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From the NSAA President

Good News and Sad News

Preparations are going very well for Sangerfest 2010. Dick Johnston has been updating you all in his monthly columns, so I know you have followed along. We have the Concourse Hotel www.concoursehotel.com on-line for convention activities including what we believe will be a great dinner on

Friday night. The hotel staff has been very helpful and supportive throughout, and it's a great place to stay.

The Overture Center <http://www.overturecenter.com/> has likewise been very helpful as our performance venue, and we're working with them on the Saturday Afterglow which will be held in the stunning (no exaggeration!) lobby of the Overture Center with Scandinavian themed canapés – Norwegian Smoked Salmon puffs, for example – which we feel will be special for all of us.

The Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra is contracted and has been in touch with Dave Judisch about scores, arrangements and so forth. Our soloists, along with NSAA's own Ken Michaels, are soprano Sarah Lawrence and tenor-baritone Calland Metts. You'll love their work, I promise you!

The women of Sangerfest 2010 are working on activities for wives, including an optional trip to Little Norway, which is a Norwegian farm homestead recreated in a lovely valley near Mt. Horeb (a very Norsk town west of Madison), including a stavkirke recreation imported from



Jon Lewis, NSAA President

Norge. (<http://www.littlenorway.com/norway-building-at-little-norway.html>)

More information about Sangerfest can be found at <http://www.nsaaonline.org/sangerfest.html> where we have posted schedules and information about the venues.

I ask you all to review the proposed “modernization” of the NSAA Constitution (with thanks to Pete Peterson and Don Berg!) in the last Sanger-hilsen and let your club president know before Sangerfest of any concerns you have about the changes.

The sad news is that I received a letter today from Duane Olson, President, and Wendell Frerichs, Corresponding Secretary of Nordkap. They wrote to relinquish membership in NSAA as their chorus is disbanding on June 30th. I attended Nordkap’s 100th birthday in St. Paul last year and it was a very enjoyable experience for me. I am very saddened to have their club resign, and wish them the best in their lives. I am hopeful that

many of the members will remain active in NSAA events, perhaps as new members of the Norwegian Glee Club or as individuals (which is allowed in Constitution Article III (4)). In any case we all send them a sad farewell, I am sure.

See you in just a short while in Madison for a great weekend of music and fellowship! Skål!
Med Vennlige Hilsen

Jon Lewis, NSAA President
Jonathan K. Lewis
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EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS Madison, WI

At a recent meeting of the Sangerfest 2010 planning committee, the question arose as to what started the Norwegian men singing in the first place. As no one had a ready answer, we decided to contact former Chorus member, Professor Johan Hoff for guidance. Johan, who immigrated from Norway in 1965, offered the following explanation:

“In prehistory, what came first, language or song? Although nobody knows for sure, not even Charles Darwin, it is reasonable to believe that song came first, since it served as a very useful tool to convey vital information between members of the same species. We can therefore safely assume, in agreement with Darwin, even in the absence of any positive proof, that the Vikings sang prior to and during their raids on the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic monasteries.

“The rhythmic paddling with the heavy oars across the North Sea must have invited singing to ease the

monotony. Finally, as they arrived on June 8, 793, they howled in jubilation while storming across the tidewaters to set fire to the Irish monastery at Lindisfarne and kill all the defenseless monks. This monastery included a library with the finest archive of Greco-Roman literature then extant in Europe. The Vikings found it useful as kindling.

“Of course, one must assume that the return trip was conducted more leisurely. While the captured Celtic male traells (slaves) provided much of the tiresome work at the oars, the Viking heroes could enjoy the company of the female traells as well as the possession of the loot consisting of gold or silver coins and artifacts. Thus, being in a happy mood, it is reasonable to believe that the men from mostly West and South-Western Norway sang their way home, eagerly waiting to be the first ones to spy the homeland.

“In doing so they had segregated themselves into groups of high pitch tenors and low pitch baritones and basses. The latter, being the more ponderous and substantial individuals, forced their way towards the bow of the ship, while the remaining group, consisting of light-weight tenors, had to make do with the stern. This arrangement resulted in, more or less, intended chords of exquisite beauty and with a timbre enriched with the squeaking noise emanating from the oar holes. The concert probably ended with an early version of *Landkjenning* as the gray rocky cliffs of the coast of Norway emerged from the sea.”

There you have it! Thank you, Professor Hoff. When we stand on

the risers in Overture Hall in June to sing our well-rehearsed Norwegian/English musical numbers, including *Landkjenning*, we can now proudly remember the genesis of our Sangerfest tradition! See you in Madison on June 24 for Sangerfest 2010.

Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR

Sioux Falls SD

The winter has been “long and cold” – so we’ve been light on concerts and long on eating! But the snow has melted, the river is flowing, and spring is here

So, talk about eating – you would have enjoyed Kirk Preheim’s “Seafood Bash.” Kirk brings up a couple tons of seafood from New Orleans. He invites his landscape business friends and others to enjoy – and we did! It was almost sinful, how much good shrimp, crawdads, catfish and cajon vegetables, plus a lot of other goodies we consumed.

On March 5th, to celebrate “having weathered the winter,” Director Terry and Don invited the chorus and wives to their home for a delicious prime rib and shrimp feast, plus a “white elephant” sale. It was a delightful evening of food and fun.

