

Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

January 2012



James (Jim) Omev
10/18/1938– 12/30/2011

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Artist-Blacksmith Association
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The Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association, a non-profit organization of amateur and professional artist and craftsmen, publishes this newsletter monthly. Our purposes are the sharing of knowledge, education and to promote a more general appreciation of the fine craftsmanship everywhere. We are a chapter of the Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America.

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Visit our Saltfork Craftsmen Website:
www.saltforkcraftsmen.org

Notes from the Editor:

As I work on the first edition of the newsletter for 2012 I look back at all the changes that have taken place during the last 12 months. There have been a lot of good times and sad times this past year but they are all a part of life. Sometimes in our rush to get to the next page in life we forget to thank the people that got us through the last one. That is what I wish to do in this brief note. Each month as I put together the newsletter I look through emails that have come into my inbox. Sometimes they are one that I ask myself "do I really need to know this or is this something that someone else would like to know" and then there are others that I think "This is interesting and I need to pass this on". **I would like to thank everyone that sends me information for the newsletter.** I might not use it the first time I see it but I try to keep it in mind and find a place for it in a future edition.

This month as you look at the calendars you will notice that the meeting dates are almost if not completely filled. That is thanks to Dan Cowart in the NE region, Don Garner in the NW region and Bill Phillips and Eddie Horton in the SE region. They took it upon themselves to get members to sign up as host in those regions. This is something that I can not do myself because I can't attend all the meeting and it is hard to know if someone is a potential hosts when you cant meet with them face to face.

I also want to thank Tony Cable for his great job as the printer of the newsletter. He has saved me many hours at a copy machine and is able to improve its overall usefulness . And last but not least our Web master, Dodie O'Bryon, without whom you would not be able to access the archive of newsletters and other up to date info on the club.
To All Thank You.

DD

President's Notes



Gerald Franklin

Hopefully everyone has had a rewarding holiday season. It seems that as I get older, the so-called holiday season runs much longer than from Thanksgiving through New Years. But, then, the rest of the year seems to pass by at the speed of light so I guess things have a way of leveling out.

Mike George has reported that Jim Omev of Alva has passed away. Jim was one of the founding members of Saltfork Craftsmen and served as its first president. He was an early kingpin in the club and we owe a lot to Jim for his efforts in getting the organization started. Please keep the Omev family in your thoughts and prayers.

I have also received word that long time Saltfork member Jimmie Crenshaw of Yale, OK passed away on Dec 17th. Several of you were able to visit with Jimmie at Gerald Brostek's meeting the week before he passed. We will miss Jimmie. Please keep the Crenshaw family in your thoughts and prayers.

We need some candidates for the Board of Directors election that will take place this spring. It is always surprising to me how many tasks and decisions that are involved in making Saltfork run. We need your help so please consider serving on the board. I know that we are all busy people and we have other things going on but we can find time to take care of those things that are important to us. Contact Dan Cowart to get your name on the ballot that will come out in the March newsletter.

As the workshop coordinator, I will be putting together a schedule of workshops for 2012. Look for that info in future newsletters and on the website.

I went to a couple of good meetings in December: one at Gerald Brostek's shop in Muskogee and one at Ricky Vardell's shop in Temple. Both were well attended and, as always, I managed to learn something at each one.

Speaking of meetings, contact Diana Davis to get scheduled host a meeting in 2012 and plan on attending as many of our regional meetings as you can. These meetings are where most of our individual teaching and learning takes place.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL PAGE

Meeting dates

January 21, 2012

Host: Byron Doner
Phone #
Trade item: heart candleholder

February 18, 2012

Host: Gerald Franklin
Phone #: 580-252-6002
Trade item: feather

March 17, 2012

Host: Bob McKelvin
Phone #
Trade Item: three tined pitchfork
Lunch: provided

April, 2012 (ANNUAL PICNIC)

Host: Byron Doner
Norman, Ok.

May 19, 2012

Host: Linda Morefield
Phone #
Trade item:

June 16, 2012

Host:
Trade items
Lunch:

July 21, 2012

Host:
Phone #
Trade item:

August 18, 2012

Host:
Phone #
Trade item:

Sept. 15, 2012

Host:
Phone #:
Trade item:

October 20-21, 2012 SCABA Conf. Perry, Okla.

November 17, 2012

Host: Bill and Diana Davis
Phone #: 580-549-6824
Trade item:

December 15 2012

Host:
Trade item;
Phone:



The December meeting for the S/C region was hosted by Ricky Vardell and his wife at their unique home in Temple. Ricky and his wife has done what many of us probably thought about when we were a lot younger. Buy an old building and remodel it into a home. Ricky didn't just buy one building in down town Temple, he bought several. Ricky and his wife have spent a lot of years turning them in to their own piece of heaven. They still have a lot of building to do but what they have done so far is extremely nice.

The day for the meeting started out a bit breezy but by noon was warming up nicely for December in Oklahoma. We had members drive in from different parts of Texas. We had a nice turnout for a Dec. meeting.

