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THE FORGE FIRE

30'th Anniversary Edition

The Newsletter of the Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

An Affiliate Of The Artists-Blacksmiths' Association of North America, Inc.

IBA is a Not For Profit Indiana Corporation recognized by the IRS under section 501(c)(3)

10:00 AM is the regular meeting time for IBA Hammer-Ins
with beginner training available at 9:00 AM.
PLEASE MAKE SURE TO ASK FOR HELP!

**If you would like an IBA membership application form,
please contact Farrel Wells, Membership Secretary**

(765) 768-6235.

BULK LOTS ARE AVAILABLE TO DEMONSTRATORS,
SHOPS, SHOWS AND OTHERS WILLING TO MAKE THEM AVAILABLE.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.

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More nearby resources and organizations for blacksmiths:

Rural Smiths of Mid-America:
Meetings are on the first Saturday of each month
Call Moe Handy (317) 862-5647 for details.

IBA MEETING SCHEDULE

Check the latest *Forge Fire* for monthly **IBA** revisions.
Contact **Michael Wollowski** (812) 232-2591 if you are willing to host or demonstrate for IBA

Dec 11
2010

TED STOUT'S
BOARD MEETING
CHANGE OF LOCATION

Jan 15
2011

FALL CREEK
JOHN ZILE'S

Feb 19
2011

KEN DETTMER'S

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IBA Hammer-In
Dec 11 2010
Ted Stout's

IBA 2011
Conference
June 3-5

UMRBC
(Pontiac, IL)
July 15-17
2011

TIDBITS ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE IBA

By Ted Stout

The following excerpts are from early meeting notes of the Indiana Blacksmiths.

November 20, 1980

"First meeting of interested smiths was held at Conner Prairie November 20, 1980. In attendance were 28 smiths from Indiana. An agreement based on a common cause the following officers were elected to pursue a course of Association: Jack Brubaker, president; Thomas Brand, vice president; Brett Wilds, secretary/treasure."

(According to ABANA records, the Indiana Blacksmiths were chartered in 1980.)

January 10, 1981

"The second meeting, also held at Conner Prairie, was January 10th 1981 were it was decided and voted to establish ourselves as Indiana Blacksmith Association and the officers would work out the By-laws and send copies to the membership for approval. The dues were set at \$10 per member or \$15 for families and the membership forms would be mailed when the proposed By-laws are sent.

Discussion was held on dividing the state into 3rds to better serve the interest of those areas." (Now, 30 years later, we have satellite groups.)

April 5, 1981

"The first board of directors meeting was April 5, 1981. Results of the board election were made on acceptance of the proposed By-Laws and members were elected by vote of the members. Lots were drawn to determine the number of years of office to be served by each director. The first directors and their respective years to serve were: Wilds (3 years), Brandt (2 years), Brubaker (1 year), Maxwell (3 years), Cayler (2 years) and Baker (1year).

Membership was reported at 20 individual members and 6 family members.

Newsletter will be published by Jack Brubaker." (The first IBA newsletter was published in March 1981.)

More facts and timeline information about the organization:

The first IBA conference was held May 2, 3, 1981 at Conner Prairie.

The second conference was July 31 thru August 1, 1982 at Conner Prairie.

It appears the first official hammer-in schedule was made in early 1982 with the following dates and places:

February 20	Steve Mitchel
March 20	Fred Caylor
April	Marshal Abels
May 19-24	ABANA Conference
June 12	Jack Brubaker
October 23	Brett Wilds

The newsletter was called: "Indiana Blacksmith Association Newsletter" and was published by Jack Brubaker starting with March 1981.

June 1983 was the first volume or issue of a newsletter called the "Silent Swedge" which was a very nice publication, well illustrated with how to projects. It was obviously professionally done. The publication continued through all or part of 1985, my last issue is spring 1985.

The first "Forge Fire" was published February 1986.

Ray Phelps and Roger Lorance were listed as members in January 1982 so I am betting Ray and Roger are charter members.

