

# Illiana News

May 2020

## A Letter From Our President

Hello to everyone!

I'm hoping that everyone is well and safe. It seems as we get older, that change is hard to accept. Several years ago 9/11 disrupted our lives across the U.S. and caused many changes in the way we thought and lived. Now, here we are again, faced with a virus that has caused not only untold misery and sorrow across our nation, but it is certainly forcing all of us to make changes and choices in our way of living.

My father, who lived through the pandemic in 1917 and 1918 plus the Great Depression, always told us to never say "it can't happen" because we are not in control and "it, whatever form or circumstance, can happen.

I'm not a fortune teller, but I do know that we will see the sun come up tomorrow and that eventually things will get better. Our way of living will probably not return to normal as we would like, but it will continue on in some form or another until the Good Lord calls us home.

Remember, the "gold old days" weren't as good as some would like for us to think. I don't know of any farmer that would farm with horses and mules again and I know no ladies that want to return to living without running water, bathrooms, electricity, telephones, etc.

Well, I digress. Once again, there will be no Club meeting in May. I have been in contact with your Board of Directors, and they will be making a decision by the first of June about possibly having to cancel the July show.

Stay well, be safe, and God bless you all.

- Tom

### **Editor's note:**

***The decision has been made; there will be no July Show this year.***



## July 2020 Show Cancelled

**The Board of Directors has decided to cancel this year's show.**

**Plans are still underway for the possibility of a Fall Festival/Swap Meet.**

# Rocky Forge Blacksmith News

Submitted by: Ted Stout

The past 2-3 months have been a historical time that none of will ever forget. The loss of life has been very sad and our normal way of living may never be the same again. I trust that all of you have come this far without illness and are doing as best you can under the current circumstances. Who knows what the next week, month or year might bring. As you might expect, we will not meet this next Saturday, unfortunately we don't know when we can meet again. All we can we do is wait and see what transpires. We have to keep safety in mind with any decision we make. Like many of you, Carol and I are over the age where we have to be very cautious due to our vulnerability.

I do have some things to report for your interest and information. Since ABANA cancelled their conference that was scheduled for June, several ABANA members are doing videos of what would have been their demonstrations at the conference. I would suggest you visit the ABANA site and scroll through just to learn more about their activities. By joining ABANA you receive a very nice magazine, ANVILS RING, showing what the professionals and hobbyist blacksmiths are doing across the country. Also, you will receive the HAMMERS BLOW a compilation of how to projects and techniques for the blacksmith and metal smiths. Along that same line, had the conference continued, we would have had Mark Aspery as a demonstrator at one of our meetings. Since he will not be here, I suggest you Google "mark aspery blacksmith utube" and spend time watching his videos. Mark is an outstanding blacksmith who has published 3 books detailing the science and art of blacksmithing. Highly recommended.

Also, I have been in contact with ABANA and asked what they can do for an abandoned group here in western Indiana. The response was a box of complimentary "Anvil Ring" and "Hammers Blow" magazines. Also, a real nice blacksmithing book and a couple ABANA T-shirts. The ABANA president (who is a friend) has been in contact.

The Indiana Blacksmith Conference has also been cancelled for 2020. This decision, like many others, has been difficult, but necessary due to the virus and the age of so many in our blacksmith community. As for the Illiana Antique Power Association (Illiana) show in July, there has been no word as of today, regarding the show. Many other tractor and power groups have already cancelled and I suspect Illiana will do the same. There again due to the age group of the members falling into the more vulnerable category.

The gas forge project obviously has been put on hold. That really saddens me for two reasons: I want to get them out of my shop and you members really need them so you can continue to develop your skills. Once things settle down a bit I plan on having 3-4 select individuals come in and help work on them. All the metal is cut, templates made, and jigs are ready. Some construction has occurred so it should not take more than 2-3 sessions to get all the assembly ready for the burners and insulation. Please bear with us, that is a top priority and we will do our best when the time is agreeably safe to work together in a small group.

Gene Hollingsworth, if you will recall, brought in a bunch of stuff a machine shop friend of his was going to pitch. In that pile was a large 10", 3 jaw chuck. I was able to get \$130 for it from Facebook market place. There are other items I am trying to sell from his donation. Hats off to Gene for his diligence and thinking of our group. Thanks Gene.

I am in the process of sorting a lot of "stuff" and marketing through Facebook market place. At some point I hope to be able to lay out a lot metal, tools, parts for punk art, etc. for sale. When and if I can, it will be advertised to Rocky Forge members.

Stay safe, wash your hands, use a mask in public and hope that we can once again come together as group.

Ted and Carol Stout

765-491-2194



# Illiana Quilters

Submitted by: Kathy Kyle

Illiana Quilters have decided not to meet in May, just to be on the safe side. Hopefully we will be meeting in June. So no news from the Quilters. Stay safe everyone and we look forward to seeing you soon!

