



**VOLUME 99, NO. 1**

**DECORAH, IA**

**Jan.-Feb. 2009**



*Skurrekvartten i Luren.*

Oscar Holm, Carl Larsen, Ole G. Huff(?), E. M. Sunnes(?). See the Luren history note on page 13 for further information on this picture.

**NORDIC MALE CHORUS****Sioux City, IA**

The chorus has completed its move to a new location in Sioux City following the sale of its longtime rehearsal setting in the Scandinavian Societies Hall on Fourth Street.

The chorus, as well as the Sons of Norway and Swedish Vasa, have completed an agreement to hold their meetings at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 315 Hamilton Boulevard with sessions in the church hall.

Several truck loads of equipment, music and files, chairs, tables and piano were transported to the church in December for the opening of chorus practices in the new year, beginning January 19. An auction was held January 17 for items not moved to the church.

Director Charles Schuett said that the focus of rehearsals will be for participation in the Sioux Valley Sangerfest June 13 in Sioux Falls, SD, hosted by the Norse Glee Club. Music selected for the Sangerfest will be reviewed, with joint rehearsals in the several months leading up to the event. The Sioux Valley organization consists of the Nordic and Norse Glee groups, as well as the Minnehaha Mandskor of Sioux Falls and the Grieg Male Chorus of Canton, SD.

“Never test a joke on an Englishman, a Dale, a Norwegian, or a Swede,” declares the late comedian W.C. Fields, who says “that by the time an Englishman solves one, they’re already sweeping out the theater. As for the others, you’re lucky to get a trace of a smile for your trouble. Their faces are too frozen from tough winters to crack into happy expressions.”

Bob Hansen, Corr. Sec.

**NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB****Minneapolis, MN**

Out with the old year and in with the “new.” Most of us are happy to leave the last part of 2008, a period when the collective efforts of greedy financial institutions, inept self-serving elected representatives and other government officials, added to the self-indulgences of individuals and their unsustainable demands for entitlements from their government, brought us to this sorry state. Many good people are experiencing great hardship.

So much for the gloom. The Glee Club had a very satisfying 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008, climaxed by the annual *Julekonsert* at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation in St. Louis Park. This is Director Carsten Slostad’s church and it was a superb venue. Our festive December Christmas Party was well attended and enjoyed by all. The weather was more cooperative this year (not necessarily true since).

We can now report the result of our annual meeting held Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>. After a spirited campaign, President Herb Nelson and Vice-President Mark Olson retained their offices. We have a new Recording Secretary, Ron Hemstad. Ron replaces Frank Berger. Glen Tollefson is our new Financial Secretary, replacing Bob Olson #2, who had taken over those responsibilities when Guy Hole died. Bob is our Marshal plus the Lutefisk dinners foreman and CD sales manager so this gives him some relief. Other officers stayed in their respective positions.

Another important change was made after we discovered that the coffee pot had not been plugged in for

our break that evening. We had plain water with our cookies. The Marshal now has two assistants to back him up for this critical responsibility.



Einar Johansen

This issue we feature another of our “Diamonds”, Einar Johansen, a Glee Club member for 55 years. Einar’s story begins in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway in 1928 where he spent his youth. After WWII Einar learned his trade working with Master Furniture Maker, Karl Nilsen, in Oslo. In 1949, before coming to America, he had to serve for one year in the 49 Occupation Brigade in Germany. Two days after arriving in Minneapolis in 1951, he became an employee of the Joseph Palen Fixture Company. That summer he met Chris Feste who was a foreman for home builder Andrew Wangstad and went to work with him. Chris and Andrew were members of the Glee Club and Einar was encouraged to join, and he did.

An interruption occurred in 1955 when he was drafted into the US Army, serving two years with the Corps of Engineers attached to the Air Force serving in Germany and France.

Returning to Minneapolis in 1957, Einar set up his own business doing remodeling and cabinet work. At this time he also met a lovely girl from Valdres, Norway. A three-day old-fashioned Norwegian wedding followed. Sadly, Randi died three months before their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Two fine daughters and two grandchildren are some of the legacy of Randi’s life.

Starting in the 60’s and for 20 years, Einar was selling and installing commercial and hobby greenhouses in Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Wisconsin. This kept him away from home a good share of the time. Since retiring from that endeavor, he has been spending his time in his wood working shop, building custom cabinets and furniture. He also has a closet full of old violins waiting to be repaired, so he will never run out of projects. He says, “At present I am busy trying to accomplish as little as possible.” (He has earned that.)

