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To: HABA Distribution List

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

INTRODUCTION

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A NOTE FROM THE PREZ

There are a couple of important notices you need to mark on your calendar.

NOTE: There will be no HABA Meeting on October 16.

There are several reasons for not having a meeting on October 16. One, the Prez realized at the last minute that his shop would not be available for the October HABA Meeting. Two, another meeting location could not be identified on short notice. Three, the group would have two opportunities to get together between the September meeting and the third weekend of October. Four, someone proposed at the September meeting that the next scheduled meeting should be the November meeting at the Tomball Museum. Well, even the Prez could figure out in short order that he could make that work, so there will not be an October meeting.

NOTE: The November 20 HABA meeting will be at the Tomball Museum.

The Tomball Museum is a new meeting location for HABA. This meeting is going to be special. Here are a couple of reasons: Many of you will have an opportunity to see a very unique museum for the first time. The setting of our meeting will be among two of the oldest buildings of the museum, a log house and a log barn. We will be served a lite lunch. There is even some talk about having the Mayor of Tomball paying us a visit and maybe some live music. It does not take much imagination to imagine we will most likely have a large number of museum members and weekend visitors stop by too.

Now here is a real meeting change. If you plan to come, would you please RSVP. Jean Alexander, the Executive Director, would like to get some idea of the number of HABA members who plan to attend.

Please give me a call or send an e-mail if you plan on attending.

If you have a forge you are invited to bring it. When you RSVP, please let me know if you will bring a forge and what you plan to make.

I would like to give Mrs. Alexander an idea of how many forges we may have and what you plan to demonstrate. This information will be used to inform museum members about the event.

I just found out that getting to the museum will be a bit of a problem. The Tomball main street will be closed in the morning for a big parade. That means we will need to take West Huffsmith Road and Hicks street to get to the museum. See the map and other information under the NOVEMBER MEETING section.

NOTE: Dorothy Stiegler of California will be demonstrating in Texas January 29 and 30, 2000.

The location and details of her demonstration are forthcoming. TABA is sponsoring this workshop so I imagine it will be held in the Austin/San Antonio area. Dorothy is a great demonstrator! There is a bio of Dorothy in the STIEGLER DEMONSTRATION section below.

Texian Days at Fanthorp Inn

Sharon and Charles Heathcock, Larry Hoff, Frank Walters and Dave Koenig set up forges at Fanthorp Inn on September 25. Larry Newbern set up a forge in downtown Anderson and Dean Arnold demonstrated woodworking at Fanthorp. For some reason not many people made it to Fanthorp this year. The blacksmiths, Texas Army and Stage Coach pretty much had the Inn to themselves...outside that is.

The day started off with some rain and threatening clouds. Weather is probably the main culprit accounting for the low turnout. In spite of the few visitors, the forges were lit and the anvils rang. I guess that is an example of the magic of the fire and the anvil. Good things happen even if only one person shows-up.

Oldenburg Blacksmiths

October 1, 2 and 3 saw a number of smiths occupying the roadside of highway 237 in downtown Oldenburg. Kenny and Susan Hall invited the smiths of Texas to their five acre tract to attract customers and to sell their wares.

Frank Walters, Larry and Cindy Hoff, Larry Newbern, Harvey and Helen Wise, Dave Koenig, Lee Oates, Tom Lundquist, David Wilson, Emery Richardson, Jerry Achterburg, and "Stretch" Richard Pavlasek all showed up with something to sell. Rick Dawdy, Ruth Carter, Byrom Wehner, Gary Evensen, John and Carolyn Crouchet and probably a couple other smiths who I cannot recall, stopped by to check things out and wish us well.

The response of the public to our being in Oldenburg was surprising. People came to talk blacksmithing more than ever before. About 20 people wanted specific information about smithing organizations and equipment availability. One of the reasons for this HABA Letter content is to provide these people with the information they requested.

From a contact point of view Oldenburg, was a real 'glory hole' of interested people.

Sales were good enough to bring people back next April.

Making new contacts, answering questions and selling a few things are only part of what went into making Oldenburg a great weekend. Our hosts Kenny and Susan Hall went out of their way to make our stay about as easy as anyone could imagine. Water, electricity and space were there for the using. All of us chipped-in with a few bucks and a few pieces of iron to say thank you for the facilities and food they made available to us.

A very Special Thanks needs to go to Frank Walters and Cindy and Larry Hoff for putting Oldenburg together. A lot of work went into making signs and making sure the word got out to the right people. Cindy and Larry Hoff cooked two big briskets that provided dinner Saturday night and lunch Sunday. The prize for creature comforts, however, goes to Frank for his hot and cold running shower in the middle of all this activity.

For those of you who think Oldenburg sounds like something you would like to do, mark the first weekend of

April on your calendar. The smiths of Texas have an invitation to experience Oldenburg all over again in the spring for Hammer Fest III.

HABA Bylaws

Progress was made on the latest version of the HABA Bylaws. I would like to think the most recent bylaws will be out for review before the November meeting.

