

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Gary Phillips '14**

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

Steve King '14**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 '17

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

Keith Hicks '17

Secretary:
5184 State Road 252
Brookville, IN 47012
(765) 914-6584

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
fwells@frontier.com

October 2013

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)

9:30 AM is the regular meeting time for IBA Hammer-Ins
with coffee and donuts available at 8:30 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.

Oct 19 2013 Jennings County Blacksmith Shop Vernon, IN

Nov 16 2013 One Armed Blacksmith's Shop Edinburgh, IN

Dec 14 2013 Rocky Forge West Point, IN

Jan 18 2014 TBD

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Dates to Remember

Oct 19 Hammer In
at Jennings Co.

Nov 16 Hammer
In at One Armed
Blacksmiths

June 6-8 2014 IBA
Conference

President's Message

We have several new things to talk about in the IBA. First thing is the book we are selling called Best of the Forge Fire. Fred Oden did a great job of pulling together items from past Forge Fire issues to create a 274 page book full of helpful tips, drawings and techniques. Dominick Andrisani did some editing work and created both a print and cd version of the book. The cost is \$25 for the print copy and \$20 for the cd version. This would make a good Christmas gift as well as a place to find ideas for Christmas gifts. We thank you Fred and Dominick for your hard work.

We have a change in our hammer-in times. We will begin our meetings at 9:30 am rather than 10 am. Coffee and donuts will be available beginning at 8:30 am.

Our upcoming meetings will be:

- October 19 Jennings County Historical Blacksmith Shop in Vernon
- November 16 One Armed Blacksmith Shop near Taylorsville
- December 14 Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild near Lafayette
- January 18, 2014 is to be determined
- February 15, 2014 Kenny Dittmer's shop near Columbus

Elections for IBA Board Members will be held at our business meeting March 15, 2014. Board members Gary Phillips and Steve King term will end at that time. In order for ballots and a short bio of nominees to be in the February Forge Fire we need to have nominations in by January 18, 2014. Kenny Dittmer is our Election Chair. Send your nominations to him at Kenny Dittmer, 15721 S 250 W, Columbus, IN 47201, or call him at (812) 342-4084.

It is time to be thinking about the 2014 IBA conference held in Tipton on June 6-8. The contest for next year's conference is a chandelier. We need to be planning the design and how to get-er-done in time for the conference. I believe the contest have made our satellite groups and our auction better. We truly have some of the blacksmiths in the country in our midst and I feel privileged to be a part of this organization.

Keep your iron hot and moving. Gary Phillips, IBA President.

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

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met at the White River Valley Antique Association show this year on September 6-9 2013. We had a good number of members turn out to help man the shop. There were a record number of attendees at the show this year and most of them came by the blacksmith shop. There were several items made for the vendors like curtain rods and 3 tow bars for wagons pulled by hit and miss engines, and 10 s hooks. A couple of our guys made a 10 foot tall tripod out of 3/4 inch square stock and there were several more S hooks made by all. We had four of our guys, Joe Sauer, Aaron Baker, Jim Malone and Chuck Kryder, doing the blacksmith Waltz (triple hammering) and it was really interesting and popular. They had to repeat the waltz later because it was so well received. The wives of the blacksmiths set up an area behind the shop and made angels, embroidery and scrimshaw and had a good time talking. Jerry Robinette and Alan Brazzel had their forge set up behind the blacksmith shop and had a display of their wares. They also held a raffle of a cowboy grill to benefit our club. CJ Sauer manned Lloyd's portable blacksmith trailer most of the weekend, with a few of the members stepping in when he needed a break. Joe's daughter Dora (CJ's granddaughter) jumped in and did some smithing also. Jim Staley, Lonnie Salmon, Tim McNelis, Steve Stoll and Doug Neukam were some more of the members present. We always have a good time whenever we get together and this was no exception. We have a great bunch of people and we appreciate them all. Until next time.