Ricky had a forge going in his shop and Gerald brought his propane forge and got it going also. Gerald was working on saw-toothed trammel hooks and had a good crowd around as he explained what he was doing and why. We did have some excitement when he left his propane lighter too close to the forge and it melted. Image that. Bill was at the other forge that he was sharing with another member. They were showing how to make the rain deer shoes. Bill had made some decorative punches to create stars and a Santa "touch mark" on them.

The trade item was something "Christmas-ie" and we had a nice assortment.

Ricky's wife and daughter prepared a nice meal for a cool winter day. We had stew and cornbread and lots of deserts. Everyone appeared to have a nice time and we hope Ricky and his wife will invite us back again.

The January meeting is being hosted by Byron Doner at this home in Norman. He has chosen a heart and candle holder combination as the trade items. Lunch will be provided so bring a side dish. Look for directions on the "map page" in the back of the newsletter.

NORTH EAST REGIONAL PAGE

Meeting dates:

January 14, 2012

Host: Bill Kendall

Phone # 918-742-7836

Trade item: ladle

Lunch: provided, (possibly chili), bring a side/desert

February 11, 2012

Host: Gary Gloden

Phone# 918-321-5015

Trade item. leaf

Lunch: provided, bring a side dish or dessert

March 10, 2012

Host: Dan Cowart

Phone: 918-440-0653

Trade items: spoon, fork or knife

Lunch: provided, bring a side dish

April 14, 2012

Host: Omar Reed at Fort Gibson

Phone: 918-478-4088

Trade items: cooking item

Lunch: provided, bring a side dish

May 12, 2012

Host: Ed. McCormick

Phone #: 918-733-9844

Trade item; something made from horseshoe

Lunch: provided, bring a side dish

June 9, 2012

Host:

Phone #

Trade item:

Lunch:

July 14, 2012

Host:

Phone #

Trade item;

Lunch:

August 11, 2012

Host:

Phone#

Trade item

Lunch:

Sept. 8, 2012

Host:

Phone #

Trade item:

Lunch:

October 20-21 2012

State conference

November 10, 2012

Host:

Phone #

Trade item:

Lunch:

December 8, 2012

Host: Phone #

Trade item:

Lunch:

It was a frosty morning and the mercury read 22 degrees. In Muskogee there was heavy frost on the roof tops, frost on the ground and frost on the anvil that I had set-up outside. I built a fire in the wood stove of the shop and as I started a pot of coffee, wondered, how many might show for the meeting? But a heavy frost did not keep many away. They started arriving in bunches. 16 showed. These Saltfork Craftsmen are a tough bunch. Some came from far away places like Wann, Yale, and even Duncan.

I got the coal forge fired up and Nathan Avers fired up the gas forge outside. He began forging a touch mark to mark his "crooked nail". I got 8 more nails brought or forged on site to add to the nail board. Richard Dyer picked up a piece of 1 1/2 round bar and began forging a giant carpet tack. He recruited Gary Gloden and Bill Kendall to be his assistants. He asked if I had a small sledge for heading the giant tack, I brought his a 10-pounder.

I had a great time! And want to thank all who brought goodies to eat and all who showed up. Especially those who came from far off. Hope you all had as good a time as I did, and didn't run into any high water, dust storms, rattle snakes, renegade Indians or Lawmen on the way home. Hope you all had the best Christmas ever, and that on Christmas morning you found a big lump of coal in yer stocking.

Gerald Brostek, Saltfork Craftsmen



NORTH WEST REGIONAL PAGE

January 28, 2012

Host: Ron Lehenbauer

Phone#

Trade item; punch/chisel/tool for shop in Fairview

February 25th, 2012

Host: Mandell Greteman

Phone #

Trade item: eye punch

March 24, 2012

Host: Eddie Horton

Phone #:

Trade item; Campfire Tool

Location; Fort Supply

April 28, 2012

Host: Tom Nelson

Phone #

Trade item:

Lunch: Sack lunch or on own

May 26, 2012

Host: Fred Voss

Phone #

Chisholm trail museum in Kingfisher

June 23, 2012

Host: Gary Seigrist

Phone #:

Trade item; something made from horseshoe

July 28, 2012

Host: Don Garner

Phone #:

Trade item: Hardie tool

Fairview shop

August 25, 2012

Host: Bob Kennemer

Phone #:

Trade item: cooking Unensil

Sept. 22, 2012

Host: Ron Lehenbauer

Fairview Threshing Bee

Trade item;

October 20-21 2012

State conference

November 24th 2012

Host: Roy Bell

Lunch:

