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DECORAH, IA

Mar.-Apr. 2009



Carlo Alberto Sperati (1860-1945) was director in chief of the PCNSA 1903-1915 and director of the Luren Singing Society 1911-1945. See Luren History, page 13 for more information.

NORDKAP MALE CHORUS**Minneapolis-St. Paul MN**

We wish you could have been there. On Saturday, March 21st, an appreciative audience heard three men's choruses at Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul. It was Nordkap's Centennial celebration, but we were joined by the Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis and two combined Swedish choruses. Especially the massed chorus left the sanctuary ringing. What wonderful acoustics!

Important visitors congratulated us on this auspicious occasion. A local Norwegian official read us greetings from the Ambassador in Washington D.C. The President of Augsburg College, where 'Nordkap' roots are found, addressed us, as did the President of our Norwegian Singers Association of America. The mayor of St. Paul sent greetings and declared March 21st "Nordkap Day." Since our free-will offering was being donated to Minnesota Food Shelf, their representative thanked the audience for their aid. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans also jointly sponsored this offering and encouraged participation.

The Swedes reminded us that they are our seniors, since they go back to 1881. Finally, the organist at Central Presbyterian introduced us to their organ, which goes back to the 19th Century.

Our director, acting as MC, gave us occasional glimpses into Nordkap's past. Thus he introduced a son of our first director and a good number of his family. All these voices inspired us to do our best.

We have many to thank for making this such a memorable occasion. No one contributed more than our

director, Carsten Slostad. He worked us hard to master our six numbers, plus the seven massed chorus numbers. But he also inspired us with his many compliments and his incomparable body language. It was he who made the many arrangements necessary to engage Central Presbyterian and inform the above-named officials of our event. He and his brothers, Jim and Paul even hauled the risers, on which we stood, to the church and returned them. Without the three this event would not have happened. Yes, and Carsten also directs the Glee Club.

Also, we wish to thank the two directors of the Swedish choruses, Jeffrey Wressel and Don Torgersen. And where would we be with accompaniment? Dan Ritter is pianist for us and for the Swedes. We often are amazed at his mastery of his instrument. Loryce Sivertsen accompanies the Glee Club, and sang the solo in the massed choir's rendition of "America, the Beautiful." We were thrilled. Also, Bjorn Hagen soloed in "*Naar Fjordene Blaaner.*" We are always inspired by him. We so much appreciate the members of the other choruses who prepared for and participated so wonderfully in this joyous occasion.

Before we sang and during the offering, Central's organist, Katherine Handford, kept us quieted with her offerings. Anonymous donors also need to be thanked for covering rental and other costs which made possible the major gift to Food Share. Another gift came from the congregation, which provided free parking at a nearby ramp.

Out of sight and missing much of the program were our spouses, the

Auxiliary, preparing lunch for us who were rehearsing, and birthday cake following the program for the audience as well.

In the dining room, numerous displays of Nordkap's history, courtesy of much work by Paul Thorson, were on display for all to see. Behind the scenes are many others also whom we ought to thank. Among them is our president Foster Solem who, among many other contributions, provided the printed programs for the concert.

Last, and most importantly, thanks be to God to Whom and of Whom we sing.

We are saddened, of course, that so many of our members did not live to enjoy this Centennial celebration. Recently we lost Eldon Underdahl and Carl Sheie. More about them in the next issue.

We have three upcoming programs in which to sing, but we will not rehearse again until May 4.

Wendell Frerichs, Corr. Sec. Editor's note: I gleaned from the *Kenyon Leader* the following information, with supplementation from other sources, including my personal knowledge:

Rev. Eldon Underdahl

Eldon James Underdahl was born at rural Kenyon MN to Elling and Amelia (Dyrdahl) Underdahl on May 4, 1925. He attended rural schools in Rice County and graduated as valedictorian of the Kenyon High School class of 1942.

Eldon farmed with his father for four years while his one brother Orlo was serving in the US Army. Later Eldon also served in the Army Medical Corps in Anchorage AK for three years.

