



Eunice Harris, Photo Researcher

Dave Koenig
7418 Branch Point
Houston, TX
77095-2649

281-855-2869
76021.3660@compuserve.com

July 6, 1999

To: HABA Distribution List

Re: The Newsletter of the Proposed Houston Area Blacksmiths' Association (HABA)

INTRODUCTION

This *HABA Letter* includes:

- **A NOTE FROM THE PREZ.**
 - New Web Page, Page 1
 - Updating the HABA Mailing List, Page 2
 - Celebrate Smithing in Texas!, Page 2
 - Try Something New, Page 2
 - Making Strap Hinges, Page 3
 - Come See Us, Page 3

ARTICLE – Power Hammer Rebuild – Part 2, Page 4

RESOURCES – Metalworking Titles, Page 5

ODD AND ENDS

- Conversion Program, Page 7
- Word Play, Page 8
- Humor?, Page 8

JUNE HABA MEETING SUMMARY, Page 8

JULY 17 – 18 HABA MEETING, Page 9

AUGUST 21 HABA MEETING, Page 10

COMING EVENTS

- Celebrate Smithing in Texas!, Page 11
- HAMMERFEST '99, Page 11
- Texian Days, Page 11
- The Oldenberg Blacksmiths, Page 11
- Banging on the Bayou -11.

OTHER SMITHING MEETINGS, Page 12

FOR SALE, Page 12

THE FINE PRINT, Page 12

A NOTE FROM THE PREZ

New HABA Web Page

The big news is that HABA has a web page again, <http://home.swbell.net/drblock/>. Doug Block built a server, got it connected to a DSL phone line and is making improvements all the time. Right now the new HABA web page includes several past HABA Letters, the HABA Barrington Farm Press Release and a few pictures. We have plans to make it even better and your ideas and expertise are most welcome.

A very special thanks goes out to Doug Block for getting HABA back on-line. I suspect there are some computer wizards out there who could give Doug some great ideas and get him up the learning curve even faster. Doug is willing to listen, dougblock@bigfoot.com.

This HABA Letter will probably be the last one the e-mail subscribers will receive. In the future the e-mail subscribers will receive a note from the HABA Editor saying the HABA Letter is posted on the HABA web site and give them a hyper-link to go and get it.

Updated Mailing List

The HABA Mailing Lists are updated. People we have not heard from lately got deleted from lists. If you hear of someone we dropped and should be on the list please let me know. I will get it corrected.

Celebrate Smithing in Texas!

On July 17 and 18, 1999, smiths from around Texas will meet at the Barrington Farm for 'Celebrate Smithing in Texas!' a weekend of smithing. This event will not be open to the public. The focus will be to complete as much of the Barrington Farm hardware as possible, to share smithing information and techniques and to talk about a multi-state regional gathering of smiths. July 17 is set aside for the media to take pictures, interview smiths and to learn about the new Barrington Living History Farm

Right now it seems there will be plenty of hasps and hooks available. Of the nineteen pair of hinges required, smiths around the state have committed to eight pair. Gary Hilton of Hunt, Texas completed three pair himself, two pair of sixteen inch and one pair of twenty-seven inch. With a little luck, the park contractors will have three doors swinging by the time we all arrive there on the 17th.

Based on what people are telling me, I expect between 20 and 30 smiths. These smiths will be coming from North Texas, East Texas, Houston Area, Hill Country and West Texas and will represent each of the smithing groups in Texas.

A final agenda for the two day event will be available when you sign-in. Here is a short version of the draft agenda that is being developed:

Friday PM, the early arrivals can set up camp and their forges.

Saturday morning

- Sign-in starts at 8:00 and more people arrive and set-up. Hopefully a couple of forges will be lit too and the anvil's ringing.
- At 10:00 the event will officially begin. We will get people introduced, receive an orientation to the farm and the project and visit with the electronic media and press as production begins.
- At about 3:00 take some time out to review production progress, get commitments for additional work, talk about a regional conference and work on answers to any other questions.

