

Rocky Forge News

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Next Rocky Meeting: 2/13/16

Get ready! Get excited! We have another Rocky Forge meeting scheduled for February 13th. This may be the 13th, but it is our lucky day, Melvin Lytton will be demonstrating *again* and while he is demonstrating he will have legs of lamb cooking on his portable roaster. How much better could it get? For those of you who do not care for lamb, Carol will be cooking a ham. To make this a fair deal each of us will have to donate to the purchase of the lamb and each of us should provide a nice covered dish to go along with this gourmet meal.

Melvin is an excellent demonstrator and always gives so much good history during his time spent at the forge and anvil. We really appreciate his effort and are very fortunate to have him as one of our members. If you have not experienced Melvin's demos then you have been missing out. Be sure to thank him for his time and dedication to educating us blacksmiths. You're never too old to learn!

We have had some good Iron-In-The-Hat drawings lately and need to keep up the good work. The funds from that drawing has built a building and made additions to it. We still have a ways to go and I am confident we will end up with a building and work area that will be the envy of many blacksmithing groups and provide our membership with a very nice shop. We must keep the vision going and continue to expand upon that vision.

On a sad note we lost one of our founding members, Charley Terril passed away January 10th at age 87. Although, due to health issues, Charley was unable to attend our meetings for a few years, he will be remembered as a real gentlemen and educator. He taught shop classes for years and was respected by all. Several of our members were students of his during their high school days. Our late condolence to the family, and we will commemorate Charley by adding his name to our "Silent Anvil" placard that is displayed at the annual Illiana Antique Power Show. We will also plant a tree on the show grounds near the blacksmith building with a stainless steel placard bearing his name, birth and

death date. He will not be forgotten.

For those of you who ordered the angle iron from a special deal, it will be here on the meeting date. Be sure to bring funds to cover your order. Cash is preferred, but checks will be accepted.

On Monday February 15th the Illiana Antique Power group will be meeting at the Stout's at 6:30. At that meeting we always have a pitch in dinner so if you come bring a covered dish and expect to eat well. It would be good to see some of the Rocky Forge members at Illiana meetings. Ted Stout

The Wisdom of Melvin Lytton

Compiled by Dominick Andrisani

"To determine anvil height, bring your favorite hammer down on anvil. Adjust the anvil height so the hammer hits flat with comfortable arm and wrist motion."

"The hammer handle is important. A longer and thinner handle is better so there is some flexing."

"Use heavy blows when metal is hottest. Use lighter finishing blows on colder metal."

"Use the reins of the tongs as a spring fuller. Then make a replacement set of tongs."

"Work wrought iron so hot it is almost giving off sparks, i.e., white hot!"

"When necessary, use belly fat to hold the metal!"

"Most things happen on the edge of the anvil."

"To get power from your hammer, stand back, grip the hammer near the end of the handle with your thumb to the side of the handle and your butt back."

"Surface smoothing occurs on the anvil side of the work piece."

"When hammering, hit the same spot on the anvil - move the work!"

"If you need more metal, push it out from the center of the work piece."

"Showing hammer marks is a modern concept. In the old days they wanted everything to look perfect."

"The horn of the anvil always belongs on your hammer hand side. That way it's easier to work on the horn of the anvil and your hammer hand tends to stay away from any tool in the hardy hole."

Melvin Lytton demonstrates making a double cusp Suffolk latch



Melvin Lytton demonstrates.



Near the start. First cusp made.



Finished Suffolk latch.



Melvin thanked by Ted for his contributions to Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild with a Carol-made blanket.



Dominick smiles when awarded for his contributions. The blanket's soft and warm and just right for winter.

Thoughts for Valentine's Day

You melt my heart like a reducing fire.
 You take the cake. I take the donuts.
 In our minds, our forge weld binds.
 Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs. ~William Shakespeare
 Who, being loved, is poor? ~Oscar Wilde
 Grow old with me! The best is yet to be. ~Robert Browning
 I've fallen in love many times... always with you. ~Author Unknown
 For it was not into my ear you whispered, but into my heart. It was not my lips you kissed, but my soul. ~Judy Garland

Contacts

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Dates to Remember

February 20, 2016: IBA meeting at Kenny Dettmer's shop in Columbus, IN.
June 3-5, 2016: IBA Conference, Tipton, IN.
July 13-16, 2016: ABANA 2016 Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah
July 15-17, 2016: Illiana Antique Power Association Exhibition, Rainsville, IN.
September 23-25, 2016: SOFA Quad-state Conf., Troy, OH.
October 1-2, 2016: Feast of the Hunters' Moon, Fort Ouiatenon, West Lafayette, IN.