

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Gary Phillips '14**

President:
14800 N SR 167 N
Albany, IN 47320
(765) 789-8316
behere@netdirect.net

Bill Conyers '15

Vice President:
50964 Lilac Rd,
South Bend, IN
(574) 277-8729
billconyerssr@yahoo.com

Ken Dettmer '15

15721 S 250W
Columbus, IN 47201
(812) 342-4084

Dominick Andrisani '16

3608 Capilano Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47906-8869
PH #(765)463-4975
andrisan@purdue.edu

Ted Stout '16

8525 W 700 S
West Point, IN 47992-9258
PH# (765) 572-2467
stout8525@tds.net

James Johnston '13

Education Chairman:
806 Twyckingham Lane
Kokomo, IN 46901-1885
(765) 452-8165
kokomoblacksmith@comcast.net

Keith Hicks '13

Secretary:
7096 Dorrel Rd.
Brookville, IN 47012
(765) 914-6584
keithhicks2011@gmail.com

Librarian:

Larry Rosentrad
8715 E. 375 N
Churubusco, IN 46723-9501
260-693-3267
rosentrad@cs.com

Editor:

Bill Kendrick
1280 N 900 W
Seymour, IN 47274
(812) 445-3009
bill.d.kendrick@cummins.com

Treasurer and membership secretary:

Farrel Wells
8235 E 499 S
Dunkirk, IN 47336-8807
PH # (765) 768-6235
flwells@frontier.com

November 2012

THE FORGE FIRE

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.

**Nov 17
2012**

ST JOE VALLEY FORGERS

**Dec 8
2012**

**CHAZ KAISER'S BATESVILLE
(BOARD MEETING)**

**Jan 19
2013**

FALL CREEK BLACKSMITH SHOP

**Feb 16
2013**

**KEN DETTMER'S SHOP
COLUMBUS**



Editors Message

As expected we had a wonderful time at Wabash Valley. The day was cool and gray but the reception was warm. The shop had several forges going. The beans cooked over an open fire were excellent.

This month we head north to St Joe Valley and finish out the year at Chaz Kaiser's shop in Batesville. Note the December hammer in is on the 2nd Saturday.

In the better late than never category, please take a look at page 7. The Blacksmith of the Year plaques were presented to Ted Stout and Dave Wells. Ted was our 2011 Blacksmith of the Year. He received his plaque at the September hammer in at Sutton-Terrock. Dave was the 2012 Blacksmith of the Year. He received his plaque at the October hammer in.

There are a couple of articles on pages 8-11 that may be of interest for upcoming projects. Page 8 has a gate hinge design that might be appropriate for something like a fireplace screen. On page 10 there is an article on Christmas ornament hangers. I suspect these hangers will be very popular in the up coming month.



Jim Johnston at Wabash Valley

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ORNAMENT
HANGER

Dates to Remember

Nov 7
Hammer In at
Bill Conyers

Dec 8
Hammer In at
Chaz Kaiser's

Dec 25
Christmas

IBA Satellite Groups and News

Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Fred Oden (574) 223-3508
 Dennis Todd (574) 542-4886

Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Doug Moreland (217) 284-3457
 Max Hoopengarner (812) 249-8303

Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd and 4th Saturday
 Contact: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270
 John Schamber (260) 579-7303

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Ted Stout (765) 572-2467

Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd Saturday
 Contact: Keith Hicks (765) 914-6584

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contacts: Doug Neukam (812) 259-4430
 Steve Stoll (812) 486-9668
 Kathy Malone (812) 725-3310

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contact: Ray Sease (812) 522-7722

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: John Zile: (765) 533-4153
 Larry Singer (765) 643-5953
 Farrel Wells (765) 768-6235

St. Joe Valley Forgers

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Bill Conyers (574) 277-8729
 John Latowski (574) 344-1730

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

Contacts: Billy Merritt (812) 338-2876
 Steve King (812) 797-0059
 Jeff Reinhardt 812-949-7163

One Armed Blacksmith's Shop

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Tim Metz (812) 447-2606

"Doc" Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop

Location: 6032W 550N, Sharpsville, IN 46060
 Meet: 3rd Sunday at 2 PM
 Contacts: Mike Kelley
 Charles Gruell (765) 513-5390

Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Shop open some time before 9 AM. when I got their Tim Pearson and the fellows already had the fire going. Little Levi came I had him make a S hook on his own to see if he remembered how to do it.