We have been diligently working on our Sangerfest numbers. They prove to be a challenge. We had our first joint rehearsal at Norse Glee Club, and it does prove to help when we get a large group together.

We have several concerts scheduled. On April 25th we will sing at Brandon Lutheran Church. Their Bell Choir will perform also. On April 26th we are invited to Good

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**DEADLINE FOR
 MAY-JUNE ISSUE**
 May 27, 2010

Samaritan Retirement Home to present a concert. On May 1st, we are invited back to Oakview Terrace Home in Freeman for another concert.

We have missed our snowbirds, but we hear they will return shortly. What a surprise it will be for them when they hit this new music! We'll just sing our hearts out, while they stumble along. We are joyfully looking forward to the Sangerfest with all of you in June at Madison WI.

Respectfully,

Bob Stenberg, Corr. Sec.



Duane Olson

NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB Minneapolis MN

It seems that in each issue of *Sanger-Hilsen* we are writing about good news and sad news. We start with the good news about a fine singer, formerly with the Nordkap Chorus, who recently joined the Norwegian Glee Club. We speak of Duane Olson, a retired ELCA pastor, born and raised on a farm in North Dakota, who spent his first eight years of education in a one-room school. He is a graduate of Central High School in Grand Forks, Concordia College in Moorhead MN, Luther Seminary in St. Paul, and the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago.

Duane served as a missionary in Madagascar for 17 years, then as the area program director for South Asia, and then a member of the faculty at Luther Seminary for 13 years. He married Arda L. Ensrud in 1951. Their family includes six children and their spouses, and 14 grandchildren. Arda died in 2005.

In 2008 he married Constance L. Beck, a widow, also with long experience in Madagascar.

Duane is a member of Oak Grove Lutheran Church in Richfield for 40 years, where he sang second tenor in a quartet and also in their male chorus, the Oaktones. Also, he sang for 13 years with Nordkap before joining the Glee Club. Duane has had a great and fulfilling career, and it is a wonderful gain for the Glee Club to have this fine gentleman in our chorus.

Next issue will profile Andy Anderson, another new member from Nordkap.

Now for the sad news. Our business manager and singer, Gary Rust, lost his beloved wife Alice at year's end at the age of 78. Alice spent the first 12 years of her life in Keewatin MN, where her father was a teacher. Then the family moved to Minneapolis, where father Paul taught chemistry at Minnehaha Academy, and from which she graduated. Graduation from Augsburg College followed. Her beauty landed her on the cover of Parade Magazine, a Sunday supplement to the Minneapolis Tribune, exhibiting her heritage in traditional Norwegian costume.

Gary and Alice were married in 1953. In 1954 he was drafted into the army. Alice followed him to Germany, where he was stationed. With time off, they traveled throughout Europe and developed a love for travel. This continued to many places, including a special assignment for both of them in Newport RI with UNISYS, working on different aspects of the Trident Submarine Program.

Alice retired from her duties at UNISYS as Technical Documentation Editor in 1986. Now she had more time to indulge in her first love, reading. She accounted for every book she read. The total was 2,765. Her last excursion was to the library. This gentle lady was also a valued member and contributor to the Norwegian Glee Club Auxiliary. She will be missed, but not forgotten.

A special part of the beautiful tributes to the memory of Alice was Gary's extended family forming a chorus to sing some lovely selections. Two of those members, nephews of Gary who also sang solos, were a part of the well-traveled and nationally known Blenders. Norwegian Glee Club also sang at the service.

Another lutefisk fund-raiser dinner is history. Thanks to master lutefisk chef Einar Johanson and the full staff of dedicated helpers and servers, a full house of diners at each serving were able to enjoy a gourmet restorative meal. A WCCO-TV crew were there to film the activities, which included a spirited piano duet by our Director Carsten Slostad and our accompanist Loryce Sivertson, plus the usual singing of the Glee Club between servings. We must humbly admit that

our dinners are one of the important culinary and cultural events in the Metro area.

We are now in a full court press to learn the songs that we will be singing at the Sangerfest in Madison. It would seem that Director Judisch likes to increase that challenge each time with his selections of music (just the writer speaking, of course). We are booking several concerts for the Spring to add to our regular rehearsals, so we will be quite busy right up to the Sangerfest.

A bit of unlearned wisdom: "Government is like a baby, an alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end, and no sense of responsibility at the other." Ronald Reagan.

Charles Engh, Corr. Sec.

BJORNSON MALE CHORUS Chicago IL

The Chorus has been working hard, and it paid off as we hit the Lenten Season with gusto. We sang on March 24th at the Edison Park Lutheran Church for the umpteenth time. The sanctuary is very large, so the acoustics are to die for. The ceiling is a mile high, so the sound of music just envelops the entire surroundings. We were first on the program and sang five selections, three of which will be on the Sangerfest program. Then we stayed to enjoy the evening service.

On March 26th we participated in the 30th annual "Festival of Song" sponsored by Normenneses Singing Society in Lincolnshire. Five choruses were in attendance, with the Swedes outnumbering the Norse 3-2. As usual, though, we came out on top,

again! Each chorus sang two songs; then we joined in a mass chorus for the finale. We sang five old favorites, closing with “God Bless America.”

Light refreshments were then served, and the evening of fellowship and song was over until next year.

The Chorus was off a week for Easter; then we’ll be back on line preparing for our own Spring concert in June at the Avalon. We are sure to be fine-tuning for the Sangerfest. See you there.

