

ROCKY FORGE NEWS

Volume 3 Issue 2

February 2004

NEXT MEETING

Is it about over? I am getting cabin fever real bad. We need to have an outing. Lets all meet at TMF Industries, Williamsport, Indiana at 9:00, February 14. This should be a sweetheart of a trip through a heavy fabrication plant for Caterpillar parts. When we finish there we walk across the street to Acu Burn to see high pressure water and laser cutting of steel. After these tours we will drive to a new TMF plant 2 on the north side of Williamsport for a tour of another facility that makes a new patented caterpillar engine part. After these tours we can meet at Robies for lunch, that is in Attica. After lunch we meet at Delta Welding to see what Rex Otteham has for us. These tours should prove to be educational and the whole day ought to be a lot of fun. Hope to see all of you there at 9:00 Saturday February 14th, Valentines Day. See attached map. Head west out of Williamsport on 28 past the Case IH dealer, at the first site to cross the RR, which is parallel to 28, turn left and cross the tracks and go back east to the 3rd driveway. Turn left into TMF and go to the office.

LAST MEETING REPORT

The last meeting was held at Ted and Carol's on December 13th. This was an armchair blacksmithing session and a great meal. We had a good turnout with an excellent iron-in-the-hat that brought in \$53.

The January meeting was cancelled due to construction of Ted's shop.

ROCKY FORGE BLACKSMITH GUILD

has coal for sale at 15 cents per pound for members and 20 cents for non-members.

SHOP STATUS REPORT

Ted's shop is a work in progress. It was started so late in the year that it has been difficult to get all the work completed.

For those of you who have been here since the last outside meeting in September numerous trees were removed and tons and tons of dirt moved to make way the building. The ravine behind the old shop was filled.

Construction is currently at a standstill. The new building exterior is nearly complete. It lacks roofing on the north side, a few sheets of metal on the west end and the overhead door.

The old building has all the old siding removed and the strips nailed on for new siding.

It has just been to cold and snowy for the crew to get much done.

After building contractors leave then the interior will be dry walled, lights and heat installed.

After all that my job begins for setting up shop. It will be several months before I can do much work in this building.

JOB WANTED

Retired husband looking for work, for his wife. She cooks, cleans, sews, cares for young children and has a limited knowledge of blacksmithing. Husband needs money to pay for a new shop.

BLACKSMITHING TIPS

If you need to straighten a twist clamp the hot twist in the vise, loosen, rotate and clamp it again, keep repeating this procedure until the twist is straight.

You can also use a wooden stump and a lead, wooden or leather hammer to effectively straighten a twist.

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Please remember Raymond and Irene Evans and their family in your thoughts and prayers as Raymond begins his battle against bone cancer. Raymond is the blacksmith who had the bellows forge at the show and who made several signs by burning letters onto pieces of slabwood. His grandson Terry, was in a foot brace for several months.

We wish Raymond the best during this battle and a speedy recovery. We look forward to seeing both Raymond and Terry at future meetings.

If you wish to send Raymond a card his address is:

Raymond Evans
25638 South Shake Rag Road

TEMPIL, BASIC GUIDE TO METALLURGY

Attached to your newsletter is a color chart and guide for metallurgy. The Tempil company was kind enough to mail these copies for us to each have one. I would suggest it be placed in a frame with glass, or in a plastic 3 ring binder sheet or laminated. You will find it very useful and something to constantly keep referring back to for understanding.

The key is useful for explaining the various stages a piece of steel goes through as it is heated.

Look at the temperature indicator sticks on the back side of the sheet. These sticks are useful to judge temperature ranges. I have a couple and they do indeed work well. When the temperature of the particular stick is reached the colored wax melts.

(Note: there will be a test on the phase diagram at the February meeting. Anyone getting all 100 questions correct wins a new color stick.)

WHEN WATERING THE FIRE be sure the air blast is running. This keeps air between the coal and tuyere. Otherwise the water may get on the cast iron tuyere and cause it to crack. When heating pipe in the forge, be sure to plug the other end or it will act as a chimney and bring toxic gas into the shop area.

IRON-IN-THE-HAT

Please bring iron-in-the-hat items for the February meeting. We will hold that event at Detla welding in the afternoon.

We may even ask for some items to be donated from TMF and Delta Welding.

This is our best source of revenue for the guild and it gives each of us a chance to share our excess salvage with other members.

Keep your eyes and ears open for opportunity to pick up "stuff" that can be shared with other blacksmiths in the guild.

BLACKSMITH BUILDING

We had a setback regarding the new building at Rainsville. It seems the landowner, to whom we owe our respect, does not want a large building to be in the woods. Our options now are to scale the building down to a smaller size or locate in the field. A smaller size located where we normally setup would serve our purpose during the steam shows, but would minimize our long term goal of hosting blacksmith conferences or of having much of a place for training.

Unless we start small or experience some financier to help by donations a smaller building would be more more in line with our current financial resources.

I still think we could raise a lot of funds by selling "ownership" to various parts of the building materials. People could carve their name into them or their children and grandchildren's names. You buy a post or a truss or a 2X10 and you have the right to carve names and dates.

The building committee consists of Jim Keith, Dick Fontaine, Russ Nield and Ted Stout.

Perhaps the best thing to do now is for that group to meet and sort through the issues to come up with a plan for discussion at a future meeting.

Dick has some ideas and has discussed the situation with the landowner so we may be able to build on his ideas.

If anyone else has any ideas to discuss please call one of the building committee members. (p.s. If anyone would like to donate \$25,000 toward a building fund, we will see to it your name gets on the building.)