



# SOFA SOUNDS

**SOFA**  
SOUTHERN OHIO FORGE & ANVIL

November 1983

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Emmert Studebaker

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## EVENTS & NOTES

3 December 1983

SOFA meeting, followed by a demonstration of horseshoe making by Bob Zeller, 2:00 p.m. at the Studebaker Homestead

7 January 1984

SOFA meeting, followed by a forge welding demonstration by Richard Franklin, 2:00 p.m. at the Studebaker Homestead

## QUAD-STATE ROUNDUP

The sixth annual Quad-State Blacksmith Round-Up on 10 and 11 September 83, sponsored by Emmert and Jane Studebaker at the Studebaker Frontier Homestead, was an outstanding success. Some of the finest blacksmith artists in the United States put on demonstrations with three different demonstrations in operation concurrently. The attendance at the round-up was approximately 180.

The following artists demonstrated:

Jack Brubaker, President of ABANA, a 1966 graduate in Fine Arts from Syracuse University, A Fine Arts degree in 1968 from Indiana University. Jack and his wife, Susan, operate Brubaker & Showalter Forge on their farm. He has taught blacksmithing locally in Nashville, Ind. and nationally, is one of our best demonstrators in practical blacksmithing. A member of ABANA since its beginning.

Dimitri Gerakaris, North Canaan, New Hampshire. Dimitri focused on how he recently went about making the Eagle Square Gateway, which includes a 40 X 26 foot forged steel tree, for New Hampshire's Capitol. The presentation included numerous slides of the actual forging of this work and how a lone individual can work on a large scale. He put together a forged piece consisting of a gnome standing among the trees.

**Creative & Friendly**

Tom Joyce, Santa Fe, New Mexico, young (26) and highly creative in sculpturing in iron. One of the finest of the young demonstrators in the west. He has earned an enviable reputation for making reproductions of the Spanish period furniture for museums, periods of the 14th and 15th centuries and colonial 1850. He demonstrated small items such as door hardware, floral motifs and stems as well as a grotesque face on the end of a 2" diameter rod.

Vada Beetler, Columbus, Ohio, teacher at the Cultural Arts Center, Columbus. Works in platinum, gold, silver, nickle, titanium. Bachelor of Fine Arts from Ohio State. Has her shop in her backyard and designs and makes jewelry. She has had 63 exhibitions throughout the country, 4 one-man shows, work published in five books and other areas of recognition for her work. She demonstrated braiding and silver plating and had on display some outstanding jewelry made of titanium.

Joe Bonifas, Delphos, Ohio, is an art teacher in the Shawnee School System, Lima, Ohio and is owner-operator of Black Oak Forge Blacksmith Shop, Lima, Ohio. He received a BS in Art Education from Bowling Green University in 1975. In 1981 received an MA in Jewelry/Sculpture. He demonstrated gate construction.

Bruce Washington, Twinsburg, Ohio, a graduate engineer from Cleveland State University. For several years he was supervisor of engineering with a large manufacturing company. A blacksmith for 15 years, he demonstrated repousse methods. He admits to being a nice guy. We agree. He also won the anvil throwing contest.

Jim Tyson, Richfield, Ohio, says he is an industrial blacksmith by trade and at present is involved in the manufacturing of tongs and other tools for industry. He also does considerable ornamental work. He has worked on power hammers from 25 pounds up to 4000 pound steam hammers. He demonstrated forging on the 100 pound hammer.

Saturday evening following supper, Ron Thompson, one of our SOFA members demonstrated casting using the old method casting, using sand from a stream bed with just the right amount of clay and moisture. Using the cope and drag and parting sand, he fashioned a brass belt buckle which was given to Emmert the following morning. This was a very interesting display by Ron Thompson.

In addition to the demonstrations, entertainment was provided for the ladies who accompanied their husbands to the meet. Ann Keppel, a blind musician, conveyed how she communicates with the world. Following this program, Judy Studebaker had the ladies involved in a craft demonstration. The ladies also competed in rolling pin throwing and log sawing contests.

## LOST BOOK

Loaned, one year ago to an enthusiastic blacksmith, "The Edge of the Anvil", By Jack Andrews. This would-be blacksmith promised faithfully to return this book within one month. It is still missing. Please return it at once.