Leve Sangen,

George Michals, Corr. Sec.

NORDIC MALE CHORUS

Sioux City IA

As choruses prepare for Sangerfest 2010 in Madison WI, it was reported earlier that one of the special features of the festivities will be a tribute to Ole Bull, famous Norwegian violinist, in honor of the 200th anniversary of his birth. Bull was born Feb. 5, 1810 and died Aug. 17, 1880. During his lifetime the high-level virtuoso gave thousands of concerts, including many in the United States.

The name of Bull emerged from Sangerfest 1894 staged in Sioux City only three years following the formation of Normaendenes Sangforening, the forerunner of Nordic Male Chorus.

It was from an address by a Prof. Julius I. Olson of the University of Wisconsin, given at the Sioux City Sangerfest that a tribute came for the renowned musician. Olson called Bull “the magician of the bow,” who was also an inspiration for all singers. He added that Bull was “more than a musician; he was also an example of patriotism.”

In his speech Olson spoke freely of the power of music to heal discords, and encouraged the formation of singing societies.

As a footnote to the 1894 Sangerfest, *Sanger-Hilsen* was made the official organ of the young singing association at that time.

Bob Hansen, Corr. Sec.

NORMENNENES SINGING SOCIETY

Chicago IL

On Friday, March 26th, our chorus hosted the 30th “Festival of Song” at our clubhouse, the Estonian House, in Lincolnshire. This event has proven to be very popular as we invite area Scandinavian and Nordic choruses for an evening of song and fellowship.

The program of the evening had each chorus perform two selections of their choice, ending with all joining in a mass chorus. This year there were five choruses participating with over 70 singers total. They were: Bjornson Male Chorus, Chicago Swedish Male Chorus, Chicago Swedish Glee Club, Waukegan Swedish Glee Club, and Normennenes Singing Society. Five members of the Sibelius Male Chorus of Chicago joined us in the mass chorus.

The mass chorus selections were:

“Let There Be Music,” “Stout-hearted Men,” “Sanctus,” “Dear Land of Home,” “You’ll Never Walk Alone,” and “God Bless America.”

The evening concluded with a coffee social handled by our entertainment chairs, Hazel Peterson and Janet Wold. Marking the 30th anniversary of the event, we had special entertainment. The musical talents of Jodi Giertuga, violinist,

entertained everyone until late in the evening. A great time was had by all.

Next on the schedule is our annual Spring concert on Apr. 24th at the Estonian House. Guest chorus will be the Waukegan Swedish Glee Club with special entertainment by *Leikarringen "Heimhug,"* Norwegian folk dancers of Chicago.

The Chorus has been working hard on the selection for Sangerfest and are looking forward to a great time at Madison and visiting with friends of the NSAA membership.

Leve Sangen,

Thor Fjell, President

NORSE GLEE CLUB Sioux Falls SD

Greetings to all! It has been nice to have more daylight added to each day plus the move to DST. I do not want to see the snow leave too soon, as I am not ready to start cleaning up the yard or start mowing yet for a number of days. That is enough of that. Now to get to the business of the chorus. We have been busy rehearsing songs for Sangerfest. With much patience our director will get the men ready for the big event in June.

I might mention the fact, and I believe, most chorus members look forward to the second Monday when the Auxiliary meets. After our respective meetings, the gals put out a lunch that is superb. Thank you, ladies! It is absolutely great and I, for one, look forward the next one.

The rest of the joint rehearsal schedule is: May 10th in Sioux City, and June 7th with Mandskor.

That is all for now. We still need to "Press On!"

K. Roger Johnson, Corr. Sec.

LUREN SINGING SOCIETY

Decorah IA

Our two Lenten service appearances, at St. Matthews Lutheran, Granger MN and Good Shepherd Lutheran, Decorah, went very well. We had good numbers and balance in the sections.

Our big event of the Spring was the joint concert of Luren, the Norsemen (freshmen at Luther), and the Great Northern Union barbershop chorus from the Twin City area, on Friday, April 16. This was a benefit concert for Haitian relief, and was well attended by an enthusiastic audience. The three groups sang individually, and then combined in various ways with the climaxing selection by over 200 men in "Tocatta of Praise." Luren officers and several Auxiliary women provided a light supper prior to the concert.

We learned late in February of the death of Norman Gilbert, a former member of Luren. His obituary is added to this report.

Many of our readers may be members of Vesterheim Museum in Decorah and as such would have received a copy of the museum's fine magazine. The most recent issue was devoted to "That Old Norwegian Song and Dance," and included several articles related to not only Luren's history, but also to other styles of music. Included also was a CD of Norwegian-American music. Copies of the magazine are available through the Museum for \$5.00. Better yet, why not join the Museum, 523 W. Water St., Decorah IA 52101. Be sure to ask for the special issue.

Sunday, April 25th, will be a full day. We've agreed to sing for the

9:00 a.m. worship service at Rushford Lutheran Church, Rushford MN, after which we will either tour the local lefse factory or watch a video of the historic floods of 2008. Following a noon meal, we will sing a 1:00 p.m. concert at the church. Jan King, daughter of Luren member Bernie Gluth, is the intern at the congregation and invited us to sing there.

We did have our primary election in early April; the results will be ratified in September and reported then.

We may try to set up another concert as a warm-up prior to the Sangerfest.

