BLACKSMITH ORGANIZATION OF ARKANSAS

VOICE

DECEMBER 2013

DUES ARE DUE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLACKSMITH ORGANZAITION OF ARKANSAS

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UP COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 14, 2013 - JAMES BRANTLEY - HARRISON, AR
TRADE ITEM - A FORGED CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

DECEMBER 14, 2013 - NEAC MEETING JONESBORO

DECEMBER 20, 2013 - DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1, 2014 - DUES ARE DUE

JANUARY 11, 2014 -
TRADE ITEM - Nail Header

NEWSLETTER DISCLAIMER;

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BLACKSMITHS OF ARKANSAS
November, 2013

Our thanks to Mike and Stosh Japczyk for letting us all do some forging at their place.

Our thanks, also, to their wives for the delicious lunch they prepared for us.

I didn't think to count heads, but quite a few members were present. We have a new member, Andrew Sullivan, who forged himself a pair of tongs. I was impressed. We had some visitors who got in on a contest we held. Our new vice president, Dale Custer, got the idea somewhere and got us going on this. Visitors, Scott Lowe, and ,Chris Decker, jumped right in there and did very well. Bob Lock won one of the contests and Steve Lowe won the other. There were prizes and one of them got a good laugh.
Our coal meister, Ron Wells, won a bag of coal.
We had another visitor, Tim Atkins, who seemed very interested in blacksmithing.

Stosh set off a mortar which surprised some of us who weren't paying very much attention. A little later he did it again and caught some leaves on fire near a tree. He promptly stomped it out.

The resident dog had a great time playing ball with several of us. She's very sociable and friendly.

Our next meeting, on December 14, will be at the forge of James Brantley in Harrison, Arkansas. The trade item will be a Christmas ornament of your choice.
I hope to see you all there!
Harold

We have had a couple of very good meetings our October meeting we had 15 in attendance. We had two members join again and 6 visitors. There were 3 forges going and five anvils in use and everyone got to forge. The meal at noon was very good and we forged until almost 5, making a variety of things during the day. Our November meeting was smaller but very good also we had 6 in attendance. The rain held off and it was a very nice day to have a meeting. We had a great meal of homemade chilli and hotdogs cooked on the grill. the meeting ended about 3 since rain was heading our way. Our next meeting will be on the 14th of December at Forge on the Ridge in Jonesboro. Our January meeting will be on the 18th at the same place. We have three members that are working on there shops so looking forward to having some meetings over there shops in the near future. A tip for a neat finish on metal take Ash bark and burn it and desolve in water. Get your metal hot and quench and let sit in the mixture. When you take it out it should have a finish like silver. This was from a blacksmithing book from 1900 that I have. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