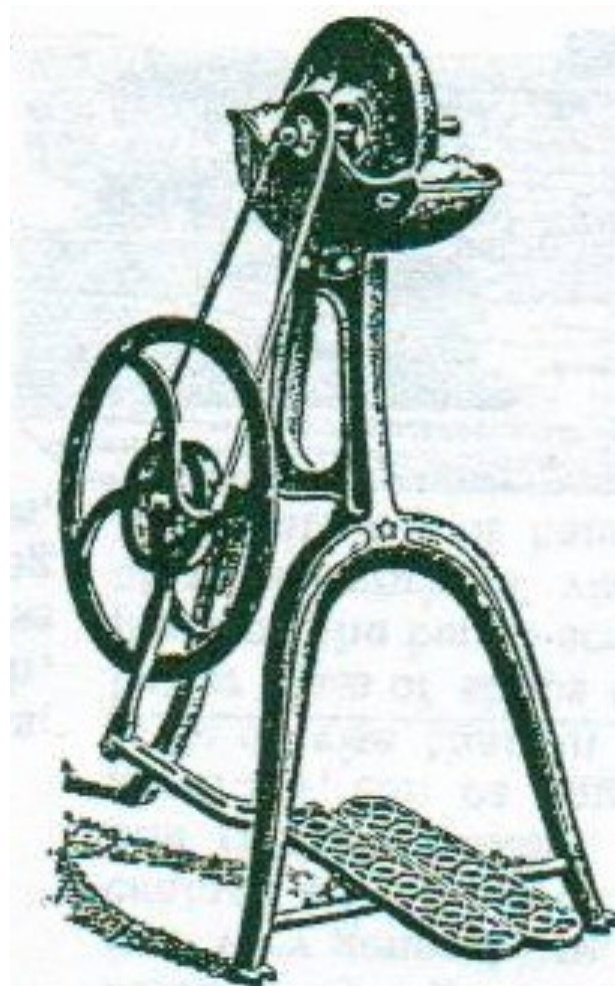
Trade item: bell

December 22, 2012

Merry Christmas

We hope everyone had a great Christmas.

The January meeting will be hosted by Ron Lehenbauer. He has chosen a punch/chisel/tool to be made for the shop in Fairview. That is where the meeting will be held. Ron is working to get the shop better equipped for the meetings scheduled this year. Ron didn't mention anything about providing the lunch so I would expect to bring something with you or travel the few miles back into town to one of the diners.



SOUTH EAST REGIONAL PAGES

January 7th 2012

Host: Bill Phillips

Phone:

Lunch: provided, bring side/desert

Trade item: steak turner

February 4, 2012

Host: Eddie Horton (Ft. Towson)

Phone #: 580-873-2634

Trade item: Heart

March 3, 2012

Host: Eddie Horton (Ft. Towson)

Phone #: 580-873-2634

Trade item: Leaf or Flower

April 7, 2012

Host:

Phone #:

Lunch:

Trade item:

May 5, 2012

Host: Bill Phillips

Phone #

Lunch: provided, bring side/desert

Trade item: spoon

June 2, 2012

Host: Ronnie Smith

Phone:

Lunch: provided, bring side/desert

Trade item: critter

July 7, 2012

Host:

Phone #:

Lunch:

Trade item:

August 4, 2012

Host:

Phone #:

Lunch:

Trade item:

Sept. 1, 2012

Host: Bill Phillips

Phone:

Lunch: provided, bring side/desert

Trade item; knife

October 20-21, 2012

SCABA Conference

November 3, 2012

Host:

Phone #:

December 1, 2012

Host:

There was no meeting for the SE region in December. By the time this newsletter reaches everyone the January meeting will have already taken place. Hope someone will send in a report.

The February meeting will be hosted by Eddie Horton at Ft. Towson. They have had some really good meeting at this location. Hopefully the weather will cooperate this year. The trade items is a heart. Look for updates in the Feb. newsletter.

Look for map in back of newsletter.

There are several open dates in the SE region. Please take a minute to look over the dates at the left and see if you can host a meeting on any of the open dates. If you don't have a shop then think about someplace where there is shade, water and access to bathrooms. You don't have to provide a meal, we are quite capable to bring a sack lunch.

Let me know if you can host a meeting.

Editor DD

Diana.copperrose@gmail.com

**LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR
LITTLE GIANT POWER HAMMER
WORK HARDER THAN EVER!**

Please join us March 16-18, 2012 for our annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar!

This class was first taught by our good friend Fred Caylor of Zionsville, Indiana. We carry on his tradition of teaching how to make Little Giants run well and hit hard.

This 2 1/2 day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant hammer from functional but sloppy condition into a well tuned, quiet, hard working hammer. Sid Suedmeier, owner of Little Giant, will share all his knowledge and experience gained from working with Fred and from 20+ years of repairing and rebuilding Little Giants.

An old style 25 LB Little Giant will be rebuilt during the class, and a new style machine will be on hand to demonstrate proper assembly and adjustment of both styles.

The class is held in our shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. The city has a wide variety of cafes, outlets (including Pendleton Woolen Mills), antique and gift shops, orchards, wineries and museums.

**IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE GIANT, THIS
CLASS IS FOR YOU!**

No experience is required to attend this class. Past students have ranged from age 15 to 90, and from all walks of life. Anyone who wants to learn will benefit from this class. We approach the rebuilding process using tools that can be found in the average home workshop.