We will have a brief reprieve before running the famous Luren food stand at the County Fair July 6-10 (our chief fund-raiser). Then we look forward to our usual participation in Nordic Fest July 22-24.

Obituary

Norman Gilbert was born Aug. 1, 1923, near Clermont IA, a son of Nels and Josephine Gilbert. After graduation from Clermont High School in 1942 he worked as a farmhand until he joined the Navy in January of 1944, and was discharged in 1946.

Norman married Jeanne Perry in Kernville CA June 7, 1946. They were parents of three children, Gregory, Michael and Susan Hartson.

After 35 years of Federal Service Norman retired and returned to his boyhood home where they lived from 1979 to 1994. Along the way he joined the Luren Singers and was privileged to take part in their 1983 concert tour of Norway, during which he was also able to visit relatives. He sang second bass.

The Gilberts returned to Ridgecrest CA in 1994. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2007.

Norman died Feb. 16, 2010 at Ridgecrest CA. He was preceded by his wife, parents and three sisters, one grandson and a great grandson. He is survived by his three children, seven grandsons, five granddaughters and 13 great grandchildren.

(Thank you to Art and Norma Amundson, former Luren family members, who were neighbors of the Gilberts and who submitted this obituary.)

Don Berg, Corr. Sec.

GRIEG MALE CHORUS

Canton SD

The lyrics from Anton Rubinstein's "Welcome, Sweet Springtime" come to mind. The song begins, "Welcome, sweet springtime, we greet thee in SONG!" Yes, joyous spring greetings to all from the Grieg Male Chorus in Canton.

Our chorus has had a routine schedule the past few weeks, preparing for Sangerfest, but also preparing for three local concerts. We joined the other three choruses of the Sioux Valley Singers Association for the first of four joint rehearsals, which are very beneficial in preparing our 2010 Sangerfest music. Of course a special event is the first Monday when the Ladies' Auxiliary meets. They make our evening special by decorating and preparing delicious treats for us to enjoy along with the fellowship following rehearsal.

Again, greetings from the Grieg Chorus and Ladies' Auxiliary in Canton.

Jerry Holter, Corr. Sec.

“A bird doesn’t sing because it has an answer; it sings because it has a song.” Coach Lou Holtz

HFAA WORKSHOP SET

Tying in with the 200th anniversary of Ole Bull’s birth, it is fitting to announce that the 2010 Music and Dance Workshop of the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America will be held July 22-25 at Folklore Village, Dodgeville WI, which is 35 miles west of Madison.

Teachers of Hardingfele, Dance, and Kveding (Norwegian Traditional Singing) from both the US and Norway will be present.

Registration form available at www.hfaa.org or call 732-4006-2793.

Translations

Midtsommerdans

(There is an English paraphrase of the song. A more literal translation is provided here. Ed.)

During the long, clear, beautiful summer night, while the twilight settles over woods and bushes, we will dance beneath (the) brilliance of the starry sky while the fiddler plays a lively dance.

Round I swing with my friend;
Lightly we float away over the greensward/turf; When we sing a cheerful song, the echo replies from the woods and meadow.

Over trees distant and near, the moon sheds its pale silver gleam.

On St. Hans (Day) without stopping, you and I will step (out) our summer dance.

With dancing on (the) meadow and with playing and singing we will celebrate the long summer night.

Bådn Låt

(This might be described as a child’s fun song. *Låt* has one definition as “(noisy) fun, gaiety.”)

Imagine a child at bedtime with dad providing sound effects to this song. The first line refers to a bear growling. Then “Boom, boom...”

1st. The cat is beating on the drum,
And four mice are dancing so the whole earth trembles

2nd. The cat was sitting up on the roof,
was talking to its daughters.

“If we should become wet, we’ll freeze on our feet.”

3rd. “We shall travel to Denmark and buy shoes for a whole mark.”

4th. Step, step, step, step, *Pepar o Ködu.* (This last line defies translation; it may refer to “going to bed.”)

This note from Japan.

Yamaha has announced a recall of its 2009 pianos. There is a problem with the pedal getting stuck so that it runs past the end of a number, also causing a number of accidentals!

TWO OF MANY HEROES

(Junius Stenseth, former member of Norwegian Glee Club, now retired from singing, submitted the following in tribute and thanks to two men who were involved in the events described.)

May 8, 1945 (65 years ago) was a nice Spring day, on which the allied forces in Europe accepted the unconditional surrender of the German Third Reich, ending the latter’s attempted conquest of Europe. German troops in Oslo had already surrendered their weapons and themselves to the Norwegian

resistance forces on May 7th. “Frigjøringsdagen” was brought even closer to every Norwegian home on May 11th at Akershus Fortress in Oslo, where the Nazi commander stood at attention before the commander of the Norwegian resistance forces and saluted him. It was a long-awaited day after five years of German occupation of Norway.

The unprovoked assault on Norway began on April 9, 1940. The Norwegian army at that time had fewer men than the New York City police force. Yet Norway gave the overwhelming Nazi Juggernaut a stiffer and longer resistance than any other of the invaded countries, 62 days. Some parts of Norway were never fully under German control, enabling resistance forces to hinder significantly the German war machine, for example, the sabotage of the heavy water plant at Rjukan.

The German flagship and pride of the fleet, the heavy cruiser Blucher (only six months after being commissioned) was steaming under cover of darkness toward Oslo on April 9th, carrying the main Nazi invasion and occupation forces, but was sunk instead by two cannons manned by a tiny garrison on Drøbak Strait on the inner Oslofjord.