The rest of the fellows worked on the fire set for the state conference to see how and what we want to do. I would like to see every group make a set so we can see how many difference ones we get. So get your iron hot and go to hammering.

What I do about young people attending the hammer ins at the Sutton Terock Shop is I will take them at age 8 but a parent or guardian must be present until they are age 18. I use the age of 8 because that is how the 4H groups are set up. This gives those that are in 4H a chance to do metal art in the Open arts class if their 4H group does not have a blacksmith program. I also only let them hammer for 2 hours per meeting so that they don't hurt their arms.

Hammered in Friendship
 Fred Oden

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

The next meeting of the Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild will be at Ted's shop on November 10th, with coffee and doughnuts available at 8:30. The agenda for the day will be making an axe, tomahawk, hawk or throwing axe of your choosing. If you have an example or several examples please bring them for inspection and possible copying. Also, bring your coal, metal and tools for working. I can supply the forges and anvils. We will have an iron in the hat drawing.

Since Carol will not be available for lunch we will eat the famous West Point Steak House or order in pizza, whichever you vote for that day.

The Illiana Antique Power Association will be having their November meeting at Stout's on the Monday following the blacksmith meeting. That is November 12th at 6:30 for a pitch in meal followed by a meeting to discuss, among other items, the "Christmas in the Village". All you blacksmiths are invited to attend. In case you did not follow the "Christmas in the Village" last year you really missed a nice event. The show grounds and the blacksmith shop were all decorated with lights and there were events for all ages of visitor. The blacksmiths need to take a more active role in this event, so I am encouraging you to attend the meeting to find out how we can make our shop more "Christmas".

At our last Rocky Forge meeting we had a good time with everyone busy making their own things, Greg Searcy worked on nice wizard and other items, Gary Leman finished an outstanding anvil shaped hardy that also served as a bending fork, Gene Hollingsworth had his planishing hammer, which makes shaping a sheet metal bowl a breeze. Later in the day several members of the Hoosier Plymouth Club came by to see what we do. The president said they must have enjoyed the visit because they stayed until after 5:00 and do not usually do that. They were an enjoyable group with some really neat old cars. We enjoyed having Jim Johnston and Charley Gruell as guests. Charley spent a lot of time going through a Ted's collection of old tool catalogs from years past.

The month before several of us met at the Illiana Show grounds for that groups "Fun Day". We blacksmithed during the day and Brad McCormick had made a tasty pot of stew on a forge for the noon meal. Poor Brad got called away for a fire call from the Pine Village Volunteer Fire Department right at lunch time. (We did save him a portion of the stew, but the pot was scraped clean.)

Hope to see all of you and some guests at the next meeting. If you have any questions please give me a call at 765-491-2194.

Ted

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop was opened at 8:10 and a fire was started by Charlie Helton. He demonstrated the proper way to get a perfect 90 deg. bend with square corners. Austin worked on his basic skills making a Russian rose. Charlie Helton made a drift for a hammer head from H-13 and put it in the iron-in-the-hat , which was won by yours truly. Carson Harral ,a newcomer, worked on drawing out and ended up with two "S" hooks. Brian Simmons worked on a skinning knife he made from an old tiller blade. Gerald Williams and Ray Sease were the hosts for 17 students from the advanced art class from the Middle School on Thursday the 4th. The 1st weekend in December the Historical Society will sponsor an art and artist show. You are invited to exhibit items if you wish. Paul Bray

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers held the October meeting in Lovely Cannelton, Indiana during the 175th anniversary Heritage Festival. A full set up was arranged with 2 forges and 3 anvils. The Brotherhood of Friendly Hammermen demonstrated a split cross made from 3" square stock. The crowds were very im-



pressed with the 3 man team striking and several holding tongs on the roughly 75# forging. Other small items were forged on Jeff Reinhardt's traveling forge trailer. The finished cross was wire brushed and presented to the Heritage Foundation to be used in a fund raiser. The Brotherhood of Friendly Hammermen (The BFH's) are Steve King, Jason Hardin, Dave Kunkler, Jeff Reinhardt and with the addition of new members Jerry Baughman, Bill Kunkler and Jeff The welder from Cannelton. Heck Donna, Dave Kunkler's wife even joined in on a round of striking and is now an real BFH member. We all had a great time, were treated extremely well by the Festival organizers. They have invited us back for next year and asked for enough

blacksmiths to fill a city block. We even kicked scale into the anvil divot in the pavement:)