- After dinner do some evening demonstrations.

Sunday Morning, continue production work until about noon and adjourn. Those who want to finish up some work in the afternoon are welcome to do so.

With a little luck we hope to have about two dozen T-shirts for sale commemorating this event. The T-shirts will be sold on a first come first served basis. The price range should be between \$10 and \$15.

More particulars about Celebrate Smithing in Texas! can be found below in the **JULY 17 – 18, HABA MEETING** section.

Trying Something New

I get the feeling that many of us have not made strap hinges before. That is certainly the case with me. I scoured all the 'how to' books I have and found out there is more than one way to make these hinges. After several sample failures and a couple successes, I am finally ready to make a pair of hinges.

A project like this is a motivational way to try something new. There is little pressure to meet a deadline and whether or not a hook, hasp or hinge gets made; you will further develop your smithing skills. That is the first objective of this project, to learn something new. We have to learn the skills before we can donate them to the State of Texas.

Below for our use is still another way to make hinges. Tom Lundquist shared this 'how to' piece with me and I am sharing it with you.

MAKING STRAP HINGES

Submitted by Tom Lundquist from:

"How to Forge Weld at a Blacksmith's Anvil for Those Who Have Diligently Tried And Failed"

As to how to make the strap hinges, first start with a test piece about 12" long and fold it at about the 4" point, so it's now 8" long. Hammer this crease down sharp.

Make a form that is simply a round rod the diameter of the pin welded to the wide side of a short length of the same material as the strap.

Take a heat on the fold, then place about 1/4" of the fold in the vise and bend the short end out to about 90 degrees.

Take another heat and place in vise with long side down in jaws, short side facing front. Clamp form above and behind the strap so the round rod hooks over the fold. Wrap around the pin about 250 degrees.

Quickly remove from vise and hammer around to meet backside of strap. Remove form and replace with sacrifice pin of appropriate size. Heat, flux, and weld. Take care to leave eye over edge of anvil so it does not weld in.

When cool, drive out sacrifice pin. Measure to determine how much stock is required for the eye.

Use another test piece to determine the length required to make the part of the hinge from the eye to the button.

Start with the length from the eye to the end plus a few inches. Use the data from the two test pieces to determine the length required for the entire hinge.

If punching the holes, do so before making final measurements in test piece.

On pintles, forge the main body of the pintle, then punch or drill the hole for the pin. If arc welding, plug weld from bottom only and grind flat or just short of flat, then hammer for finish desired. If forge welding, put in the

pin and forge weld in spring swage. Hammer to finish.

“I found the hinge process in a small pamphlet I bought at the 98 ABANA Conference, probably from Norm Larson. Its title is "How to Forge Weld at a Blacksmith's Anvil for Those Who Have Diligently Tried And Failed" Copyright 1995 by Robert Heath, Jackson Mississippi. Page 34.” Tom Lundquist (409) 646-4985 P.O. Box 2746 Onalaska, TX 77360

Come See Us

Come see us on the 17th and 18th! We are going to have a productive time!

ARTICLE

POWER HAMMER REBUILD

By Fon Stonum
Part 2 of 3

In this second part of rebuilding the Little Giant 50# Power Hammer, the sub title should be how to use your credit card for phone orders. Most of the moving parts of my hammer were worn out, rebuilt, and worn out again. The rebuild was generally done poorly leaving me a sad base to rebuild on again. Many of the parts were home made and of poor material quality and wore out quickly or were deformed in the use of the machine. If one has a machine shop at your disposal, building these pieces from scratch would not be that big of a deal and I thought I would try to do some of the parts myself. What I found out is that if you have to hire a machinist to do the work, you will come out cheaper by calling Little Giant and purchasing new O.E.M. parts. They always fit and are precision made. They know me by name up there at Little Giant and I feel like I should be a stockholder in the company as much money as has changed hands.