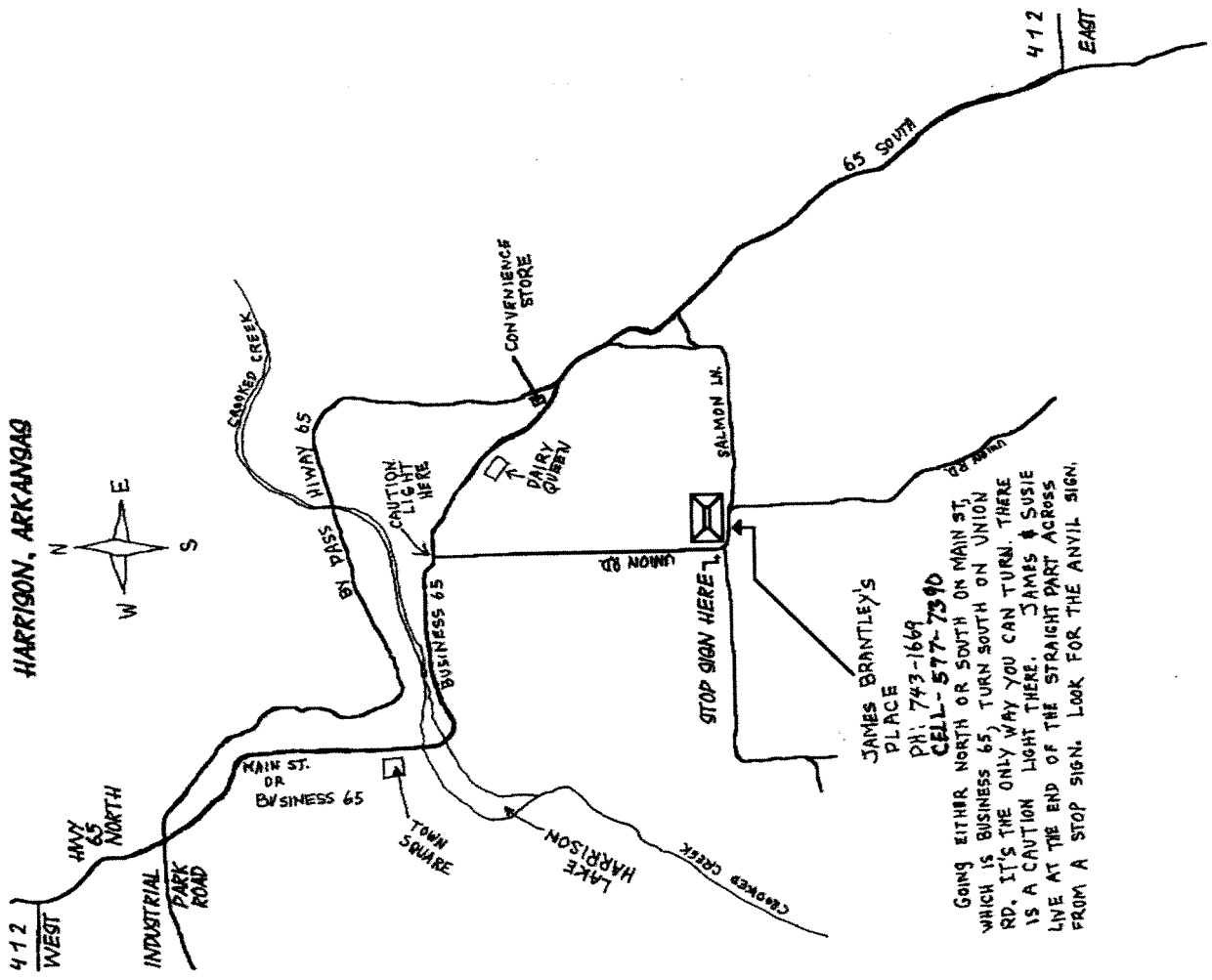
Thanks, Glenn Owen
NEA Chapter Steward

Good morning BOA!

I would like to put together a list of members that are willing to host a meeting at their shop. Typically the shop provides a meal, and members contribute $5 each to help cover the cost. If providing food is a great inconvenience, but you'd still like to host a meeting, please get with me on that!

I'd like to have this list for reference when we're planning future meetings, it won't be a firm commitment until I've discussed dates with you. Thank you for your help in planning!

Justin



STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT:

STARTING & TENDING YOUR FIRE

by Derrick Bliss

– written by Daria Plumb

It's often said that, "Heat is a blacksmith's friend," and we've all heard the old adage that you should, "Strike while the iron is hot." In my opinion, fire tending is just as important as hammer control, in that you need to have a good, hot fire in order to work your material in the most efficient way. The fire is the key that unlocks the possibilities of the iron.

When I was starting out, Paul Davidson told me that if you asked ten different smiths how to start a forge fire, you'd get ten different right answers. He also said that your own way (number eleven) is also the right way. As a nod to Paul, in this article, I'd like to share with you the way that I start my forge fire and invite you to add it to your list as number twelve.

Starting the Fire

A fire is alive, it needs fuel and air in order to thrive. When you start a forge fire, the green (or raw) coal, which is your first fuel, does not burn as well as coke. The heat from the fire will eventually turn that green coal into coke, which is what burns and produces your heat.

