



# PENNSIC

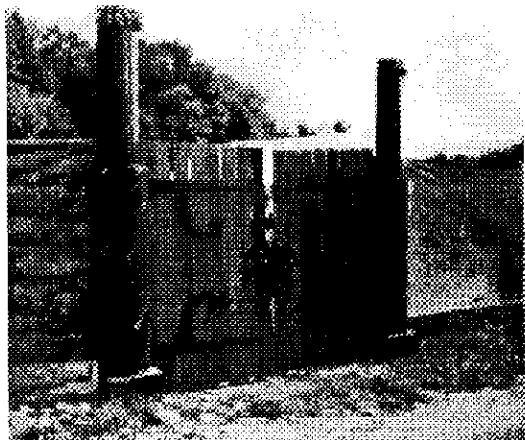
## The Debate goes on.

The Pennsic War once more awakened the old argument. Can the Society, as a medieval re-creation group be saved? Does it need to be saved? From what?

Sir Ropesle had a 25 percent theory. Only that many, he said, will ever graduate from the party-animal stage.

Sir Merowald, ever a contrary, praised the carnal freedoms that an event such as the Pennsic War affords.

We generally agreed that the Society is more grounded in popular movies than it is in historic scholarship, but, strangely, the realization didn't bother us. Movies make myths, just as we do. Build something beautiful,



A nice example of false iron hinges



A torch designed by Baron Master Geoffrey

... speak with eloquence, sing or dance, and you add to our common mythology.

Myself, I guess I'm an optimist. I can't say I'm pleased with the status quo of our group, but I anticipate an *evolution*, a natural passage from the carnal to the spiritual. I too remember those days of sleeping in a nylon tent, banging the slugs out of the frying pan in the morning, but such things pass . . .

Unfortunately, evolution won't come naturally. It needs to be pushed along. The architects and artisans who can entice us toward the "higher" values **must** take an active part.

Over the course of the five days I spent at the Pennsic War this year, I saw mud wrestling and beer ball parties, sure, but I also found the beautiful things. Some had to be heard, (others kissed!).

A few I was able to photograph.