An interesting recollection: On a Sunday in 1947 Einar was strolling along Oslo’s harbor docks when the MS Stavangerfjord from New York was tying up at the Norwegian American Line pier. On an upper deck a group of men were lined up and singing the national anthems. It was the Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis coming to Norway on a concert tour. At that time it was not in Einar’s plans that he would be singing with them six years later.

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("SINGERS GREETING")**

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**DEADLINE FOR MAR-  
APRIL ISSUE  
MAR. 25, 2009**

Yes Einar has been one of these ‘pillars’ of the Glee Club since 1953. In addition to all of the things he has done to support and sustain this 97 year old organization, he is renowned as the best lutefisk chef in the Twin Cities. No one does it better and the continued popularity of our fundraising dinners attests to that. We are indeed indebted to this “Diamond” Glee Club fellow-singer and friend.

Charles Engh, Corr. Sec.

### NORSE GLEE CLUB

#### Sioux Falls SD

Here we are in the middle of January with an abundance of cold fresh air behind us and most of us looking for more warmer days ahead. Indeed, winter has its ups and downs. It has been nice that the choir is on its winter break from the middle of December to February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Looking back, the Glee Club and Auxiliary had its Christmas Party on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Nordic Hall. Thanks to the Decorating Committee for the very nice work they did in preparation for the occasion.

The night of January 10<sup>th</sup> the Regans hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Norse Glee Club and Auxiliary “Whistfest” at their home. Wonderful snacks and lunch were served. It was a fun and enjoyable evening! Our many thanks to George and Judy!

The choir will resume rehearsal on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, which means we start to get ready for the upcoming Sioux Valley Sangerfest in June. So, in the meantime, keep warm. Ground Hog day will soon be here and past—but, whatever that is to mean, take it with a grain of salt. This is a little late but “Happy New Year to All.” Press On!

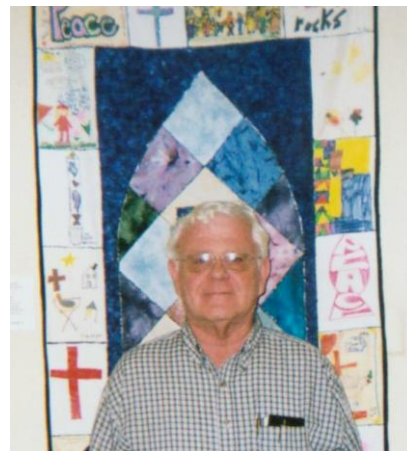
K. Roger Johnson, Corr. Sec.

### NORDKAP MALE CHORUS

#### Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

“We are the men of Nordkap” is the song we sing in most of our programs. Whether we will repeat it at our Centennial Concert in March depends upon our director’s discretion. The rest of our program will be based, in part, on suggestions by chorus members. Much work lies ahead, beginning with our first rehearsal of the new year on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

We are thankful for three new members who are strengthening our bass section. Something about them and their pictures are included here. No questionnaire was given them, so the data are varied. Please welcome them when your paths cross. All three are gifted and experienced to raise the level of our performance.



Connely Dyrud

Connely Joel Dyrud has sung in choirs from Thief River Falls, MN to mission churches in Brazil. In addition, he has sung at California Bible School, a church choir in Bemidji, MN, and the A.F.L.C. Seminary Men’s Choir. His education includes Thief River Falls High

School, Augsburg College, California Lutheran Bible School, Bemidji State University, and the A.F.L.C. Seminary.

His pastoral career began as a missionary to Brazil (1969-2004) and Missionary at Large with the A.F.L.C. since 2004. In 1966, he and Carolyn Hove were married. To them were born Shannon, Christina, Victoria and Chester. The next generation includes Jordan, Gabriella, and Eloisa. Sadly, Carolyn passed away in 2005. The Lord bless her memory and promise of reunion to all who knew her.



Robert Lee

Robert (Bob) Lee previously sang in Nordkap more than 20 years ago, and was a charter member of the Valley Troubadours of Valley City, ND. He was educated at Escanaba High School, Augsburg College, Free Lutheran Seminary, and Bethel Theological Seminary. He served A.F.L.C. congregations in Tioga and Valley City, ND and Newark, IL before becoming denominational president from 1992-2007. He taught Church History and Pastoral Theology over the years including the present. His

wife of 41 years is Gloria (James). Children include Adam and Amy (Skogerboe). There are four grandchildren, with a 5<sup>th</sup> due in March.