The next meeting of the meteorite Mashers will be at Jeff Reinhardt's shop, November 24th, the Saturday after thanksgiving, for the annual Smoked Turkey lunch hammer-in. Bring something for the potluck and enjoy. (Jeff has insulated and added a wood heater to his shop so should be warm inside even if cold out)

Thanks
Jeff



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met on October 6, 2012. We had a really great day of fun and work with 15 people in attendance. Tim McNelis was making a knife out of a connecting rod. He was using the press to form it and almost got it finished but not quite. Doug Neukam and Jim Malone made a diagonal pein hammer head for Lonnie Salmon. Jim Staley and Chuck Kryder



were working on some projects but I'm not sure what, I was too busy visiting with the other ladies, Carol and Fran that were here. We always have a good time at our meetings. A lot of catching up, a lot of storytelling, a lot of laughter and a lot of work went on and it was a really good day. We really want to thank Jerry Robinette for the pork

he brought for lunch. He had some left over from the benefit he held for Alan Brazzel so he brought it for our benefit and it was really Yummy! We always have good food that everyone brings to share. Gale Mehler brought some of his handiwork for us to see. He made a coiled card holder and a pineapple twist railroad spike that were really nice. We had another wonderful day of sharing and fellowship and look forward to the next meeting. Like I always say "if and when you have too many irons in the fire, don't lose your temper!" :)



Blacksmith of the Year plaques awarded



Ted Stout 2011 Blacksmith of the Year



David Wells 2012 Blacksmith of the Year

A Simple Integrated Gate Hinge Design

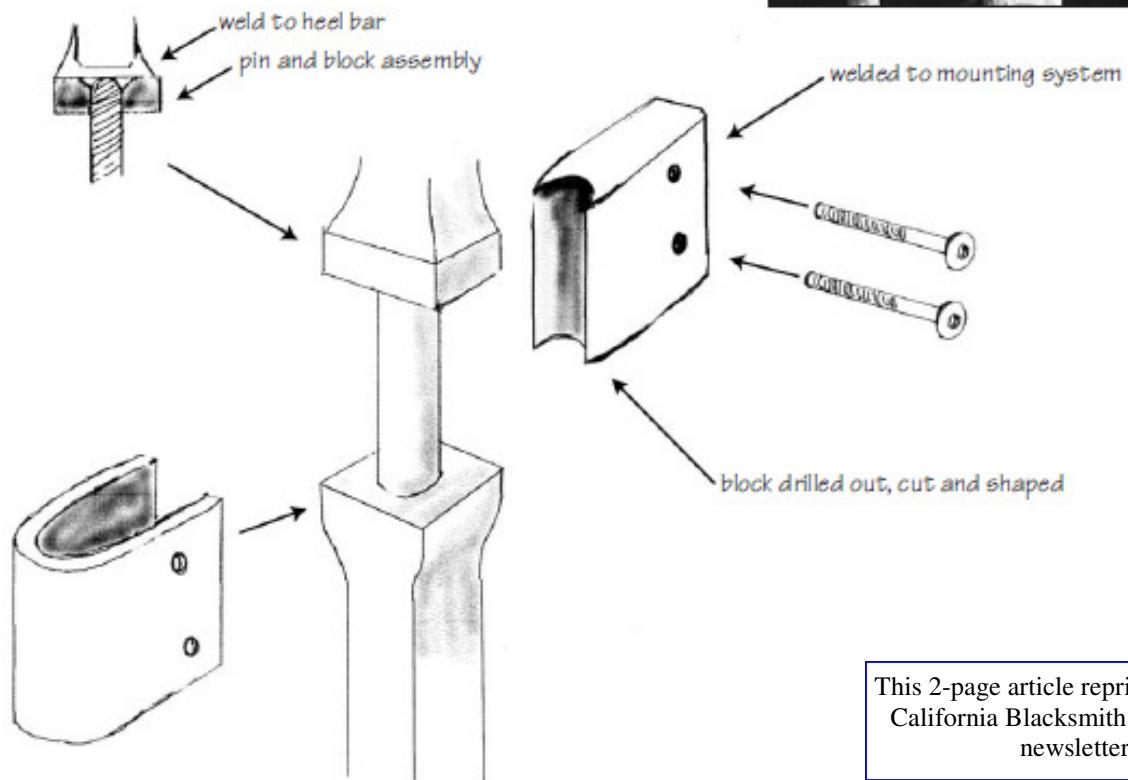
story & illustrations by Alan Drew, Carmel

