

The FLORIDA

# CLINKER BREAKER

FLORIDA CHAPTER — ABANA



Established May 18, 1985

January 1986

**JANUARY MEETING:** We're starting off the New Year with a new monthly meeting day - the SECOND SATURDAY - JANUARY 11, 1986. Our host for this first meeting is Ted Crom at his home near Melrose, east of Gainesville. Ted is an ABANA member and his main interest is Horology. He has a fine shop and museum section of clock and watch making tools we'll be able to see. We're invited to come early and stay all day. There is plenty of space and you're welcome to camp overnight. There aren't any restaurants nearby so be sure to BRING YOUR LUNCH. See the map for directions.

**LAST MEETING:** Our November meeting at Alva Hebert's shop in Orange Park was very enjoyable---except for the absence of most of our Panhandle members, including President Willard. The latest hurricane in 50 years caused a lot of damage in the Tallahassee area and kept them close to the homestead cleaning up.

There were about 25 at Alva's to see his shop, to see the demonstrator and to enjoy the fine lunch provided by Alva and his folks. Alva had his treadle hammer working. It's the ABANA plan style and Alva got it finished just in time. It's a well-built machine that delivers a powerful blow. It'll be even better when Alva completes a base to keep it steady. Alva's shop is roomy with a dirt floor, cypress slab siding and translucent fiberglass roof. He has a nice steel plate forge with heavy cast iron tuyre and side draw stack. His blower is a Champion electric with variac speed control. His main anvil is a big one and he has many other tools including post drill and 2 leg vises. Steve Schwarzer, master blacksmith from Palatka, demonstrated his work. First he showed a good video tape narrated by himself. Then he went to the forge and showed in person his skill in laying up & welding the Damascus billets. He explained the blade shaping, finishing and handle making phases and showed some of his finished work - truly works of art by a skilled and articulate demonstrator. Thanks to Steve for a good show and tell.

Steve makes Damascus welding look so easy that Doug Rochon and David Willard joined in and tried it --- worked for them too.

After this fine lunch and our business meeting, Jerry Grice demonstrated leaf making, various twists and made a poker he donated to the drawing. Thanks Jerry.

**MINUTES: NOVEMBER 23, 1985, Orange Park, FL-Alva Hebert**

The meeting was called to order by Walt Anderson. Discussion on meeting dates. All response received shows the 2nd Saturday of each month as being the best for the majority of members. After a motion was made, and 2nd, it was decided that the 1986 meetings will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Tyce Grice would still like for the sheets to be filled out and mailed to her!

Walt noted that newsletter has a new look and new name.

Due to the hurricane, a lot of the Tallahassee area members could not attend including our President, Willard Smith.

A discussion was held regarding where to hold our future meetings. They were tentatively set for: January, Ted Crom, near Gainesville; February, near Gainesville; March, Walt Anderson, near Ocala; April, Jerry Grice, Tallahassee.

We need volunteer hosts. Please contact Willard Smith if you would like to participate.

Discussion was held regarding our newsletter pricing. If we have an 8 page newsletter we are looking at 52¢ per copy. This will help us decide on our 1986 dues. On each name address, there is a month and year. This will be the joining date for each member. Dues are payable on the month that you joined.

After no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tyce Grice, Secretary

Buck in Bucket \$26.00

Total membership as of 11/23/85 - 71.

Bill Dietzel-Fire Poker donated by Jerry Grice; David Willard-Hammer donated by Walt Anderson; Doug Rochon-cold set donated by Doug Rochon; David Carlson-the Woodwright's Shop book donated by Alva Hebert.

We picked up some fine new members during the day such as Harley Waters of Sparr, John Hodge of Palatka and David Willard of Jacksonville (& others I may have missed. WELCOME TO ALL!

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** We sure need early volunteers to host meetings this year-May through December. Let Willard Know if you can do it!

**A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT WILLARD:** My fellow blacksmiths, we have come a long way since May when we organized. This has only been possible because of your interest, your time and your help in making it a successful 1985. We, as the officers you have elected, will continue to strive to make this organization, with your help and support, educational, fun, clean and something to be glad to be a member of. We need to hear what you think you would like to see demonstrated-where and by whom.

Again we have come to a joyous time of the year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. From all of us we and your family much joy, love and happiness to come your way this day. May you pass these on to every person you come in contact with this New Year. May you prosper in knowledge, wisdom and wealth with the time and good health to enjoy them all. May God bless you all. --- Willard.

SCHOOL PLANS: We talked about the idea of asking Fred Caylor to conduct a week-long blacksmithing school in Florida this winter. Five of our members at Alva's meeting said they were interested. We're talking about 8-10 hour days for a week with Fred, who is a school operator and ABANA board member, as chief instructor. Tentative location would be Walt Anderson's place near Ocala during the first week in March. Then our March meeting could be there on the 8th and we could show our membership what happened. There's plenty of room for camping and we could probably get together for group meals with everyone pitching in. We'd need to round up enough blacksmithing equipment to provide a station for each student. Cost of "schooling" might be as much as \$100 for the week to cover teaching expenses. Think about participating and let an officer know of your interest. We'll talk about it at our January 11th meeting and try to get organized in January and ready in February.