HABA Incorporation.

Unless I receive some specific information to the contrary, HABA will be incorporated as a non-member non-profit Texas corporation. The reason for a non-member corporation is ease of operation. If anyone out there knows anything about the pros and cons of member vs. non-member non-profit Texas corporations, I would sure like to hear from you. This is the time to speak-up!

NOVEMBER HABA MEETING

The next HABA meeting will take place at the Tomball Museum in Tomball, TX on November 20, 1999. Things will get underway about 9:00. The museum is located at the end of North Pine Street about four blocks north of West Main Street.

HABA's November meeting will be very special. We are invited to have our monthly meeting and to demonstrate. If you wish to demonstrate, please bring a forge. If you plan to attend the November meeting please let me know that you are coming. The museum is planning a lite lunch and would like to get some kind of head count. My phone number and e-mail address are at the beginning of this letter.

The sooner you can let me know you are planning to come to the November meeting, the easier it will be for everyone.

DIRECTIONS TO THE TOMBALL MUSEUM

The main street of Tomball will be closed to traffic on November 20 because a big parade.

The easiest way to get to the museum will be from highway 249. Turn East from 249 onto West Huffsmith Road. At the intersection of Cody Drive and West Huffsmith Road, continue straight ahead on Hicks Street. Note: West Huffsmith Road, Cody Drive and Hicks Street all come together at the same intersection.

Continue on Hicks Street until it 'T's' into North Pine. Turn left on North Pine. North Pine ends in the Tomball

Museum parking lot.

See the attached map of Tomball, TX. The route from highway 249 to the museum is highlighted.

RESOURCES

KEEPING BUSINESS RECORDS, MARKETING YOUR WARES AND LEGAL CONCERNS

by Chuck Hamsa

Part 4 of 5

(Revised, May of 1999)

Metal fabrication can incur heavy costs for plant and equipment and labor. The goal of a fabricator is to produce ornamental ironwork at a profit. There are a few titles this writer would like to bring to your attention. This is coming from a volunteer blacksmith who does not receive his main income from the blacksmith trade. A number of blacksmiths are highly successful at making a good income. Others, it appears they are pulling money out of one pocket and putting it in another. Therefore, this listing is primarily for the blacksmith and artisan who for one reason or another would like to see their sales at least pay for their expenses.

Duboff, Leonard D. BUSINESS FORMS AND CONTRACTS (IN PLAIN ENGLISH) FOR CRAFTSPEOPLE.

Loveland, CO: Interweave Press (201 East 4th Street, 80537), 1993. Paperbound. ISBN Number 0-934026-83-1. \$14.95.

THE LAW (IN PLAIN ENGLISH) FOR CRAFTSPEOPLE.

Loveland, CO: Interweave Press, 1993. Paperback. 0-934026-82-3. \$12.95.

Both volumes written in simple language, present a number of things to help any dealer, artisan or craftsperson understand and make use of both business forms and contracts. There are also many pointers designed to keep people out of bad leases for equipment, property and legal harm's way.

Fisk, Jerry. HANDBOOK OF MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION FOR THE KNIFEMAKER.
(Lockesburg, AR), The Author (Rt 1, Box 41, 71846), 1992. Paperbound. 29 Pp. \$5.50 delivered.

Anyone involved in the production of arts and crafts could make use of this title. Covering everything from

accurately pricing one's work to allow for a profit through advertising and essentials of record keeping, Fisk addresses these issues in a clear writing style. This Master Smith wants to tell others how to avoid the pitfalls encountered on the way to effectively managing any size blade making shop.

Malby, Dave. HOW TO MARKET YOUR CRAFTS TO RETAIL STORES: A COMPLETE GUIDE FROM PRODUCT EVALUATION TO PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION.

Newcastle, CA:TPS Publications (8725 Ridge Rd., 95658, Email tpssoft@psyber.com), 1995 (c1994).

Paperbound. 122 Pp. \$17.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling.

Malby's premise in HOW TO MARKET YOUR CRAFTS TO RETAIL STORES. is that if an artisan has to compete with cheaper imports, then the artisan needs to look at other ways to produce a cost competitive product. He devised a system to identify cheaper sources for supplies and raw materials. In addition to offering a good deal of commonsense advice and a variety of business forms, he uses the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes to identify businesses.

Malby also provides a computer-access service called PROFESSIONAL CRAFTER'S SUPPLY DIRECTORY. For a modest monthly fee an artisan has access to over 1,200 wholesale outlets in 100 hundred categories to find the cheapest prices for supplies and raw material.

MORE RESOURCES

Sources for coal and coke:

C&M Horse Shoe Sales, Conroe, TX,

They are located on the SE side of loop 336.

800-392-7002

409-756-5477

Alvin Farrier Supply

Route 5

Box 261

Alvin, TX 77511

800-936-3636

281-331-3636

GrayStar(tm) Products a division of Benergy Inc. has "L" brand ForgeCoke(tm) available at Walton Terminals in Houston.