The hinge system for this gate is a gudgeon and pintle style hinge, integrated into the gate structure. The material for the gate is silicon bronze, with the pin made of stainless steel.

As shown, the heel bars of the gate are upset to flow into the hinge area. Rather than forge the silicon bronze heel bar down to become the hinge pin, I insert the stainless pin into the heel bar, welding it into place. This gives me an accurate location for the pin.

On the bottom of the heel bar, I use an oversized block, drilled out to accept another stainless pin, bearing and grease fitting. This block is then welded to the heel bar. The assembly is then shaped and textured to match the rest of the bar. The bottom bearing and pin are mounted to the sill.

To make the (upper) journal, I drill out a bronze block and then saw it in two at the halfway point of the hole. This block is then tapered slightly coming into the hole.

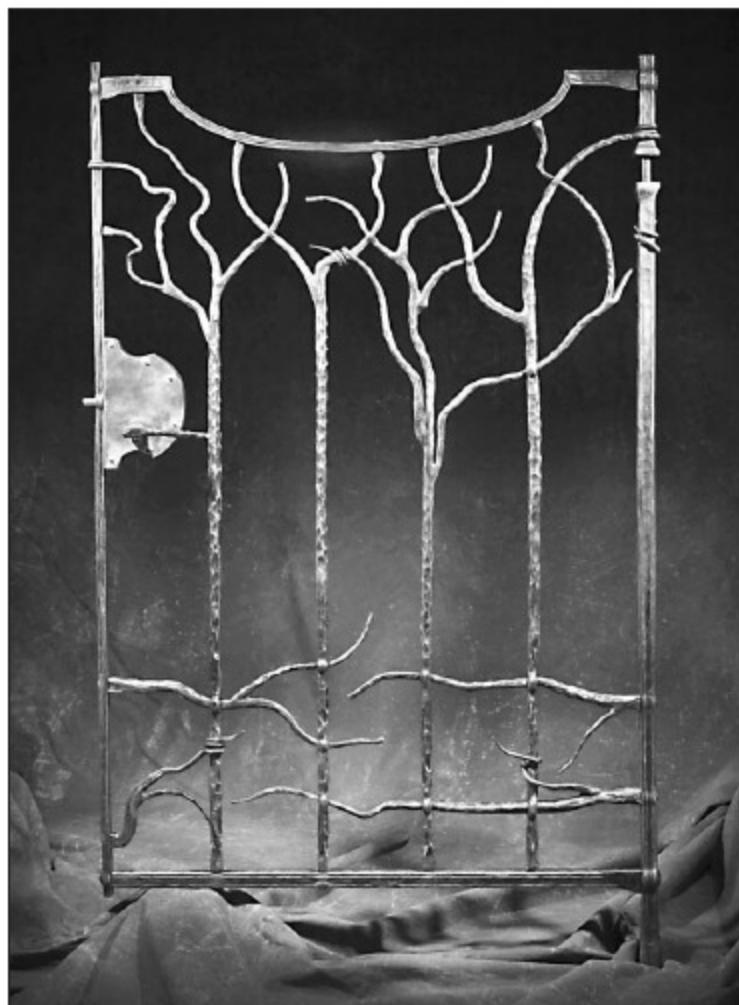


This 2-page article reprinted from the
California Blacksmith Association
newsletter

Gate Hinge

To lock it all together, a piece of $\frac{1}{4}$ " bronze strap is hot formed around the journal to make a saddle strap. This piece is cut to size and then drilled for two $\frac{1}{4}$ " through-bolts with acorn nuts to secure the hinge.

