

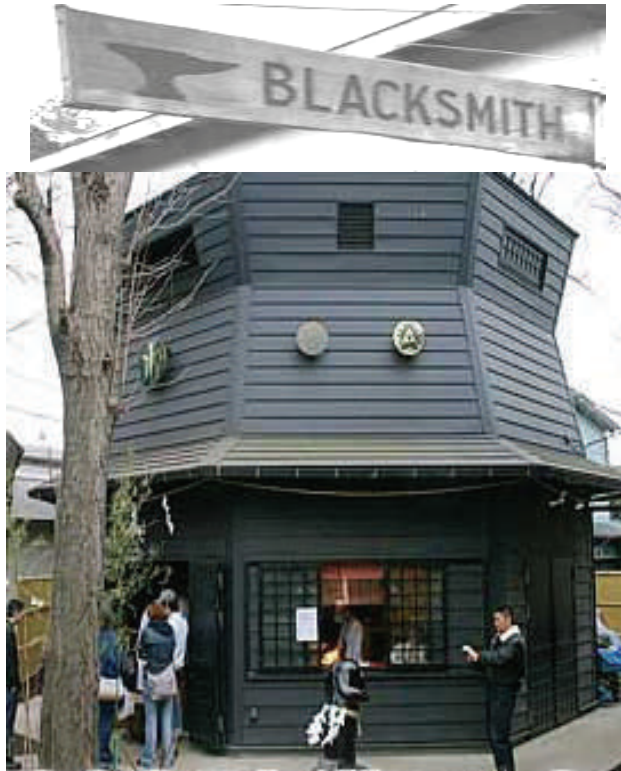


FORGE

Dedicated to the revival of the "King of Crafts"

Vancouver Island Blacksmiths

www.viliblacksmiths.com



Kanayama Shrine

Kanayama Shrine is dedicated to a pair of gods named Kanayama Hikonokami and Kanayama Himenokami. According to legend, when the main Shinto god named Izanami gave birth to the God of Fire, her lower abdomen got burned. These two Kanayama gods helped to heal her birth wound. Thus, these two gods came to be known as the gods of childbirth and healing of the lower abdomen. They later came to be worshipped as fertility gods, protector of sexually-transmitted diseases (AIDS, etc.), and successful marriage. They are also the gods of the bellows; so blacksmiths, who use bellows to fan the forge fire, also worship this shrine.

Kanayama Shrine is a small shrine within the grounds of the larger Wakamiya Hachimangu Shrine. The Kanayama Shrine was completely rebuilt and reborn in 1999 into a completely unorthodox building seen in the above photo. Modeled after a blacksmith's workshop, it is now a black, eight-sided building with steel paneling.

COMING EVENTS

- June 28 2009..... Meeting at Luxton
- July 11, 12 2009.....Langford Summer festival
- Aug 8,9 2009.....Coombs Fair
- Aug 7,8 9, 2009CanIRON VI Ness Creek Sask
- Aug 21,22,23 ..Vancouver Island Exhibition (Nanaimo)
- Aug 22 2009Cobble Hill Fair
- Sept 5,6,7 2009 Saanich Fair
- Sept 18,19,20 2009Luxton Fall Fair

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2008 - Executive

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Submissions & Contributions

Submissions to "Forge" can be made at any monthly meeting or by snail mail to:

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President's Report

By: Ray Orchard



I must apologise to all . After exhorting everyone to turn out to help ready the grounds for the rodeo, and to demonstrate on the three days in May, I didn't make it myself. There was a leak problem, but I understand all went well and the rodeo was a success, helping the M.F.I. in its time of need.

Adrian Mulholland's demo was appreciated by the many who attended. Our thanks to our founder.

Also, thanks to Charlie. L. for scraping the outside of the smithy, those who worked after the demo putting the undercoat on...and to those who applied the top coat. While not finished at the time of this writing, I'm sure you will be amazed and delighted at the new look.

WE haven't discussed an annual picnic this year but will do so at the meeting on the 28th. Bring your ideas. See you then.

