

# Rocky Forge News

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## Next Meeting, TBD

What's going on? Who do we believe, wear a mask or don't, have meetings or do not? These and many others are questions that run through our minds during this terrible time in our history. To play it safe, Carol and I are still social distancing, wearing a mask to the grocery store and basically staying home. Some Satellite groups of the IBA are still meeting even though President, Gary Phillips has recommended no meetings. We will assess each month's COVID-19 cases to determine when it will be safe to have a meeting. Hopefully, by September we can safely meet. The forge building group may try to meet sooner so we can have gas forges ready for insulation and refractory.

The Illiana group has filed for another grant this year in the amount of \$25,000 from the Tippecanoe Arts Federation. If the grant is issued, President Tom Swanson has assured me that most of it will be used to enclose the blacksmith shop. An estimate from an Amish building group has set the cost at about \$18,750. This would include the metal siding, trim, two 12' overhead doors, two 8' by 7' overhead doors, four 48" passage doors and four 3' by 4' windows. No electrical is included in the estimate. Let us hope the grant is issued. We have \$6711 in our treasury.

The gas forge parts are in my way and sure hope we can get back to working on them very soon. A group of 4-5 have the experience to do the metal work and welding. When they get them completed then we can add the insulation and refractory

Carol and I have been working diligently on sorting books from our huge collection. So far, we have burned 4-5 loads in the Polaris Ranger. At some point we hope to set up tables with a large selection of books and magazines with an assortment of subjects: blacksmithing, metalworking, machine shop work, tooling,

wood working, tin-smithing, historical, world war history, gardening, cookbooks, etc. If we get this done we would like to give our blacksmithing friends first chance at buying books and magazines

There will also be a free table

Well, that's all for now my friends. We hope all of you are doing well and would be glad to hear from you. Until next time....

Ted and Carol Stout

## Illiana News

The August meeting of the Illiana Antique Power Association has been cancelled. There will be no live History Day, but there will be a virtual History Day. Some blacksmiths will be filmed and added to the History Day virtual film to be shown at the schools. We will know more later.

## Coal Available

Marty Mears has 45-pound bags of coal available for \$18 a bag. To buy this coal call or text Marty at 765-201-2836.

## Dates to Remember

**July 17-20:** Illiana Show, cancelled.

**September 18-20:** SOFA Quad-state, Troy, Ohio, CANCELLED.

**Feast of the Hunters' Moon:** October 3-4, 2020, CANCELLED.

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