If you have to purchase a hammer for top dollar and then buy a load of new parts you can expect to have a lot more tied up in the hammer than you can sell it for. Buyer beware! Check those moving parts out closely and scrape the grease and muck off the pinholes and check closely for damage and excessive wear. A Little Giant will run with all the parts worn beyond belief, they are the Harley Davidson of the power hammers, but they will not run well. They will run erratically and double hit or miss a hit or any of a hundred things that will madden you to want to take a torch to the machine and scrap it. Tight, well-fit pieces work in harmony to make the hammer a joy to own and save time eternal from hammering out work on the anvil. Use care and caution when assembling the hammer. Tight, precise fit and alignment of the moving parts will make the hammer run like a Swiss watch. Loose, worn, and mis-aligned moving parts will make the hammer operate and sound like a thrashing machine. Working from the top down, I elected to replace the babbitt bushing in the clutch pulley with a bronze bushing and had this machined to fit and eliminated a babbitt job. Bronze bushings will last forever if you keep them clean and well lubricated. Check the shafts for roundness and signs of scoring. Mine was good and I did not disassemble the crank plate and clutch spider from the shaft.

The crank box and pitman arm on the front of the crank plate was worn out and in poor shape. There are two styles of pitman arm, the old model that bolts together over the shaft and is cast of bronze, and one that is for the later models which is a solid steel one piece unit that is bushed in bronze. The old model cost over \$200.00 whereas the newer one cost about \$75.00. You can use the new model pitman arm on an old model hammer by cutting off the boss from the front end of the crank pin and drilling and tapping the boss and end of the pin to be reinstalled over the new model pitman arm. I had to re-bush the crank box, as my pin was smaller than the bushing as it came from the manufacturer. But for a little sweat equity I saved over \$125.00

Babbitt pouring always sounded like a black art to me and I backstroked into that job. I put it off until it became the critical path to completing the hammer. I got a friend to assist in the re-babbiting of the shaft bearings. I will not go into the detail here of pouring babbitt, but use proper equipment and pre heat the hammer casting to around 300 degrees to pour the babbitt freely, and make sure your dams are tight. I used babbitt-rite for the damming caulk and it works really well. It needs to be installed on cold metal or it won't stick to the metal. We lost a dam and had molten babbitt splashing around and splattering us real good. Use a face shield, wear long pants and sleeves, and do the job in a well-ventilated area. The high pre heat gave me bearings that are 95 to 98% perfect surface bearings with no cold laps or voids in the casting. They are as close to perfect bearings as I've seen. Take a lot of time to centralize the shaft in the bearings before you pour taking care to square the shaft to the ram guide "vee" groove on the front of the hammer. Shims of copper, brass, or heavy leather will work well and are soft enough to not score the shaft. Cut oil grooves in the finished bearing in a crosshatch pattern to help oil circulate around the bearing. I used an engraving tool to cut the grooves, but a small chisel made for the task would work fine. The babbitt job was tedious but not as difficult as I had built it up in my mind to be. Show no fear when going into this job.

Once the bearings are done the job gets down to fitting the parts together and mounting the hammer to the floor. I recommend mounting the hammer to the floor before assembly of the parts to eliminate the extra weight while your moving the hammer around on the floor. Use care in assembly of the ram, toggle arms and pitman to the

crank plate pin to see how the ram hangs in the frame. You may need to shim the arms to hold the ram forward or back to get it to hang in the arms right. Assemble the arms and hang the ram to see if it hangs true to the dies mating correctly. If it does not, shim the pins to make the hammer hang as true to the dies as possible. This will help the hammer run smoothly as you have eliminated an area where it will want to gall, as the arms run out of line with the ram and dies.

I used Richard R. Kearns book The Little Giant Power Hammer as the guide for all my work and it has a wealth of information in it about every aspect of rebuilding the hammer. Definitely buy or borrow this book to guide you through your first hammer re-build, it's worth the price of the book in lessons that you won't have to learn the hard way. It is full of data on motor selection and belt drives, machining hints, and lessons learned the hard way.