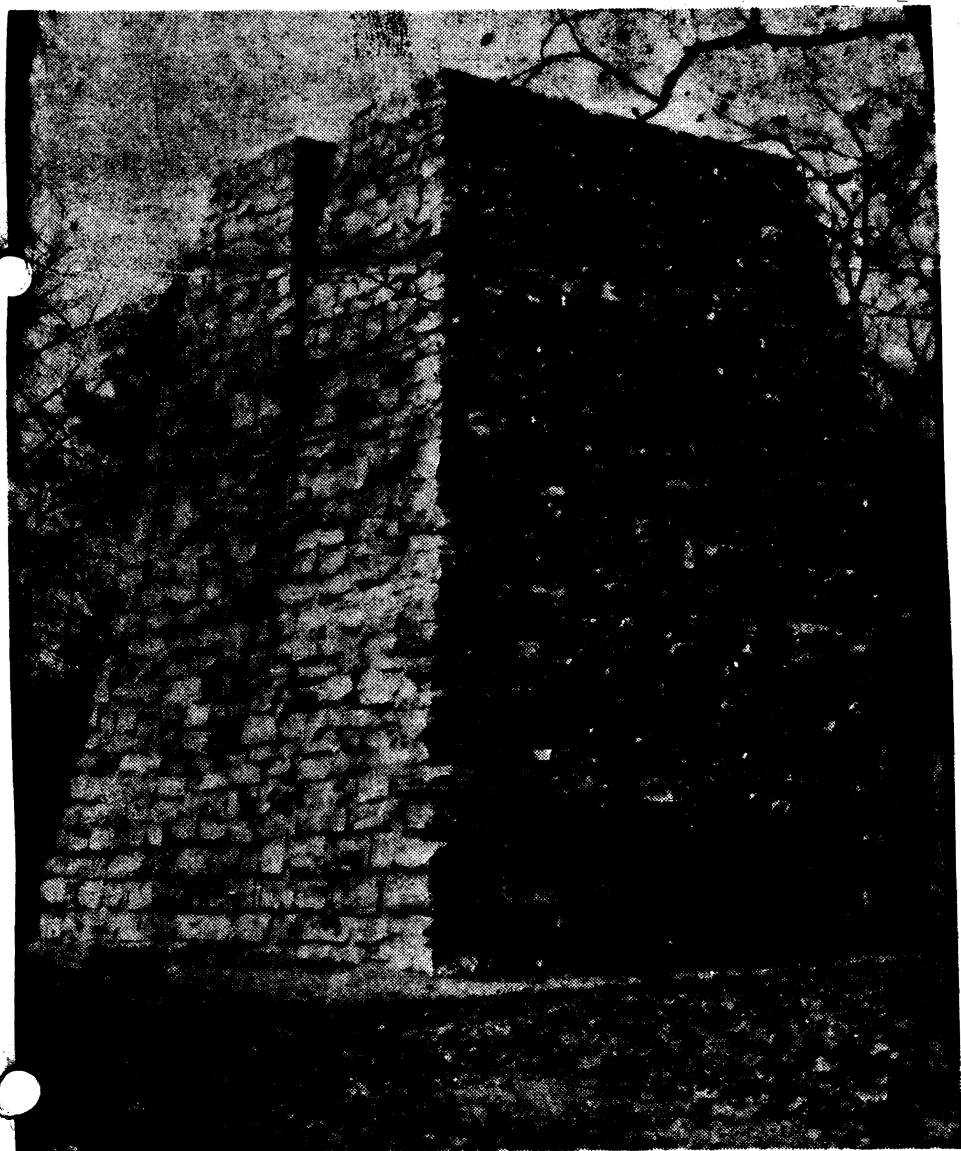
Emmert Studebaker

## FOR SALE

Stone Mountain coal. I have on hand about three (3) tons (only) of excellent blacksmith coal. I would like to move this out before cold weather. If you are going to need coal this winter, please get it now.

Emmert Studebaker  
6555 So. St. Rt. 202  
Tipp City, OH 45371  
667-4451  
223-3102

## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS PIG IRON



**IRON FURNACE**, a principal supply source during the Civil War, has been rebuilt as an Illinois historical site. It is located near Rosiclare, Ill.

When one sees the tall stacks of Granite City Steel and makes a comparison with the restored southern Illinois Iron Furnace, the technocracy of the years is easily seen. Yet before the turn of the century, the iron furnace was the ultimate in the production of pig iron.

Restored Illinois Furnace is located near Hog Thief Creek, about four miles north of Rosiclare, Ill. It can be reached by a good secondary road leading off of Illinois 146.

The original iron furnace was built in 1837 and for 37 years it was in continuous use. At capacity, the furnace produced an average of nine tons of pig iron daily. During the Civil War, it was a principal source of supply for iron used in the United States Navy Yards in Mound City, Ill. The pig iron was hauled via team and wagon from the furnace to the shipyards, 40 odd miles distant.