If you are in the market to buy a power hammer, this class will make you an educated shopper. If you already own a Little Giant, or any other brand of power hammer, this class will teach you how to get the best performance possible.

The class costs \$95, refundable up to 7 days prior to the class; advance registration is required. We limit the class to 25 participants. The class starts at 9 AM sharp on Friday, and usually ends by Saturday evening. The schedule runs Sunday until noon in case we encounter any exceptional problems in rebuilding, and to answer remaining questions.

When we receive your registration, we will send you a city map, along with travel and hotel information.

Airports are located in Omaha (45 miles north), Lincoln (50 miles west) and Kansas City (125 miles south).

2012 REGISTRATION

Name: _____
Business name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Email address: _____

PAYMENT

- Check enclosed
- Visa
- MasterCard
- Discover
- American Express
- Number: _____
- Expiration Date: _____

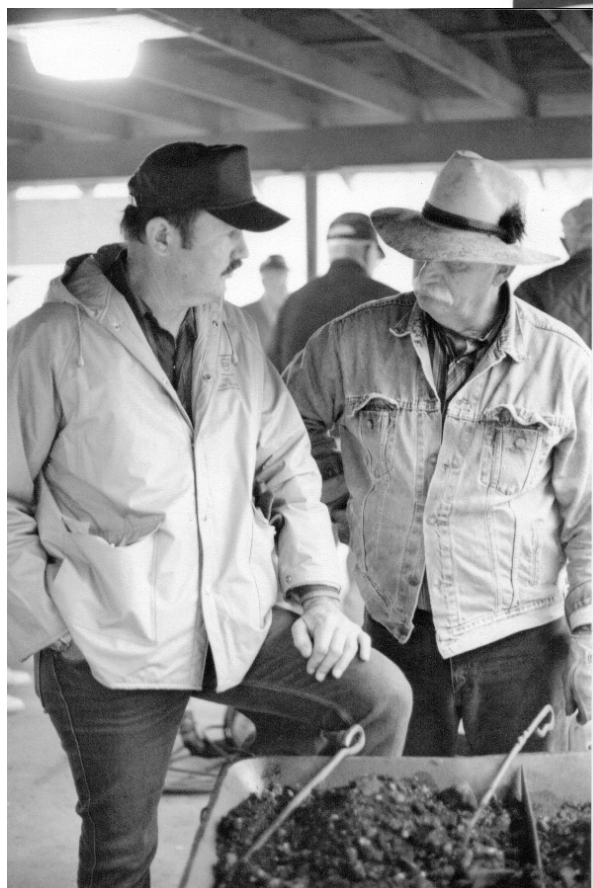
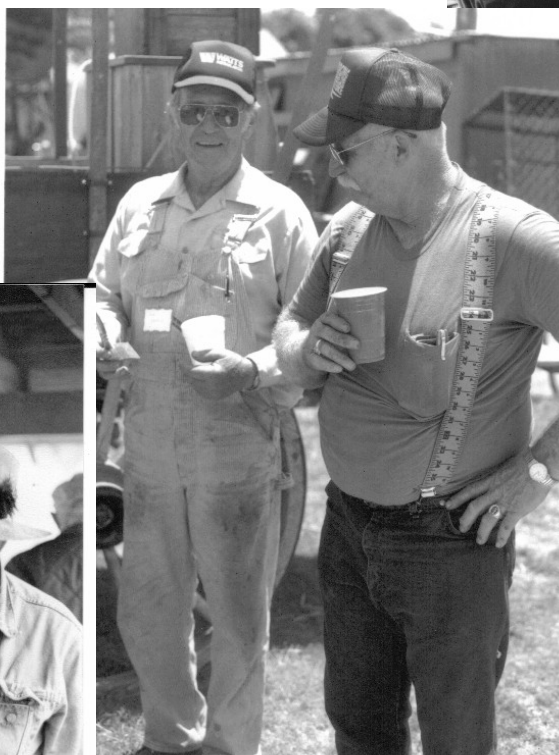
POWER HAMMER INFO

Brand: _____
Size: _____
Serial Number: _____

Please call or email if you have any questions, or prefer to register by phone. You can reach us at 402.873.6603 or lgiant@windstream.net
Little Giant is located at 420 4th Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

Saltfork founding member Jim Omev passed away on December 30, 2011. Those of us that knew him will miss his infectious smile and wit. Jim Omev lived on the same farm that his forefathers homesteaded when Oklahoma was opened for settlement. If you stepped across the Omev's north fence you were in Kansas. The land wasn't the best but the Omevs managed to make it support themselves. Jim once told us that it was not the number of cows to the acre but the number of acres to the cow. Being a farmer/rancher Jim knew how to work with metal and blacksmithing was just one of the many talents that Jim mastered. He could take a used up horseshoe rasp and turn it into the most beautiful set of spurs that you every stuck a boot into. One of the pairs he made was given to H O, long time auctioneer for the conference art auction.