100th COBBLE HILL FALL FAIR

This is the year that the Cobble Hill Fall Fair celebrates its 100th anniversary and VIBA will be there too! The fair date is Aug 29, 2009. I'm hoping to have some extra goodies for display. If you have any ideas please contact me! Space is limited, so larger is not always better. Some people may not know this, but the fair has a Blacksmiths section in the fair's Arts and Crafts Contest.

The Categories are:

- 1) Pair of Blacksmith Tongs
- 2) Item made from a single horseshoe
- 3) Hand forged Knife
- 4) Item made from a single railway spike
- 5) Any forged Item

Entry forms HAVE to be filled in Before August. If you are interested in entering the contest, or want to submit goodies for display, please let me know! You can phone me 250-884-4913 or email me rdp.metalhead@gmail.com

Thanx!
Raynier

Secretary's Report

By: Charlie Low



Viba May 31 '09

The meeting was a quickie, as it came in the middle of Adrian's demo. The minutes were accepted. As published in last month's newsletter. New business: Skip will have some books for the library at next month's meeting. Raynier told us that this is the Cobble Hill Fair's 100th anniversary, and that we should plan to get things to be judged at the fair. Categories include tongs, hammer, knife, anything made from a railway spike, anything made from a horseshoe, and anything else.

New members present were Stuart McGillis, Blaine Snider, and Greg and Jeff Flato.

We then adjourned and went back to the demonstration.

Demonstration of woodworking tools By Adrian Mulholland

Adrian was the person who originally started our club. He told us about the earliest days, of getting names of other blacksmiths, how they originally met in a church, then at the forest museum at Duncan, then at the Island Artifacts club, and finally starting our own premises.

He had laid out several carved items, such as a canoe, a bowl and a mask, and a large selection of his woodcarving tools. He spent some time introducing us to them, telling us what they were for, how they were used, how they were made, and why they were made in the specific sizes and shapes that we saw. There were adzes, gouges, chisels, an axe, crooked knives and others. He discussed ferrules, and the various ways they could be made, either flaring them on the horn of the anvil, or tapering them down in a v-block.

He discussed the commercial sources for woodcarving tools, and pointed out the costs to buy them at retail, which made it pretty obvious why a person would want to make his own tools. He went into the types of steel that could be used in some detail. Water quenched mild steel was mentioned as something that could be used for quick and dirty tools that would only be wanted for a short time. Grader blade material had merit, but was generally a bit soft for long use. Band saw and cross-cut saws are excellent steel, and the big old cross-cut saws in particular were custom made to make crooked knives. He simply cuts them up, one tooth at a time, and just barely touches them up in the fire. Kestrel Tools makes crooked knives from 1095 steel, and sells them for about \$40.00 each. Finally, spring steel, either coil or flat springs make excellent tools.

He went into the history of wood carving, such as the change from drying burls the old, slow way, to the current technique of putting them in the microwave, and the change in materials from jade adzes on the coast or copper tools in Egypt to wrought iron to modern steels, and the change in forging styles from coal and bellows to propane. He mentioned that the crooked knife is a descendant of the lower teeth of beavers which were the original implements used for carving.

He told us about a rather mysterious form of adze he had a couple of examples of, the Sitka gutter adze. The edge is mostly fairly close to straight, but the sides were turned up. This is so that the adze takes out a complete chip, cutting it off at the edges, as well as cutting underneath it.

He mentioned the “Holmes constant”. This is the ideal angle from the end of the fingers where the hand holds the adze handle to the edge, though he did not actually tell us what that angle should be. However, merely knowing that such a thing exists makes it possible to find out what it is in today’s wired world.

He demonstrated how his adzes would work cutting up a chunk of wood.

He discussed making crooked knives. He anneals the formed blade, then starts to sharpen them with a belt grinder, angle grinder, and file, leaving them not quite sharp. He then quenches them in oil, which cannot be either too cold or too hot, and finally tempers them in the oven. He mentioned that the oil should be removed with soap and water before putting them in the oven, to avoid domestic friction. He recommends that the tempering should be to a softer state, rather than harder. The tools will require sharpening more frequently, but won’t break.