This journal block is then welded to whatever system is being used to attach the gate to the wall or pier.

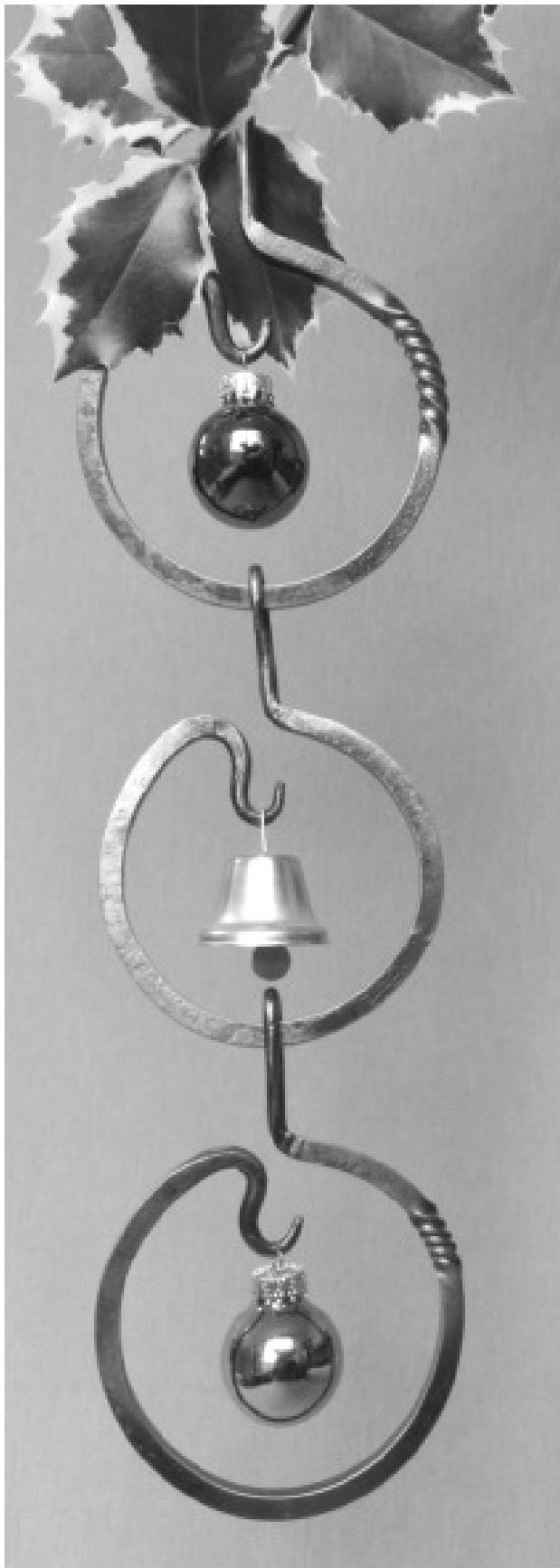


About the Gate

This was a commission for a client in Carmel. It was going to be installed about two blocks from the beach, so we chose silicon bronze for the material.

The gate is designed for a 36" wide opening, about 56" high. It was made to open one way – uphill – with the bottom bar of the gate being set about $5\frac{1}{2}$ " from grade so that the gate won't drag. The latch is handmade, using stainless and bronze parts with a simple, though not traditional, galvanized coil compression spring. The latch was assembled with screws so that the spring can be easily accessed and replaced if necessary. ♣

Editors Note: This 2-page article reprinted from the California Blacksmith Association newsletter

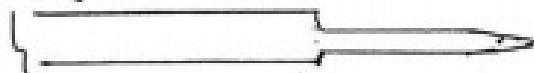
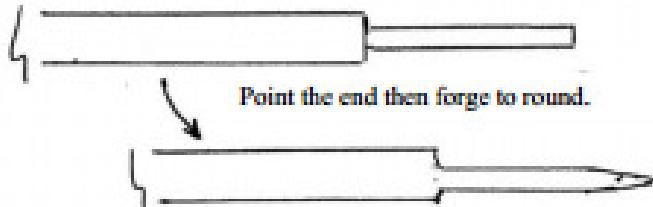


Christmas Ornament Hanger

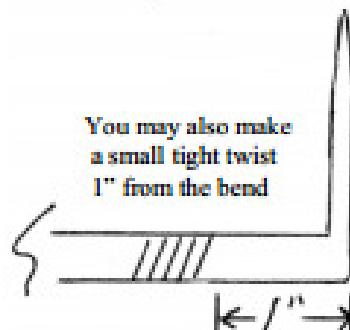
By Steve Anderson,
a MABA member

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

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



Bend to 90° in a vise.