Jim attended as many meeting as he could and even hosted the annual picnic at his home north of Freedom until he had to start slowing down due to his health. If you needed to know how to make something, one of your resources had to be was Jim Omev. Many of the pictures I went through of past meeting show Jim visiting with young members answering questions and many time going to a forge and showing them how he did something; He will be greatly missed.



HEART HOOK

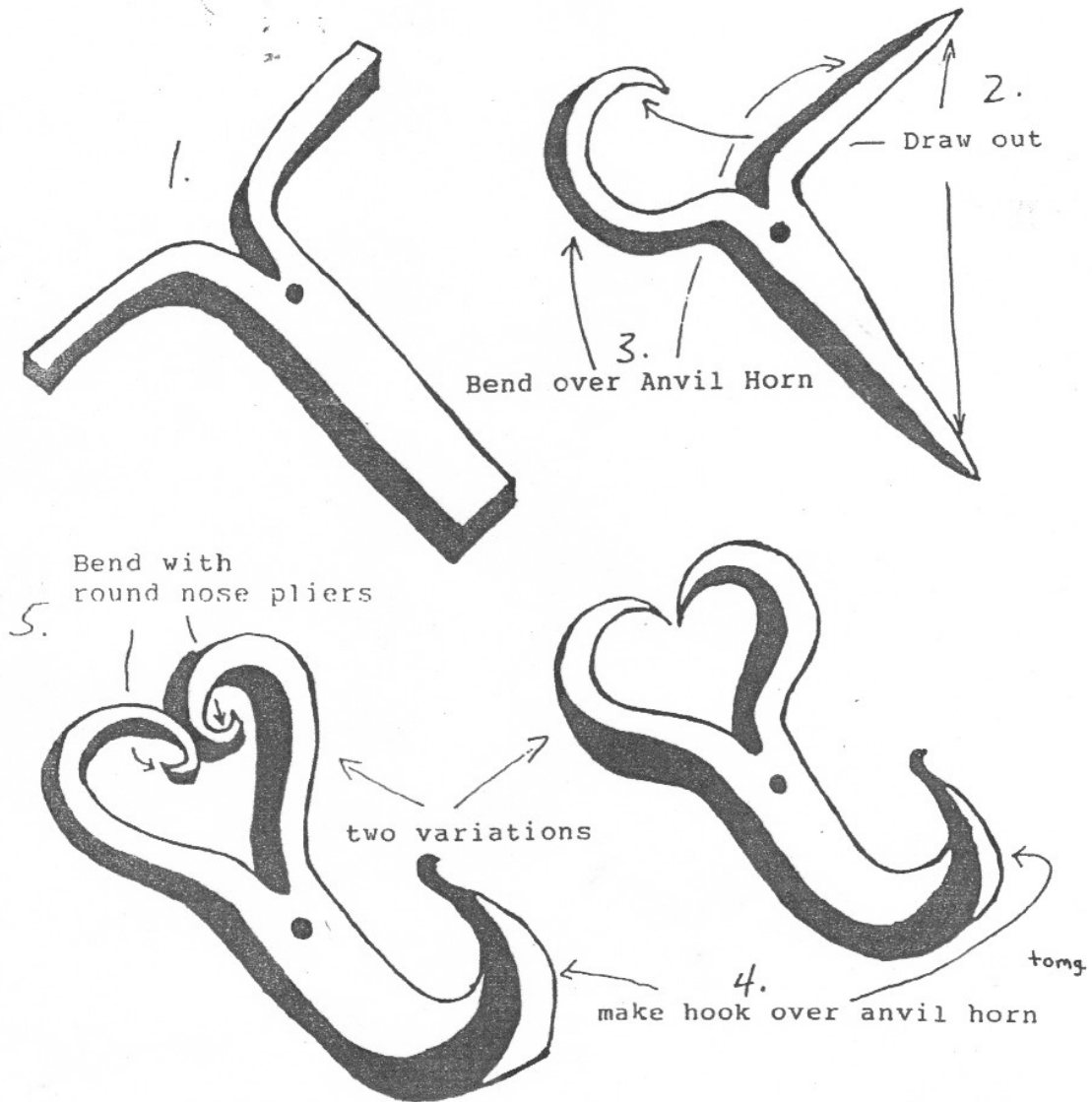
by Jerry Grimes, reprinted from the Apr/May, 1991, issue of *The Tuzere*, newsletter of the Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association.

And...The heart hook was shown to me by STEVE "RAINBO" CLARY. So, the thanks goes to him. And everyone has permission to use the design.

The drawings are by TOM GRIMES (That's my boy)!!

Use 1/2" X 1/4" X 6 1/4" stock

Hot cut or saw down center 2 1/4", punch or drill nail hole 1/2" below cut.



Dr. Hearthook strikes again!!