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

The next meeting of the Rocky Forge group will be October 12th at Ted's shop. Coffee and doughnuts should be ready by 8:30AM and we can start working by a little after 9:00. This will be a work day to prepare machines from the Attica blacksmith shop for transport over to our Rainsville building. The west end has concrete and is ready to accept the machinery. The concrete is well cured and has been sealed. The goal on that meeting day will be to actually get some equipment moved to the site and placed approximately where we want it. To do this we need a couple of heavy trailers so let me know if you can accommodate us. Also, I have yet to schedule equipment at both ends for loading and unloading. A lot of what we get accomplished depends on getting those loaders scheduled. If for some reason we cannot, mainly due to the crop harvest going on, then we will spend our time cleaning the equipment. If all else fails we could actually do some blacksmithing.

Once the equipment is moved, then we can start with the roof addition. Future work days will be scheduled during the week and weekends to get that done. Illiana Antique Power has approved up to \$3000 for us to complete the east side addition, hopefully before next years show. When completed we will have one of the most complete examples of the early American trades on display during the annual show, 4th grader History day, the Christmas Show and other events. The other events could be our own meeting place, a place for hosting the Indiana Blacksmiths and possibly larger hammer-ins.

Lunch for the next meeting will be a pot of chili, so bring anything you want to pass around that would be good with chili. (Thank you Carol). We will have an iron in the hat that has already grown with donations of stuff from absent members. So bring what you can for that drawing and bring stuff to clean equipment.

One more thing, we have had a good time over the years (since 2002 for some of us) doing blacksmithing and a lot of other fun things. Now is a time you can help repay the club for all those good times by volunteering to help out during these no blacksmithing efforts. I trust just because we will not be blacksmithing we will have a good turnout at the next meeting and future workdays. Thank you in advance for the support.

Ted

Jim Claar Power Hammer Video on YouTube

Hello all:

You have to see this video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5XTL3Ji954> about Jim Claar's new power hammer. He designed it all himself and it is a fine piece of machinery. I'd say we see about convincing Jim to have a Hammer-in at his place. He let me use it this past weekend on my way back from SOFA. I drew out a railroad spike. It can flatten the piece in a stroke or two, yet, when you ease off the gas pedal, it can ever so gently touch the piece. Absolutely amazing.

Michael

Odd Bits, news items from the Editor

Best of the Forge Fire

As you saw in Gary Phillips message the IBA is proud to offer “Best of the Forge Fire” articles in either CD-ROM or hardcopies. The articles are arranged in three sections: Tips, Tools and Projects. There is a tremendous amount of information contained in one easy reference document. Jim Johnston has volunteered to handle distribution of the publications. Contact Jim at (765) 452-8165 or kokomoblacksmith@comcast.net if you are interested in purchasing in either disk or 3-ring binder format. Jim has checked with the post office and found that packaging and postage will be \$7.00 for hard copy and \$2.50 for disk. Better yet , check with Jim at a hammer in and saving shipping. The next two pages show a sample tip and a sample project.

Forge Fire Refresh

A topic that has come up on several occasions is a desire to give a fresh look to Forge Fire. Some have expressed an interest in increased emphasis on projects, shop tips and items of interest to every member (and potential member) of the IBA. Please let me know what is important to you. If you have a project that you have completed, or if you see a particularly interesting tool or piece of artwork, please send a photo. You do not necessarily need to write a complete article; often a photo can inspire someone else. Of course if you do want to write an article, I would be happy to see that it is published.

IBA Website

The IBA website can be reached by either of two domain names: WWW.IndianaBlacksmithing.net or WWW.IndianaBlacksmithing.org. Michael Wollowski has decided to devote more time to his young family, consequently he has passed the web master duties to Dominick Andrisani. Check out the website as there are a number of recent updates posted. Be sure to check the link on the 2013 Conference for a very entertaining video.