You will want to start with a clean fire pot (no ash, no clinkers). Lightly line the bottom, outside edge of the fire pot with green coal, being mindful not to block your airflow by covering the tuyère. This green coal will act as "future fuel", because as the coke fire burns, it will heat the green coal and convert it to coke. This process is called buttoning.

TIP: I

like to lightly water my green coal prior to putting it into the forge. This helps the coal coke together better and last slightly longer. Then build a small, stick fire in the center of

the fire pot. Once the stick fire has started to burn, lightly cover it with coke (once-burned coal). Then line either side of the firepot with more green coal. Some coal may contain rocks, which can explode when they get hot, so be sure to always wear your safety glasses.

Tending the Fire

People new to blacksmithing sometimes make the mistake of letting their fire burn out during the forging process. This results in a hollow fire--when you can see right through the fire to the bottom of your firepot--which doesn't generate adequate heat to work your material. To combat this problem, frequently add green coal to the outside edge of thefire pot (this helps to keep the fire pot cooler) and gently work it down the edges with your shovel forcing the coke already in the fire directly into the stream of incoming air (this allows the coke to burn better). This also allows the green coal to be turned

into coke, which assures that you will have constant fuel for your fire. Taking your piece in and out of the fire will displace the coke from the center of the fire and out onto your forge table. Using your fire rake, constantly pull the coke back into the center of the fire. I often refer to this as "playing in the fire", but it is very important because it helps you maintain a steady heat, guaranteeing that you're using your fuel and your time in the most efficient manner. Once you've been working for a few hours and are ready to take a break, place a large chunk of wood In the center of the fire and bank a pile of green coal all the way around and over the top of it to keep your fire. A piece of hardwood will last longer than a piece of 2 x 4. Then, when your break is over, remove the wood, crank up the air, and your fire will be ready to go in minutes.

Cleaning the Forge

When you're through forging and are ready to put the fire out, use the fire rake to gently rake the coke and coal out onto the forge table. Be careful not to dig too deeply because you will grab the clinkers (the impurities of the coal). Clinkers are the black, glassy substance that collects at the bottom of the fire; they not only rob the fire of heat, but when you rake them out, they contaminate your coke. It is best to wait until the fire is fully cooled to gently rake out the clinkers. As they cool they will stick together and then you can use your tongs to pick them out and pitch them under the forge. Also be sure to use the fire rake to break up any large chunks of red-hot coke that might still be burning to insure shop safety and to prevent fires.

Now you have come full circle. You will be ready to use the once-burned coal and coke as your start-up fuel for your next forge fire. **NOTE:** Every forge fire is slightly different and maintaining and ending a proper fire is a constant learning process. Don't be afraid to experiment and try new techniques...these experiences (both the good and bad) will lead to a better understanding of the forging process.

This article compliments of The Upsetter Newsletter of the

Michigan Artist Blacksmith's Association Sept-Oct 2013

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This half page article reprinted from the Forge Work by William L Ilgen, 1912– Google Book

Figure 42 shows a sectional view of a blacksmithing fire: *d* is the bed of hot coke;

c is the dampended and unburned coal which surrounds the fire, continually forming more coke as it is needed and also holding the fire in a compact form;

A shows the proper way of placing the metal in the fire, *b*, the improper way because the metal is too near the entrance of the blast. As heating is such an important operation, a thorough understanding of what casues imperfect heats, as well as how to prevent them is necessary.