Forge a Pepper

by Robb Gunter

Some years ago while working in SWABA's State Fair Exhibit, a young lady said, "Bet you can't forge a chili pepper." The challenge was on! I told her to come back in an hour and we'd see about that. With a piece of 3/4 inch black gas pipe and a piece of 3/8 inch rod for a stem, the first attempt began. Although somewhat crude, it was rewarding when the young lady came back and had to eat her words. As it turned out, she paid a healthy price for it. With a bit more practice I got the bugs worked

out and here's the recipe for growin' your own chilies:

Start with:
3/4 inch or 1 inch of black iron (gas) pipe 18 inches to 24 inches long — plenty of handle.

Plug or tape off the end not going into the fire.

Heat 3 inches evenly — turning the pipe in the fire — to a good yellow (don't burn it).

Fuller the pipe with either a 3/8 inch rod fullering tool or a fullering jig, 1 inch from the end, turning the pipe with each hit. Fuller down until a 3/8 rod will just fit inside.

Fuller a small groove in the 3/8 inch rod 1/4 inch from the end.

You're ready for a fluxing heat. Both pipe and rod must be carefully heated yellow. Brush and flux the rod.

Use a plumber's 1/2 inch radial wire brush to clean the inside fullered pipe. Flux quickly and insert rod to the fuller mark.

Close the fullered pipe down on rod in fullering jig. This needs to be done quickly and returned to the fire before the flux cools too much.

Slowly bring to a welding heat allowing the pipe and rod to soak at welding heat to insure temperature is inside fullered area.

Forge weld in the fullering jig with quick light taps — turning the pipe between each hit. A second welding heat can be taken if necessary.

Allow pipe with welded stem to cool. Cut pipe and stem as shown in Sketch #2.

Forge stem to a short taper — avoid hitting septal area.

Shape the septal — on a real chili it is 5 lobed or somewhat pentagonal.

Take a good yellow heat over entire fullered area and stem. By selectively quenching the stem and septal area, upset it down on to the pipe. Insert the stem in the pritchel hole of your anvil and hammer the other end of the pipe. Allow the pipe

just below the septal to swell somewhat, as this looks more normal. (Sketches #3 and 4.)

After upsetting septal and before curling the stem — use a small radius grooving chisel to define ridges on septal which point to each lobe. (Sketch #5.)

Curl the stem.

Hacksaw off the pipe 6 inches to 6 1/2 inches for 3/4 inch or 7 inches to 7 1/2 inches for 1 inch pipe (measuring from the septal).

In a swedge block, taper the open end of the pipe from yellow heat, turning the pipe between each hit to avoid any folds. Make the taper relatively short at this point — the taper can be smoothed and made longer after the pipe is closed and forge welded.

The chili can be tapered and forge welded onto a rod at this point to make an interesting tool handle (3/4 inch pipe makes the best handle).

After forge welding hot rasp the closed end to a small hemispherical radius.

With a coarse 3/8 inch square file, shape a cleft in the radius end. Most chili peppers have a 2 lobed end, much like a bell pepper has 4 or 5 lobes (see sketch #6).

Lengthen taper for a smooth transition back toward stem and septal. Wrinkling the pepper: Sketch #6 shows two primary wrinkles which line up with cleft in the end and are 180 degrees apart.

I found it most helpful to buy a chili pepper or two in the grocery store and study the real thing.

A nice final touch before waxing is to use a fine brass wire brush at black heat on the stem and septal for contrast.

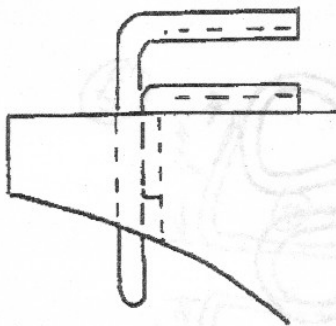
Amazingly enough, in most chilies, as a result of forge welding, there are even seeds inside when you shake the chili.

I've had lots of fun using the chilies by themselves or as handles on fireplace tools, barbecue sets and door pulls. Let me know what other ideas you come up with.

— Reprinted from the Pounders Press
by way of the Forge Facts.

Shop Tip

Ed Just
Pine Grove, California
CALIFORNIA BLACKSMITH
ASSOCIATION



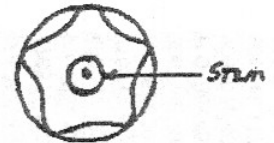
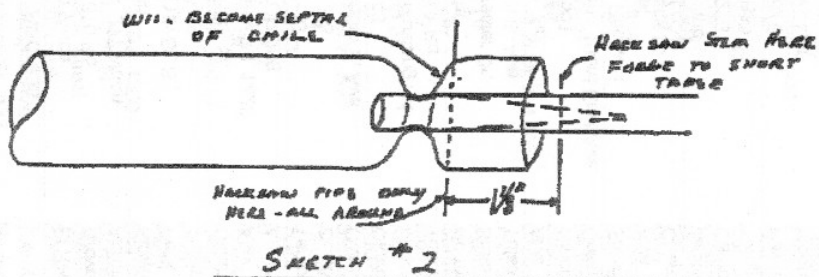
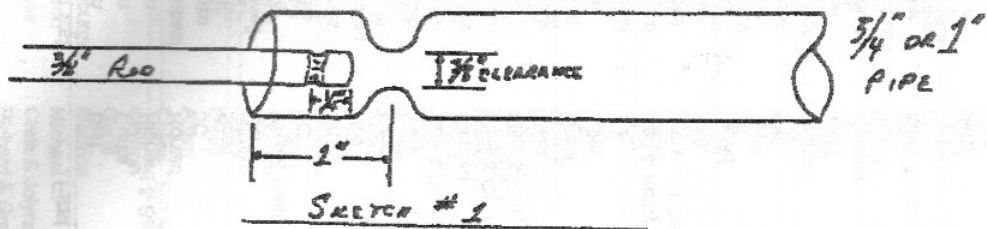
Here is a tool setup for fullers that I came upon quite by accident.