The German captain kept underway; the ship’s huge firepower aligned “fore and aft” as a gesture of disdain for the Drøbak boys, but that was a mistake. No wonder, for the latter had only three obsolete (1893 vintage) 11” cannons (named Moses, Aaron and Josva) which had never been fired and were totally unproven.

For this reason the defenders waited until 4:21 a.m., when the Blucher was

at point-blank range, before firing, first Moses, then Aaron. Josva, though loaded, was never fired (not enough men left to fire it). But it was not necessary, for the boys had aimed well and set fire to the ship and blew apart the turrets that could have quickly ended their resistance and existence.

The Norwegian shore batteries above the ship opened fire afterwards, raking the Blucher from stem to stern. A couple obsolete torpedoes of the same vintage as the cannons, launched from underwater chutes unknown to the Germans, also found their mark. The Blucher was left rudderless, drifting out of control before heeling over and sinking 300 feet below the fjord’s surface, where she remains overturned today.

The remaining ships of the German flotilla backed full-speed astern out of the Strait, thinking that the Blucher had entered a minefield (there was none).

The heroism of the Drøbak boys enabled King Haakon VII, the Royal family and other officials to evade certain capture and flee Oslo via Andalsnes to England to form a Norwegian Provisional Government.

There were not a few members of Norwegian Glee Club (and *Mindekirken*), who did their part to end German occupation. This article will mention just a couple of them

Sam Bergaas grew up in Lindaas, north of Bergen, and emigrated to the U.S. in 1930. When World War II broke out, he served in the U.S. Army as an instrument and gun sight calibrator. When the Allied forces made their assault on Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, Sam was on a

troop landing craft in the first wave headed onto Omaha Beach. His craft was hit and disabled by German artillery, but the men succeeded in keeping afloat by bailing water with their helmets before wading on shore, strewn with wreckage and bodies of other first assault troops. (Ten of the landing craft were lost even before reaching proximity of the beach, and there were many men washed ashore who were not killed by enemy fire but simply drowned due to the 40-pound backpacks.) Under heavy fire the survivors in Sam's decimated unit somehow succeeded in securing two isolated footholds, eventually making way further inland. His Big Red First Division was engaged for nearly six months of continuous combat against unyielding German resistance. They were the first American troops to capture a major German city, Aachen.

Sam was in the Battle of the Bulge (Dec. 16, 1944-Jan. 15, 1945), when German troops launched a fierce, surprise attack in severe mid-winter conditions against a weakly defended sector of the Allied line. The German charge was designed to encircle and destroy four Allied armies. The Battle was not successful for the Germans, but it was the largest and bloodiest battle American forces experienced in World War II.

Sam was nearly killed several times (I wish I could remember all he told me now), but survived to fight with his Division all the way to the Rhine River, after which the Big Red was ordered to another front, this time in Sicily. In fact, he was also scheduled to be flown to the North African campaign from Italy, but received orders just before take-off not to

embark, so the plane took off without him. Somewhere after take-off the plane was downed and never made it to North Africa. However, Sam did participate also in the Allied North African campaign in Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. Sam never told me about the Bronze Star (a medal awarded foot-soldiers who have demonstrated bravery or meritorious service in combat) he received from Uncle Sam.

Sam's heart for unfortunates led him to serve over 5,000 hours during the 20 years he worked as a volunteer at the Courage Center in Golden Valley, where he designed and built adaptive implements that enabled handicapped people to get along better with the needs of life. He was recipient of several awards for his creative skill and devotion on behalf of the handicapped.

Sam died two years ago, 94 years old. His widow, Phoebe (a South Dakota girl), now 90, is doing quite well and lives at an assisted-living facility in Minnetonka. Sam was a member of the Norwegian Glee Club from 1961 until he died.

Rolf Tandberg was born June 20, 1917. From 1925 to 1940 he lived on the island Rauøya (now called Rauer), where only three families lived, out near the mouth of the Oslo Fjord. As a lad Rolf rowed 2-3 miles each way to Engelsviken on the mainland, Østfold, to fetch groceries for his mother.

His father was a military officer and, I believe, had responsibility to monitor any unfriendly vessels entering the fjord. As such, he may have been the first Norwegian land military to spot and radio to

fortifications at Drøbak that the Blucher was entering Norwegian waters; a Norwegian coastal patrol boat, Pol III, sent the very first alert to the Drøbak gunners.

When World War II broke out, Rolf served as a young officer in the Anti-aircraft artillery defending Notodden (Norsk Hydro). Following the surrender to the Germans, he joined the underground or, more correctly, the mountain forces above Notodden against the Germans. As the "underground" fighters they were, they often lay in tents, winter as in summer these years, to carry out the resistance efforts.

After the war ended in 1945, Rolf worked in an insurance company in Oslo, using his business school education. It was after a visit to relatives in the Twin Cities, and liking it here, that he decided to emigrate in 1954. He promptly joined the Norwegian *Folkedanslag*, where he met his sweetheart Kirsten from Tvedestrand, and *Mindekirken*, and in 1963 the Norwegian Glee Club, where he sang for many years. He also worked as carpenter/ bookkeeper with several other Norwegians fixing up houses.