Tom Mundahl

Tom Mundahl has had the privilege of singing in many church choirs, including the Dubuque Chorale and the St. Olaf Chapel Choir, after recovering from singing rock n' roll with the Maniacs. After graduating from high school in Little Falls, MN, he received degrees from St. Olaf College, the University of Iowa, Luther Seminary, and the University of Michigan. He has worked in college teaching at the University of Iowa, Luther College, and Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, IA. For the past 30 years he has served churches in Owatonna and St. Charles, MN, Dubuque, IA, and Willmar and St. Louis Park, MN. Currently he serves as pastor of Lutheran Church of the Reformation in St. Louis Park. Tom is married to Anne, a palliative nurse. They are parents of Hannah and Noah who both live in the Twin Cities. Grandson Kai, 2 ½, also loves to sing.

Wendell Frerichs, Corr. Sec.

**GRIEG MALE CHORUS****Canton, SD**

Last evening, as I was driving home after a closing shift at work, with temperatures in minus digits, bright moonlight, and a few Christmas tree lights still glistening on trees along the highway, I was mindful of two big events coming up in the next few days. First, the Inaugural of the 44<sup>th</sup> President of our nation, and then the DEADLINE FOR THE JAN.-FEB. ISSUE OF THE SANGERHILSEN.

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, our Grieg Male Chorus had the privilege of performing a Christmas concert at Grand Valley Lutheran Church fellowship hall. The concert was hosted by the Grand Valley congregation as a fund raiser for Love Inc. (Love in the name of Christ), an organization in Canton working with the Canton Ministerial Association to meet the many needs of several families throughout Lincoln Co. The 7 p.m. candlelight concert was well attended with holiday baking, coffee and cider served during the concert, and group caroling by all those in attendance. Instead of a gift exchange at our chorus Christmas party, the members again voted to donate cash to purchase hams to be distributed to area families through the Canton Ministerial Association.

December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Grieg Chorus gathered at 5:30 p.m. at the Canton Good Samaritan Home to share numbers from our Christmas concert as a "dinner concert" for the residents. Following the concert at Good Sam, members of the Grieg Chorus and Auxiliary met at the Grand Valley Fellowship Hall for the annual Christmas party. The evening included a wonderful meal, games, music, coffee and baking, and, of course, the great

fellowship we enjoyed with our Grieg family and guests as we celebrate the Christmas season. Thank you to the committee for all their hard work and preparation to give all of us an enjoyable celebration.

During our "winter break" our chorus participated in one community event, the annual Service for Christian Unity. This service is sponsored by the Canton Ministerial Association, and is hosted each year by a different congregation in the area. During the service, music is provided by member congregations, and the Grieg Chorus is grateful to be invited each year to be a part of this meaningful service. The service always concludes with a joint number by all participating groups.

Following our break, we will begin regular weekly rehearsals on Mon. Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Preparations will be made for local concert invitations, and we look forward to receiving the music program to begin rehearsing for our Sioux Valley Sangerfest to be held in June, 2009.

Greetings to all our Brother Singers in the NSAA, and families from the Grieg Male Chorus at Canton.

P.S. Special reminder for Grieg Chorus members: there are only a few more shopping days until our director Lane Karli's birthday on March 6<sup>th</sup>!

Jerry Holter, Corr. Sec.

**LUREN SINGING SOCIETY****Decorah, IA**

Since the last report, our singing schedule has filled up a bit more. We have our in-town Lenten service on March 4<sup>th</sup> at Good Shepherd Lutheran, with the service at 5:15 followed by a soup supper. Three weeks later, on March 25, we will be at Big Canoe

Lutheran Church. They have supper first, at 5:15, with the service at 6:15.

The following Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, we will sing a full concert at Holden Lutheran Church, rural Kenyon, MN, at 3:30 p.m. This is the home congregation of Maynard Aaker. We have sung there previously, including June 1987 as part of our southern Minnesota tour. A few of us also sang for a Sunday morning service on our way back from Sangerfest in Minneapolis in 2002.