Upon discharge Eldon attended St. Olaf College, graduating in 1953 with a degree in Chemistry. Rather than pursue that field, he entered Luther Seminary in St. Paul MN, and upon graduation in 1957 was ordained on a Call to the Coon Valley Parish in Wisconsin. After three years he moved to Jefferson Prairie at Clinton WI. In 1962 he went to Northfield MN to be Promotion Director at St. Olaf.

Pastor Underdahl returned to serve a two-point parish at Hartland and Manchester MN, followed by six years at Dodge Center. In 1979 he became the chaplain at St. Olaf Residence Nursing Facility in Minneapolis, retiring in 1998.

Eldon married Orpha Shirley Floyd, a Kenyon girl, in 1952. There became parents of four children, Ruth Ann, Bruce, Ross and Beth. and grandparents of six.

Eldon became a member of Nordkap in 1986 and served in various ways, including Corresponding Secretary for this publication. As a former radio announcer on WCAL, Northfield, and the Central Lutheran church services, his second-bass voice was put to good use when he narrated the story behind *Nidelven* as part of Nordkap's concerts.

Eldon died March 8th in Minneapolis and his funeral service was held at Central Lutheran Church on March 13.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Orlo and infant sister Emma.

He is survived by his wife, four children and six grandchildren.

**"SANGER-HILSEN"
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**DEADLINE FOR MAY-
JUNE ISSUE
MAY 25, 2009**

NORSE GLEE CLUB**Sioux Falls SD**

Here we are in the last half of March and have been very lucky the past few weeks to have been on the edge of several snowstorms with only an inch or two of snow each time. We hope that holds true all through April. By the time you receive this issue, the April showers will bring forth the May flowers, and those who have planted potatoes may see them sprouting through the soil.

With the above behind us, we welcome a new member to our choir. Gail H. Kristensen, a baritone, was born in Brookings SD, but grew up and was schooled in Chicago. He is a "direct-descendant" member of Sons of Norway in that his paternal grandmother, Anna Isaacson Kristensen, was born at Harstad, near Tromsø. His grandparents homesteaded in Haakon County SD. His dad Raymond is a 1939 graduate of South Dakota State University in Engineering.

In Chicago, Gail was active as a vocalist in church choirs and school groups. He attended the US Naval Academy and while there was in the Chapel Choir. Because of duties at sea and many relocations during his active military service he could participate only sporadically in choral work. Once he retired and more or less permanently settled in northern Virginia in the 1980s, he renewed singing in church choirs and area choral societies.

Gail with wife Diane and daughter Kimberly recently moved to Sioux Falls. He looks forward to the musical opportunities available in the Glee Club and church choirs here. We are pleased to have Gail in the Glee Club.

So far, the choir has been busy rehearsing for the upcoming and fast approaching Sioux Valley Sangerfest in June. At a recent rehearsal our esteemed director Lyle Kroon handed us the spring schedule:

March 16 – Trail Ridge Retirement Community;

March 30 – Joint Rehearsal (Norse Glee Club hosting);

April 13 – Joint Rehearsal (Nordic Male Chorus hosting);

April 20 – Sunny Crest Retirement Village;

May 4 – Joint Rehearsal (Minnehaha Mandskor hosting);

May 14 – St. Dysmas Prison Ministry;

May 18 – Joint Rehearsal (Grieg hosting);

June 13 – Sioux Valley Sangerfest;

June 20 – Nordland Fest at Augustana College.

This is enough to keep us busy.

In February the members and the Ladies Auxiliary enjoyed a very nice Valentine party. Thank you, ladies, for paying the banquet fee. It was much appreciated. A special thank you goes to the decorating committee! It was very nice. You are to be commended.

In the meantime, men of the choir, we are not to hold our music sheets on our laps while singing, but are to hold them up and look at the director!

And as the saying goes – Press On!