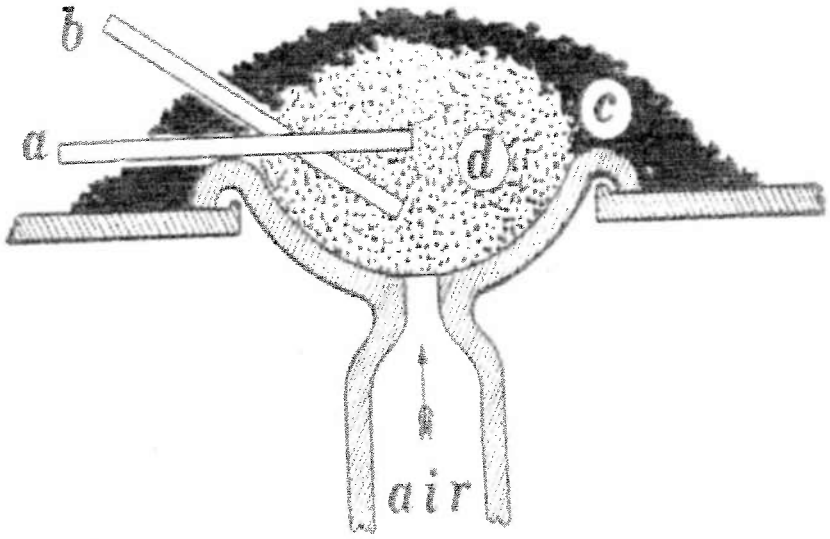


FIG. 42. — SECTIONAL VIEW OF A BLACKSMITHING FIRE.

DID YOU KNOW

The Ferris Wheel

The Ferris Wheel was the engineering highlight and one of the most pervasive, lasting influences of the 1893 world's fair in Chicago. The Ferris Wheel was Chicago's answer to the Eiffel Tower, the landmark of the 1889 Paris exhibition. The wheel was created by Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania bridge builder George W. Ferris. The wheel itself had a diameter of 250 feet, a circumference of 825 feet, and the maximum height was 264 feet. It had 36 wooden cars that could each hold 60 people. The Ferris Wheel grossed $726,805.50 during its short time in operation, at 50 cents per ride. The profit of approx. $300,000 was of great benefit toward balancing the books of the exposition. The wheel was dismantled in mid-1894, after the fair, and reused at the St. Louis exposition in 1904. The original Ferris Wheel was scrapped in 1906. But, the influence of the engineering and entertainment marvel can be readily seen by the large number of Ferris Wheels of various types at fairs and entertainment grounds around the world.

264 feet high, as high as Chicago's highest building at the time. (Ten stories)

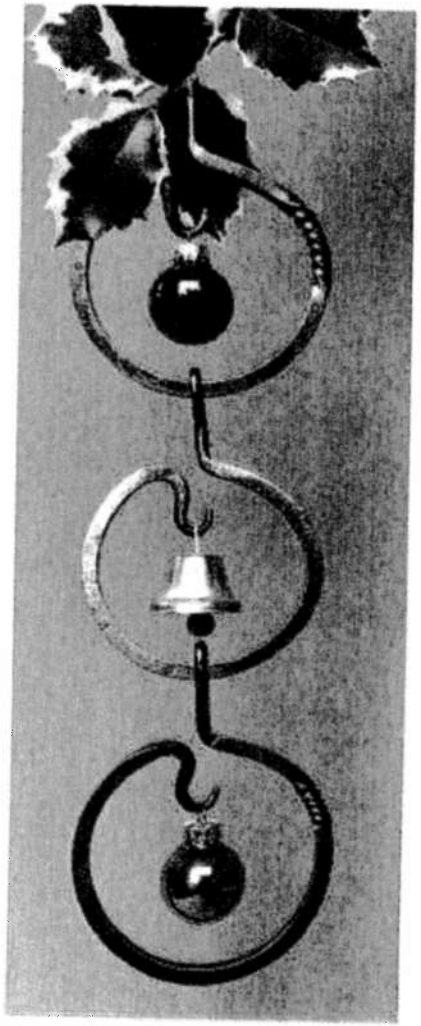
2 140' towers to support the 45' 142,031 lb. axle.

The drive chain was 20,000 lbs.

Driven by twin 1000 hp, reversible steam engines.

Made out of 100,000 parts including 28,416 lbs. of bolts.

36 cars carried 60 passengers each for a total of over 2000 riders.