With Easter on April 12<sup>th</sup>, it is good to have some time to prepare for our joint concert with the Norsemen from Luther College at Decorah Lutheran Church, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. This is always a benefit, but we have not yet chosen the charity for the offering to be taken.

We have two invitations to sing for Sons of Norway lodges this spring. Details are not complete, but we will be in Mankato, MN on Saturday, May 30, and in LaCrosse, WI on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, on June 7<sup>th</sup>, we will sing in concert at Zalmona Presbyterian Church, rural Waukon, IA at 1:00 p.m. Some of the group may be able to share in the morning worship that day as well. Member Tom Buresh serves as the congregation's pastor.

We did investigate the possibility of a Northern Minnesota-Canada tour, but the key part – in Winnipeg – did not materialize. But another mini-tour is taking shape for late October, which looks very interesting and promising.

We are still missing several snowbirds, but we are glad we have more favorable weather so we can rehearse fairly regularly. We are already talking about a strong representation of our members at Sangerfest 2010 in

Madison. Soon we should be getting the list of music for that event.

We have a few more new members to report on. We had to leave them out of the previous issue because of space. We are happy to welcome new members at any time, and may have another one or two to report yet in the next issue.

**Rev. Todd Krueger** was born in Milwaukee WI, the oldest of three sons. He is single. His youngest brother is also a pastor.

Todd attended Northwestern Preparatory School and College in Watertown WI, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at Mequon WI, from where he graduated in 1999 upon a Call to St. John's Lutheran Church in Caledonia MN.



Todd Krueger

Todd plays several instruments and has participated in orchestras for several musical productions. He also sang in high school, college and seminary choirs as a first tenor.

He was invited to Luren by neighboring Minnesotans, Jim Gray and Fred Arnold. He says Luren reminds him of other male choruses in which he has sung in college and seminary.

**Larry Monson** was born at Grand Island NE.. He has one younger sister,



Karen Woodward, who also lives in Decorah now.



Larry Monson

Larry grew up in Grand Island, then attended college at Midland in Fremont NE, majoring in musical performance, playing trumpet. He received his Master's degree from the University of Iowa, then taught choral music for 15 years. He has also directed church choirs in various places.

Larry met his wife-to-be LaVonne at Midland College. They married in 1964 and have three children (two sons, one daughter), all Luther College graduates. There are five grandchildren.

The Monsons moved to Decorah in 2007, but not officially until this year. He was invited to Luren by Gary Lee. He had heard Luren at several times, including Nordic Fest and always enjoyed the singing and the preservation of his own musical heritage.

Larry currently sings second bass.

**Brian Jones** is not a new member, but is returning after a few years of absence due to moving and building his own house. He and wife Jennifer now have their second child. Brian returns to the baritone section.

We warmly welcome each singer and at the same time encourage all of our members to continue to invite and recruit others.

Don Berg, Corr. Sec.

### MINNEHAHA MANNSKOR Sioux Falls, SD

Brother Singers,

We hope you all enjoyed a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our chorus had a well-received concert at Prairie Creek Retirement Couples during the holiday season.

Our Dad's Belgium Waffle Feed is our big fund raiser for the year. It comes so quickly after the holiday season that we don't have much "prep" time. This year the date fell on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>. I have been chairman of the waffle committee for the past few years. This year Arlene and I spent the holidays with our daughter and family in Chicago area, and while there I had emergency gall bladder surgery. I was very grateful that I could call home to others on the committee, tell them where my waffle feed folder was, and they carried out all the details to perfection—serving about 600 guests. Well, that's one way to get rid of the chairman's job!!!

Director Terry told the chorus that "Phantom of the Opera" is playing in Minneapolis May 17<sup>th</sup>. So we will be planning another weekend outing May 16 & 17. Details of the trip are in the planning stages.

Some of our snow birds are heading south for a few weeks, so our ranks will be thin for awhile.

We are looking forward to rehearsal of Sioux Valley Sangerfest numbers, and the joy of joint rehearsals.

Respectfully,

Robert Stenberg, Corr. Sec.

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

In the letter that the NSAA Treasurer sent to the NSAA choruses early in January, he used an out-of-date figure for the annual subscription rate for the magazine. The correct figure, set at the 2006 Sangerfest, is \$22.00.

Several choruses sent payment on the basis of that \$20.00 figure that he quoted in his letter.

If your chorus was among those misled by that letter, please send the additional \$2.00 per subscription to the Editor-Publisher. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Individual subscribers should remit their payment on the same basis, \$22.