K. Roger Johnson, Corr. Sec.

NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB**Minneapolis MN**

On Saturday, March 21st, it was a special honor for the Norwegian Glee Club to participate with the Nordkap Male Chorus in the celebration of their 100th Anniversary. Joining in the

festivities in a mass chorus of 80 singers was also the Swedish Chorus. Each group also participated in a mini-Parade of Choruses with their separate selections. The venue was Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul. This church in its own right has a memorable history and is a wonderful place to sing. Nordkap members and our mutual director Carsten Slostad did a fine job with all the arrangements, making this a very special event.

Our spring lutefisk/meatball dinner on Saturday, March 28, at this writing, appears to be reaching our reservation limit, according to our newly appointed gatekeeper, Earl Evanstad. For our loyal and discriminating diners, lutefisk is a required budget item, and not an option one, even in a recession.

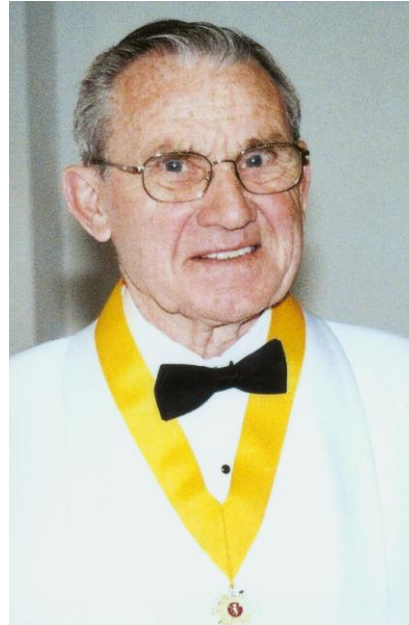
On May 17th we will again join the Nordkap chorus for a *Syttende Mai* concert at Mindekirken (Norwegian Luther Memorial Church), followed by the traditional parade with a sea of flags and plenty of hurrahs.

President Herb Nelson is finalizing arrangements for our three-day tour on May 29-30-31 of Southwest Minnesota and South Dakota, hosted by several Sons of Norway lodges and congregations. The dates and information about our concerts have been communicated to all the communities in the areas of the selected venues.

In 1929 there was an economic crash that was the state of a decade-long Depression in the USA. In Norway that year, in addition to tough times, something else happened. A future world-renowned, cross-country skier was born in Oslo. He is also a Diamond singer in the Norwegian

Glee Club of Minneapolis and our featured member for this issue of the *Sanger-Hilsen*.

Bjørn Lasserud's early years were spent under the harsh conditions of the German occupation of Norway. He was 16 when the country was finally liberated from Nazi control.



Bjørn Lasserud

As a young man he came to Detroit MI as an exchange student, but soon returned to Norway where, in 1953, he courted and married Anne-Lisa. He says he looked for the nicest girl in Oslo and he found her. This union produced two sons before the family left Norway and settled in Minneapolis.

As with most young families, there were some lean years as Bjørn was establishing his painting business. He had to ride the bus to his job sites, carrying his painting supplies and ladder. He relates that, to set up housekeeping in their first home in the Powderhorn Park area, he made

furniture out of boards and spindle legs he could buy from Kresge's. Bjørn soon developed a reputation for high quality work and his business prospered.

A special dividend came in 1966 with the birth of a lovely daughter, Anne-Marie. Anyone who has attended one of our lutefisk dinners knows this young lady. She moves as if on roller skates (or maybe on a pair of her dad's skis), while serving her tables with our wonderful fish.

Soon Bjørn took the big, nervous step and went in debt to purchase a new vehicle to take his supplies to his work. His business continued to grow, so this was not a problem to make the payments. Learning the English language was, of course, a big challenge, but – as he says – when you are hungry and supporting a family in a new land, you learn fast.

During those early years in the US, he attended a concert by Norwegian singers in Minneapolis, and decided right away that he wanted to be a part of that. He regards that as one of the best choices he made. He is now in his 49th year in the Glee Club, which includes 15 years as Marshal, 10 years as President, and over 10 years as NSAA Grand Marshal. He has earned the Gold Medal with Diamond and remains one of the pillars of the Glee Club.