Both Sam and Rolf were extremely humble, soft-spoken and right-thinking men, whose low-profile lives among us could have easily misled many to believe that they were nothing out of the ordinary in spite of their true nobility. (Sometimes we take others for granted.)

Their stories are but two of several who served their homeland and adopted country as true patriots, and we ought not soon forget them.

Luren History (continued from Jan. -Feb. 2010)

In 1908 a conscious effort was made to get new life in the society. Yet a Mr. Nelson was tried by the instructor but, since his voice was 1st bass, he was not accepted since 1st bass was well *besat før*.

On March 3rd of that year a congratulatory message was sent to a new singing society in Nordness. This was the new Grieg Singing Society of Nordness, organized after the death in 1907 of Edvard Grieg. After about 50 years, some of that group's last members became part of Luren.

Six Luren members attended the Sangerfest in Minneapolis Aug. 27-29, 1908.

After one concert late that year, E. M. Sunnes declared himself willing to sing 4th bass, if such was to be found, and O. W. Holm had a cold which "put him in a position to leave his place in the tenor ranks and take up competition with Sunnes."

The Norwegian Singers *Sangerforbund* held its annual meeting in Chicago in Sept. 1909, at which it was decided that Swedes could be included in individual choruses. The publication, *Sanger-Hilsen*, was to begin in 1910 with 500 subscribers, and \$50 was awarded to Alfred Paulsen for the use of his music all these years. Luren's President at the time, the dentist Dr. Boe, had signed up for 15 copies of the new magazine, 50 cents per subscription., though Luren did not choose a correspondent right away.

(continued on page 16)

**Norwegian Singers Association
of America, Inc.
Pacific Coast Norwegian
Singers Association
Club Membership Index**

1065 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104-7011; tel. (651) 291-8639.

**ILLINOIS
CHICAGO**

Bjornson Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Each Thursday 8:00 p.m. at V.F.W. Hall; Camfield and Higgins Road, Park Ridge, IL 60068. President: John Lee, 738 Bent Ridge Lane, Elgin, IL 60120, tel. (847) 741-4210; Secretary: George Michals, 5236 Arlington Drive West, Hanover Park, IL 60103; Director: Edwin Kramer, 32600 East Lane, Grayslake, IL 60030, tel. (847) 546-2050.

Normenneses Singing Society

Rehearsal each Tuesday evening at 8PM (except July and August) at the Estonian House, P.O. Box 95, Lincolnshire, IL 60069. tel: (847)537-8016. President: Thor Fjell, 1041 W. Ogden Ave. #118, Naperville, IL 60563. Tel: (630)369-4233, cell: (630) 479-4233, thorffjell@comcast.net. Recording Secretary: Frank Potempa, 1788 W. Sherwood Rd., fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net Director: Charles Kessell, 6042 W. Grace St., Chicago, IL 60634. Tel: (773)481-5941, cell (773)858-5325, perc55@juno.com.

ROCKFORD

Harmony Singing Society

Rehearsal each Tuesday 7:30 p.m. at our Club: 1104 15th Ave. Rockford, IL 61104. President: Steve Litteral Sr. 618 13th St., Rockford IL 61104, tel. (815) 399-2794. Corresponding Secretary: Dan Lindberg 214 Rome Ave. #2 Rockford, IL 61107. Tel. (815) 229-0625. Danielalindberg@CS.COM Director: (vacant).

IOWA

SIoux CITY

Nordic Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 315 Hamilton Blvd. Sioux City, Iowa 51103; President: Gary Munson, 3303 Court St., Sioux City, IA 51104, tel. (712) 277-1428; Corresponding Secretary: Robert R. Hansen, 20 Eastview Drive, Sioux City, IA 51106 ((712) 258-7445 gregors5@juno.com); Director: Charles Schuett, 5040 Stone Ave., Sioux City, IA 51106, tel. (712) 276-2328, off. Tel. (612) 673-5150, scschuett@gateway.net.

DECORAH

Luren Singing Society

Rehearsal: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Thomas Roberts High School. President: Dan Huebner; 2551 Eastwood Rd, Decorah IA 52101, (563) 382-1814 westhue@aol.com. Corresponding Secretary: Donald L. Berg, 407 Leif Erikson Drive, Decorah, IA 52101-1038, tel. (563) 382-5727; Director: Dr. David Judisch, 814 Fifth Ave., Decorah, IA 52101, tel. (563) 382-9222 judiscda@luther.edu.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS

Nordkap Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 7:00 p.m., at Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church, 53rd & Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN. President: Duane Olson, 9850 Lyndale Ave. S. Apt.57, Bloomington MN 55420-5295; Corresponding Secretary: Wendell Frerichs, 1776 Chatsworth St., Roseville MN 55113-6561 (651) 489-8947; Director: Carsten Slostad,

Norwegian Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Thursday evening at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 4801 France Ave. So., Edina, MN. President: Herb Nelson, 4720 Larkspur Lane, Lake Elmo MN 55042-8541 (651)587-4819; Corresponding Secretary: Charles Engh, 7642 Prairie Flower Blvd., Chanhassen, MN 55317, tel. (952) 4018838; Director: Carsten Slostad, 1065 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104-7011; tel. (651) 291-8639.

SOUTH DAKOTA

SIoux FALLS

Minnehaha Mandskor

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Center For Active Generations, 2300 W. 46th St., Sioux Falls, SD. President: Ray Ode, 3900 N. Six Mile Rd, Sioux Falls SD 57110. Tel: (605)582-3438; Corr. Secretary: Robert Stenberg, 313 Washington Ave., Dell Rapids, S.D. 57022; Director: Terry Walter, 2708 West Oak St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 3390607, <clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com>.