The lower fuller has a short tail which is drawn as wide as the hardie hole, but only half as deep. The upper fuller is drawn to slide behind the lower one.

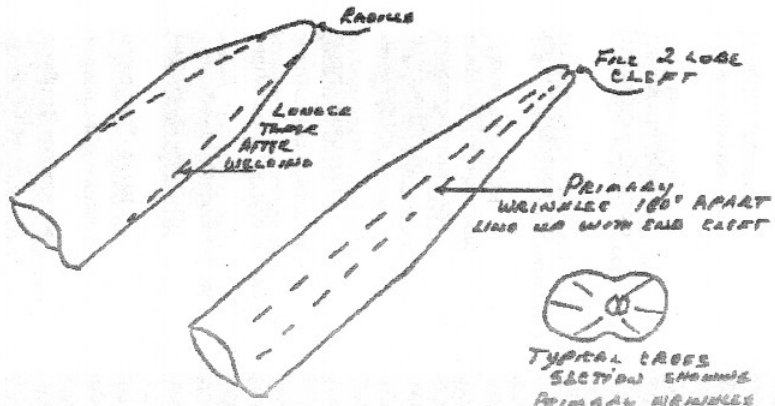
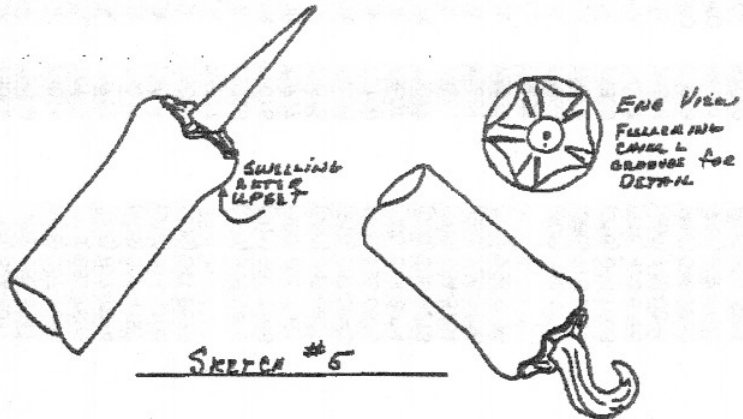
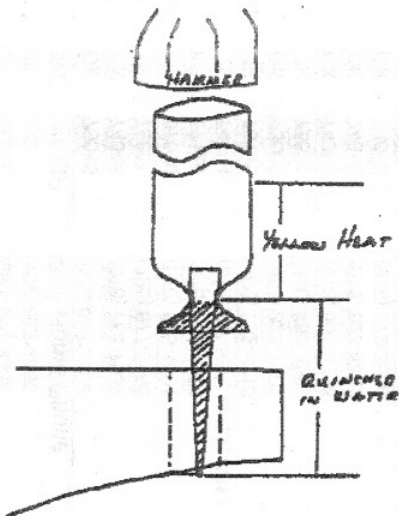
Unlike the U-shaped spring fullers, this one does not bounce around (or off) the anvil when struck. Also, the long rear tang allows for taller stock, while keeping both fullers parallel.

NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

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END VIEW
SEPTAL SHAPED
SKETCH #3



From A Good Hammer To A Great Hammer

A long time ago I bought a 2 pound rounding hammer from Centaur Forge. This was before the internet days and the Centaur catalog was printed in black and white on news paper. I think this is a Nordic brand hammer, but I am not sure. I have not used it much but it does the job it was designed to do.

This hammer had a flaw that has kept me from using it regularly. The faces of the hammer were finished from the factory by what I call a sanded finish. The sanding marks were deep enough that you could see them in the hot metal and would not make a smooth project.

I have a friend that is a knife maker. He makes beautiful knives with highly polished blades. Knowing he had many different grinders and sanders I asked him if he could remove the sanding marks from my rounding hammer, without spending too much time on it. He said he would see what he could do, and in a couple of days he brought it back to me.

There are not any words to say what an unbelievable job he did. Wow, is about as good as I can do. Both hammer faces were polished to a mirror finish. I'm not kidding; you could shave looking into either face. There won't be any more sanding marks left on my work from this hammer, assuming I get the nerve to ever hit anything with it. It is a thing of beauty, even people that don't understand what I had, and the work it took to make it the way it is now, are impressed.