Another important year for the Lasseruds was 1970 with the purchase of a cabin on a Northern Minnesota lake. Everyone became an expert water-skier behind Bjorn's boat with its 110 HP motor. They put on exhibitions for all on shore. Many wonderful days have been spent at the lake.

At the age of 40 Bjørn took up cross-country skiing. Within three years he was winning major events. The Minneapolis Ski Club sponsored him and sent him around the country and to many parts of the world to enter competitive events. He has won 45 National Championships and 37 World Championships (you should see his trophy room). Amazingly, on those 79 year old knees that have been rebuilt twice, he just won another event in Wisconsin this winter. Skiing became a wonderful addition to his life and, besides the honors that he has won, it gave him an opportunity to see much of the world (where it snows). Bjorn says, "fine family, skiing, Glee Club and *Kontak* have been key contributors to a very rich life." He is indeed a special Norwegian Glee Club Diamond.

Charles Engh, Corr. Sec.

NORDIC MALE CHORUS

Sioux City IA

Combined rehearsals have been scheduled for the Sioux Valley Sangerfest, set for June 13th in Sioux Falls SD.

The initial rehearsal was set for March 30th at the Norse Glee Club of Sioux Falls, which will be the host chorus for the Sangerfest, a biennial presentation of the Sioux Valley Singers Association. The second rehearsal will be April 13th in Sioux City at the new Nordic Chorus' location, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 315 Hamilton Blvd. The merged rehearsal of May 4th will be at Minnehaha Mandskor in Sioux Falls, and the last rehearsal will be May 18th with the Grieg Male Chorus in Canton SD.

The Nordic men have been preparing music for the Sangerfest as well as a program for the Scandinavian Societies in March. The chorus is specially honored to have Charles Schuett begin his 32nd year as director. He has served since March 1977.



Bennett Aust

On a sad note, we report that former member of the chorus Bennett "Ben" Aust, 86, died Feb. 21st at a Sioux City hospital. He was born at Colton SD Sept. 1, 1922. Ten grandchildren were the casket bearers for his funeral on Friday, Feb. 27th at Morningside Lutheran Church.



Charlotte Fagerhaug

Also former Auxiliary member Charlotte Fagerhaug died Jan. 23rd, at Omaha NE. She was born at Renner SD Sept. 18, 1924. Her funeral was Jan. 26th, at Morningside Lutheran Church, Sioux City.

Blessed be the memory of each.

+++

Lena was being interviewed for a job as maid for the very wealthy Mrs. Diamond, who asked her, "Do you have any religious issues?" "No," said Lena, "But I've got some nice pictures of Norway." Uff Da!

Bob Hansen, Corr. Sec.

LUREN SINGING SOCIETY Decorah IA

The latter part of winter has been open, so we have had regular rehearsals and were able to sing at the two Lenten services as planned. On March 29th, we traveled to rural Kenyon MN for a return engagement.

How to get there got interesting. There were at least three maps or sets of directions for the route, all of which were in error. It was a beautiful day, so we had a good turnout of singers and a nice post-concert reception.

On our way back, we stopped in Rochester for supper, hitting Country Buffet at their busy hour. Then we made another stop, at Stewartville, to visit Earl Hoff and sing a few songs for him and other residents of the care facility where he was living. The next day he was to move to a facility a bit closer to his Preston MN home. That stop meant a lot to him and his family as well as to us, his fellow-singers.

Posters are up for our upcoming joint concert with the Norsemen from Luther College, assignments for the evening's refreshments are out, and

the rehearsals are going well for our joint concert with the Norsemen from Luther College. We will have Viking Voices from Decorah's Middle School and an award-winning male quartet from Decorah High School sharing their talents with us at Decorah Lutheran Church on Mother's Day, May 10th at 7 p.m. It promises to be a fun evening, with up toward 200 voices altogether.

On May 30 we will go to Mankato MN to sing for their Sons of Norway lodge. On June 4, we will return to La Crosse WI upon an invitation from their Sons of Norway lodge, and June 7th we will sing a concert for Zalmona Presbyterian Church, located between Decorah and Waukon, where Luren member Tom Burrish serves as pastor.

