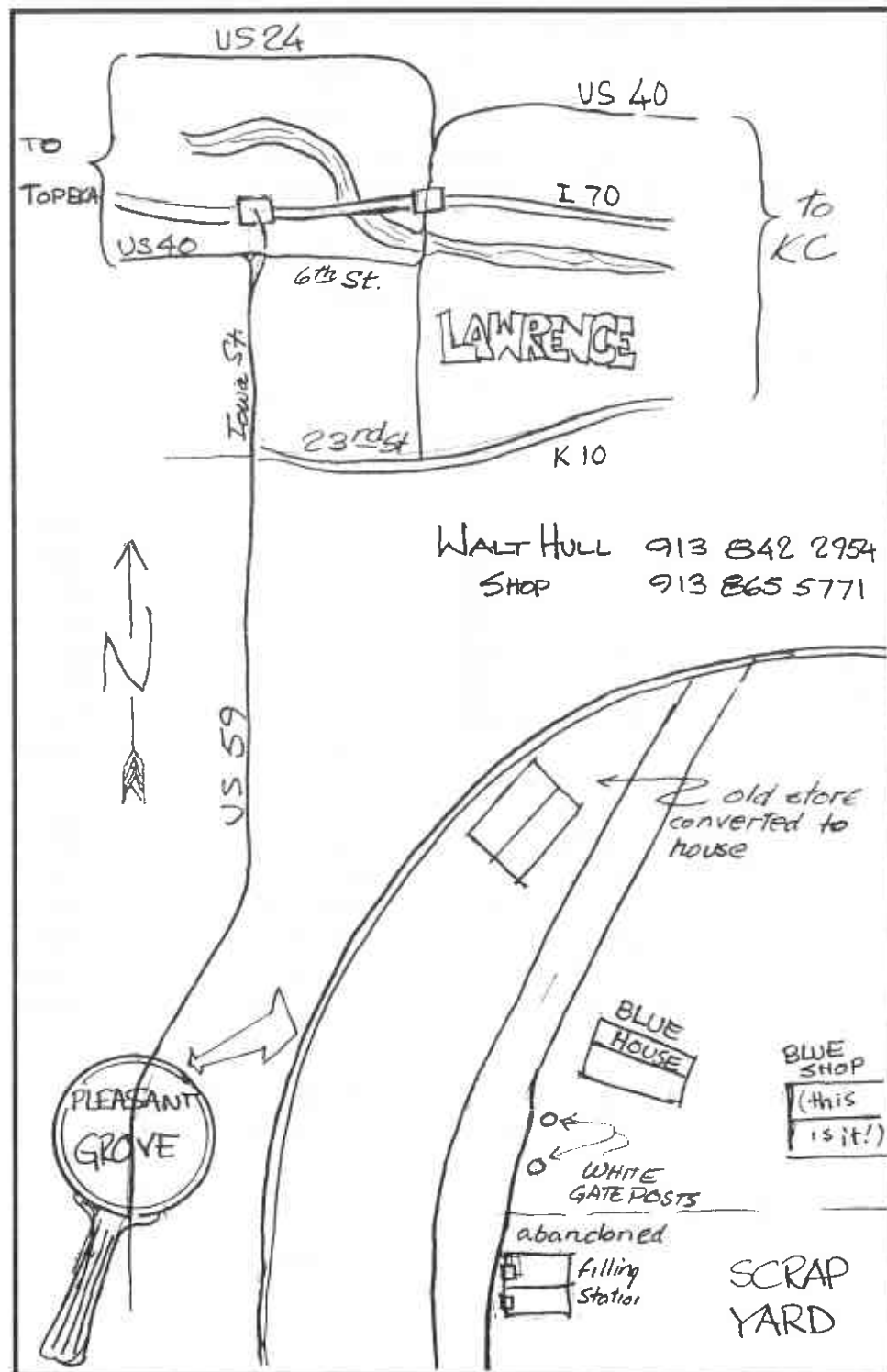
In addition to being my first BAM meeting, this will be my official open house/shop warming and we'll be inviting quite a few local people, customers, friends, and family to come by in the afternoon. If you can bring some of your work to sell, do so. Mark it with your name and price and we'll have someone to handle sales.

I've arranged for a demonstration of various techniques for working in thin stock by Jon Havener of KU's metalsmithing department, who does a great deal of sculptural hollowforming and similar work in ferrous and nonferrous metals.

If you need accommodations, give us a call. We've got sleeping bag space for a bunch, tent space for more, and even a bed or two for the indolent. If you're considering tenting, bring your insect repellent. This has been a good year for the skeeters.

See you soon.

Walt



**An Open Invitation from Ruth Hull
to the Overworked/Overwrought Iron Partners
to participate in the "Associated Activities"
of the Sept. 15 BAM Meeting Hosted by Walt Hull
at Pleasant Grove Forge, Lawrence, Kansas**

- FACT! "Wrought" is a variation of "worked."
- FACT! Webster's dictionary defines "wrought" as "1. fashioned, formed. 2. elaborately embellished, ornamented. 3. manufactured. 4. beaten into shape by tools, hammered. 5. deeply stirred, excited - often used with up, as in gets easily wrought up over nothing."
- FACT! We loyal supporters of the folks who work the iron are mostly well-fashioned and formed, sometimes elaborately embellished and/or ornamented, not manufactured, and often, at the end of the day, feeling as if we'd been beaten into an unflattering shape by tools. Some of us occasionally have the urge to get hammered. But there is hope! Forge on to Lawrence! You will be deeply stirred and excited by the shopping and other recreational possibilities afforded by the site of the September BAM meeting. You will not be wrought up over nothing!
- FACT! Lawrence has a downtown shopping area widely proclaimed as (choose any or all) quaint, just like the old days, geared to rich college kids from the Kansas City suburbs, attractive, possessed of an incredible variety of retail stores, including clothing, gifts, books, crafts, antiques (an "antique mall" and several individual shops), lacking in parking space, and easy to walk around and window shop in.
- FACT! Lawrence downtown has one of the few microbreweries in the midwest, complete with restaurant and beer garden.
- FACT! Lawrence has the Riverfront plaza, a new OUTLET STORE MALL located at the north end of downtown on the Kansas (Kaw) river bank. Over 35 stores are now open including Jonathan Logan, Bass shoes, Toy Liquidators, Coming-Revere, Oneida, and Fieldcrest Cannon. There are a variety of food vendors on the lower level which opens out onto a terrace overlooking the river.

- FACT! Lawrence has a K-Mart, a Walmart, and more fast food restaurants than any other city within 20 miles!
- FACT! Lawrence is home to the University of Kansas and the allegedly fighting Jayhawks who will be doing battle in Louisville the weekend of the meeting, thus depriving you of the experience of Lawrence traffic on a home football weekend. (People still show up. Incredible!) Other campus activities include concerts, plays, and exhibits. There are several impressive museums on the campus - the Natural History Museum, the Anthropology Museum, the Spencer Archives, and the Spencer Museum of Art, one of the finest teaching museums in the country.
- FACT! There are three lakes, one with a state campground, within 15 miles of Lawrence.
- FACT! Lawrence has an active live music scene - from classical to jazz to reggae to rock - especially on weekends.
- FACT! If there is interest, I'll try to arrange a childcare/babysitting arrangement. please let me know as soon as you can. Knowing the potential number of kids involved will help to determine space and personnel.
- FACT! When you all arrive, I'll have maps and more detailed information on available activities for the weekend. If you'd like advance information, or if there's something you'd like me to check into for you, or if you have ideas or suggestions for the "associated activities," let me know. Our address is 2043 Massachusetts, Lawrence, KS 66046; telephone 913-842-2954.
- FACT! Walt and I are looking forward to seeing you in Lawrence in September.

BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI



Chapter of Artist Blacksmith
Association of North America

13 August 90

Dear BAM Member,

SUBJECT: REPOUSSE' WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT AUSTIN'S IRONWORKS,
44 N.E. 69 Highway, Kansas City, Missouri, 64119,
816-454-7736.

DEMONSTRATOR: NAHUM HERSOM of Boise, Idaho. See Anvil's Ring issues
Volume 9, No. 3, Fall 1981 and Volume 12, No.2, Summer 1984,
for articles written by Mr. Hersom on the topic of repousse'
work and associated tooling.

WHEN: September 8th and 9th (Saturday and Sunday) beginning at 9:00 AM
until 4:00 PM.

WORKSHOP FEE: \$20.00 per day, or \$32.50 for both days, payable in
advance or at the door.