February 20, 1993, Steve Woolridge signed an agreement with the Indiana Blacksmith Association allowing the full and exclusive use of the current IBA logo that he designed. As you all know it is an outline of the state with the IBA seal centered on the state.

Well folks there are so much more to tell, but I shall not bore you any longer with this episode. As more history is collected it will be made available in the "Forge Fire". There is so much to tell that we are looking at putting all the documents on a CD and make it available to the membership. Michael Wollaski is willing to undertake that phase of the project. I will publish a list of the missing newsletters in a future Forge Fire in the hopes of completing the set for everyone to enjoy.

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild**Northwest Region****Tippecanoe County**

Meetings of the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. Meetings are held at the home of Ted and Carol Stout, approximately 8 miles south of Lafayette. For more information contact Ted Stout at (765) 572-2467.

AMERIGAS, IBA Thanks You

During the 30 year party at Ted and Carol Stout's a lot of propane was used for various projects, mainly the Dogwood tree memorial. We are grateful for the donation of the propane from the Lafayette Amerigas dealer. When asked if he would be willing to give us a price break, without hesitation John Vickory quickly said "I will support your show by donating any gas needed." As a result we had four 20# cylinders donated and two 100# cylinders. This is a value well over \$150 worth of fuel. Thanks John Vickory, manager and Mike Kalb, delivery person for Amerigas. They not only provided gas but, the correct hose connections and a pressure regulator valve. Thanks Amerigas!!

Members of the IBA and visiting blacksmiths.

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop Southeast Region Jennings County

Meetings of the Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 9 am in downtown Vernon. For more information contact Ray Sease at (812) 522-7722.

The November meeting of the Jennings County Vernon Group was opened at 6:24 by Ray Sease.

One of neighbor ladies in Vernon came over and needed a tool to install a fence and Ray Sease made her one. Bill Newman our member from Martinsville then took his turn at the forge and made a pineapple twist handle for his new wire brush. Jim Shelby assisted by Irvin Jackson proceeded to weld up a cable knife following their performance Charlie Helton proceeded to make a special end on a horseshoe which had been requested by one of the members. Then Bill Newman instructed Ray Sease how to put a glass marble in the center of a cross it turned out perfect because Ray had a good instructor. A local antique dealer in Seymour donated a large number of old and antique tools to the shop and we selected ones we thought we would be able to use in the shop and then put the rest in the Iron-In-Hat. This was the largest collection of tools in an Iron-In-Hat I have ever seen. Frank Hall donated several gold coins also to the iron in the Hat. Kenny Dittmer did something but I can't remember what-sorry Kenny.

Doors closed at 4 pm a great day happened in Vernon.

I also went down to Kevin Walsh's shop and saw his homemade air hammer run this air hammer is a force to be reckoned with. What was even better it was Pam's Potato Soup.

Submitted by Ray Sease

(Winter Hammer-ins: Dec-Ted Stout, Jan-Paul Bray, Feb-John Cummins, March-Jim Watts)

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers Southern Region Orange County

Forgemaster Billy Merritt (812)338-2876, Treasurer Steve King (812)797-0059, Secretary Shawn Gilley(812)-486-9113

December Hammer-In Location Change

Chaz Kaiser is recovering from injuries and is unable to host our December Hammer-In. The event will be held at Ted Stout's. Please bring a dish to share.

Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop**North Central Region Fulton County**

Meetings of the Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. at the Fulton County Historical Society Museum. The museum is located four miles north of Rochester on US 31. For information, call Fred Oden, Forge-master & Treasurer, at (574) 223-3508, or Dennis Todd Secretary/Reporter at (574) 542-4886.

Nov.13, 2010 Shop open at 9am.