Another Luren member Loren Hartley has invited us back to his home congregation, Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church, for a concert June 28.

That's the schedule before the County Fair in early July and Nordic Fest at the end of July.

Speaking of Nordic Fest, the dates for this year are July 23-25. The theme is "Nordic deLites," with special emphasis on the Sami culture of North Norway. The women's chorus "Northern Lights," which had its beginning in connection with our 1996 Sangerfest in Decorah, will be on the Nordic Fest schedule for the first time. Several Luren wives sing in the group, which has grown to over 60.

By the way, the "Northern Lights" spring concert will be April 19th at 7:00 p.m. at Decorah Lutheran Church

Dean Fisher invited Ardwin Reicks to come along to rehearsal and become a new member of Luren. Ardwin is not yet in uniform, so he

has not sung in any concerts yet, but that will happen soon.

Ardwin was born at St. Lucas on a farm. He was the 7th of 14; he has 10 brothers and three sisters. He attended the St. Lucas parochial school for 12 years and added two years at Loras College. He sang in the parish choir at St. Luke's Catholic Church in St. Lucas, and in the choir at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church in Lawler IA. He also plays accordion, having bought one while in service in Germany between World War II and the Korean conflict.



Ardwin Reicks

Ardwin married Edna Blong in 1955 at Mt. Carmel Church. They have five sons and 14 grandchildren. One son died in 2008 of cancer.

Ardwin sings second tenor. He first heard Luren sing in Des Moines when we took part in the special festivities of the Sesquicentennial of the State of Iowa. That was in December 1996!

We have another prospective member, who moved to Decorah from Denver CO last December. I'll give a report on him in the next issue.

Don Berg, Corr. Sec.

MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR**Sioux Falls SD**

It's been a lo-o-ong winter, 13-14-15 below zero in March!!

We enjoyed Kirk Preheim's annual fish feed. I can't tell you how go-o-od the shrimp, catfish and cajon vegetables were. Thanks, Kirk!

We have been short some snowbirds, but we have been working on numbers for the Sioux Valley Sangerfest. We have two concerts coming up. On April 6th we sing at Trail Ridge Retirement Center and on April 27th at the Good Samaritan Assisted Living Center.

We start joint rehearsals for Sioux Valley Sangerfest with Norse Glee Club hosting the first rehearsal on March 30th, Sioux City on April 13th, and Mandskor on May 4th. It is always enjoyable to get together with all the guys.

Our outing weekend to Minneapolis is May 16-17. We will attend "Phantom of the Opera" and enjoy *Syttende Mai* services at *Mindekirken*.

We are looking forward to the return of our snowbirds to fill the ranks; we have missed you.

Respectfully,

Robert Stenberg, Corr. Sec.

HARMONY SINGING SOCIETY**Rockford IL**

From reading the other Chorus reports from Sanger-Hilsen, it appears that we were not the only Chorus battling the elements this winter. Thank goodness the bulbs and other perennials are starting to poke their heads up here and there.

The end of March finds us still looking for a new director, but we thought we were very close. We had more interviews, and finally just last

week met with a new candidate who stayed on and directed us for our entire rehearsal. It seemed like a good match. He's a choir director in a local high school and mentioned we were better behaved than some of his kids. This week he came early only to announce he had forgotten rehearsals from a summer theater project were also on Tuesday nights. Oh well, back to step one. Our accompanist, June Taylor, is still doing an admirable job with double duties, and we appreciate her help more and more.

For February our regular rehearsals continued but the main activity was preparing for the combined Valentine's Day Party and Women's Anniversary Dinner (Feb. 14th). We had a delicious Steamboat Round of Beef with all the fixings for dinner. The Chorus sang a short program with a sing-along section that was well received. A five-piece Country band was also on the program so the evening ended with dancing the night away (until 8:45pm at least).