He likes copper for his ferrules, but often uses plain old chunks of steel pipe. Alternatively, he will put on a whipping of braided nylon fishline, especially attaching adze blades. With adze blades, a temporary mounting is often necessary to check that the angles are correct. Hose clamps can be used here, or if the inspection is just visual, electricians tape.

He discussed sharpening tools. To work properly, a tool should be razor-sharp. The bevel for crooked knives is on top, for adzes, mostly on the upper surface. He will put a fairly low angle cut to start with, getting the general shape of the bevel established, then will fine-sharpen to a slightly steeper angle, and finally hone the edge to an even steeper angle. This gives a stronger, longer lasting edge than making the low-angle bevel run right out to the edge. He recommends diamond hones as saving a lot of time and effort, especially with the harder steels. .

We then went inside, and he showed us some of the techniques, starting with putting a taper on a piece of pipe in the right-angle v-groove of a swage block. He then straightened out a piece of small (about 3/16 inch) diameter coil spring, heating the coil, putting it over a mandrel in a vise, and pulling it straight. He drew a taper on the end of the piece, cut off about 2 inches, hammered the fat end into a crooked knife, tapering it lengthwise, and then hammering down the sides of the blade so it looked like half a dagger- flat on the bottom, with a central ridge on the top, and put a curve in the blade over the horn of the anvil. He started to make an adze blade from a piece of flat spring, and showed us in general how it would go. He mentioned that for sharpening, especially inside curves, a piece of 2x2 with the corners gently rounded could have 4 different grits of sandpaper glued to it to make a universal sharpener for very little outlay of either time or money.

He discussed making a living at crafts, and pointed out that very few blacksmiths make a living wage. His current money maker is engraving silver objects, and he showed us a bracelet he is working on. We were pretty impressed.

We had pizza for lunch, and then put a coat of primer on the shop while Ben and Neil disassembled the power hammer and fixed it up. The power hammer work took up most of the day. Ben, Jacques, Willy, Charlie D, Keith and I all helped with the reassembly, and they were still hard at it when I left.

Chas



Discussing the finer points of each different carving tool and how they differ in function....to help create the perfect carving



Forging a slick (a large chisel looking tool used like a wood plane) from a truck leaf spring





Various carving knives and chisels Adrian has made over time

Demonstrating the proper technique using an adz





Some demonstration carvings including two bowls and a mask



Charlie Low powerwashed and prepped the clubhouse so we could apply the primer coat of paint. It was a mix of several colors that turned out a purplish mud color. The finish coat will be applied as weather permits over the next week. Please thank Charlie for his contribution of time and effort.

Show and Tell

Photos by D Gillett



Gate for the Mini-train roundhouse at the Saanich Artefacts site made by Frank Clayton



Hanging door bell by Steve Hansl

Free !!

Coal forge with electric blower and hood. It was an industrial propane forge that I converted to coal, using a John Little type tuyere.

ALSO about 1.5 yards coal.

Call Earl Rogak @ 250 656 4138

ABANA Conference News
Site set for Memphis AgriCenter International
June 2009 - Vol. 1 Issue 1

The ABANA 2010 conference will be at the AgriCenter International in Memphis, Tennessee. Located at 7777 Walnut Grove Road, from I-240, on the east side of Memphis, take Exit 13 and drive east on Walnut Grove Road approximately 4.2 miles to Farm Road and turn south, go .1 mile.

Opening ceremonies will be on Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Thursday through Saturday will be full days of forging demo's and excitement ABANA style. Saturday will conclude with a pay as you go Memphis BBQ banquet and the conference auction.

The theme of the conference is to be "ABANA's Greatest Hits" in keeping with Memphis' musical heritage. The ticket price will turn the clock back at least 8 years... The site www.agricenter.org is within a few miles of thousands of reasonably priced hotel rooms. Camping and RV hook-ups will be available on site. Stay tuned for additional announcements.

Log on to the ABANA website and sign-up for our Constant Contact emails, find the box at the very bottom of the home page, enter your email address and click on "Get ABANA Email". You will receive periodic ABANA 2010 Conference announcements.