I apologize for such late notice of this event, but it has been very hastily
put together to coincide with Mr. Hersom's schedule while he is travelling through
the Midwest. Below is a brief description of the workshop format as sent to me
by Mr. Hersom.

Nahum G. Hersom: Following World War II, Nahum studied ornamental forging and repousse
under a German smith in the Los Angeles area. While living in northern California he
operated a shop which made leaves, flowers and other repousse items for the antique
restoration and reproduction industry. Nahum has demonstrated at several national and
regional conferences. He will be demonstrating the use of hammers, stakes and various
tools designed for the cold working of sheet metal into useful and ornamental items. This
type of cold work enlarges the scope of the metalsmith as the process lends itself well
from making jewelry to architectural motifs. The tooling is adaptable to any design one
can conceive, and especially good when doing one-of-a-kind items.

Please let me know if you plan to attend as soon as possible so arrangements
for seating can be made. Thank you.

Steve Austin

44 N.E. 69 Highway, Kansas City, Missouri 64119

ABANA

Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America



P.O. Box 1181, Nashville, Indiana 47448
Executive Secretary, Janelle Gilbert

Office Hours: 7:30-11:30am & 1:30-4:30pm
Phone: (812) 988-6919

STATEMENT OF MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN ABANA AND ITS CHAPTERS

ALL CHAPTERS ARE REQUESTED TO:

- Provide annual updates of chapter membership to the ABANA Office.
- Notify the ABANA Office and Chapter Liaison Committee of changes in officers. It is imperative that ABANA be made aware of these changes to keep the ABANA chapter list up to date.
- Mail a copy of the chapter newsletter to the ABANA President, Chapter Liaison Committee and the Anvil's Ring Editor.
- Maintain 25% of chapter membership as ABANA members.
- Reprint the most current President's Message (sent monthly) in chapter newsletter.

ABANA WILL:

- Maintain an active Chapter Liaison Committee to give the chapter direct access to the ABANA Board and to offer assistance in chapter development and programs.
- Provide chapters with regular lists of new ABANA members in the area for possible chapter membership.
- Provide regular chapter mailings to keep chapters abreast of new developments, opportunities, and benefits.
- Provide monthly updates of names and addresses of chapter presidents and newsletter editors.
- Mail a package of ABANA information to all newly-elected chapter presidents and newsletter editors including a list of Board members, a list of ABANA services, a list of current ABANA items for sale, a list of ABANA Library selections, the ABANA Chapter List, a list of chapter responsibilities, and recommendations for a strong local chapter.

July 28 Meeting

The July meeting at the home and shop of Vern and Eunice Fischer was, if anything, even better than the one they hosted last year. Vern has been working on the shop and was able to show, among other things, one of slickest 25# Little Giants around, all done out in new green paint. Those of us who had a chance to work at Vern's restored Buffalo forge were also impressed. You'll have to get Vern to explain how it all works; it involves various air passages which can preheat the blast and enhance the draft. All I know is that it gets hot fast and burns clean.

Early in the day Dr. Iron demonstrated a couple of utensil handles using some Peter Ross type techniques but evolving into something inimitably Doug's. Then Walt and Doug experimented with twist involving stock of different sizes laid together. Walt demonstrated the pineapple twist with help from dangerous Dan Whitmore and coaching from Hank Knickmeyer.

After an excellent lunch of beans cooked in one of those hugh cast pots you've always wanted, Vice President Whitmore convened a brief business meeting.

Colin Campbell was elected Vice President, replacing Dan Whitmore.

Walt Hull was elected newsletter editor replacing Doug Hendrickson.

Dues were increased (on a unanimous vote) to \$20.00, with the provision that those who find this increase a true hardship may continue at \$15.00. Let your conscience and your cash flow be your guide.

Steve Austin announced that he was trying to organize a repousse' workshop with Nahum Herson (see the announcement elsewhere in this issue).

Steve showed slides of the gallery exhibit at the ABANA conference.

After the business meeting many members found their way off the end of the Fischer's boat dock into the Lake of the Ozarks, which was much wetter than the shop, and cooler as



Tom Warren forges a gate hook while Gary Tash looks on.



The host and his hammer.

well. On returning from the lake, however, we saw that the shop had not been idle. Gary Tash, Tom Warren, and Bernie Tappel were still at it, and we found traces of a demonstration by Jerry Hoffmann.