10 people there the two fellows from Kokomo where back so was the fellows from Walkerton and Knox. Andy Williams and his son Andy from the Kosciusko County 4-H group. This month we had David Nickels join us. He is from Marshtown. Every one made tongs except David and Tim Pearson Tim instructed David in making S hook and O ring. We had two fellows from KY. stop by to see what was going on. They will be staying in South Bend for the next year they where told about the St.Joe Valley Forgers.

All that where present and the two visitors were given I.B.A. membership application forms.

Shop closed at 3 pm. Respectfully submitted by Fred Oden Forge Master

Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop**West Central Region Vigo County**

Meetings of the Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. Meetings are held at the blacksmith shop in Fowler Park, approximately 7 miles south of Terre Haute. For detailed information contact Max Hoopengarner at (812) 249-8303 or Rick Helton at (812) 894-3172

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop**East Central Region Henry County**

Meetings of the Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop are held on the fourth Saturday of the month starting at 10 a.m., with open forge at 9 a.m. at the residence of John Zile in Middletown. For more information contact John at (765) 533-4153 or Larry Singer at (765) 643-5953. Or Farrel Wells at 765-768-6235, flwells@verizon.net

Maumee Valley Blacksmiths**Northeast Region Allen County**

The Maumee Valley Blacksmiths and Blue River Blacksmith Guild are a merger of two of our satellite groups. They Meet on the first Saturday of the month at the Maumee Valley Steam Association Grounds in New Haven, Indiana. Call Clint Casey at 1-260-627-6270 for more information.

St. Joe Valley Forgers**North Central Region St. Joseph County**

Meetings of the St. Joe Valley Forgers are held on the 4th Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. at the residence of Bill Conyers in South Bend. For more information contact John Latowski at (574) 255-6209 or Bill Conyers at (574) 277-8729.

Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

Meetings of the Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths are held on the second Saturday of the month starting at 4:00 p.m. They meet at Big Cedar Forge, the residence of Joyce Roell & Bobby Hoff, east of Brookville on SR 252. For more info call Keith Hicks at 765-647-

One Armed Blacksmith's Shop**Johnson County**

Meetings of the One Armed Blacksmith's Shop are held on the 1st Saturday of the month starting at 9am. For more information contact Tim Metz at (812)447-2606 or tim.metz@cummins.com.

We will be meeting at my house (Tim Metz) on 12/4/2010 9:00am.

I just got off the phone with Julie Hughes. She is the Executive Director of the Bartholomew County Historical Society. I invited her to come to the December 4th. meeting at my house. They have a open house that day but she said she would still try to come. She has worked at Conner Prairie and is very familiar with blacksmithing. We are talking to her about the possibility of having a shop at the Breeding Farm.

Thirtieth Anniversary IBA Hammer-In

By Dominick Andrisani

"I have never had such fun at a blacksmithing event." That sentiment seems to summarize the 30th Anniversary Indiana Blacksmith Association Hammer-In held at Ted and Carol Stout's house on October 15-17. Well over a hundred people attended the informal event. Some people camped in tents, some stayed in campers, and others stayed in nearby hotels. Many attendees came prepared to hit hot metal; others came for the camaraderie.



IBA President Gary Phillips welcomes attendees as host Ted Stout looks on



Ted explains to Clifton Ralph and his wife Joan about the project to help make the dogwood tree for Clifton's grandson's grave.

The event celebrated the founding of the IBA some thirty years ago. Many thanks goes out to the countless individuals who have contributed their time and treasure to make the IBA the effective organization it is today.

One of the founding members was Clifton Ralph. Clifton lost a grandson a few years back and has for several years wanted to make a dogwood tree for his grandson's tombstone. At Ted's suggestion the dogwood tree project became the rather touching theme for the weekend. Many smiths contributed to helping Clifton with the tree. The photos to follow tell the story.



Clifton with members of his family who attended having been tipped off about the project.



Clifton and his good friend, Clay Spencer, work on a leaf for the dogwood tree.

The dogwood tree was designed by Clifton and his daughter. It is made entirely of wrought iron and consists of a central trunk and three main branches that droop over the tombstone. Numerous leaves and 16 flowers will fill out the shape. Clifton's grandson was 16 years old when he died.