March brought more rehearsals and also our Semi-annual Sven, Patrik and Miracle of the Corned Beef Celebration. On Saturday, March 14th, (not to be confused with St. Patrick's Day - March 17th) most of the Chorus gathered early to chop cabbage, peel potatoes, open cans of carrots and trim the beef slabs to our Cook's exacting specifications.

Hundreds of pounds of vegetables and meat were then boiled to perfection and served to the public cafeteria style. Horseradish was the condiment of choice. This event is a fund-raiser for the Chorus and we were expecting about 130 people to attend. We managed to serve about

253 and we actually had potatoes and cabbage left over. Not quite a miracle but still quite an accomplishment.

Looking forward to April, we have some singing engagements planned, both in local retirement homes. The music committee has been thrashing around to develop more standardized programs to use, yet still providing some variety and freshness. I'll bet that we are not the only chorus to deal with this problem. Then the month of May brings our turn again to serve Friday night dinners, I think maybe we should have Corned Beef and Cabbage all five nights.

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Ole was having eye trouble, so he went to see the optometrist. "Put this little gadget over your left eye, Ole," said the optometrist. "Now over the right eye, over the left eye. No, Ole, I said left eye. Now right . . . No Ole, your right eye!" Completely confused, Ole just looked at the optometrist.

"Now, Ole," the optometrist continued, "just remember which is your left hand. OK, Ole, cover your right eye . . . No Ole, that's your left eye!" Finally in exasperation, the optometrist took a brown paper bag, cut a hole in it, put it over Ole's head, and moved the hole back and forth from the left eye to the right eye. "Now, Ole," asked the optometrist, "How is that?" "Vell, Doc, I guess it's all right," said Ole. "But I vas vishing I could have some wire rims like Sven has."

Dan Lindberg, Corr. Sec.

EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS Madison WI

Two members of the Edvard Grieg Chorus are making news. The Chorus welcomes Jack Nelson as the newest

member of our second tenor section. Jack recently retired after 16 years as Administrator of the Badger Prairie Health Care Center in Verona. New member Roger Roloff and his wife, Jo, have been selected to be this year's King and Queen of the Syttende Mai celebration in Stoughton. This is the second consecutive year that a member of the Chorus and his wife have been so honored. Congratulations, Roger and Jo!

Chorus President Steve Christenson has been putting together the performance schedule for our spring and summer season. It looks like the Chorus will be busy in the months ahead. Also, the various Sangerfest 2010 committees, under the leadership of Jon Lewis, are in full planning mode as Sangerfest is now only 12 months away. As noted in the last edition of Sanger Hilsen, this current article and the accompanying photos focus on Overture Hall, the site of Sangerfest 2010's Grand Concert.

The 2,251-seat Overture Hall is designed and constructed for exceptional acoustics and an intimate theater experience. The Hall hosts large-scale musicals, concerts, symphonies, and dance and theater events. Seating is arranged on five levels including Orchestra, Circle, Mezzanine, and two balconies. Box seats line both sidewalls of the Hall. Site lines are enhanced by the pitch of balconies, the curve of rows, position of seats and configuration of sidewalls.

The materials and shapes in Overture Hall were purposely manipulated to influence how sound reverberates and reflects inside the space. As a result, the Hall delivers