Evening saw some of us head for home and some head for town with Vern and Eunice, while some underwent an exciting ride down the lake in Steve Steffan's boat for seafood.

If you missed this one, folks, make a note that the next time the Fischer's host a meeting you want to be there. Thanks, Vern and Eunice, for everything.

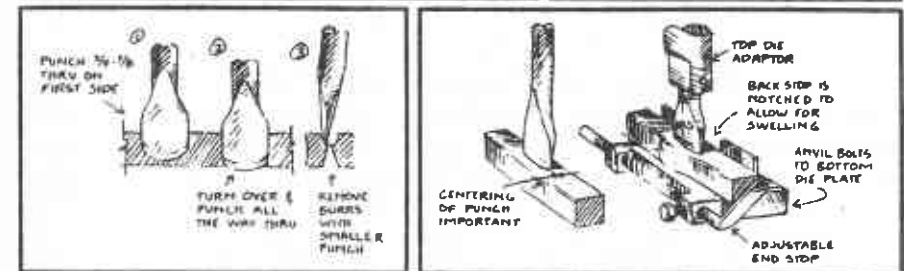
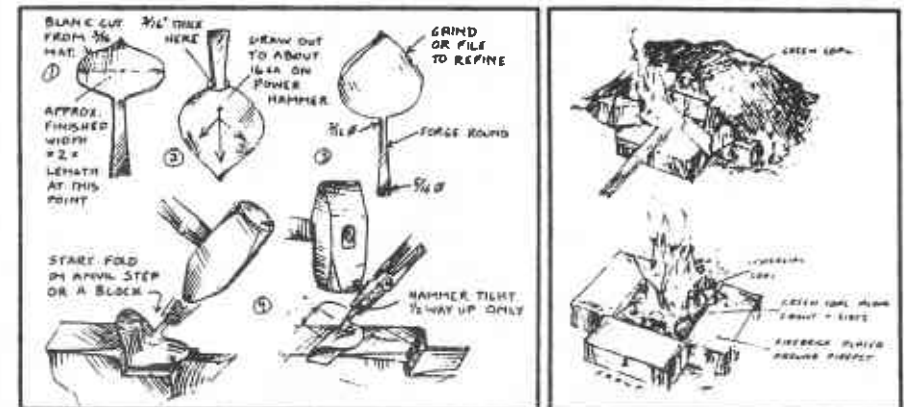
Future Meeting

BAM will meet Nov. 17 in New Melle (rhymes with "belly"), MO, at the shop of John Murray. Bigger hammers, better beer is the word on the street. For info. call John at 314-227-1840 (it worked for me) or watch these pages.

• NEW PUBLICATION •

THE BLACKSMITH'S JOURNAL

A MONTHLY JOURNAL of ILLUSTRATED TECHNIQUES



The BLACKSMITH'S JOURNAL is an information oriented publication, presented in illustrated form, focusing on blacksmithing techniques. New and old techniques are shown in accurate detail and distributed monthly in supplemental form to provide you with a continually growing resource. 1 yr, \$28. 2 yrs, \$50. Canada 1 yr, \$35.

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"Possibly the most important source of information about blacksmithing techniques, tools, and design that you will ever see." Subscribe now to receive the very first issue of this unique new publication.

1990 ABANA RINGS

- a personal EXPERIENCE by Paul D. Moffett

At least as long as a year ago Dorothy Stiegler, President of ABANA, asked Doug Hendrickson to help raise money with which ABANA could support both the ORNAMENTAL METAL MUSEUM at Memphis, Tennessee, and the SAMUEL YELLIN FOUNDATION at Philadelphia, Penn.

Doug Hendrickson, whose forge is in Missouri, decide to make a grill of fifteen rings which could be sold at auction and the funds thus raised would be used by ABANA in support of these two organizations.

To divide the work, he wrote to 14 or 15 other capable smiths and asked for their cooperation by making one 10" ring which could be linked together. After some proding the rings were received and the grill assembled.

