
OVBA

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Blacksmiths Association
March 2006

In Memoriam

William H. (Bill) Brady



We lost a great friend and fellow blacksmith March 10. Bill quietly passed away with his family at his side last Friday evening. Bill will be sorely missed. He was a wealth of knowledge and shared so much with as many people as he could. He was a very caring and unselfish person.

Services will be Saturday, March 18 at 11:00am, First Presbyterian Church in Titusville. All OVBA members are welcome.

In April 2005, many of us were very fortunate to have taken a tour of the First Presbyterian Church of Titusville. At the time, John Spencer was not able to incorporate pictures in the newsletter, so we (John and Sue) thought it was a very fitting tribute to reprint the article with pictures.

Reprint from May 2005 Newsletter:

The morning portion of the meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Titusville. Our gracious host, Bill Brady, gave 22 OVBA members a tour. Bill showed us many spectacular pieces that he designed and crafted for the church.

We were also fortunate to have as escorts, Bill's wife, Kathy and their son Bill Jr., helping keep Bill Sr., in line and offering their insight, as Bill was very modest with his.



We started in the Sanctuary. Bill described the construction and texture of two beautiful sets of candelabras, which command the center of attention. Then we moved on to a pair of hand rails that transition between the main floor and the pulpit. The Presbyterian symbol he crafted is mounted in the center.



There is also an Advent candelabra used during the 5 weeks before Christmas. Also a bell tree, that holds hand bells, which can be played with mallets. Just looking at the stand, you can



imagine yourself listening to the melodious sounds.



Moving into the hallway stands an exquisite Celtic cross. Also in the hall is a cross, which is made of 1 ¼" square stock. Stellar craftsmanship. At the end of the hall is a rack that holds a set (14 or 16) of about 5' candle holders that fit into brackets mounted onto the sides of the pews, placed down the center aisle. (Thank goodness our church is smaller, Sue told me she wanted me to make something similar for our daughter's wedding.)



Moving into the main lobby, we saw the awe-inspiring plaque Bill made to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church (1802 to 2002). The center of attraction is the Apostles table. It is a magnificent table mounted to the church wall. The table is held up by the church and does not set on the floor. It has a glass top, which lets you see the spectacular hand craftsmanship of the table frame. There are 12 plaques on the wall, one made differently for each Apostle.



Each plaque symbolizes a unique characteristic about each Apostle. It was absolutely breathtaking and must be seen to really justify a description.



Right next to the Apostles table is another beautiful cross. Pictures will be at the May meeting.

Next we saw a table Bill made, which is used to mount old decorative stone recovered from the church during a remodeling. It is simple, yet very elegant.



Bill also showed us his entry into writing music. He made a door overhang of music clefs and notes. Kathy told us the name of the song, but I can't think of it now. His talents are also shown in a coat wrack with a fleur-de-lis design.

Not only is his artistry inside the church, but outside as well. The church sign hangs on a sign rack he made, as well as another unique and magnificent cross.

Bravo Bill, we applaud you!!!

End of Reprint

Next Meeting – March 25

March meeting schedule

9:00 – Coffee and Donuts and fires start

10:00 Meeting officially starts

12:00 Lunch

12:30 Iron In The Hat

1:00 More forging

February 2006 Meeting

Meeting began by OVBA President Leon Briggs at 12:00 p.m. Sixteen members were present.

Old Business

Treasurer's Report was approved with an approximate balance of \$800.00 in the bank. Cary Brant, our treasurer was not present, and John Spencer forgot the exact amount.

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New Business

Members decided to forge ahead with this year's tool theme:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Forges | Gas, coal or both |
| Anvils | Leon has examples |
| Tongs | Can be bought or made by power or hand hammer. Parts can be cut out and welded. PAABA has examples of cut and welded tongs. |
| Vices | |
| Other tools | Chisels, punches, pokers, shovels, etc. |

New Demonstrators

We have two demonstrators for 2006 so far. Earl Harper will demo again this year in August or September. Dennis Gilkey of PAABA will be coming up in April or May. Hopefully more on these dates at the March meeting.

Items for Gift Shop

We ask that you please make items for the Drake Well Gift Shop. Small items like nails, S-hooks, letter openers, etc., are best. If you can, please make something in your shop and bring to the March or April meeting.

New URL for PAABA

The new PAABA web site is *www.paaba.net*. Also if you need Western Reserve's web site, it is *www.wraba.com*.

Blacksmith Shop Status

Historical items are still being cataloged and moved. Progress is slow but steady. We will keep you posted.