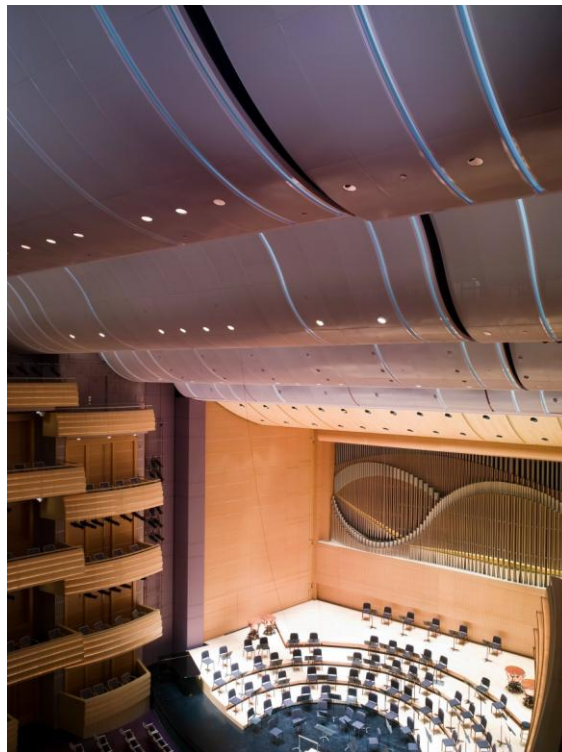


Overture Hall, site of Sangerfest 2010's Grand Concert

rich, true sound throughout, reaching even to the back balcony. Perhaps the most dramatic aspect of the Hall is the concert organ that serves as the backdrop to the performance stage. Built in Germany by the firm of Orgelbau Klais Bonn, the 174-ton Overture Concert Organ with its 4,040 pipes is conveyed on railroad tracks to its storage space at the back of the stage when not in use. It is believed to be the heaviest movable object in any theater in the world.

Our next article will highlight the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra that will accompany the combined choruses for the Grand Concert.

Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.



**LUREN HISTORY (Continued
from previous issue)**

(First, some corrections of dates in the previous report. The year of Luren's reorganization and that first public concert was 1874, not 1974.)

When B. Anundsen moved his newspaper operation from LaCrosse to Decorah and began publication of *Decorah Posten* in Sept. 1874, he brought with him several key people who helped the revival of Luren. One was Emil Berg, who became director and often was a soloist on the concert programs. He served until 1877, when he returned to LaCrosse. Others filled in for short periods, but the membership and interest declined to the point that the precious banner even had to be pawned to pay a bill for rental of the rehearsal hall. By 1880 the group was back to just five singers. But that became the seed for growth until a group of nine sang again in May 1884 in the Steyer Opera House and used the same name of Luren.

That year 1884 was a pivotal year for Luren because that fall a young man from Brooklyn NY enrolled as a pre-theological student at Luther College. His name was Carlo A. Sperati, already an accomplished musician, having been taught by his father, Paolo A. Sperati, who had come from Turin, Italy to Christiania, Norway, to be orchestra conductor at the Christiania Theatre, especially for the operas being presented there. Carlo was born the 8th child of Paolo and his Danish-born first wife Marie Nielsen on Dec. 29, 1860 in Christiania (now Oslo). The Sperati years in Luren's history would not begin for another 20 or so years, but already Carlo had made his mark at

the college. He became a violinist in the college orchestra, a drummer in the Cornet Band, and played several selections on the piano for various events at the college that fall, including one of his own compositions entitled "Luther College March." He soon organized a college singing group called Lorelei and was probably the impetus for a student-led movement to have "a permanent instructor in music with a fixed salary (as) a requisite of this school."

Carlo himself soon filled that role as a part-time instructor in music (singing) for 8 hours per week. What his fixed salary may have been, who knows? But surely it helped cover his college costs, which had been met in part by contributions from the Norwegian Lutheran Church back in Brooklyn. (His travel expenses via train from Brooklyn to Decorah had been paid by Sister Elizabeth Fedde, a major figure in the Lutheran Deaconess movement in Brooklyn and later in Minneapolis.) Carlo must have gotten involved with Luren by then, because in September 1886 he was elected an honorary member. He had been giving music lessons in the Decorah community along with his own studies at the college. As a prospective pastor his tuition was free.

One wonders whether Carlo sang, accompanied, or even directed Luren on occasion during those busy student years. In any case, this was a prelude for a future long career with Luther College and the Luren Singing Society.