Norse Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 8:00 p.m. at Nordic Hall. President: Robert Tidemann, 47164 254th St., Baltic, SD 57003 (605) 543-5249; Corresponding Secretary: Roger Johnson, 1912 Sylvan Circle, Box 563, Brandon, SD 57005, tel. (605) 582-2588. Director: Lyle E. Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 335-1624.

CANTON

Grieg Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Canton Lutheran Church. President: Ronald Larson, 304 E. 2nd, Canton, S.D. 57013, (605) 987-4377; Corresponding Secretary: Jerry Holter, 28724 480th Ave., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 987-2161 ; Director: Lane Karli, 3401 S. Grace Ave., Sioux Falls SD 57103-7219, (605) 275-5591. Lrkarli@sio.midco.net

WISCONSIN

MADISON

Edvard Grieg Chorus

2262 Winnebago, Madison, WI 53704
Rehearsal: Each Tuesday, 7 p.m. President: Steve Christenson, 519 N. Harrison St., Stoughton WI 53579, (608) 873-9846 steveKrisC@yahoo.com; Corresponding Secretary: Dick Johnston, 26 Chautauqua Tr., Madison WI 53719, (608) 833-6284 ; Director: Mark W. Everson, 711 Highway #106, Edgerton, WI 53534, tel. (608) 884-9398 evers11111@aol.com.

**SIoux VALLEY SINGERS
ASSOCIATION**

OFFICERS:

President: Wayne Mitchell, 102 E 7th St. Dell Rapids SD 57022 tel. (605) 482-3657; Secretary: Ronald Beck, 28206 465th St., Lennox, SD 57039, tel. (605) 647-2851, beckpadox1@speednet.com; Vice President: Don Cooper, 2708 W Oak St. Sioux Falls, SD 57105 (605) 339-0607, clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com. Treasurer: David Stene, 6109 Canary Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57107-1076, tel. (605) 332-2055; Director: Lyle Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 335-1624.

PACIFIC COAST NORWEGIAN SINGERS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS:

President: Phil Overlund, 11556 Shadow Ranch Rd, La Mesa, CA 91941, tel. (619) 660-1125, jpoverlund@cox.net;
Vice President: Ken Lake, 5003 NE 1094 PL, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155, (206) 362-5611, kennethlake@comcast.net; Secretary: Claire Egtvedt, 5904 96th St SW, Mukilteo WA 98275 (425) 347-4944 chegetvedt@comcast.net; Treasurer: Orv Sletten, 3087 Oakcrest Dr NW, Salem, OR 97304, tel. (503) 581-7099, orvviv44@comcast.net; Trustees: California: Borre Ulrichsen, 715 Cascade Ct, Walnut Creek CA 94598, (415) 205-8064, borre@ulrichsen.net; Oregon – Roger Ness, 3079 Stapp Dr, Eugene, OR 97408, tel. (541) 683-3359, rdpiness@juno.com; Washington: Pete Petersen, 713 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg WA 98926, (509) 607-9406 o.petersen@gmail.com. Trustee at Large: Mark Agerter, 3850 Gilham Rd, Eugene, OR, 97408, (541)-685-0115, Agerter@peak.org

CALIFORNIA

OAKLAND

Normanna Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 8:00 p.m., Bjornson Hall, 2258 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94602. President: Howard Hansen, 149 Tharp Drive, Moraga, CA 94556, tel. (510) 376-7611; Secretary: Robert Brewer, 15 Castle Park Way, Oakland, CA 94611, tel. (510) 531-9684, jugjockp47@aol.com; Director: Dick Meyer, 3440 Adell Ct., Apt. 2, Oakland, CA 94602, tel. (510) 482-4714, meversfbc@aol.com.

SACRAMENTO

Nordik Sangkor

Rehearsal: Second Sundays, 1:30 p.m., at Advent Lutheran Church, 5901 San Juan Ave., Citrus Heights, CA. Contact person/director: Walter Braafladt. President: Walter Braafladt, 4174 Dena Way, Sacramento, CA 95821, tel. (916) 482-7919, wbraafladt@softcom.net; Secretary: Rolf Owre, 145 Baxter Ave., Sacramento, CA 95818, tel: (916) 925-8409; Director: Walter Blaaflydt, 4174 Dena Way, Sacramento, CA 95821, tel: (916) 4827919, wbraafladt@softcom.net.

SAN DIEGO

San Diego Mannskor

Rehearsal schedule and location to be supplied. President: David Krogh, 3470 Abbey Blvd., Chula Vista, CA (619) 427-7602 dekrogh@sbcglobal.net; Secretary: Jon Homerud, 3354 Bonica Woods Dr., Bnita, CA 91902 (619) 470-8745 holmerud@cox.net; Director: Joyce Olsen, 2991 Jacks Creek Place, Escondido, CA 92027, tel. (760) 735-6171, joyceolsen@mac.com.

SAN FRANCISCO

Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Meets every Tuesday 7:00 p.m. at the Norwegian Club, 1900 Fell St., San Francisco, CA. President: Herleiv Storseter, 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94103 tel: (415) 344-0204; Secretary: Mark Mathisen, 1601 Oakwood Dr., San Mateo, CA 94403 tel: (650) 574-2935, dchouse@earthlink.net; Director: Rebecca Stein, 204 Roseann, Pittsburg, CA 94565, tel. (925) 432-1120, beccab63@hotmail.com.

