A singular lack of staff personnel at headquarters has prevented this, the first issue of the ABANA newsletter, from being published any sooner. It is hoped, however, and expected, that an issue will be published every 3 months from now on.

Since our initial convention last March, several new members have joined ABANA, some of whom attended our convention and some who heard about us through other members and through publicity about the Westville conclave. For your information, a complete current list of members is included in this copy of the ANVIL’S RING. Also included is a blank membership application which may be passed on to friends who might wish to join us.

A number of inquiries have been received by me about the purposes of ABANA. Here is what I have answered:

1. To provide a means of communications between artist-blacksmiths of both professional and amateur status.

2. To encourage more and better training facilities in all parts of the country for aspiring artist-blacksmiths by counseling universities, craft schools and other educational organizations on equipment and courses of instruction.

3. To direct potential purchasers of wrought iron art, such as architects, interior decorators, retailers and preservationists, to shops in every part of the country which might supply their needs.

4. To publicize the fact that the number of artist-blacksmiths and original sources for wrought iron work in this country is growing. This publicity will be directed to architects, interior decorators, historians, preservationists, retailers and certain industries, to encourage the interest of these groups in the uses of wrought iron.

If ABANA can do something to meet these objectives it is hoped that our professional members will prosper and our craft will have a viable future. Of course, these goals are subject to approval of the membership. Please write the president if you have any objections or additions.

As a start in meeting these goals this issue of your newsletter has a form, directed mainly to members who are practicing smiths, which should be filled out and mailed back to me as soon as convenient. The information this form yields will be the first step in putting our program into action.

SOURCE FOR WROUGHT IRON

Members wishing to order genuine wrought iron may write to:

Lockhart Iron and Steel Company
P. O. Box 1165
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

We have been notified that anyone wishing to order iron should first write the company to find out what sizes are in stock.
No news letter will ever be more than a president's message unless news items are received. Please take seriously this plea to send in news to the ANVIL'S RING. Such items may consist of newly developed techniques, sources of coal and equipment, new markets for special work, shop openings, anything that will be of interest to the membership. Also, please write your comments. After all, the ANVIL'S RING will be our main medium of communication between conventions, but we must use it if it is to be effective.

Here's hoping we're off to a good start.

Warmest regards,

Ray W. Bealer

SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION AT WESTVILLE PLANNED FOR NEXT MARCH

Dr. Joseph B. Mahan, Executive Director of Westville Historic Handicrafts, Inc., Lumpkin, Georgia, site of the first ABANA Annual Convention and the birthplace of the organization, has extended an invitation to ABANA to convene at Westville again in March, 1974: The text of Dr. Mahan's letter follows:

WESTVILLE HISTORIC HANDICRAFTS, INC.,
P. O. Box 848, Lumpkin, Georgia
Joseph B. Mahan, PH.D. Executive Director

Dear Alex:

4/25/73

I appreciate your letter of April 19.

I am glad you thought that the Blacksmith's Convention was a success and that this appeared to be the consensus of the participants as well. I heartily agree that we should repeat the event in 1974 and then determine whether the convention should be held annually or bi-annually.

It does seem that your schedule is full until June so I will look forward to hearing from you at that time.

With very best wishes, I am.

Joseph B. Mahan

No definite plans for the next convention have been made as yet. Alex Bealer, President of ABANA, states, however, that he will appoint program and arrangement committees before the next issue of the ANVIL'S RING in November. At that time ABANA will receive more definite information on the convention, including dates and perhaps a tentative program.

Announcements will be sent out to potential participants in January, 1974.

ABANA members are urged by Bealer to send him any suggestions they may have about program, arrangements and other facets of the next convention.

Also, members are asked to give some thought to the matter of having an annual or bi-annual convention at Westville. It might be well to consider having the convention at Westville every other year and at another site in another part of the country for intervening years. This can be decided at Westville in March.

After the last convention adjourned a few participants discussed having the professor of blacksmithing of the Werk- schule in Aachen, Germany, as a special guest who could offer valuable instruction to ABANA. This is being investigated and a report on the investigation will be given in the next issue of this paper. Bealer again asks your comments on this idea.

GOOD SHOP COAL A PROBLEM IN SOUTHEAST.

Several members in the Southeast have reported trouble lately in finding a good shop coal. So far only one source has been located, the Black Diamond Coal Company, Johns, Alabama. This company, however, only delivers carload lots of shop coal and no retail coal company in the area wishes to buy blacksmith's coal in such quantity. The ANVIL'S RING is told, however, that the company will sell smaller amounts of coal if it it picked up at the mine. (continued)
E. W. Horne in Atlanta has expressed an interest in stocking this coal for resale to blacksmiths in the Atlanta area. Ivan Bailey may do the same in the Savannah area, but has made no decision as yet. A further report will be given in the next issue of the ANVIL'S RING. In the meantime, members in various parts of the country are asked to send in the names of sources they know for high quality shop coal.

THE ANVIL’S RING
Artist-Blacksmiths Association of North America
873 Spring Street, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Founded at Westville,
March 17, 1973
President - Alex W. Bealer III
Atlanta, Georgia
Secretary - Dimitri Gerarkanis
Enfield, New Hampshire

BAILEY'S FORGE TO OPEN AUGUST 15.
IN SAVANNAH

Ivan Bailey, a charter member of ABANA and a lecturer at the Westville Convention, will open his new shop at 221 E. Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia on August 15.

Mr. Bailey will concentrate on producing traditional iron items for historical restoration projects and iron work of his own design for contemporary office buildings, churches and homes.

Bailey's Forge is a very well equipped modern shop. The forge is equipped with electric blowers and a large tuyere which can be adjusted to different jobs, large or small. Drill press, saws and grinders are all of modern design. A 200 pound Little Giant trip hammer has been installed to save time and heats. The shop, located in a tourist area, will have a visitors gallery. It is completely air conditioned.

Mr. Bailey expects to use his fine training at the University of Georgia and his year of training in blacksmithing in Germany to produce wrought iron of the highest quality workmanship and design.

Tony Gilkes has been hired as the journeyman smith at Bailey's Forge.

Mr. Bailey says that he has room for 2 apprentices in his shop after Christmas, 1973. Any apprentices will receive a full years instruction in all aspects of forging, including welding, shaping, design and the use of mechanical equipment. There will be ample time during the year for apprentices to work on their own at the forge. Tuition for each apprentice will be $1000 a year.

There is an excellent possibility of full time employment at Bailey's Forge after apprenticeship, Mr. Bailey says. He requests that any inquiries be sent to him in Savannah.
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