In part 3 of this saga I will select and mount an electric motor and get all the foot treadle and clutch assembly working to perfection. Rebuilding one of these hammers is fun, but time consuming as each piece is fit together and trial and error is the rule in my first re-build. I'm sure after one or two hammer re-builds that some of the trial and error will be routine work habits, but for now, this one is slow going.

RESOURCES

METALWORKING TITLES,

by Chuck Hamsa
(Revised, May of 1999)
Part 1 of 5

The following titles represent a few of the titles that this writer reviewed; first as an individual and then as coordinator for a reviewers' consortium. The consortium is simply a group of people who enjoy telling others about good books and other materials over a wide range of subjects. Most of these subjects deal with American life and history and crafts and occupations from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries.

Chuck Hamsa is an academic librarian; living history or rendezvous enthusiast and volunteer blacksmith at the Acadian Village, a local tourist attraction in Lafayette, Louisiana. His reading interests center on how to become more independent. His ambition is to spend one day making use of things that he has made himself. While this might be an impossible dream, a person's goals should exceed his grasp.

Please address any correspondence to: Chuck Hamsa, 612 Alonda Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503. Email: squeezebox1@hotmail.com. (A happy Czech a playin' polkas on his accordion in the land of the Acadians [Cajuns] and chinky chank.)

Andrews, Jack. NEW EDGE OF THE ANVIL: A RESOURCE BOOK FOR THE BLACKSMITH
Drexel Hill, PA: SkipJack Press (637 Drexel Avenue, 19026-3823), 1994. Paperbound. ISBN Number 1-879535-09-2. \$24.95.

Since the arrival of the first edition in 1977, THE EDGE OF THE ANVIL became a standard to measure other materials on the subject. The book highlighted the work of Samuel Yellin in a separate section, and it emphasized the rise of ornamental ironwork. The revised edition includes the work of a number of truly accomplished artisans. Yet it also includes basic techniques of blacksmithing. For a rare combination of blacksmithing basics and the artistic possibilities, this is one of the best books on the market.

Bacon, John Lord. ELEMENTARY FORGE PRACTICE (Lost Technology Series).

Bradley, IL: Lindsay Publications (PO Box 12, 60915), 1986 (c1914). Paperbound. 279 Pp. \$9.95.

BLACKSMITH SHOP & IRON FORGING (Lost Technology Series). Lindsay Publications, 1983 (c1906). Paperbound. 91 Pp. \$6.50.

Thomas L. Lindsay spent considerable time assembling interesting titles in a wide variety of areas, but his metalworking titles are well worth the time to at least write for a catalog of publications. Both titles are of importance as they show blacksmithing techniques of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

BLACKSMITHING (Merit Badge Series). Boy Scouts of America, c1930.

This title is not in print. Copies are impossible at best to obtain. The BLACKSMITHING merit badge handbook showed what was required for a youth to go through this course of instruction. Part of the requirements included the forging of a chain as well as other not so elementary tasks. This writer was part of a committee from ABANA that attempted to interest the national Boy Scout office to reinstate the merit badge. We were not successful. At this time there are still the METALWORKING and the METALLURGY merit badge handbooks. One deals with youth making items out of tin and aluminum cans; and the other, the technical aspects of large foundry work. Unfortunately, most of us fall within the uncovered middle ground.

Blandford, Percy W. PRACTICAL BLACKSMITHING AND METALWORKING.

Blue Ridge, Summit, PA: Tab Books (Dist. by McGraw-Hill, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020 [800] 262-4729), 1988. 2nd ed. Paperbound. 360 Pp. ISBN Number 0-07-155644-3. \$19.95.

24 METAL WORKING PROJECTS.

Blue Ridge Summit, PA: Tab Books (PO Box 40, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17294-0850 [800] 233-1128), 1987. Paperbound. 122 Pp. ISBN Number 0-8306-2784-7. \$9.95.