IBA Board of Directors Nominations

Be sure to send nominations to Ken Dettmer by January 18. The ballot will go out in the February Forge Fire.

Classes at Conner Prairie

- November 2, Fun at the Forge.
- November 9, hammer and tong making.

For registration, please call Guest Services at (317) 776-6000

Sample "Tip" from Best of the Forge fire (Sample project on next page)

Rivet or Heading Type Tool

A gentleman asked how I would forge a rivet with the power hammer. One way to do this would be to make a tool using a pipe and two pieces of round tool steel. Let's say we want to make a 1/2" rivet, 1 3/4" long. a 2" heavy wall pipe or bushing, should be large enough to control the alignment, take the force and absorb the heat, with little damage to the tool.

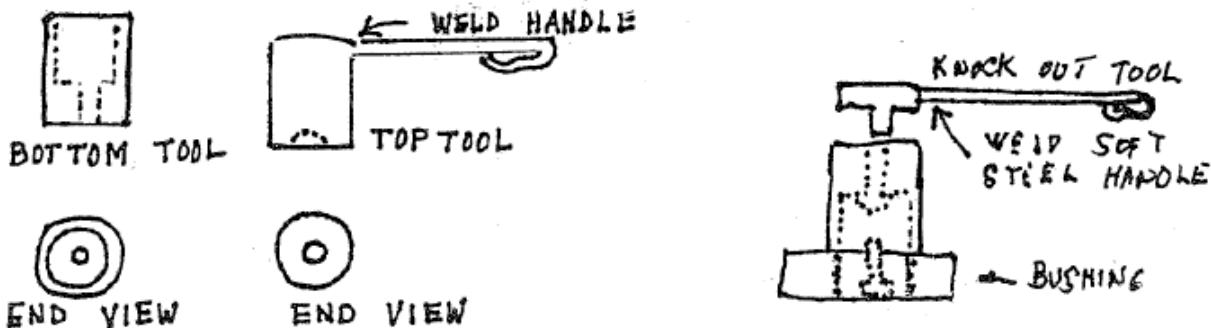
Cut the pipe, 1 3/4" for shank + 3/4" for head + at least 1" for guide or 3 1/4" long.

Make a round with a 33/64" hole in the center, 1 3/4" long and 1/16" larger diameter than the I.D. of the pipe. Bevel the edges on one end of this bushing. Heat the pipe and drive the bushing beveled edge down to the bottom of the pipe. You will need a spacer plug of some kind.

When it cools, the pipe will be tight on the bushing. If you want to fill the beveled edge with weld, okay, don't let the weld project above the base of the tool. Make a round top tool that will slide inside the pipe freely, and have a minimum amount of side movement. This tool needs to be 1" or more higher than the depth of the bottom tool, or 2 3/4" high. It has to project above the pipe enough for a handle or tongs. Bevel both edges of the top tool. This will allow it to go in and out better. It will cause the lines of force to be directly over the material to be headed, especially with worn dies on the hammer.

1. Heat treat and harden both tools and make them tough not brittle. If you can heat just a little more than 3/4" of the 1/2" X 3 1/4" rod.
2. Stick the rod in the tool cold end down. Place the top tool in the pipe and hit it down until the flat surface of each tool meets.
3. Remove the top tool turn the bottom tool over, and center it over a bushing, 1 1/4" high.
4. Place the knock tool over the end of the rivet and punch it out.

You should have a pretty little rivet, with the head centered on the shank.



If you have plenty of space between the dies, you could make the pipe and top tool longer and you would not need a bushing to knock the rivet out.

If the guide depth is too long it makes it more difficult to place the material and top tool into position and get the job done while the metal is hot.

This type of tool would work very well for rosettes. Just make the shape in the top tool, the opposite of what you want the rosette to be. Volume of material, shape, heat location, scale, expansion, shrinkage and tool tolerance are all critical in this type of forging. The round container is strong and reasonably easy to make. It has good knock out support. This type of tool works good for uniform heads or collars. For other shapes you have to have some type of guides to hold the top tool in one specific position in relation to the special shaped steel blank and the bottom tool.

