

Rocky Forge News

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I have a large number of little things to cover. Hope this does not get too disjointed. These are all subjects for discussion DEC

Meetings

September

The Steam Show is over, Independence Festival is behind us, the State Fair is finished; now let's get down to some blacksmithing for us and not someone else. Meet at Ted's shop on September 9th, at 9:00 for open forge time. I have some new techniques to show you and you can practice or do whatever you want. I will set up 3-4 forges and if some of you bring yours we should have plenty. If the weather is bad we will work inside.

Bring iron-in-the-hat for a drawing. Remember, we should be proud of our drawings, many of the state iron-in-the-hat drawings do not hold a candle to ours. Let's keep it up the quality.

For lunch we will have hamburgers and bean soup, so bring something to go with that meal. A lawn chair might be good after lunch. I am looking forward to seeing all of you for a good day of forging.

Ted

State Fair

Our showing at the State Fair Pioneer Village was a success. We have been asked if we are coming back next year. All of the demonstrators that I have talked to enjoyed the event and several have asked to be on the list to demonstrate next year. There were a few surprises and several things that it would have been nice to know. Next year we will know.

Some things went better than others. A little story that Ray Seese told me is a good example of the good. Charlie Helton demonstrated making horseshoes on the last Wednesday of the Fair, I missed it. There was a crowd watching. In the crowd was a father and his about 4 year old son. The little boy looked up at his father, apparently a farrier,

and said "you can do that". The father looked down a whispered "Hush, that is Charlie Helton and I can't." At least some of the audience was impressed.

Illiana Showground

I was involved in a discussion at Skinner's event this year with a couple of members of the Illiana club. I heard several things that I had not known. The most interesting was that when the Club's building was built that it was designed to have a building for Rocky Forge attached later. There also seems to be some resistance to having a building in the middle of the trees.

Horseshoes

While working at Billie Creek Village the subject of souvenir horseshoes has come up. My neighbor lady has even said that whenever he goes to a show with a blacksmith that she gets a little horseshoe. Billie Creek has sold several different forms of souvenir horseshoes and every former Billie Creek Smith that I have spoken with has hated the things. Several have quit over having to deal with the little horseshoes. Currently none are being sold, but the management would like to see sales resume. I would like to find some form of horse shoe that would make management, smiths and tourists all happy. If anyone has an idea as to how this could happen please submit the suggestion.

IBA expansion

With the price of gas and the hectic level of activity in everyone's life attendance of meetings is dropping. Even Rocky Forge has several members that formerly made most meeting that now say that it is too far, cost too much gas, and they just do not have the time. The IBA currently only has five satellite groups spread over the state and several potential member smiths say that all of the groups are just too far away from them. The IBA would like

to establish more groups to achieve a better coverage of Indiana.

I have been asked by management about establishing a satellite group at Billie Creek Village. They are looking for any not inappropriate event to increase attendance and have had problems having smiths to man their shop. Both Rocky Forge and Wabash Valley have members that seldom make it to meetings, including me, much closer to Billie Creek than to their meeting places. I do not know how much interest there is but would like to see.