The size is 1"x 1/4" and is packed in 2,000 lb. bulk sacks.

The price for a 2000 lb. bulk sack is \$260 at Walton Terminals. Payment made in advance of pickup to:

Ed Avolio

DBA GrayStar(tm) Products

5178 Kneale Bldg.

Cleveland, OH 44124.

800-441-0616

Email benergy@idt.net

Source for Steel:

Triple-S Steel Supply Company

6000 Jensen Drive

Houston, TX

800-231-1034

713-697-7105

Sources for Equipment:

Laurel Machine & Foundry Co.

Box 1049

810 Front Street

Laurel, MS 39440

601-428-0541

Pinehurst Trade Center

34519 FM 249 /Box303

Pinehurst, TX 77362

281-356-4500

Centaur Forge Ltd.

117 North Spring Street / Box 340

Burlington, WI 53105-0340

Phone: 800-666-9175

414-763-9175

Kayne & Son Custom Hardware

100 Daniel Ridge Rd.

Chandler, NC 28715-9434

828-667-8868

828-665-1988

For Firepot and Smithing Primer

Randy McDaniel

Wk. 610-374-0776 - X 3020

Hm 610-670-9620

Sources for Books

Centaur Forge. Ltd.

Norm Larson Books

5426 E. Hwy 246

Lompoc, CA 93436

805-735-2095

Martin J. Donnelly Antique Tools

Box 281

Bath, NY 14810-0281

800-869-0695

607-776-9322

mjd@mjdtools.com

SkipJack Press

800-247-6553

www.bookmasters.com/skipjack

Craft Schools

Touchstone Center for Crafts

1049 Warton Furnace Road

Farmington, PA 15437

800-721-0177

724-329-1370

Penland School of Crafts

Box 37

Penland, NC 28765-0037

704-765-2359

John C. Campbell Folk School

One Folk School Road

Brasstown, NC 28902-9603

1800-FOLK- SCH

www.grove.net/~jccfs

Haystack Mountain School of Crafts

Box 518AR

Deer Isle, ME 04627

207-348-2306

Peters Valley Craft Center

19 Kuhn Road

Layton, NJ 07851

201-948-5200

STIEGLER DEMONSTRATION

The Texas Artist Blacksmith's Association will host a two-day workshop featuring Dorothy Stiegler.

Mark your calendars for January 29 and 30, 2000. Dorothy Stiegler will demonstrate all kinds of things. The location of the workshop and more particulars about the workshop will be coming. The Austin/San Antonio area will host the event.

This is a demonstration you want to be sure to get on your schedule. Start making plans early. Bury some money in the back yard so you won't spend it all on Christmas. Think about carpooling. Get excited!

Following is a biography on Dorothy for those of you who may be hearing about her for the first time.

Dorothy Stiegler

"I plugged into what I was meant to do."

In 1973 Dorothy Stiegler prayed for something she could do that would show others that God exists and helps in our lives. Her life soon took a new direction when she went to farrier school to learn how to shoe horses.

In 1975 she accepted an opportunity to study with the great Frank Turley, a master blacksmith and teacher, in New Mexico. She discovered she had gift for ironwork. After 6 weeks of training in New Mexico, she returned home to a job offer to teach a night class in forged iron at the local community college. The class ran for 17 years and earned her a college teaching certificate. Thus began her career as a blacksmith.

From early projects like creating a novel design for a hinge and latch to shoeing the horses for a bicentennial wagon train, she moved on to more artistic pursuits. These took the form of organic pieces incorporating leaves and flowers. Each piece is individually inspired and created, and retains an artistic integrity all its own. Her work won her recognition as being the first woman artist blacksmith in the United States. She gives much of the credit for her skills to the Northwest Blacksmiths Association of Washington State, NWBA, and to the many smiths who crossed her path and were willing to share their knowledge with her.

Over the years she studied with iron masters in the U.S. and abroad and taught at numerous conferences and workshops. Learning and teaching overlap for Dorothy. As teacher and student she shares knowledge and visions in a dynamic process. She received many teaching and design awards within and outside the U.S too. She recently received the Alex Bealer award, the most distinguished honor awarded to blacksmiths in America. (The Alex Bealer award is an annual award of the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, ABANA.)

She joined ABANA in 1975 and later became its president. She is a current Board member of ABANA and serves as Secretary. Dorothy is also a Board member of California Blacksmith Association.

Dorothy got into smithing at the start of the smithing renaissance in America. She considers herself privileged to be in on the ground floor.

"I get behind the anvil and hammer iron. I suspect if I am at all lucky, I will die that way"

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 For more information, call 409-283-2272.
1. The Balcones Forge, a sub-chapter of the Texas Artists Blacksmith's Association, meets in the Austin/San Antonio area the last Saturday of the month. Call Gary Evensen, 512-266-2430, for more information.
1. 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/>.

1. 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/>.

THE FINE PRINT

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