Jerry Boyd
Snyder, Texas

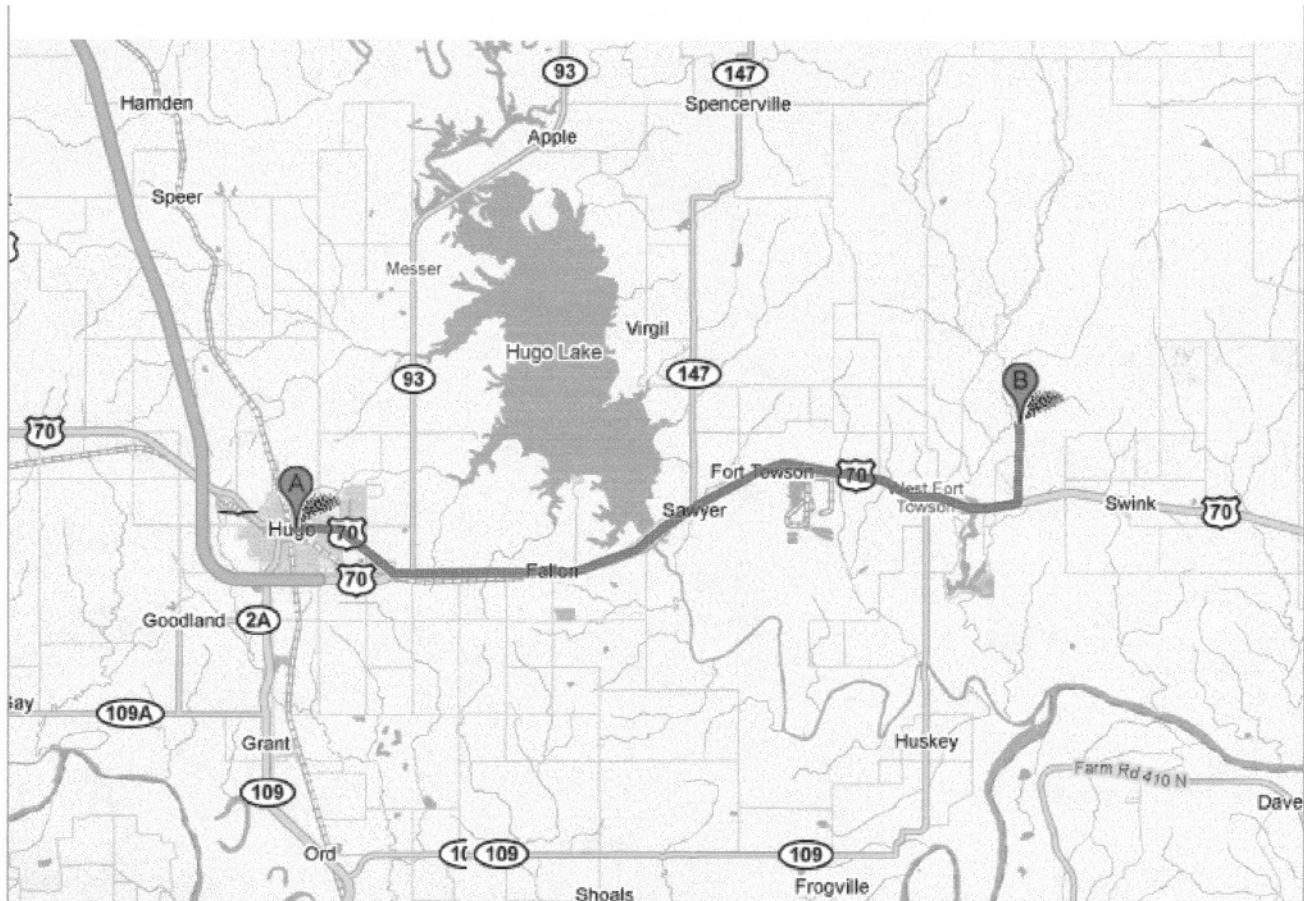


Map page:

Directions to Byron Doner's home: Take the south I-35 exit 108A Highway 9 east. (first right after crossing South Canadian River); go 7.9 miles . Turn left on 60th Ave SE. and go 2 miles. Then turn East (right) onto Alameda St. Go Approximately .6 miles to 6520 alameda. We are on the South side. White 2 story with a sail boat in front of shop. If coming from the North you have to get off I-35 on Highway 9 east/ Lindsay exit. If you get lost my cell is 405-650-7520

Map and directions to Ft. Towson:

Ft. Towson is located east of Hugo, Okla. Just off Highway 70. From the junction of highway 70/Jackson St. and US 271 go east approximately 14 miles to N4380 Rd. Turn left onto N4380 and go 1.7 miles



Directions to Fairview meeting location:

The blacksmith shop is located on the Major County Historical society grounds which is 1 1/2 miles east of Fairview on hwy 58. Watch for the signs and on the North side of the road.