Both titles are taken together because they present a good sampling of the output of the author, Percy William Blandford, a prolific writer in the crafts, leisure and recreational areas. The second title, 24 METAL WORKING PROJECTS, offers the novice metalworker a variety of exercises to perfect his talents. Such projects range from the production of simple calipers to parallel-action drafting equipment. A close reading of PRACTICAL BLACKSMITHING AND METALWORKING would allow any level of blacksmith to gain valuable tips and pointers.

At the time a trademark of Tab Books was the outstanding illustrations which allowed the reader to get a firm grasp on what the text was attempting to present. At times the illustrations themselves were enough to provide needed understanding. Of recent McGraw-Hill took over Tab Books, once an independent publishing operation. The differences in the ISBN Numbers as well as different addresses for ordering indicates that the merger is not yet complete. This writer has not seen any metalworking titles published under the McGraw-Hill-Tab Book banner. But he had the opportunity to review a few recently published woodworking titles. The illustrations and drawing are simply not of the same quality. Hopefully this does not represent a trend in the future.

DeLaRonde, Joe. "Traditional Blacksmithing," in Scurlock, William H. THE BOOK OF BUCKSKINNING IV (4).

Texarkana, TX: Scurlock Publishing Company (Route 5, Box 347-M, 75501), 1987. Paperbound. Pages 1 - 42 of 258 page title. ISBN Number 0-9605666-5-3 \$13.95.

This is a very straightforward presentation to the types of items that the traditional blacksmith would have offered to the frontier trade. Included is a very practical presentation to acquiring the most essential tools, designs for bellows construction, hints on preparing the welding fire and basic blacksmithing techniques. Illustrations and photographs are excellent, and along with the text present a more than adequate introduction.

As the intention of this excellent chapter was to present an introduction toward the goal of making items (knives, fire iron sets along with other cooking gear, axes, tomahawks and basic tools) that would be found in a pre-1840 setting, there is no coverage of ornamental iron work. Included is a very fine, basic treatment for both tempering and forge welding. Taken in its entirety, this reviewer would have to rate this as one of the best choices for anyone desiring basic blacksmithing information. For those interested in the possibilities of making equipment for re-enactor events, THE BOOK OF BUCKSKINNING series is already into its seventh volume. Scurlock also publishes MUZZLELOADER, a magazine devoted to the same subject. Write the publisher for a price list.

Googerty, Thomas F. HAND FORGING AND WROUGHT-IRON ORNAMENTAL WORK.

Lompoc, CA: Norm Larson Books (5426 East Highway 246, 93436). Reprint of Popular Mechanics 1911 edition. Paperbound. 197 Pp. \$14.50.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Norm Larson, one has access to a classic title for the early twentieth century

blacksmith who wanted to expand into ornamental ironwork. A very usable index points the reader to specific areas in the text, which carries the reader from a discussion of the equipment to basic blacksmithing principles. What follows is a gradual progression from such things as the formation of simple scrolls to their inclusion into more intricate designs. Included as well are discussions and illustrations on the production of rosettes, leaves, pulls, hinges, doorplates and iron lamps. This title will influence some to go out and try their hand with the various projects and techniques presented. One technique that interested this reviewer was the basic formation of a spiral in round bar stock. Then the blacksmith could easily pull the spiral apart to quickly form a bulb.

ODDS AND ENDS

Conversion Program

Here is a download that converts more than you will ever need, imperial, metric and heaps besides and its free. <http://www.joshmadison.com/software/convert/convert.zip>, Dave Mudge, LAMA Editor.

Word Play

Here is a clipping from the Marksville, LA newspaper dated June 28, 1862. This comes to you compliments of Edward R. Moreau and the *LAMAGRAM*, May June Issue, 1999.

“Don’t *rivet* a blacksmith’s attention by *ironically heating* his *temper* with the assertion that he will *forg*e and *steal*, for fear you get *hammered* and *rolled out*.”

Humor?