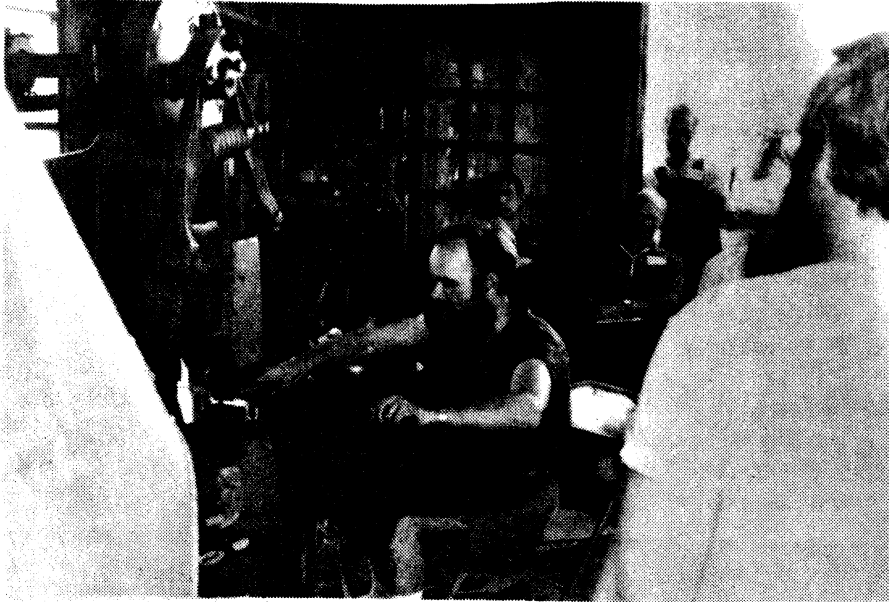
Even today, iron "pigs" are often found at an old ford on Hog Thief Creek and area residents say these were thrown overboard by teamsters when the load was too heavy to cross the creek. Of course they are collector items.

The last fires at the furnace were pulled in 1883, a century ago, and the blast equipment removed. After that, the furnace fell into decay. But now it has been rebuilt as a state historical site, marking the early iron making days in southern Illinois.

Iron ore to feed the furnace was obtained nearby, from mineral pockets in the hills. Known as limonite, it was about 50 percent metallic iron. Men dug the ore by hand with pick and shovel, loaded it into wagons and dumped it at the furnace. For this back-breaking chore they were paid \$1.75 per ton. A man with a strong physique, plus a team and wagon, could make as much as \$2 per day.

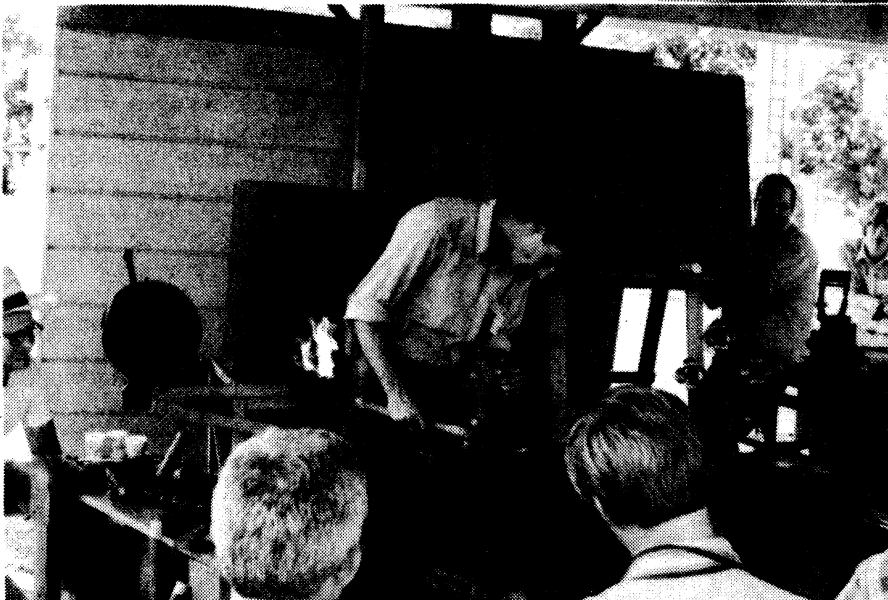
Another secondary force of men were used to make charcoal, at a site near the furnace. When the furnace operated at peak capacity, it used as much as 1,800 bushels of charcoal daily. Charcoal workers were paid a "liberal" four cents a bushel.

QUAD-STATE ROUND-UP



Jack Brubaker using the  
100 pound power hammer

Dimitri Gerakaris forging  
a gnome



Tom Joyce making a  
rosette

CHECK/MONEY ORDER MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR SOFA

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Practicing Smith      Artist      Teacher      Student

Amateur/Hobbyist      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FEE \$5.00 per year. Payable to Southern Ohio Forge & Anvil.

Mail to: Richard A. Franklin, SOFA Sec-Tres.  
7158 Kylemore Dr.  
Dayton, Ohio 45424

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in ABANA includes a subscription to the Anvil's Ring.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Practicing Smith      Artist      Teacher      Student      Amateur

Fulltime Student. . . . . \$15.00 per year  
Regular Member. . . . . \$25.00 per year  
Family Membership . . . . . \$30.00 per year  
Senior Citizen. . . . . \$20.00 per year  
Overseas Member . . . . . \$32.00 per year  
Contributory. . . . . \$50.00 per year  
Library Subscription. . . . . \$25.00 per year

Mail to: Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of N. America  
P.O. Box 1191  
Gainesville, Fla. 32602

CHECK MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION