



Folklorist, during which he showed us some ironwork done in his family, and explained some of the history of folklorists, and just what his job consists of. He is very interested in BAM, and would like copies of any newspaper articles on Missouri blacksmiths, plus a list of smiths willing to demonstrate their craft to the public. (If you send this information to me, I will be glad to forward it to Barry). People knowing any older people who are involved in any of the folkarts are urged to contact Barry so that he can arrange to interview them. If possible, he would like a local person to interview the craftsperson. He will send information on how to do this to you if you are interested.

After Dinner, we went to a show of some of the participants ironwork. I was personally impressed with the quality and diversity of the work. Obviously we have a great deal of talent in our state to draw upon and develop. Next we saw a fine slide show of contemporary blacksmiths' work, then an extraordinary film, *Fire and Fantasy*, the Work of Alfred Haberman, a Czechoslovakian blacksmith who is a true master of blacksmithing and an artist of extraordinary ability and energy. We were treated to a film of some of the kinetic sculptures of Grant Kenner, an Associate Professor of Art at Culver-Stockton. While Grant apologized about the quality of the film, the quality of his work has to be seen to be believed. While not blacksmithing, I heard nothing but the highest praise for his work, even by people who are mainly interested in the traditional aspects of blacksmithing, and who do not like some of the more modern movements in art. And his work is more fantastic in live viewing than on film. The conference then adjourned for the evening.

The Conference resumed with informal open forges followed by a Brunch and what was the most tedious part of the Conference: the business meeting and election of officers. Elected were: Bob Patrick, President, Don Asbee, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer, Steve Austin. (The addresses of the officers are listed on the first page of this newsletter. Bonnie Hendrickson moved that the name of the organization be BAM, the Blacksmith Association of Missouri, due to the sensual impact of the initials, and the name was adopted unanimously. It was adopted to write a Charter and By-Laws that agree with ABANA's, and to become a chapter of ABANA as soon as possible. (ABANA is the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America) It was decided to have Monthly Meetings in various areas of the state at members houses or shops to foster a spirit of kinship among the blacksmiths of Missouri and surrounding areas, and to spread skills and techniques. These will be a strictly informal affair, except in the case when a workshop is held in conjunction with the meeting. There was great interest in having workshops covering various subjects. For most of these we will rely on the considerable talent of smiths in BAM's Geographical area. There were a few other topics discussed, such as a logo and T-shirts. (More about this later in the newsletter).

There was some more informal forging, with a Damascus pattern welded blade welded up, and etched to show the pattern. This was done with the help of a striker, rather than under the trip hammer. The meeting gradually dispersed, and drifted to a tavern in downtown Canton.

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#### A SPECIAL THANKS

As President of BAM, and editor of this newsletter, I would like to thank a number of people who made the Conference and organization of BAM a reality. First, I would like to thank Joe Humble, President of the Appalachian Chapter of ABANA, whose encouragement and support led me to actually get this together and not give up. And in equal measure, and in fact, even more, I would like to thank Al Beck, Associate Professor of

at Culver-Stockton College, who was invaluable in arranging all of this, and who was instrumental in convincing me of the importance of involving the academic community and the existing Art and Craft structure. Due to Mr. Beck, we can give thanks to Culver-Stockton and their kind offer from it's President and it's Dean of Students to use their facilities again in the future. I also wish to thank all of the participants in the conference, and the members that we have already, whose interest and help has in reality created BAM. I would also like to thank ABANA, and it's founders for creating ABANA in the first place, and helping blacksmithing be a continuing craft, and raising its standards to such a high level.

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#### WHAT IS BAM, AND WHAT IS IT'S PURPOSE?

The Blacksmith Association of Missouri is primarily an organization devoted to the preservation and advancement of blacksmithing in Missouri, and in surrounding areas. It hopes to advance the skill of its members, and also to increase the interest of the public in supporting blacksmithing and in purchasing handforged ironwork and to be a meeting place for ideas to be exchanged. It will have workshops with respected metalsmiths from all over the country, and hopefully the world, to enable the smith in Missouri to gain knowlege from the best masters of Blacksmithing without having to travel to the ends of the Earth. This will take the work and help of all the members BAM can get, plus all the additional help BAM can find. The more all of you support BAM, the more will be accomplished. Hopefully, as we become a chapter of ABANA we can help it's goals Nationally.

#### BLACKSMITHING-TRADITIONAL AND MODERN

Although to some people blacksmithing is associated with horse--shoeing, strictly speaking blacksmithing is the hot-shaping of iron and steel under hand control. Even in ancient times the blacksmith often had to be able to work the metal cold and work with other metals and materials in order to satisfactorily finish the work at hand. In modern blacksmithing, some blacksmiths restrict themselves to certain ironworking techniques to the exclusion of modern techniques, such as arc welding and torch work, while others put no limitations on themselves. Smiths working in museums and restorations restrict themselves to historically known techniques. Due to a wide diversity of interests, BAM will try and take no sides, and will seek to be a teaching tool and a means of communication. This newsletter will try and follow these ideals

#### THE EDITOR

Some of you know me, and some do not. My name is Bob Patrick, and I became a professional blacksmith about 18 years ago when I started out as a restoration blacksmith at Hale Farm and Village in Bath, Ohio. I decided to learn the farriers trade and attended Midwest Farriers School in Xenia, Ohio. Due to interest at Kent State University due to a visit by Brent Kingston to their Art department, I taught a blacksmithing course there on an informal basis. I moved to the Ozarks in the middle 1970's where I set up a blacksmithing partnership with Gerald Brostek called Big Anvil Forge. Jerry went on to other work and I continued the business under that name, and in 1978 moved to my present location in Bethel, Missouri, where I now own a blacksmith shop which was founded in 1925. This is a very rural area, and my trade encompasses everything

from farm repair to restoration work to crazy art work. I have run a mail order blacksmithing business and a blacksmithing school. Unfortunately I have not written much of anything since my freshmen college year, and that is more years ago than I care to remember, so I beg your collective forgivenesses for errors in this newsletter. Hopefully it will go easier as time goes by. There is no pay connected with this, and as I also have to tend business on the small farm that I live on, time is a precious commodity to me. If you write me and wish a reply please include a stamped, self addressed envelope, and be patient.

UNLESS YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF BAM, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER

BAM has a very small budget. It comes from memberships and donations. If you wish to remain on the mailing list please join BAM. There is a form at the end of this newsletter for joining BAM. Any donations to our treasury will be appreciated and well used.

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THE COAL PROBLEM

While to many people coal is coal, blacksmithing, especially hammer welding or forge welding, requires coal with special properties. These are low sulfur, low ash, and the coal should be easily coked. The problem in this area is that there are no deposits in Missouri that I know of that fulfill these requirements. Appearance of the coal is not of importance. The coal can be very fine (slack coal), in large pieces (lump coal), or small, graded nuggets (stoker coal). It is the way that the coal behaves in the forge that is important. I presently am personally looking for a decent source of coal. Such coal is available in large quantities from other states, but the cost is prohibitive for small quantities to be shipped. Alternatives are group buying of a large shipment, or getting several coal yards in the state to carry decent blacksmith coal. Investment in an entire semi-load of coal might be around \$3000 or so. Very few individuals can afford to tie up that kind of money. This newsletter will carry information on where to buy good coal, if you the readers will send in sources. Please, only send in sources you know from personal experience are good for blacksmithing. By the way, I was informed by a coal company that UPS refuses to ship a sample of coal because it is flammable. They will, however, ship smokeless powder. Any of you that have tried to start green coal burning will appreciate the stupidity of this. I would not recommend importing coal without an experienced smith giving it a good trial. Everyone who sells coal will tell you that there coal is great. Try and get an analysis. It should be somewhat as follows:

Carbon (high)	55%-65%	
Moisture (low)	2.5%-3%	
Ash (low)	1%-2%	(Information from an article
Sulphur (low)	1%-2%	by the late Alex W. Sealer
Volatility (high)	30%-40%	May, 1974 the Anvil's Ring
BTU (high)	13,500-14,500	Vol 12, No. 1)

In the person selling the coal does not have an analysis, they should get one from the coal producer. It is also possible to have an experienced smith try the coal and give his or her opinion, but the opinion is just that. People have personal preferences, and the purchasing of coal is one area that should not be left to opinion if a large quantity is to be purchased.

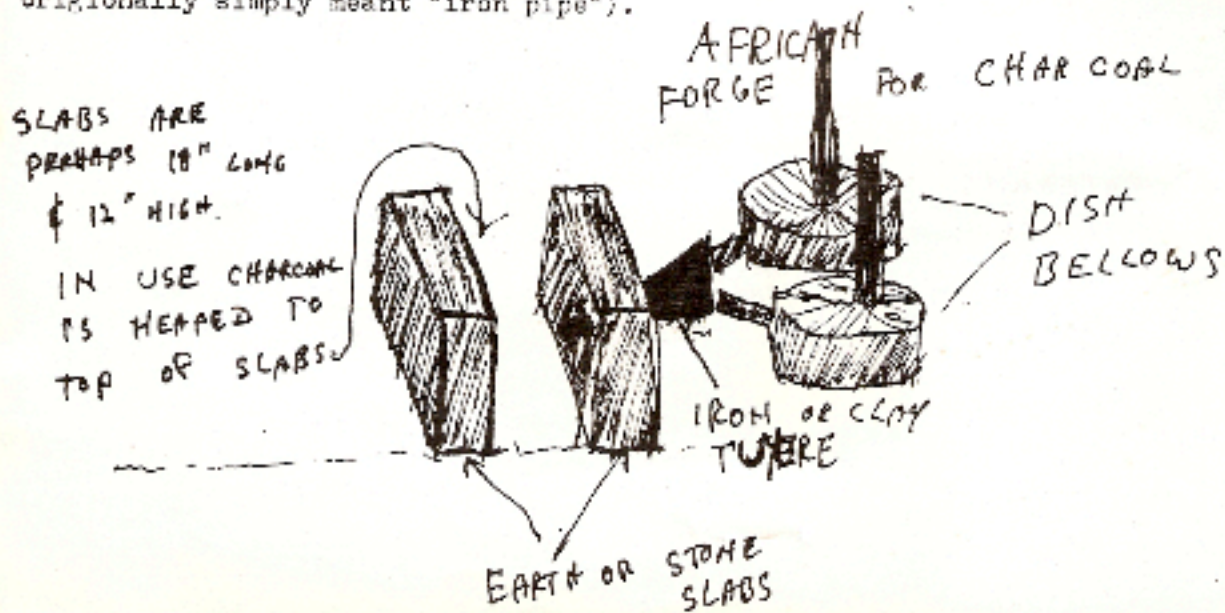
### COAL ALTERNATIVES

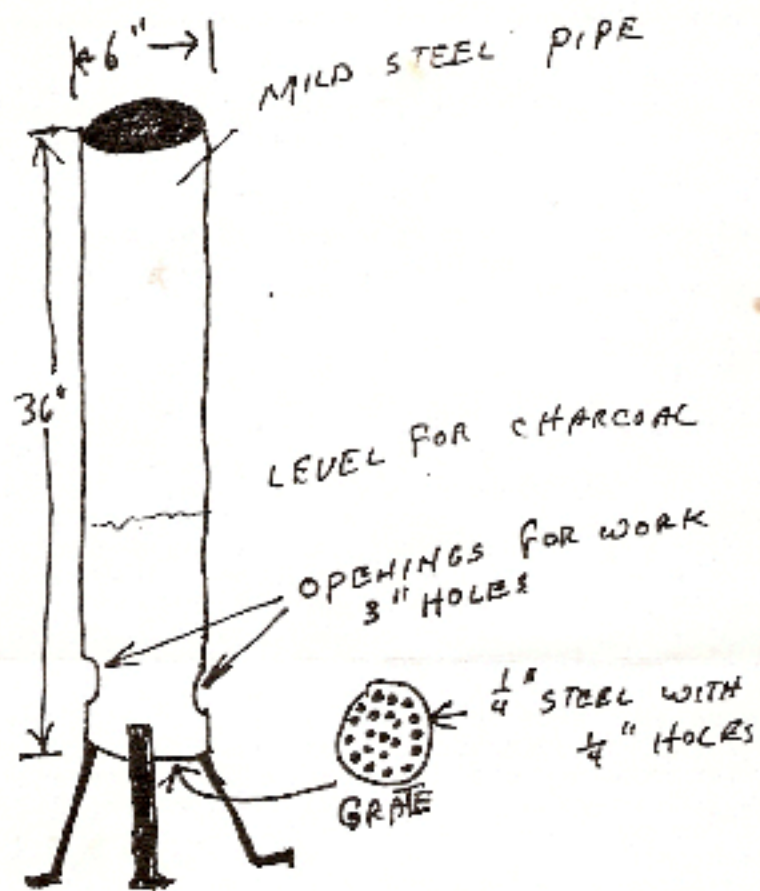
There are certainly other materials that can be used for heating metal for forging it. Metallurgical grade coke, charcoal, natural gas, propane, butane, fuel oil, and electricity are some. This newsletter will welcome and articles by members on their experiences with these fuels.

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Doug Hendrickson, R.R. 1, Box 16 D, Lesterville, MO 63654 is experimenting making charcoal for use in the forge, and would appreciate any information members may have on making and using charcoal in the forge.

I used charcoal as a fuel when I learned how to blacksmith as a teenager, and it was charcoal of the barbecue variety. I also used charcoal as a fuel for about 6 months time when I worked at Hale Farm and Village in Bath, Ohio. I found that charcoal does not work very well in a standard modern bottom draft forge. Side or bottom draft does not matter nearly as much as the fact that it takes a big pile of open charcoal to reach a high heat on a large object. As a youngster I found virtually every National Geographic Magazine that had forges in Africa and in other countries where they used charcoal as a fuel. For a great deal of work the forges had walls of stone or earth to contain the fuel and allow great depth for the fire, as well as reflecting heat into the fire. I also found that a hot air balloon furnace that I had built to fill model hot air balloons with could be adapted into a forge. It was natural draft and got hot enough to actually melt mild steel. I also found that a charcoal fire could be banked with plain earth and it would increase the interior temperature of the fire. My honest conclusion is that charcoal is a much more difficult fuel to use than good blacksmith coal. And having had the opportunity to use good coke I find it superior to coal. But some of the best blacksmithing that was ever done was done with charcoal. It takes experience to get proficient with any fuel, even switching types of good coal. Pure wood charcoal gives more heat than barbecue charcoal, which has a large percentage of non-charcoal binder and filler. Charcoal is very light, and it is necessary to make sure that there is a sufficient amount of charcoal between the tuyere and the work (a tuyere is the air inlet. Tuyere originally simply meant "iron pipe").





COULD BE SET UP HIGHER. ADAPTED  
 FROM CHARCOAL FURNACE TO FILL MODEL HOT  
 AIR BALLOONS

### WANTED AND FOR SALE

This section will carry wanted and for sale ads at no cost to members. This is a good place to advertise blacksmithing and related items to sell or to buy. There will be no fee charged to non members who place ads for blacksmith wanted ads, but there may be a fee charged for those selling or wanting to purchase blacksmithing equipment.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Anyone wishing to place notices of festivals suitable for blacksmiths to demonstrate at or for selling work is invited to do so. Please try and get your copy here early enough (at least two months) so that it can be put into the newsletter. Please include all necessary details and who to contact.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

The February Meeting is to be held at Don Asbee's shop in Bland Mo. The date will be announced in the next newsletter. The March meeting will be held at Bob Patrick's shop in Bethel, Mo. We need need members to volunteer their shops and homes for meetings. If we can not blacksmith we can discuss work, and critique example, and have a good time. It is not expected that every member will be able to attend every meeting. The idea is to get some blacksmithing momentum in all parts of our area. Problems you might have in blacksmithing due to your location and lack of equipment will show us some of the problems that we need to solve. Plan on bringing a dish of some kind to each meeting so that we can have a potluck. Bring your own plates and dinnerware so that you will not impose on your host. We will keep things simple and low key. It would not hurt to plan an occasional meeting as a party, but our primary focus should be on work. We welcome any college or university offering it's facilities to us to use, but most of the time members homes and shops will be more suitable. IMPORTANT NEWS FLASH!!! While details have yet to be finalized, Francis Whitaker, of Aspen, Colorado, will be giving a demonstration at Steve Austin's shop in Claycomo, just outside of Kansas City, towards the end of April. Mr. Whitaker had been aptly called the Dean of American Blacksmiths, and has spent his lifetime working metal. He studied with Samuel Yellin, and Julius Schramm. He is an incredibly energetic and skilled smith, but besides that is just a fine person. While Francis is famous and well known now, he struggled into business in the depths of the great depression. He is certainly a fine person to learn from. At the present time Francis is primarily doing intensive workshops with skilled smiths to pass on some of his vast knowlege, and has consented to do a demonstration for us, as an infant organization. Don't miss this opportunity. Details as they are finalized.

### DUES

Dues are due in January. They are \$10 per year, and their purpose is to enable BAM to survive and function. Please get anyone who is interested to join, not just read your newsletter. The more members we get the more economical the organization will be to run. As of now we only have enough funds to put out a few newsletter, and so we need to make money anyway that we can. The founding members have been as generous as they could be. Participation is the name of the game, so get going!

### ABANA

We have yet to become an official member of ABANA, the Artist Blacksmith

Association of North America, I urge anyone who is interested in blacksmithing to join ABANA. Too many people only want their copy of a newsletter of the Anvil's Ring, ABANA's magazine, but only people who started blacksmithing before ABANA and its branch groups can appreciate what has happened. Today there is some communication and a rebirth of interest in blacksmithing and beginning smiths can save years of mistakes if they use the resources available. Missouri is in the backwaters of arts and crafts in general, and is not the easiest place in the world to sell ironwork. WE CAN CHANGE THAT, but it will take planning and organization.

For those members who want to practice blacksmithing mainly as a hobby, probably the majority of our members, we need to know what you want to learn, i.e. tools, knife making, hardware, gates, or whatever. You should discard any stubbornness to learning new techniques. Blacksmithing is not expending the most energy to do the least work, it is learning how to do the work efficiently and get the most done. Learn to accept criticism and apply it to your work. We can learn how to be more successful, for it is a skill in itself, not just talent, or luck that you are born with.

#### FUTURE WORKSHOPS

What do you want? Present suggestions include beginning techniques, forge design, tool making, charcoal making, damascus knife making, jigs, modern techniques such as mig welding, and workshops on how to make specific items, such as shovels for firelace sets. What do you want? These are not always easy techniques to teach, and many beginners need to watch, do the work, and then watch again, and to ask a lot of questions. But, COMMUNICATE! Write me and we will publish the results.

#### T-SHIRTS

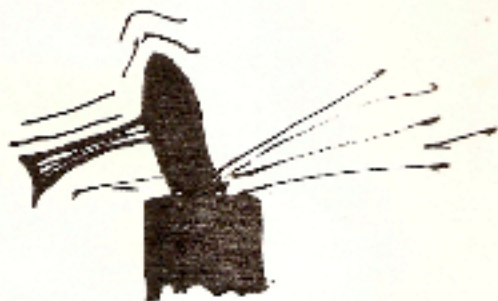
Steve Austin says he can get T-Shirts made at a reasonable cost on good cotton shirts with the BAM logo on them. Price will depend on quantity, so write Steve at: Steve Austin, 44 N.E. Munger Road, Claycomo, MO 64119. Phone 816/781-1512.

#### CONCLUSION

This is a first newsletter, and I am sure it leaves much to be desired. For economics, it is desirable to be able to print these ourselves, but that requires two things, having the equipment to print these up, plus knowledge of what equipment to have. From my viewpoint, it would be nice to have the capability to print photographs, but examples of other chapter newsletters show that the quality of these is often so bad that it would be better to only print those which will print clearly, or to skip the photographs and merely use a mimeograph or something simple until we get on our feet. A membership base of 30 members will pay for next to nothing. With 100 members we can get a lot more done at the same cost per member. I am working my butt off on this, so it is up to you other members to try and get some more members to help this work out. It is not unreasonable to expect a national conference in our chapter area at a future date, but it will take some work and interest in the area. College and university help is greatly appreciated. It is very possible for BAM members to give interesting workshops, and to help set up blacksmithing facilities in metal areas of Universities and colleges. Get busy on those grants now!



# BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI



Dues are \$10.00 per year. Please make your check payable to the above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

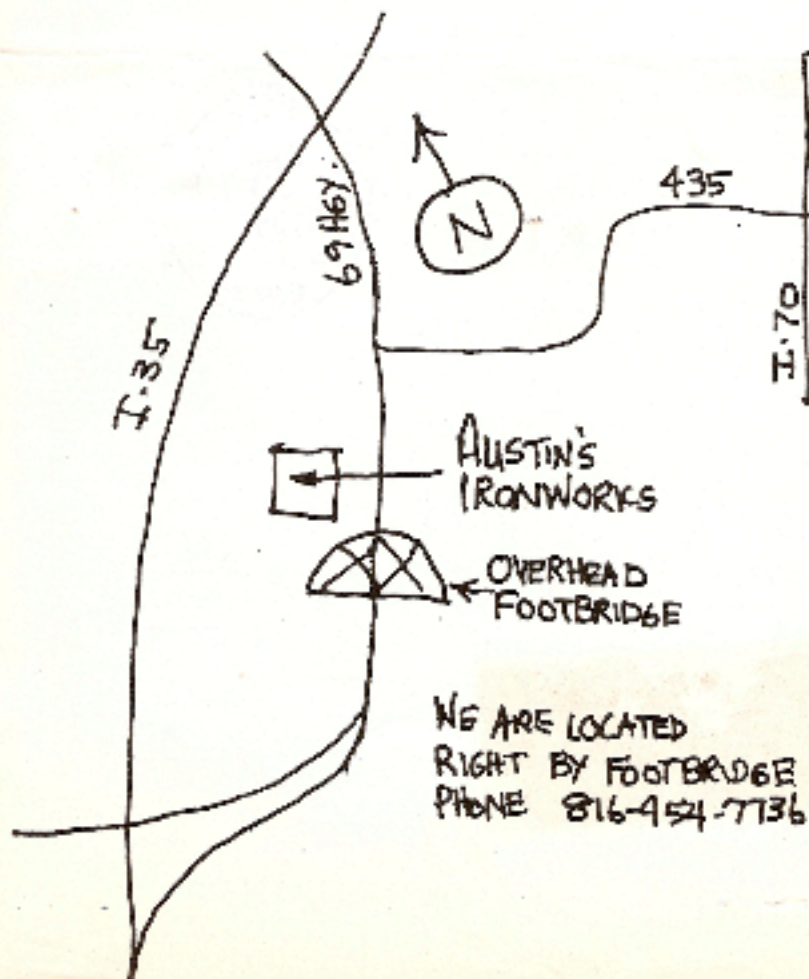
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have your own shop? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ . Full-time smith: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Do it for a hobby \_\_\_ . Interested, but not yet into it \_\_\_ .

Suggestions for BAM \_\_\_\_\_

SEND TO: BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI  
Box 205,  
Bethel, MO 63434



B A M      Box 205  
BETHEL, MISSOURI 63434