Other News

Earl Harper has more parts for his treadle hammer and is planning on making it in March. Good luck Earl. We hope the club will build a treadle hammer next. Stay tuned.

We have tapes and DVDs. See Rick and/or Leon for the list. If anyone has any problems viewing the DVDs, please let John Spencer know.

2006 ABANA Conference

The 2006 ABANA Conference will be held July 5th thru 8th in Seattle, Washington. It is a fur piece away, but promises to be great. Go to *www.abana.org* for details.

The 2008 ABANA conference is scheduled to be held in New Paltz, NY. Dates unknown.

Knife Class

Bob Rupert was at Sue and John Spencer's March 4 and 5 and taught a knife class. Attendees were John Spencer, Leon Briggs, Wencil Smithco, Earl Harper, Cary Brant and Tom Roseski.

Bob is quite a slave driver, keeping all of us in the shop forever. It was a really great class. Thanks Bob. We started out practicing on mild steel and graduated to 1095 Saturday afternoon. Sunday we continued work on our knife. Bob covered all aspects of knife making including the handle. It was the best two day class I have attended.

Leon and a couple of other members will be making knives at the March meeting, showing off what they learned from Bob.

The Auction at John Moodys

Don't forget that Auctions will be held on selected dates this year. Our first Auction date is April 29th. This is also the meeting at John Moody's shop. John has graciously consented to let us meet there again this year. This meeting will start at 9:00am and run till noon. Then we will segue to Drake Well for lunch, IITH, Auction and some smithing.

Iron in the Hat

Please bring an Iron in the Hat item (or 2) for the March meeting. Iron In the Hat will be held at every meeting. The IITH is a great way for you to share some of your Blacksmith wealth with other

members. Go thru your shop and find some treasured piece(s) and bring it to the next meeting. Things to bring:

Files; metal; something you have made; tools; magazines; grinding wheels; brass brushes; and so on. Share the wealth.

Garden Club. Leon and Clark will contact them to see if they would like to participate in the Auction.

Glass group. Carl said they will be interested later in the year.

Other Projects

Another project this year will be the construction of wooden tanks at the entrance. The club will be involved with the construction and installation of the steel rings. Dates to be announced. Leon said the dates will be early summer.

Remember that Dan Weaver will be working on the Web site. We don't know if it will be a part of the Drake Well site. More info at the March meeting. Go to www.drakewell.org - Museum Store - Blacksmith Craft Shop. Not a lot there yet but Dan will be able to do wonders.

This concludes the business portion of the Feb 25, 2006 meeting. There was a motion and a second to adjourn. Approved unanimously.

Lunch was Chili by Darlene. It was really good and hit the spot on the rather brisk day.

Calendar of Events

JANUARY 28, 2006

ELECTION AND BUSINESS MEETING – DRAKE WELL, TITUSVILLE, PA
10:00AM TILL 2:00PM

FEBRUARY 25, 2006

REGULAR MEETING - DRAKE WELL, TITUSVILLE, PA

10:00AM TILL 2:00PM

MARCH 25 2006

REGULAR MEETING - DRAKE WELL, TITUSVILLE, PA.
10:00AM TO 2:00PM

APRIL 29, 2006

9:00AM OPEN SHOP AT JOHN MOODY'S
REGULAR MEETING - DRAKE WELL, TITUSVILLE, PA.
NOON TO 2:00PM

MAY 20, 2006

REGULAR MEETING - DRAKE WELL, TITUSVILLE, PA.
10:00 AM TO 2:00PM

JUNE 24, 2006

REGULAR MEETING - DRAKE WELL, TITUSVILLE, PA.
10:00 AM TO 2:00PM

JULY 29, 2006

REGULAR MEETING - DRAKE WELL, TITUSVILLE, PA.
10:00 AM TO 2:00PM

AUGUST ??, 2006

REGULAR MEETING - COLONEL DRAKE'S BIRTHDAY
DRAKE WELL, TITUSVILLE, PA.
10:00 AM TO 2:00PM

SEPTEMBER 16, 2006

REGULAR MEETING - PIONEER STEAM & GAS ENGINE SOCIETY
DRAKE WELL, TITUSVILLE, PA.
10:00 AM TO 2:00PM

OCTOBER 28, 2006

REGULAR MEETING - DRAKE WELL, TITUSVILLE, PA.
10:00 AM TO 2:00PM

Membership Update

Our membership runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31 of the calendar year. All memberships will be updated after the May 21st meeting.