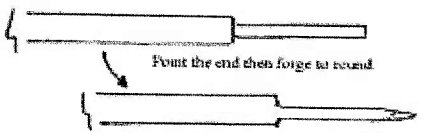


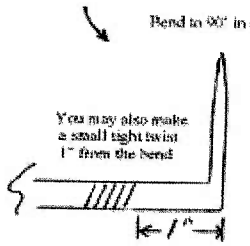
Christmas Ornament Hanger

By Steve Anderson,
a MABA member

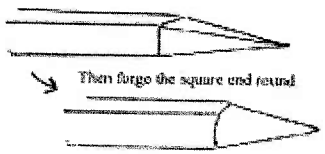
Stock: 3/16" square x 9-3/4"

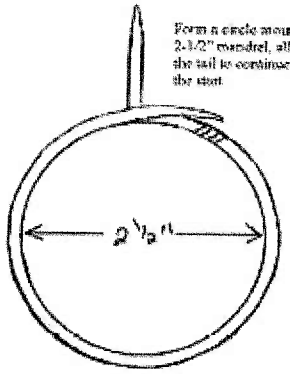
Starting 1-1/4" from the end, forge to 1/8" square

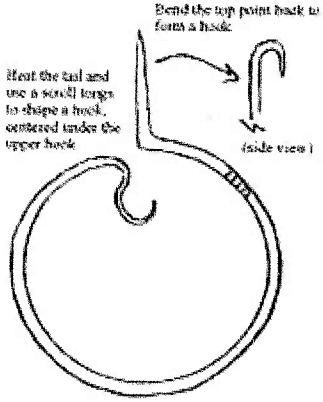




Forge a long square taper starting 1" from the cold end

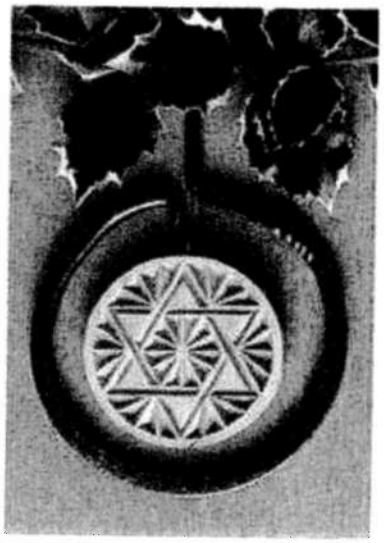




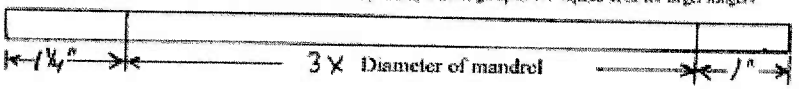


Editor's note: When Steve Anderson sent us a sample of the ornament hangers with his article for the newsletter, we knew the large 3-1/2" diameter hanger would be perfect for a chip carved ornament made by my cousin, Dick Staker.

We hope you enjoy making these hangers to accent your special ornaments. Happy Holidays!



To finish, use hot wax or use a wire wheel and a clear coat to finish. Using a brass brush is optional.
For a different size mandrel, use the dimensions below. You may want to go up to 1/4" square stock for larger hangers



-- The Upsetter, Michigan Artist Blacksmith's Association, November 2012

The Blacksmith's Holiday

Bob Dixon Gumm

There was a blacksmith who lived all alone. Year after year he worked hard in his shop, and when the holidays came around, he was exhausted from fulfilling orders. One day the smith decided he would take a proper vacation after the holiday rush, and booked himself on a Caribbean cruise. He looked forward to the food and activities offered on the ship. With his busy season behind him and the warm salty air around him, the man had the time of his life. That is, until the ship sank.

When he came to from his near death experience, the blacksmith found himself stranded on an island. There were no other people, no roads or buildings, no supplies -- nothing, only bananas and coconuts. Fate handed the man a twist of irony with his misfortune: he had taken the cruise so that he wouldn't feel so alone during the holidays, but now he was more alone than he had ever been. But being a blacksmith and accustomed to forging on ahead, he found a shady place among a grove of coconuts to call home.

As the months passed, the smith had fairly given up hope on leaving the island. He had seen ships pass during the night, and had found the refuse of civilization drifting upon the beach. Once he even found an unopened can of beer, but alas, it was warm...and Budweiser. One day he was strolling along the beach looking for something useful that might have drifted in with the changing tide when he noticed a small boat approaching him. He was puzzled, as the island was too remote from any civilized shore to be reached by such a small craft. As it came nearer, he noticed that it was being paddled by a woman, and not just any woman. She was the most beautiful woman he has ever seen!

Stunned by what has just happened, he asks the woman, "Where did you come from? How could you come this far in such a small boat?" The woman replied, "I landed on this island after my cruise ship sank. I paddled here from the other side of the island." "That's amazing, "the blacksmith said. "You were lucky to have a boat wash ashore with you." "Oh, this little thing," she said. "I built it soon after I landed. I found the wood lying along the beach. I carved the paddles using a stone that I shaped into a knife. Being a primitive device, it was slow going. But one day, while I was hiking near the mountain, I discovered an outcropping of iron ore. So I set to work building a furnace to smelt the ore. From the iron that I produced, I fashioned a knife, hammer, and some nails. Since then, I have made quite a few things to make life much easier."

The blacksmith couldn't believe his luck. Not only had he found another inhabitant on the island, but a talented blacksmith at that! He looked forward to many hours working at the forge, exchanging ideas and making useful objects. The woman said, "Let's row over to my place, and I'll give you a tour." After a few hours, the blacksmith and his new friend arrived at a small wharf on a peaceful cove. What he discovered was absolutely astonishing. There before him was a long stone walk leading to an attractive cabin and tree house. Walking toward the cabin, she casually said, "I know it isn't much, but its home. Would you like a drink?" "No thank you," the smith replied. "I can't take another drop of coconut juice. I've been so desperate for a change in beverage that I even considered drinking a Budweiser." "Oh no, don't do that,!" she said. "I found some native copper a while ago, and made a still. How would you like a stiff drink?"

Trying to conceal his amazement, the blacksmith accepted and they sat down to talk. There he noticed some elaborate candlesticks, cooking utensils, and, unbelievably, a metal table! After exchanging their stories, the woman said, "I'm going to slip into something more comfortable. Would you like to take a bath and have a shave? There's a razor next to the bathtub." No longer questioning anything, the blacksmith went into the bathroom. There, he saw a bathtub meticulously crafted from soapstone. Lying on the edge of the tub he found a splendid hand crafted razor. "This woman is amazing," he thought. "I wonder if she's an ABANA member."

When he returned to the sitting room, the woman greeted him wearing a dress made only of flowers and tiny vines. They smelled absolutely enchanting – like gardenias and roses. She motioned for him to sit down next to her. "Tell me," she said suggestively, drawing nearer to him, "We've both been out here for many months. You must have been lonely. When was the last time you played around?" She gazed intently at him with her beautiful green eyes. He can't believe what she's saying. "You mean," he asks with tears forming in his eyes, "You want to forge some wizards?"

Forged Angel Hook

By: Bill Clemens

Made from 5 inches of 1/4" x 1" Stock

Begin by marking bar at 2 inches and at 5 inches from end.

Fuller in at 2 inches to about 1/4 in wide. Cool and mark cut lines with cold chisel as shown above. Top diagonal lines are at 45 degrees and about 1/2 in long. Bottom lines start approximately 1/4 inch below top lines and extent to corners of fullered edge.

Heat and cut with chisel from one side only. Back with Cutting plate to protect anvil face.

Round bottom edges of fullered area. Use large bull nose punch or ball pein hammer to create a dimple for mounting hole. Punch hole. Cut corners off to form head. Now begin to spread wings, starting at center with a small cross pein hammer.

Once wings are separated from body round top corners of head on edge of anvil. Then continue to forge wings and body with small cross pein hammer. Use cross pein in line with points to spread and soften them first before spreading the rest of the wings.

Tree Hook

By: Bill Clemens

5 inches of 1/4" x 1" Stock

Mark bar at 3 inches (for tree) and 5 inches (for hook)

A

Photo A

Forge a short point on bar for top of tree. Keep thickness of point at about 1/8" thick. Fuller at 3 inch mark to about 1/4 inch wide.

B

Photo B

Cool bar and mark cuts to form branches. Note spacing of cut increases from top to bottom of tree. Also as show the cuts are symmetric and about 1/4 inch short of center line of bar. One tree in picture was forged with staggered cuts, for a different look.

C

Photo C

Finish cuts working only from one side and using cutting plate to protect anvil face.

Photo D

Use small cross pein hammer to forge tree. Start by fullering down the center of tree to help separate the branches.

Use bull nose punch to make dimple and then punch mounting hole.

D

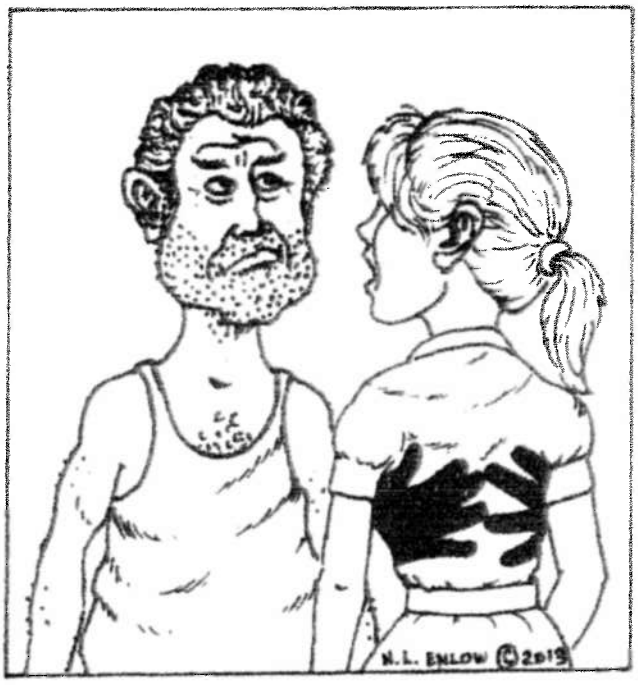
Cut bar at 5 inch mark and forge hook.

-- Pittsburgh Area Artist - Blacksmiths Association, December 2011

Overheard and Other Stuff

by

Harold and Ron



"No, Daddy, I haven't been down to that blacksmith shop today!

ABANA

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip/PC: _____

Country: _____

Type of Membership

☐ Regular ..... $55 ☐ Overseas $65

☐ Student ..... $45 ☐ Contributing $100

☐ Senior (65+) .. $50 ☐ Library $45

$5 discount for two year memberships and renewals

ABANA Chaper Affiliation: _____

Application may also be made at the ABANA web site:

www.abana.org

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Credit Card Information _____

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Expiration Date: _____

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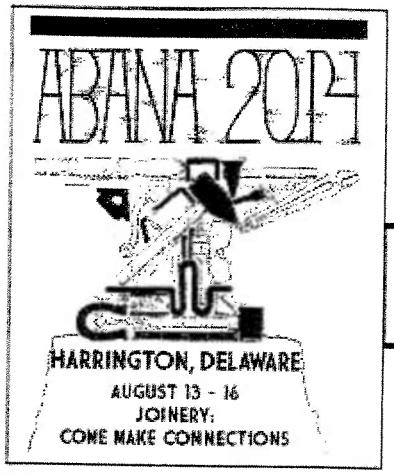
Submit check, money order (US banks only), or by credit card:

Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.
259 Muddy Fork Road
Jonesborough, Tennessee 37659

Phone: 423-913-1022, Fax: 423-913-1023
centraloffice@abana.org

M E M B E R S H I P A P P L I C A T I O N



2014 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

August 13-16, 201 4, Harrington, Delaware

Registration for the ABANA 2014 Conference is now open! Use this form or call 423-913-1022 to register. Until 1/15/2014, full conference registration is $125 for current ABANA members. Non member registration is $175.