Gallery Open to Public
"Green-Coal" Forges
Memphis Style Banquet
Top Demonstrators
Tailgate Heaven
Vendors for the Craft
Lectures Et Workshops

"We will preserve a meaningful bond with the past. We will serve the needs of the present, and we will forge a bridge to the future. Function and creativity is our purpose. Our task is great and so is our joy."

Dimitri Gerakaris, 1973



AgriCenter
International

Memphis
Tennessee

June 2-5 2010

Lance Davis, Co-Chair for the 2010 Conference said, "We are excited to be putting on the ABANA 2010 Conference at AgriCenter International because the site has ample room to spread out the demonstration areas, it has a great area for the "Tailgaters", supports a large attendance, has hot showers for campers and RV hook-ups, plus the great on-site parking arrangements.

Most of all, by hosting the conference on the grounds of AgriCenter we support our members by making the conference less expensive to attend. We are planning a conference focused on blacksmithing education while not forgetting the many groups that come together to be ABANA."

The Conference will open on Wednesday, June 2 and close on Saturday, June 5 with the Auction. See you in Memphis!

**Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association
Membership Application**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov./State: _____

Post/Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Fax: (____) _____

Are you a: New Member Renewal

Regular Membership \$30.00 Annually

Contributory Member \$100.00 Annually

Members are required to sign a Liability Waiver
Make cheques or money orders payable to:

**Vancouver Island Blacksmith Assoc. (VIBA)
1040 Marwood Avenue
Victoria, BC CANADA
V9C 3C4**

**Artist Blacksmiths Assoc. of North America
Membership Application**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov.: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Fax: (____) _____

Full Time Student.....\$35./year

Regular Membership.....\$45./year

Senior Citizen (age 65+).....\$40./year

Overseas Surface Mail.....\$60./year

Oversea Air Mail.....\$80./year

Contributory Membership.....\$100./year

Public Library Subscription.....\$35./year

Credit Card Payment

Card No. _____

Visa Mastercard

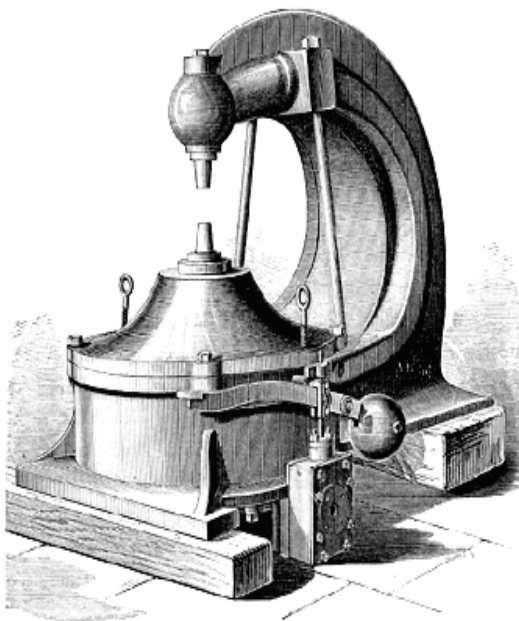
Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

by Phone: 703-680-1632

Mail: ABANA, 15754 Widewater Dr
Dumfries, VA, USA, 22025-1212

Email: abana@abana.org



Steam Riveting Machine: Photo, Jones & Co., Wilmington, Del.

In the strictest sense, the riveter is not a blacksmith. The rivet itself may have been hand forged by a blacksmith or power hammer forged by an industrial blacksmith. Once made though, the rivet was used by the riveter to assemble the parts of buildings, bridges, machinery, ships, &c.

In the manufacturing plants of America, power hammers were used to rivet smaller assemblies and sub-assemblies together.

The image to the left shows a steam riveting machine which would be used in a factory. There a pre-measured beam for a building or a bridge could have been made with holes for rivets that would punched out and a then plate riveted to one end. When the beam arrived on the job site, the beam would be joined to another beam by being riveted, either by sledge hammers (in the early days) or later by pneumatic riveting guns. The large riveting machines were way too cumbersome to be portable.

Today, welding has take the place of many riveting jobs.