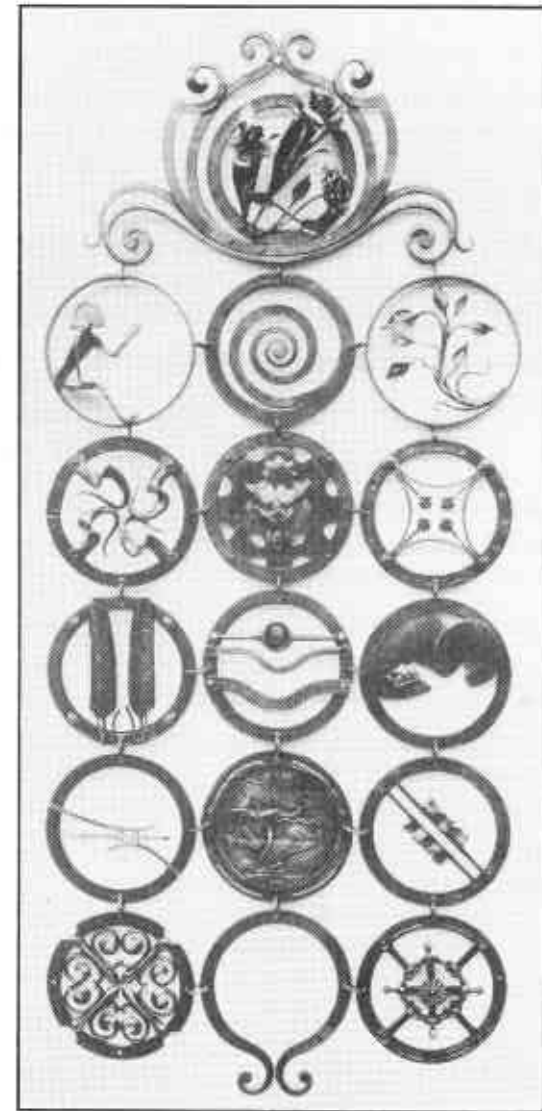
At Alfred State, New York, the grill was displayed in the Late Arrivals Gallery in the most distant corner. A notice was posted stating that the grill was to be auctioned. This notice was posted at several locations. It was here that I first saw the grill.

Over the next couple of nights, I talked with my wife about this grill and just where we could hang it if we had it. I also asked others what they estimated it would bring at the auction. No one had an idea. I was left on my own as to the value. After some thought I decided to break down the grill into its component parts and assign prices to each.

With this figure in mind I went to the auction with some hope that I could bid successfully if I could handle the auction lingo. I do not do well with this, but by great good luck I had an excellent "Spotter" and a very knowledgeable auctioneer. I was also concerned that the grill would appear very late in the auction. Here again I had luck in that it appeared after only long enough that I was getting used to the auctioneer.

As the bidding began I noted that Clare Yellin was bidding also and I did not want to bid against her, but she soon dropped out. Rapidly the price escalated and the pace slowed. The room became quieter and heads turned. At last there were only two bidders — myself and one other who I could not see. Several times I thought of stopping, but wisely the auctioneer paused for us to think and reconsider. Finally the other bidder dropped out and I was the very happy owner.

Someone said "Stand Up" so I did. I must admit adrenalin was running at full tilt. I had never bought "Art" before and it certainly broke the piggy bank so I won't be



The grill was forged by: (in order)

Claudia McCue
Doug Hendrickson
Jeff Funk
Stan Winkler
Jerry Hoffman

Dorothy Steigler
Frank Turley
William Roan
Frank Trousil
Dan Boone
Empty ring symbolizing
all smiths

Nol Putnam
Francis
Jim Fleming
Robert Owings
Carl Jennings

able to do that again, but this piece is special since it is a first, made by a number of people I have met.

After "SOLD" was called the first person to congratulate me was Clare Yellin. Doug Hendrickson appeared and told me more about the work. Shortly after I paid for the piece I went back to the dorm. I cleaned out the car and took a shower and changed clothes to burn off some adrenalin.

After returning to the auction I asked who had bid against me and only then learned that Richard Quinell of England had bid against me. Just before the auction he received an award for his contributions to world blacksmithing advancement.

After the auction ended Ron Porter helped me load the grill in my car.

Bob Arbuckle now is displaying the grill in his store — ARBUCKLES RAILROAD PLACE — in Noblesville, Indiana. It will be there until at least the end of August. It will be at the SOFA Gathering in Ohio at Studebakers in September. It will also be shown at various IBA meetings. It is my intention to display the grill as widely as possible so that as many people as possible can see contemporary metalwork by some of our best metalsmiths.