I.B.A. 10-14-96

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Seven STEPS FOR MAKING A WIZARD

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#1 STOCK

#2 DRAW (BANG)

#3 CUT HAT & BAND, SCROLL TOP

#4 SET EYE SOCKET & NOSE RELIEF (RELAIDS)

#5 PUNCH EYES, NOSTRILS, & EYE BROWS

#6 LINE BEARD, COLLAR, SET MOUTH

#7 CUT WHISKERS, WIRE BRUSH

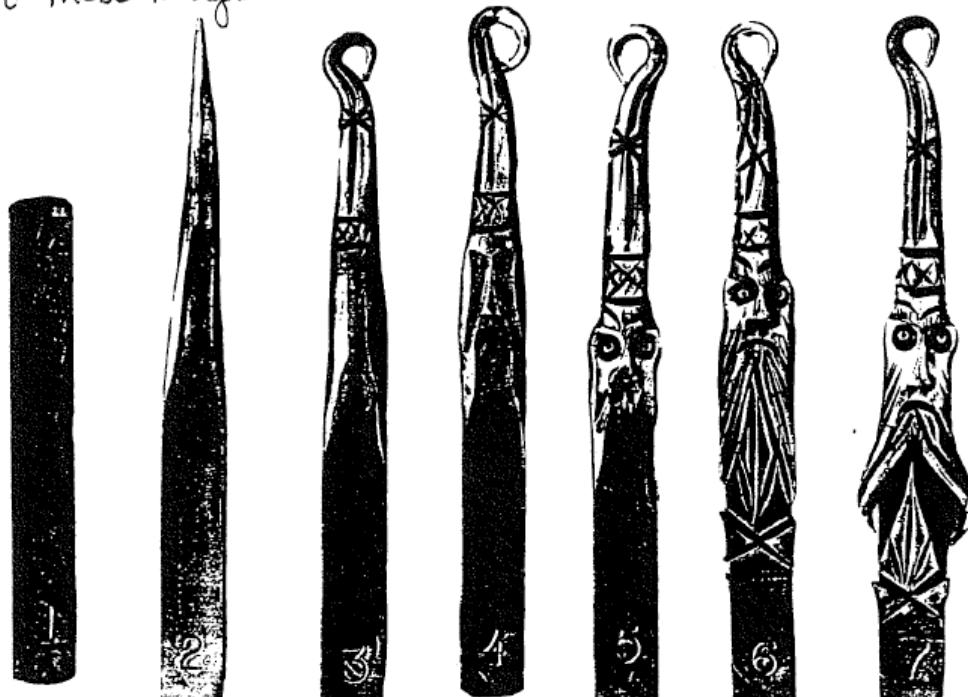
Enjoy! TRY DIFFERENT PUNCHES FOR
EYE & MOUTH

Note:

Paul placed the metal pieces
directly on the copy machine
to get these images

Semper Fi!