OREGON

EUGENE

The Norsemen

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Sonja Lodge #38, Sons of Norway, 710 McKinley, Eugene, OR 97402. President: Mike Bagaason, 2060 Bailey Hill Rd., Eugene, OR 97405, tel. (541) 687-2562, bagaason@rio.com; Secretary: Roger Ness, 3079 Stapp Dr. Eugene, OR 97408,

tel. (541) 505-7769, mwilliams@eugenlaw.com; Director: Ed Amundson, 29453 Culver Lane, tel. (541) 998-6329 eamundson@comcast.net.

SALEM

Thorsmen

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church Annex, 1198 Lannsing Avenue North East, Salem, OR 97303. President: Robert Johnson, 16485 Oakdale, Dallas OR 97338; Secretary: Roger Vinyard, 4085 47th Ave. NE, Salem OR 97305; Director: Peter Butler, 31869 Eastway, Lebanon, OR 97355, tel. (503) 259-2006, whitewolf@proaxis.com.

WASHINGTON

BELLINGHAM

Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsals every Tuesday evening, 6:00 pm at the Norway Hall, 1419 North Forest St., Bellingham WA. President: Larry Peterson. Tel. (360) 935-1110. Secretary: Jim Florence. Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, tel. (360) 966-3132, stmjensen@earthlink.net, cell phone 303-3919.

EVERETT

Norwegian Male Chorus

Normanna Hall, 2725 Oaks Avenue
Everett, Washington 98201

Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening, 7:30 p.m. at Normanna Hall, 11665 Pointe Place, Anacortes, WA. 98221-8519; President: Ferris Allen tel. (360) 435-3144, FerrisAllen@msn.com; Secretary: Rick Larson, (425) 481-5594, rick.larson@areva-td.com. Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Road, Bellingham, WA 98226, tel: (360) 966-3132, stmjensen@earthlink.net, cell: (389)393-3919

POULSBORO

Vestre Sund Mannskor

Meets every Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Grieg Hall, Sons of Norway, 18891 Front St., Poulsbo, WA 98370. President: Stan Overby, 29311 Beach Dr., Poulsbo, WA 98370, tel: (360) 779-2460; Secretary: Robert Ellerby, 1261 Cameo Court, Poulsbo, WA 98370, tel: (360) 598.4831; Director: Jan Parker Peterson, 21600 Port Gamble Rd., Poulsbo, WA 98370, tel: (360) 697-3277.

SEATTLE

Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Every Monday evening 7:30 p.m. Nordic Heritage Museum, 3014 N.W. 67th Street, Seattle, WA 98117. Officers: President: Howard Slauson, 6318 189th Pl, Lynnwood WA 98036, (425)774-4635, howardslauson@comcast.net; Corresponding Secretary: A.J. Skurdal, 3246 NE 104th St. Seattle WA 98125, tel(206)525-2524, askurdal@aol.com; Director: Robert G. Johnston, 4707 NE 192 Pl., Lake Forest Park, 98155, tel. (206)362-1094, bobsings@gohuskies.com

Skagit Valley Mannskor

Rehearsal every Monday at 7:00 PM Fir-Conway Lutheran Church, 18101 Fir Island Rd. Mt. Vernon Wa. 98273. Officers: President Alvin Stenslan, 11665 Pointe Place, Anacortes Wa. 98221 tel. 360-558-1166. Secretary Dick Tjersland, 17638 Greenacres Rd. Mount Vernon Wa. 98274360-428-4650. Director Steve Jensen, Bellingham WA, 98226 Cell phone 360-303-3919.

TACOMA

Normanna Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Each Monday 7:00 p.m., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3315 South 19th Street, Tacoma, Wash. President: Gene Wilson, 7620 98th Ave. SW, Lakewood WA 98498 (253) 582-9249; Corresponding Secretary: Harold Jacobsen, 11111 – 18th Ave. E., Tacoma, WA 98445, tel: (253) 537-7106, hmandcjjacobsen@juno.com; Director: Jon Malmin,

E. Johnson became the first such correspondent in Nov. 1910. A sign of things to come: already in 1910 five Luren members were planning to go on a Norway trip in 1914, a big year for special trips as the centennial year of Norway's independence from Denmark. In Jan. 1911 Dr. Boe was to negotiate with Sperati about taking over the directorship of Luren.

At a special meeting on March 10, Sperati demanded \$5 every time for every rehearsal and a similar amount for each time with the County *Sangerforbund*. Luren accepted the offer and on March 14 bade Prof. Sperati welcome. At that time Sperati "*holdt en lengere Tale hvori han bad Sangerne skrive sig bag Øre hvilke Pligte de paa hvles hos*

Sanger og især hvordan de maa arbeide for at opnaa de bedste Resultter. (Professor Sperati gave a rather long talk in which he asked the singers to "write behind the ears" which duties are to rest on the singers, and especially how they must work to obtain the best results.)

Each member must contribute one dollar per month to cover Sperati's salary. They bought a black board for \$1.20 to be used by Sperati during rehearsals.

--to be continued.

Note: all members with e-mail addresses on pages 4, 14, 15 should check them for accuracy. e-mail corrections to barnaade@luther.edu