Was I right in my price estimate? I do not know. All I know is that Francis Whitaker told me at breakfast next morning that he would not make it for less and it had two bidders. It exceeded my estimate by only \$100.

As a post script, Bernie Cler sent me a video of the auction. I have had a very nice letter from the ORNAMENTAL METAL MUSEUM and Clare Yellin was kind enough to allow me to see the Yellin Museum collection but — but that is another story.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The ring grill has special significance for BAM, since it had its inception in our own ring projects and three of our members (four counting Francis Whitaker, who holds other memberships as well) contributed rings. Paul was too modest to give the price he paid. My recollection is that it was \$4,900, but I have heard that it was \$5,000.

Walt

Reprinted from the "Forge Fire", Indiana Blacksmithing Assn.

The Alfred ABANA Conference

A Spouse's View

Would I wish to attend another ABANA Conference with my blacksmith husband? You bet I would. I truly had a super time at the conference in Alfred, NY. The family classes were well planned, interesting, and took most of my time. Because there were no meals to prepare and no housework to do, the time spent at the conference was very relaxing. I guess I could have shopped, gone swimming in the pool, or toured the area if I desired. However, the family classes planned at the conference were to my liking so I learned to tole paint, quilt, tie dye, make molded candles, and stencil. Of course the trip to a new area of the country was also enjoyable.

My blacksmith husband, Maurice, especially enjoyed seeing the Williamsburg blacksmiths demonstrate the craft as it was done years ago. The treadle hammer demonstration, involving tools that could be used with it and the many things that could be made with it, was extremely educational and interesting. The tailgate traders offered a varied assortment of interesting blacksmith junk.

We went to the 1990 Alfred ABANA Conference instead of attending the 1990 National Square Dance Convention of Memphis. We love to square dance so that should indicate how much we enjoy attending the ABANA Conferences. After having attended the ABANA Conference in Birmingham, AL, in 1988 and Alfred, NY, in 1990, we cannot imagine missing any future ones. We hope to see even more BAM members and their families at future conferences.

Bess Ellis
Florissant, MO

ADVANCE NOTICE

Second World Congress of Smiths in Aachen

May 13, 1991 to May 19, 1991

The Aachen Chamber of Crafts and Trades is carrying out the Second World Congress of Smiths in Aachen in 1991. Not only artisan smiths from all over the world are invited to participate, but also gold-and-silversmiths, as well as all metal designers who process material by forging.

The congress is combined with a designing competition, for which the participants can register their workpieces in advance. A jury will decide which workpiece will be exhibited and awarded prizes.

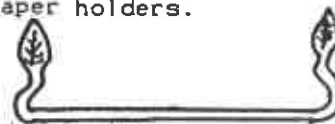
In addition, every participant will be able to exhibit his own workpieces outside the competition.

The charge for each participant will probably be about 450 DM (at current exchange rates that's about \$285.00) and include participation in all of the congress and exhibition programs, other conference literature, as well as evening meals from Monday until Thursday. The official languages of the congress are German and English.

Participants may register in advance already at the Aachen Chamber of Crafts and Trades, Press Office, P.O. Box, D-5100 Aachen. The binding registration forms and further information will then be sent to interested persons in good time.

Upsetting Tool

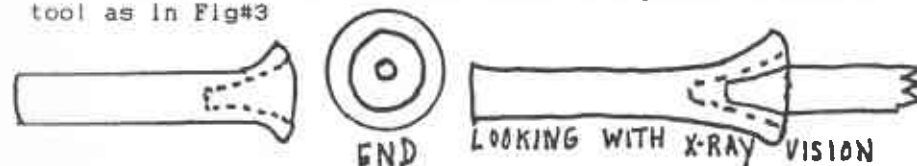
One time my wife got me involved in making towel racks and toilet paper holders.



I forged a tool to make raised veins in a leaf, shaped something like the one above. I used a 3/8" rod 32" long. The 3/18" round did not have enough volume to make the widest sections of the leaf. After upsetting the ends and drawing the point out on a couple of them as in Fig #2.