Clifton and Jack Brubaker go back a long way.

For many years Clifton has been teaching and giving demonstrations about blacksmithing in general and power hammering in particular. It was heartwarming to see Clifton mentoring 16-year-old Brandon McCormick on the power

hammer on Friday evening. Clifton also likes to remind people that Kurt Fehrenbach was also his student.



Clifton mentors a young Brandon McCormick.



Kurt Fehrenbach, one of Clifton's first students on the power hammer, adjusts a branch on the tree.

Many smiths helped Clifton with various parts of the dogwood tree. Clifton, Kurt, and Clay seemed to be the go-to people on the design. Kurt focused on constructing the trunk and branches. Clay helped determine what the flowers and leaves should look like. Doc Schertz lead the flower production. Ted was everywhere. Wrought iron was used exclusively because of sentimental reasons and because of its superior resistance to the weather when compared to steel. Making thin leaves and flowers from wrought iron was complicated by the tendency of the iron to split.



Doc Schertz roughs out a flower on the anvil.



Tom Schertz heats a big piece of wrought iron.



Kurt, Ted, and Clifton pound metal on the newly mounted 100 pound Little Giant in the new breezeway.



Then Doc makes final adjustments at the hardy.



Randy Padish forges out a dogwood branch



KJ Groven cuts grooves in flowers and leaves

As you approached Ted and Carol's house the first thing you noticed was a bean field full of cars, trailers, campers, and tents with lots of strange looking people milling around.



Jeff Reinhardt forges as Doug Moreland and Bob Daming watch.



There were some unique forging stations.



Cars, trailers, campers, tents and strange creatures.



John Steppe giving first time blacksmith Amber Reeves some lessons as her brother looks on.



Rob Durrett explains the journey of Lewis & Clark.



Kim Soladine makes a flower.

Over its thirty years of existence the IBA has supported all aspects of blacksmithing. The broad interests of its members were reflected in the work shown at the party and the specialized equipment and tools on display.



Don Neuenschwander does chisel work on a copper depicting the new Clay Spencer Blacksmith Shop at the John C. Campbell Folk School.



Jim Bolin at his Civil War era encampment has a kitchen that would impress Julia Childs.

In addition to traditional blacksmithing, several members work in related crafts such as shingle making and others use nontraditional techniques to shape metal such as slapping sheet metal.



Ellsworth Christmas prepares to split a log as the first step in making hand split shingles.



Gene Hollingsworth slaps sheet aluminum into a bowl using a semi-rigid slap stick.

Throughout the weekend the food was wonderful. While much of the food was catered, many people, mostly ladies, made sure we ate extraordinary meals. Carol Stout did a superb job of making meals as memorable as the rest of the event.

Many smiths, spouses and children attended this celebration. A photographic record of all these people is not possible. However, the photographic collages below are an attempt to put a faces and a feelings on the attendees.



Sunday lunch with reminiscences and camaraderie.

This was a great party! Many, many thanks to Ted and Carol Stout.

With the continuing dedication of its members, the IBA can have an even more spectacular 60th anniversary party. See you there.

Photo credits: JJ Johnston, Diane Stout Gaither, Lane Ralph, and Dominick Andrisani.

Some Memories of the Founding of IBA and the Early Days of the Blacksmithing Revival from Jack Brubaker