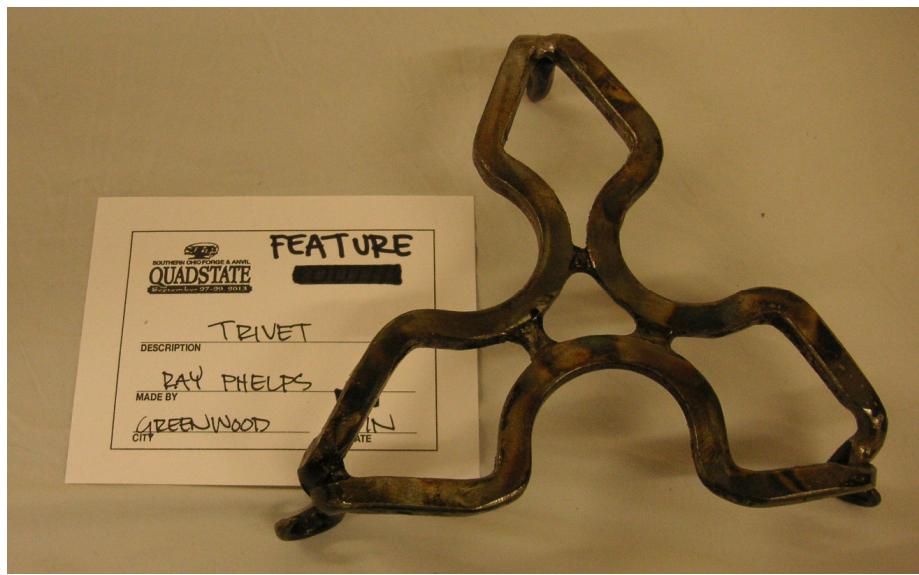
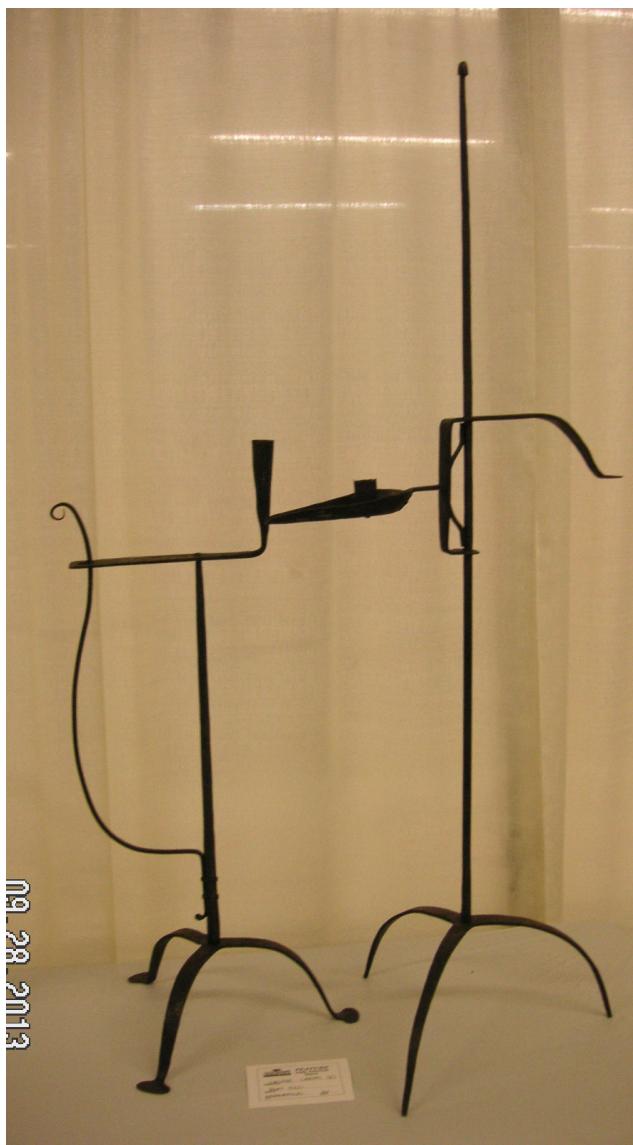
Paul Rice



Photos from SOFA

Courtesy of
Jim Johnston





More Pictures from SOFA

The IBA gained a member from our positive presence at the Indiana State Fair

Near Mr. Wells, September 14th, 2013.

My husband and I wish to thank you so much for quickly processing our membership to IBA! ☺ Thank you too for having sent us "June, July & August newsletters so we could get up to speed with our new hobby. What a great publication the Forge Fire is.

