

# Rocky Forge News

Volume 10, Issue 8 – September 2011

John Haley, our friend and member of both the Rocky Forge Blacksmith group and the Illiana Antique Power Association was killed in a recent tractor accident near his home in Oxford; IN. John was 50 years old. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

He was always there to help, always asking, “What can I do to help?”. Those who knew John realized he was a kind hearted hulk of an individual who could out lift any one of us.

He was just beginning to hone his blacksmithing skills this summer as he took a large step and volunteered to blacksmith on his own at the Tippecanoe Steam and Power show at the Amphitheater.

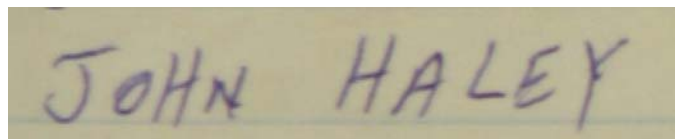
During one of his construction job layoffs, John had helped me build the stone steps from the back entrance to our home to the lower deck. The stones weigh in at around 300 pounds. I could never have done it without his help. He was a pleasure to work around. Unfortunately, the walk, steps and rail were just completed and John never saw the finished product.

John loved to cook and at the last Illiana meeting he brought a casserole that he was very proud of. His wife Becky had told him to cut back on the garlic, as those people will not want as much as he did. The casserole was very good and only a small portion remained. He offered the remains to Carol and she told him he should take it home for his lunch the next day, so he did.

At the Illiana meetings John was usually standing near the rear of the room as it was crowded at most meetings. Remember the man with the beard, a big smile and always had on a red or white tee shirt? That was Big John.

John was laid to rest on August 27<sup>th</sup>, with the Rocky Forge’s newly ordained minister, Jim Keith, performing the service. One of our IBA miniature anvils carefully placed in the coffin with him. Burial was August 29<sup>th</sup> near Marion, Indiana.

The next meeting of the Rocky Forge group will be at Ted’s shop on September 10, starting with coffee and doughnuts at 8:30. Lunch will be blank, blank and blank, so bring something to go with it! (This ought to be good.) Be sure to bring items for iron in the hat, your own blacksmithing tools and some coal. We will forge hot metal, tell stories about John and enjoy the day; you never know when it will be your last! Ted



**1961-2011**



**John the Anvil Mover**

I don’t remember how many times John would pick up an anvil and ask “Where do you want this?” Always helpful, always smiling. I would be forging something and suddenly there was John turning the crank on the blower. Thanks John. I will miss you.

Dominick



		
<p>Painting little black anvils.</p>	<p>The dirty day of the line shaft!</p>	<p>Forging at Independence.</p>
		
<p>Helping out.</p>	<p>Forging at the Show Grounds.</p>	<p>Helping out again!</p>
		
<p>Sticking out his tongue.</p>	<p>Jim Keith ministered at John's wake.</p>	<p>Sticking out his tongue again!</p>

## Dates to Remember

September 10, 2011: Rocky Forge meeting.  
Sept. 24-25, 2011: Feast of the Hunter's Moon.  
Sept. 23-25, 2011: SOFA QuadState Conference.  
 September 30 - October 1: Gaither Family Resources Fall Festival, Alexandria, IN.  
 October 8, 2011: Rocky Forge meeting.  
July 13-15, 2012: Illiana Power Show  
July 18-21, 2012: ABANA Conf., Central States Fairgrounds, Rapid City, South Dakota, "Reunion on the Great Plains".

## Contacts

**Forgemaster:** Ted Stout ([stout8525@tds.net](mailto:stout8525@tds.net), 765-572-2467 home).  
**Newsletter Editor:** Dominick Andrisani ([andrisan@purdue.edu](mailto:andrisan@purdue.edu), 765-463-4975 home). **Web Site:** <http://www.rockyforge.org/> (previous newsletters can be found here)