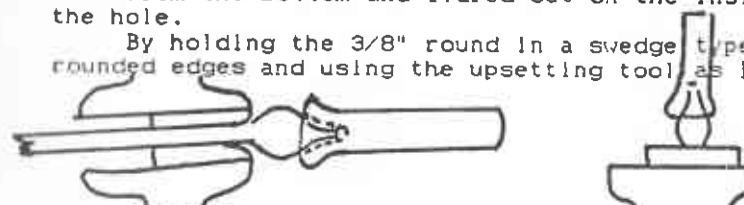


I thought, this is dumb, I am upsetting all of this and then drawing most of the upset back to a point. I made a tool as in Fig#3

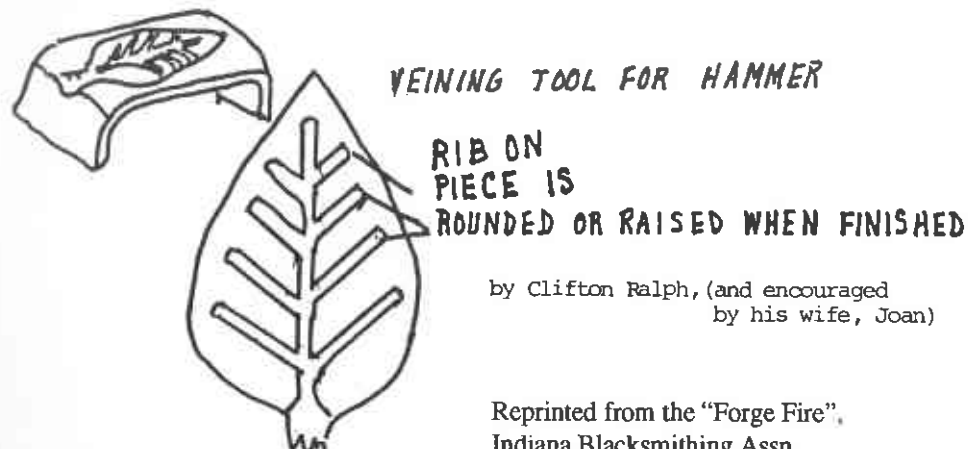


The hole in this upsetting tool is 1" deep, 1/4" diameter in the bottom, tapered out to 1/2" diameter, about 3/4" from the bottom and flared out on the inside edge of the hole.

By holding the 3/8" round in a swedge type tool with rounded edges and using the upsetting tool as in Fig#4.



It made the upset the right distance from the end and tapered the point more at the same time. After tapering the point a little more I could place it in the leaf tool and hammer it into shape with raised veins on the power hammer.



by Clifton Ralph, (and encouraged by his wife, Joan)

Reprinted from the "Forge Fire",
Indiana Blacksmithing Assn.

Walt's Notes

It is with greatest trepidation that I undertake the editorship of this newsletter. Not only do I know it's a lot of work, not only do I know that a bunch of you out there have come to depend on the newsletter for a bimonthly infusion of wisdom, gossip, and fly ash, but I know that I am following a Class Act.

Are you going to miss Dr. Iron's gentle prose? You bet your best beater you are. Are you going to miss Jerry's legible, attentive and humorous drawings? Do blacksmith's have grimy fingers? And will I miss them? Even more. But despair not. They have left us Patti's fingers and Bernie's hard and software and recruited not just me (note the rope burns on my wrists) but also Jacquie Waller to handle layout and other art director type duties, and they promise to hold my trembling hand.

As my very first act in this position I want to say "thanks" to my predecessors for all of it. Do you join me? 'Course you do! Ladies and gents, Doug Hendrickson and Jerry Hoffmann.

For Sale

Wrought Iron

Rd 1", 1 1/4", 1 3/8", 2"
Flats 1/2 X 3, 7/16 X 4", 3/8 X 3

Contact D. Macaulay Inc.
P O Box 86
Winthrop, Mass 02152
Attn. Bernie Schresky
617-387-4731

Spoon and Ladle Blocks

Bob Cerny
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Valley View Rd.
Bainbridge, NY 13733
607-563-2445

75# Little giant

Monroe J. Webb
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Ewing, IL 62836
618-629-2397

Custom made hammer handles

Send a rubbing of the eye of the tool and a description of what you want. These are good handles and prices are very reasonable. If you catch me demonstrating at a craft fair I'll fit it for you.

Don Mounter
R R 1 Box 54
Fayette. MO 65248
816-248-3064