Carlo did find time to direct the choir at the Lutheran Church in Decorah (there was but one in town until the split over predestination in the late 1880s.) He was also the

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

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, 1031 W. Ogden Ave. #118, Naperville, IL 60563. tel: (630)369-4233, cell: (630) 479-4233, thorfjell@comcast.com. Corresponding Secretary: Truman Eddy, 50 W Medinah Road #105, Glendale Hts., IL, 60139. tel (630)673-4385, te251@juno.com. 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: LeRoy Iverson, 107 Meadow View Dr, Decorah IA 52101 (563) 382-3584, leroyiverson@skorgen.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: Foster Solem, 2005 E. 122nd St. Burnsville MN 55337-4174 (952)890-2101; Corresponding Secretary: Wendell Frerichs, 1776 Chatsworth St., Roseville MN 55113-6561 (651) 489-8947; Director: Carsten Slostad, 1065 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104-7011; tel. (651) 291-8639.

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: Steve Espeland, 48304 278th St., Canton SD 57013; 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: Mark Agerter, 3850 Gilham Rd, Eugene, OR, 97408, 541-685-0115, Agerter@peak.org; Vice President: Erling Skaar, 2320 NW 96th St, Seattle, WA 98117, 206787-4944, cleanfish@aol.com; Secretary: Phil Overlund, 11556 Shadow Ranch Rd, La Mesa, CA 91941, tel. (619) 660-1125, jpowerlund@cox.net; Treasurer: Orv Sletten, 3087 Oakcrest Dr NW, Salem, OR 97304, tel. (503) 581-7099, orvviv44@comcast.net; Marshal: Dan Moore, 210 Sunside Acres Dr., Eugene, OR 97401, 541-425-6421, daniellemoore@comcast.net; Trustees: Washington - Denney Helseth, 10301 Interlaaken Dr. SW, Lakewood, WA 98498, 253-588-2711, dhelseth@comcast.net; Oregon - Roger Ness, 3079 Stapp Dr, Eugene, OR 97408, tel. (541) 683-3359, rdpjness@juno.com; California - Howard Hansen, 149 Tharp Dr, Moraga, CA 94556, tel. (925) 376-7611.

**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, meyersfbc@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 Blaafadt, 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@proxia.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 Oakes Avenue

Everett, Washington 98203

Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening, 7:30 p.m. at Normanna Hall, 11665 Pointe Place, Anacortes, WA. 98221-8519; President: Claire Egtvedt, 5904 96th Pl. SW, Mukilteo, WA 98275, tel (425) 347-4944, chegtvedt01@foxiinternet.net; Secretary: Robert R. Larson, 1710 163rd St. S.E., Mill Creek, WA 98012, tel: (425) 379-8210, r2larson@msn.com; Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Road, Bellingham, WA 98226, tel: (360) 966-3132, stmjensen@earthlink.net.

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: Don Baines, 9217 27th Ave. NW, Seattle WA 98117, (206) 784-5245, danbaines@earthlink.net; Corresponding Secretary: Kenneth Lake, 5003 NE 194th Pl., Lake Forest Park WI 98155, (206) 362-5611, kennethlake@comcast.net. Director: Dr. Alf Knudsen, 1513 Debreton Lane, Mukilteo, WA 98275, tel: (425) 347-2769, alfknudsen@aol.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, hmandejjacobsen@juno.com; Director: Jon Malmin,

congregation's organist, which led to his budding romantic relationship with a young choir member, whom he would eventually marry following his graduation from the Norwegian Synod's Luther Seminary, located at that time in Robbinsdale MN.

I neglected to include how Carlo spent the years between his departure from Norway and his years in Brooklyn. He was busy at sea. He had chosen at age 17 to become a seaman and had traveled on several ships to many parts of the world. Some of his adventures were influential in his decision to become a pastor. One of his shipmates fell overboard and was lost. Carlo himself was almost "shanghaied" when in San Francisco. Pastoral care in the

Seamen's Church in Brooklyn and the Norwegian Lutheran Church may have been factors as well. He is listed as being a factory worker while in Brooklyn in 1883-84, prior to departure for Decorah. But he put his musical skills to work also to earn money and survive.

The Sperati years with Luther College and Luren would not begin again until 1905. His career as a Lutheran pastor took him to the West Coast, following his ordination in 1891 upon a Call to Whatcom County, Washington. That same year Carlo and Emma (Hoffoss) were married at the Norwegian Synod Lutheran Church in Decorah.

(To be continued.)