One smith was telling me that his spouse never says anything about cleaning-up anymore. The request just got tattooed backwards on the smiths forehead so the smith will be reminded when looking in the mirror.

We all know that Texas and the nation are experiencing a much warmer spring and summer than usual. I did not know how bad it was until I talked to a couple of smiths the other day. It seems smiths in Southeast Texas are having trouble quenching iron in their slake tubs. Even after adding 20 pounds of ice every morning they can’t seem to get the iron temperature any cooler than a dull red. And, smiths in West Texas are getting about the same results with twenty pounds a day of dry ice...

JUNE MEETING SUMMARY

Tudor Forge hosted the June 19 th HABA meeting. HABA added two new smiths to the mailing lists, Harvey Wise and Pete Schiller. Welcome. We also had the pleasure of two guests, Helen Wise and Katie Cowden.

There were four forges going most of the day thanks to Charles and Sharon Heathcock, Larry Hoff and Frank Walters.

The Show-N-Tell table had plenty to look at and the Raffle table was loaded. Special thanks to Troy Stallones, J. Burnett, Charles and Sharon Heathcock, Larry Hoff, Jesse Kirk, Frank Walters and Dave Koenig. I hope I did not miss anyone.

The Raffle was quite exciting. A.J Garrett cleaned-up. I hope he bought a Texas Lottery ticket after the meeting. The most exciting part of the Raffle was Charles and Sharon’s beautiful Rose towel rack. Sharon made a beautiful four-inch rose and Charles made the towel hanger. Their contribution increased HABA’s coffers significantly. In addition, Sharon even bought a raffle ticket. The final chapter is that Sharon won it back! Now she will not need to make another for her mother.

Dave Koenig demonstrated making a strap hinge barrel and failed...and not the first time. His second demonstration went a little better. He demonstrated the leaf form like the ones that accompanied each of the HABA press releases to the major print and electronic media in Houston.

Frank Walters and Frank Schumacher submitted HABA Logos. One of Frank Walters' designs will be used for the Barrington Farm T-shirt.

Byrom Wehner, who we have not seen in a while, came to the meeting with his usual a box of doughnuts. He also suggested that the fonts in the HABA Letter be increased. Some of us owe him a much bigger thanks for the larger font idea than the doughnuts. The fonts in this letter are one size bigger. How do you like these fonts? Do they need to go still bigger?

The HABA coffers increased by \$152 and decreased by \$172 to get all the bills paid.

The following Sunday, Charles and Sharon Heathcock, Tim Cowden and Dave Koenig worked at Tudor Forge to make some park hardware. Tim got a small hasp finished and the rest of us got a whole lot smarter.

JULY 17 – 18, HABA MEETING

The July HABA meeting will be held in conjunction with Celebrate Smithing in Texas! at the Barrington Living History Farm in the Washington on the Brazos State Park. Celebrate Smithing in Texas! will be a two day event to demonstrate that smithing is alive and well in Texas as an art and a craft, to complete some of the hardware for Barrington Farm, meet some new smiths and learn some more smithing techniques.

Celebrate Smithing in Texas! is an event for the press and smiths. The purpose of the event is to make hardware for the Barrington Living History Farm and to raise the public awareness about blacksmithing and the new Barrington Farm through interaction with the electronic media and the press.

Celebrate Smithing in Texas! will be not open to the general public.

Bring a forge if you have one and tools to work on hasps, hooks, stables and hinges. If you do not have a forge at least bring your favorite hammer. I am sure there will be an opportunity to work at someone's forge while they are taking a break. Drawings will be available.

Smiths with forging equipment will be able to drive right to the barn area and offload.

Don't forget to bring your safety glasses with side shields. Safety glasses will be especially important for this event because there will be a lot of forge welding (or at least attempts) on the hinges. In either case, sparks will fly and your eyes need to be protected.

The park now has a restaurant and it will be open for our use. The menu is a soup and sandwich type and a rather wide selection of Blue Bell ice cream.