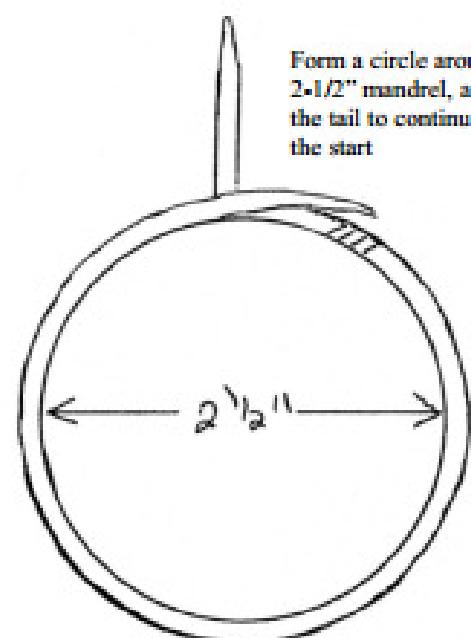
You may also make
a small tight twist
1" from the bend

Forge a long square taper starting 1" from the other end.

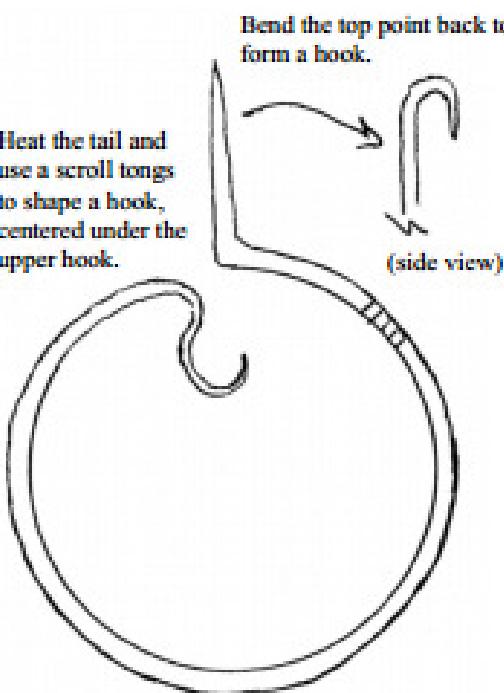


Then forge the square end round.





Form a circle around a 2 1/2" mandrel, allowing the tail to continue above the start.



Bend the top point back to form a hook.



(side view)

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 Baker.

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.

$1\frac{1}{4}''$	\times	3 X Diameter of mandrel	\times	$1''$
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The **FORGE FIRE**

Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association,
Inc.

Bill Kendrick *Newsletter Editor*
1280 N CR 900 W
Seymour, IN 47274

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With original address legible

November 17 Hammer In St Joe Valley Forgers

Bill Conyer's Shop: 50964 Lilac Rd, South Bend, IN

From the south: Go through South Bend on US 933 to Auten Rd. Turn left or west, cross the river, the first road is Lilac turn right (north), look for yellow house on right

From the toll road: Get off at exit # 77 this will put you on US 933. Go north to Auten Rd. Turn left or west, cross the river, the first road is Lilac turn right (north), look for yellow house on right

December 10 Hammer In & Board Meeting Chaz Kaiser's

16 Indiana Avenue, Batesville, IN 47006

It's a pitch-in lunch, please bring a dish to share.

Coming from central Indiana, take I 74 east towards Batesville. Exit at SR229 and turn South towards Batesville. Turn left onto IN 46 / Broadway St. and follow for about 1 mile. Turn right onto Pearl St. (by Batesville Casket) then follow Pearl St. to Indiana Ave. Chaz is located at 16 Indiana Ave.