I plan to tailgate *___yes ___no *The Central Office will contact
I plan to camp *___yes ___no you with more information.

Name: _____ ABANA ID # _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country _____

Phone: _____ E-mail (confirmation only) _____

2014 REGISTRATION (PER PERSON): BEFORE 1/15/2014 $175-NON MEMBER, $125-MEMBER

2014 REGISTRATION (PER PERSON): 1/16 to 6/30/2014 **$225-NON MEMBER, $175-MEMBER**

2014 REGISTRATION (PER PERSON): AFTER 7/1/2014 $275-NON MEMBER, $225-MEMBER

Family Conference Passes: *Allows family members to accompany a full conference registrant at a much-reduced rate. A family is defined as a head-of-household plus his/her partner living at the same address and their children up to age 17.*

Conference T-shirts included in registration fee, and can be picked up at the registration desk at the Conference. *Shirts are **adult only**, pocket, in the following sizes: Small, Medium, Large, Extra-large, 2-X large, and 3-X large.*

T-shirt Size_____(S,M,L,XL,XXl,XXXL) $_____

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER: _____ **Size**_____ **($40 EACH)** $ _____

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER: _____ **Size**_____ **($40 EACH)** $ _____

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER: _____ **Size**_____ **($40 EACH)** $ _____

Conference Day Passes: *Good for all activities on a specific day. ABANA membership not required.*

Color-coded passes at $75 per day will be available at the Registration Desk.

Total Price includes Saturday Evening Dinner and Conference T-shirt **TOTAL** $_____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK REQUIRED

Each Person will be required to sign an Acknowledge and Assumption of Risk in order to be admitted to the Conference (including minors through a parent or guardian).

I acknowledge that blacksmithing and related activities are inherently dangerous and involve risks and dangers to participants and spectators that may result in serious injury or death. In deciding to attend the ABANA 2014 Conference, I have considered these risks and I knowingly assume them. I agree that I am responsible for my own safety during the Conference, including wearing appropriate clothing and protective gear and remaining a safe distance from all dangerous activities. I agree to hold ABANA, Delaware State Fairgrounds, and others involved in the Conference harmless from liability and expenses arising from my own actions or omissions. I agree that my admission to the Conference constitutes consideration for this acknowledgment.

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

EVERY REGISTRANT MUST SIGN THIS FORM!

Credit card orders (Visa/MC/Disc) can be faxed or mailed; be sure to sign this form. Fax: 423-913-1023

Credit Card Number _____ _____ _____ _____ Exp Date ____/____CVVS_____

BOA

Blacksmith's Organization of Arkansas
Membership Application

Are you an ABANA { Artist Blacksmith's Association of North America } member? _____

NAME _____

Membership Dues: $25.00 per year DUE in January *

ADDRESS _____

_____

_____

PRIMARY PHONE # _____
{ CELL OR LAND LINE }

E-MAIL _____

Are you interested in blacksmithing for a *LIVING* ? _____
HOBBY ? _____

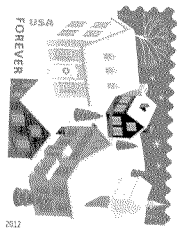
Special areas of interest
KNIFE MAKING _____
GUNSMITHING _____
ARCHITECTURAL _____
RESTORATION _____
BUCK SKINNING _____
MEDIEVAL _____

BLACKSMITH ORGANIZATION of ARKANSAS

RON WELLS
HCR 32 BOX 141
MOUNT JUDEA, AR 72655

Or bring to the next meeting and give to

BOA membership is a family membership. For the payment of one membership dues all the members of a family would be afforded all the benefits and privileges of a full membership.

* If the dues are paid in the last three months { October, November, or December } of the year, membership is paid up for the following year.
If dues are not paid within the first three months { January, February, or March } of the year, the member is removed from the membership.

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124 BLUE CEDAR DR
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