It is going to be hot! Please bring your favorite drink and drink plenty of it. No one wants to experience a heat related personal injury. HABA will provide soda and water.

If you have a means of providing shade, bring that too. Hats count. Shade will be a premium.

Bring something to sit on and to rest your weary bones.

Tables will be made available for Show-N-Tell items. If you have something you made or someone else made that you would like to show, bring it along. Remember the press will be there and someone is bound to take a picture of it.

Camping will be available at the park. Bring all of your own camping supplies. Remember. The park is not set up for camping. For this special occasion, the park is permitting camping. There will be toilets and running water available but no showers.

There are local motels in Navasota, TX. Two motels located along highway 6 are: Super 8, 409-825-7775 and Cedar Creek Inn, 409-825-8000. The Vanguard Inn is on Business 6 in town, 409-825-6497.

Finally, bring another smith or someone you know who is interested in the art and craft of blacksmithing. We are going to have a great time and the State of Texas will have some hardware to bring the Barrington Farm one step closer to completion.

Directions to Washington on the Brazos State Park

Washington on the Brazos State Park is located in the town of Washington, TX a mile or two south of highway 105 between Navasota and Brenham. From Houston take 290 west. Highway 290 joins with highway 6. Stay on highway 6 all the way to Navasota. Exit highway 6 at 105 west. Take 105 through Navasota about 6 miles. Turn South a mile or so after crossing the Brazos river. There are plenty of signs directing you from 105 to the park.

From 290 west to Benham, do not continue on 290 around Brenham towards Houston. Continue straight ahead. Highway 290 straight ahead becomes West Main through downtown Brenham. On the East Side of Brenham, West Main intersects with Embrey Street, which is 105 East. Turn left on Embrey and continue east on 105 about 15 miles. Look for the signs along 105 to the park. Turn right from 105 and come to the park.

When you enter the park, stay to the right when the road forks. That road will take you to the south side of the museum. You will be able to see the Barrington Farm on the right side of the road. Turn down the first road to park your vehicle at the farm's vehicle parking area. Then follow the path to the farm itself. If you need to offload your equipment, watch for a sign. You may need to go to the next road to the right.

The left fork in the road as you come in will take you to the visitor's center. If you have not seen the visitor center, that might be a good first stop.)

AUGUST 21, HABA MEETING

The August HABA meeting will be held at the new C&S Forge in Dobbin, TX. Charles and Sharon Heathcock report the new forge construction is progressing well. The roof is on and the walls are going up. It will be ready for the August meeting.

Ed Cotton from Huntington, TX is expected to be the featured demonstrator. The focus of this meeting will be on the basics of smithing. Ed will start with the fire and progress from there. Ed is a really good demonstrator. Even those of us who think we know a thing or two will pick-up or at least be reminded of things we know we could do better.

Directions to C&S Forge.

From the North side of Houston, go North on interstate 45 to Conroe. At Conroe go West on state highway 105 about 20 miles. You will go by beautiful Lake Conroe and the town of Montgomery. (Montgomery is loaded with small shops.) About five miles West of Montgomery you will come to the town of Dobbin. There is not much to see in Dobbin while passing through on 105 so you need to pay attention about now.

There will be a caution light. Slow down and continue through the caution light on 105 because you will be making a left hand turn. Continue up the hill past the caution light to Mount Miriah Road. Turn left on Mount Miriah and go south. The C&S Forge will be at the second drive on your left. You will not be able to miss it. Sharon will have signs out, the dogs will be barking and there will be a lot of other cars trying to get into the driveway!

From the West Side of Houston, go Northwest on state highway 249 through Tomball, Decker Prairie and Pinehurst. This should all sound familiar because it is the way to Tudor Forge. When 249 ends at Pinehurst, continue Northwest past the turn to Tudor forge on FM 1774 all the way to Magnolia. FM 1774 will "T" into FM 1488 in downtown Magnolia. Go right at the 'T' across the tracks and turn immediately to the left and continue Northwest on 1774.