#### TIPS & TECHNIQUES

How's this for a demonstration: At the California Blacksmith Ass'n Octoberfest '85, Jay Kidwell, having put on a 1930ist double-breasted suit (complete with fedora and tie), after demonstrating various types of forge welds, wired together some odds & ends (like a revolver, a few odd wrenches, hacksaw blades, bottle opener, piece of chain, piece of wrought iron, files and other assorted items) and proceeded to forge weld them together into a billet subsequently turned into a Damascus-pattern knife blade with pieces of the individual items for the handle. Sort of like a patch-work, memory quilt (from Southern Ohio Forge & Anvil Newsletter).

QUOTE FROM FRANK TURLEY - "Machinists work to tolerances, blacksmiths work to snug." (From the newsletter of the Upper Mid-West Blacksmith's Ass'n).

-Why buy expensive quenching oil when all you have to do is go to a heavy equipment company and ask them to save you their hydraulic oil? This is often changed whether it needs to be or not, and the oil is light and clean. I have never heard of any company charging a blacksmith for this oil (From the newsletter of the Appalachian Area Chapter-ABANA).

-When hot punching hammer eyes, be sure to add a piece of fresh coal to the hole when it is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. Fresh coal not only provides gas to keep the punch from sticking, but also creates a thin layer of carbon which insulates the punch from the hot metal. As each blow is struck, using the punch handle for leverage, wiggle the punch in the hole so as to be sure it is not about to be stuck. When the punch can no longer be wiggled ever so little, immediately turn the steel over, with the punch underneath, and strike a hard blow or two with the hot steel on the anvil edge. Such a blow has the tendency to open the hole a little and allow the punch to come free. When the hole is punched  $\frac{2}{3}$ ds to  $\frac{3}{4}$ th of the way through, turn the steel and start the hole from the other side. Punch only about  $\frac{1}{16}$ " deep, then turn the steel on its side. Hold the punch in the newly started hole and from the side, see if the two sides are aligned. There seems to be an almost automatic tendency to hold the punch for the second half of the operation towards oneself, which results in a crooked eye. By using this technique it is easy to correct an error. Any deeper than  $\frac{1}{16}$ " will be difficult to correct, as the punch will follow an incorrectly started hole. All this must be done in far less time than it takes to either read or write this. Quick, strong, decisive blows are the answer. As my old mentor, John Catlin, used to say, "Nobody never got nowhere pettin' iron". (By Francis Whitaker from the newsletter of the California Blacksmith Ass'n).

-Since much smithing is done with steel which has been salvaged, it is not always easy to know if what you have is mild steel or high carbon steel. The ability to produce tempering colors is not a reliable guide as even mild steel will produce them with no effect on the metal itself. Heat will not harden mild steel so a sure check is to go through the motions of hardening, by heating to redness and quenching. Then try to file the steel. If the file slides over the surface without cutting, it is tool steel. If it can be filed, you have mild steel. Since the hardened tool steel will blunt the file, an alternative is to grind the end of the file across so that it makes a cutter and try to scrape the steel. If it will not produce a scratch on the heat treated steel, you have dealing with tool steel (high carbon steel). It should easily make a mark on wrought iron or mild steel after it has been heated and quenched. (By Percy W. Blandford in "The Practical Handbook of Blacksmithing and Metalworking").

-The book Samuel Yellin in Context (9  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 6  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", paperback, 35 pages, 17 B&W photos, \$5.00 postpaid) is available from Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 East Kearsley St., Flint, MI 48503.

MEMBERSHIP INFO: All members are reminded to complete their membership information questionnaire and give it to Secretary Tycee Grice. She wants to get a membership directory out to us early this year, so do it!! "THERE'S NOTHING TO IT BUT TO DO IT!"

#### JANUARY ADS

CHAIN: Doug Rochon still has wrought iron chain. Links span about 6", are 1.5" in diameter and straighten out to 21", weigh about 8 lbs. \$400.00 per ton or \$1.75 per link. Doug Rochon, P.O.B. 3232, Ocala, FL 32678 (904) 591-2290

POWER HAMMERS: Beaudry #9, 300 lb,  $\frac{3}{4}$ " motor-\$7,500. "Justice" by Williams & White, 100 lb with motor-\$4,500. Ray guarantees good condition to buyers satisfaction. Ray Nager, 5712 W. Sligh Ave., Tampa, FL 33614.

ANVIL: Wilkeyson 188 pounder made at Dudley, England-Old English weight marking is 1 2 20 which means 1 hundredweight (112 lbs) plus 2 quarter hundredweights (28+28) and 20 remainder pounds-total 188. It's an oldie, goldie in good shape and Jerry Grice wants to talk price with some of your wealthy collectors. Jerry Grice, P.O.B. 5914, Tallahassee, FL 32314.

FORGE: Buffalo, 18" portable, steel with electric blower. Factor made, in new condition. Only one fire to see if it worked and it did-\$75. Jerry Grice, P.O.B. 5914, Tallahassee, FL 32314.

COAL: Ray Nager will sell members good Tennessee smithing coal-you load and haul, \$15 per hundred or \$200 per ton. Ray Nager, 5712 W. Sligh Ave., Tampa, FL 33614.

MOTORS: Jimmy Tucker knows where there are about 10-2 HP, 1/2" motors (1750 RPM-he thinks), 220V-\$175 ea.-new. Jimmy Tucker, 7706 Midnight Pass Rd., Sarasota, FL 33581.