I wanted to share with you (and this you may publish) that Stephen & I were introduced to the most fascinating craft of blacksmithing by C. J. Dauer and his wife Pat both of whom volunteer at the Lincoln Pioneer Village and Lincoln Boyhood Memorial, where we happen to volunteer, but we live in Spencer Co. and the Dauers drive 45+ min. from two counties away, to be Vermont leaders. C. J. & Pat each told us about the IBA, and invited us to their monthly meetings. The next step to our journey to becoming members was we visited this year's IN State Fair and the Pioneer Village where we were so pleased to watch the work going on at the forge. It was during that visit (Aug. 9, 2013) that one of your members (I'm afraid we did not get his name) actually handed us an application, and said, "Please do consider membership". So that is that! Dincerely yours, Stephen & Jennifer Head (812) 393-9015



Blacksmithing and Safety

by Dave Smucker

Not safety glasses again! How many times have you had something to say about safety glasses? Well, a lot, but I'm not sure some blacksmiths are listening. So here are a few more comments.

First, let's talk about risk, types of injury and severity. When I think about injuries to blacksmiths, I think about various types of injuries and how likely they are to occur and how severe or serious is the injury. If we multiply these factors then we can look at the impact they have on us.

My first grouping of injuries is to the eye. They may not be real common but the impact is very high. Loss of sight, even in one eye has a big effect on how we can do the craft of blacksmithing.

My second group of injuries are to the hand where we have severe cuts, smashing, or amputation. The severity of this type of injury can be very high and present long-term limitation to blacksmithing. Even less severe injuries of this nature can take a long time to heal or require major medical intervention. We are at high risk here because we work with power hammers, treadle hammers and around sharp cutting surfaces like a hardie sticking up in our anvil. Because these are very tough items to "safety guard" knowing what we are doing and how we do things is our first line of protection.

My third grouping of injuries is what I would call chronic over use or over exposure injuries. This includes problems with hands, wrists, elbows, shoulders, and backs. Doing something once isn't usually the problem - it is doing it over and over that gets us in trouble. Another area of chronic exposure problems is through the air we breathe and the noise we hear. We have fumes from our forge, welding or paints. In these cases, little risks done over and over can lead to major long-term problems.

My last class of blacksmith injuries is one that some folks might put at the top of blacksmith risks but I find is at or near the bottom. The risk of burns. Yes, we work with very hot metal, and yes from time to time we might get burned but a severe burn in blacksmithing is rare.

This all brings me back to the top of my list and that is eye injuries. Although they can almost completely be prevented through the use of safety eye wear, I see many blacksmith working with no protection.

In the year, 2004 in the United States hospitals treat 15,000 cases of eye injuries from workshop related accidents. Even though this includes all kind of workshops from industrial to home woodworking shops, it is still a lot of preventable injuries.

In a recent article in Fine Woodworking, the author quotes Dr. Larry Jackson, an epidemiologist, who studies workplace injuries for OSHA. "I recommend that every workshop be equipped with three kinds of safety eye wear - glasses, goggles, and face shields." As he says, "These are not high-ticket items compared to saving your sight."

The quality of these items has really been improved in recent years with many options available to you.

You can find these at welding supply houses and at home centers and online.

Some online web pages to visit include:

- www.safetyglassesusa.com
- www.woodcraft.com
- www.RXSafetywear.com
- www.phillips-safety.com
- www.discountsaftygear.com
- www.labsafety.com

You wouldn't weld without a welding helmet?
Then why would you work in your shop without safety glasses.



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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OCTOBER 19 HAMMER-IN

JENNINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BLACKSMITH SHOP

134 BROWN STREET, VERNON, INDIANA

Lunch at Log Cabin Restaurant or brown bag

November 16 Hammer In One Armed Blacksmith Shop

The Henry Breeding Farm
13730 North 100 West
Edinburgh, IN

Directions: I-65 take exit 76-B (US-31 North toward Edinburgh). About 3/4 of a mile turn right on CR 800 N. Turn left on CR 100 W. The Henry Breeding Farm will be on the left. Park behind the large barn.