Continue Northwest on 1774 two miles or so to the first road on the right, FM1486. Turn right on FM 1486 and go North about twelve miles to 105. Turn left on 105 and go towards the top of the hill. Make a left turn on Mount Miriah Road. The C&S Forge will be at the second drive on your left

COMING EVENTS 1999

July 17 and 18, 1999 - Celebrate Smithing In Texas!- Celebrate Smithing In Texas! is a weekend of smithing at the Barrington Living History Farm at Washington on the Brazos State Park. This will be a gathering of smiths to create hardware for the Barrington Farm now under construction. July 17 is also a Media Day at the farm to show and demonstrate to the print and electronic media that the art and craft of blacksmithing is alive and well in Texas. For more information contact Dave Koenig, 281-588-2869

September 11-12 - **HAMMERFEST '99** – This annual event is sponsored by the North Texas Blacksmith's Association. It takes place at the Sid Richardson Scout Ranch, Bridgeport, Texas. The 11th annual conference will feature Michael J. Saari from Woodstock, CT. For more information including a conference brochure with registration form, contact Registrar, Verl Underwood, 613 N. Bailey, Ft. Worth Texas, 76107-1005. (817) 626-5909. Email vaunder@aol.com.

September 27, - **Texian Days** – Fanthorp Inn State Park is celebrating its 12th annual **Texian Days**. This is a day for families to take a ride on a real stagecoach, walk through a Texas army camp and see many craftspersons in action. If you have an interest in demonstrating smithing, call Jo Frances Greenlaw, Park Superintendent, at 409-873-2633.

October 1, 2 and 3, - **The Oldenberg Blacksmiths** – Blacksmiths around Texas and the U. S. will have an opportunity to sell their wares on a five-acre plot of ground near Oldenberg, TX. This selling opportunity is serendipitous and will take place in conjunction with the Round Top Antique Show. This annual event brings about 200,000 buyers and as many as 1,000 sellers to the Round Top, TX area two times per year.

For more information about this developing event call Frank Walters, 713-896-7566 or Larry Hoff, 281-890-8822.

October 2 and 3, - **Banging on the Bayou – 6**. The Louisiana Metalsmiths' Association sponsors this event. The meeting location is Bogue Falaya Park in Covington, LA. The demonstrators will be Bob Bergman and Jim Hrisoul. Bob Bergman will be demonstrating his KA-75 Air Hammer. Those of you who had to miss the February HABA meeting can see Bob's demo in Covington. Jim Hrisoul, a world-renowned master blade smith, will share some of his secrets.

OTHER SMITHING MEETINGS

1. The East Texas Blacksmith Alliance meets the second Saturday of each month at the Heritage Village Museum in Woodville, TX. The Museum is on the north side of highway 190 on the West Side of Woodville. You cannot miss it. For more information, call 409-283-2272.
2. The Balcones Forge, a sub-chapter of the Texas Artists Blacksmith Association, meets in the Austin/San Antonio area the last Saturday of the month. Call Gary Evensen, 512-266-2430, for more information.

3. The North Texas Blacksmiths Association meets monthly. Contact Dave Planz, 972-335-9097, or docjvp@aol.com for more information about the next meeting location. You can also visit the NTBA Web Site: <http://www.flash.net/~dwwilson/ntba/>.
4. The Louisiana Metalsmiths' Association (LAMA) meets monthly. Contact Dave Mudge at 504-735-0049 or lama@wild.net for more information about the next meeting location. You can also visit the LAMA Web Site: <http://www.wild.net/~lama/>.

FOR SALE

Frank Walters has bees wax for sale. The cost per pound is \$3.25. It will be sold on a first come first served basis. Frank's number is 713-896-7566.

THE FINE PRINT

The use any of the material in the *HABA Letter* is at your own risk. All persons associated with this material disclaim any responsibility or liability for damages or injuries resulting from the use or application of this information. They assume no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, fitness, proper design, safety or safe use of any information presented here.