The first Blacksmithing organization in the Mid-West was in Ohio. SOFA (Southern Ohio Forge and Anvil) had been started under the watchful eye, and mentorship, of Emmert Studebaker who had come to the first ABANA conference in Lumpkin Georgia in 1974. That first national conference was quite a convergence of folks from many different origins. I was among the largest group composed of a motley assortment of young counterculture guys that had decided to make a living with blacksmithing or starve. Included were Bob Patrick, Dmitri Gerakaris who perfected the Anvil's Ring into a fine magazine a few years later, Jim Wallace who went on to found the Metal Museum, and many others who were just then finding the tools and techniques to build the fine work they are now know for. There were a couple of old school rural smiths that had been major sources for Alex Bealer's learning smithing and writing *The Art of Blacksmithing*. There were several well-healed doctors who were serious hobby smiths and there was Emmert, looking like he had stepped out of a 1950 country church meeting with his brush cut, bolo tie, and brown plaid sport coat. While many of us were laid back and careful not to show how green we were he was full of confidence. He carried one day (all day) a large framed print of a painting that purported to show John Studebaker's (father of the Studebaker brothers of wagon and auto building fame) blacksmith shop in Tipp City, Ohio. He told everyone that he wanted to re-create the log shop in that painting. Of course in a short time he did just that. Every window and door placed just as the artist had shown it. Then he started SOFA and held the famous Tipp City Blacksmith's Roundup there for years.

The 1980 ABANA conference was held at the University of California at Santa Cruse. After a day of watching great demos many of us found our way to a student pub on campus. I found myself sharing a booth with Tom Brandt then the lead smith at Conner Prairie, and Brett Wilds who was the smith at Old Fort Wayne. We were all high on the days activities and wishing we didn't have to come this far and wait a year for another gathering of ABANA (they were every year at that time). I think it was Tom who mentioned the idea of having our own Indiana group. Or at least if we were just kicking it around he was the first to take it seriously. He thought he would get support from Conner Prairie to organize a meeting to feel out the support for going forward.

John Shippers who was in charge of the crafts at Conner Prairie was very supportive and helped get the word out to many who were interested in smithing that I had never met. At the first meeting Ray Baker and Fred Cayler were clear voices that were very helpful in the early years of the IBA. When the question came up of how to form a 501c3 non-profit group Bob Dalrymple spoke up and offered his legal experience. It all just seemed to fall into place. Probably because of my experience starting non-profit arts groups I would up as the first president. Tom Brandt was the second. Tom also put out the fabulous news letter-magazines that stand head and shoulders above all the other regional smithing publications.

So what had started as a little comradery lubricated with a bit of beer has evolved over the years into the now well-rooted Indiana Blacksmithing Association. Good cheer, and best wishes to all of you. We stand in interesting times. It may be that the skills we help to preserve and evolve may have a new meaning and value as the world readjusts to the reality of a post oil economy. Who knows...

Jack Brubaker



The **FORGE FIRE**

Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

Bill Kendrick *Newsletter Editor*
1280 N CR 900 W

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested

If Undeliverable return to sender

**** December 11, 2010 Hammer-In ****

Ted Stout's Shop — *Location Change*
8525 West 700 South, West Point, In.

From I-74, exit at Waynetown (9 miles west of Crawfordville). Take highway 25 north thru Wingate. Proceed north to the flashing light where highway 28 intersects with 25 at Odel. (The sign reads Odel on both sides). Continue north for 2.5 miles to county road 700 South, turn west (left) on 700 south, Ted's shop is the first building on the left.

From Lafayette follow highway 25 west to West Point. Proceed on 25 for 2.0 miles to road 700 south, turn west (right).

January 15, 2011 Hammer-In

John Zile's Shop
3380 W 650 N, MIDDLETON, IN 47356

LUNCH WILL BE AT THE IRON KETTLE IN SULFUR SPRINGS.

SULFUR SPRINGS IS 3 MILES WEST OF IN. 3 ON US 36 AND APPROX. 12 MILES EAST OF PENDLETON ON US 36. GO NORTH AT THE FLASHING LIGHT (300W), TRAVEL NORTH FOR 1 1/2 MILES, TURN LEFT (WEST) ONTO 650 NORTH. JOHN'S HOUSE IS THE FIRST DRIVE.

CALL JOHN AT (765) 533-4153 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

The **IBA 2011 Wall Calendar** is available for download at www.Indianablacksmithing.org
Contact Michael Wollowski for printed copies