**HARMONY SINGING SOCIETY  
Rockford IL**

Summer, Fall, Winter 2008, 2009

Greetings from Rockford, Illinois! To quote Mark Twain: "Rumors of our demise have been greatly exaggerated." Although only a few of the Chorus members attended the June Sangerfest, in Fargo, North Dakota, we decided not to sing at the Parade of Choruses due to the lack of any attending baritones, the untimely resignation of our Director, and absence of our accompanist. However, those of us who did attend thoroughly enjoyed fellowship and singing with the other Choruses. On to Madison in 2010!! It's only a hour up the Interstate 90 for us.

The Chorus relaxed during July, August and had no scheduled rehearsals. We kept looking for a new director, and interviewed an excellent prospect, who declined because of a too busy schedule.

In September, rehearsals started again on the second Tuesday, with us still looking for new director. Our accompanist, June Taylor, is doing double duty and directing us also. With head bobs, raised eyebrows, and hand waves, we all seem to be communicating and sounding halfway decent. Thanks, June! This month we also served Friday Night Dinners for the Club members and the general public. We also do a little informal singing during these evenings.

The month of October continued with our accompanist doing double duty. We sang one Tuesday night at Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center here in Rockford. The crowd seemed to enjoy our program and offered us cookies and punch after our singing. We also decided to update our sound system (which we believe originated for the May 17th celebration in 1905) and started shopping around. Due to the generosity of the several Chorus members, we were able to get the updated equipment at minimal expense.

For November, Tuesday night rehearsals continued with June Taylor again doing double duty. Mid month, we sang for our annual Men's Memorial Dinner. At this event we honor the memory of various Club and Chorus members who have passed away during the past 12 months.

The crowd enjoyed both our short program and the new sound system. Thanks to Bob Aden and Dana Bailey of the Chorus for some special singing.

Chorus Rehearsals were scheduled for early and mid December but due to persistent Tuesday night snow

storms and lack of any Christmas singing engagements, we had few rehearsals. We did get together for our annual Christmas Pot Luck with Roast Turkey and all the trimmings. Sorry, no Lutefisk! Sang Christmas music to wives and friends to end this always warm and pleasant evening.

Mid December the Chorus was saddened to hear of the death from cancer of one of our baritones, David Martin. Dave fought for five months since the diagnosis. Dave had been a faithful Chorus member for the last five years and was on the Music Committee. He had been leading the search for a new director for the last seven months.

Dave will be missed not only for his singing but also his always cheerful disposition and his ability to tell a new joke every time that you talked to him. The Chorus sang two numbers: "The Lord's Prayer" and "Amazing Grace" at his Funeral. He will be missed.

December also brought new Club elections for the following year. Steve Litteral, Sr. is our new President, with Chorus members Dick Govig as Financial Secretary, and Dan Lindberg as Secretary (and as new Corresponding Secretary for Sanger-Hilsen). Ken Damon continues as Marshall for the Chorus.

The New Year brought new (and old) challenges. We are still without a director. We again interviewed a second excellent prospect, who also declined because of a too busy schedule. We have recently heard of two new prospects so we are keeping our collective fingers crossed. This month we are once again serving Friday Night Dinners for the Club members and the general public. The

seemingly unending snowstorms have moved from Tuesdays (our rehearsal night) to Friday Nights. Oh well, spring's right around the corner. Right?

Finally: Ole's neighbor Sven had a boy, Sven Junior, who came home one day and asked, "Papa, I have da biggest feet in da third grade. Is dat becoss I'm Norwegian?" "No," said Sven, "It's because you're NINETEEN."

Dan Lindberg, Corr. Sec.

## EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS

### Madison WI

It is hard to believe, but it is happening again! So far this winter we have received 57 inches of snow compared with the average 28 inches for the same period. As a result of the weather, we were forced to cancel a concert, our chorus Christmas Party, and two regular practices.

However, we were able to enjoy our annual Founder's Day Dinner on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Stoughton Country Club. In a departure from past practice, we elected to have an internal talent show in lieu of outside entertainment. As you might imagine, there was a full plate of Ole and Lena and Ole and Sven jokes along with several musical numbers, piano duets and comedy routines by members of the chorus and their spouses. Chorus members, spouses and friends all enjoyed a wonderful evening.

Over the next several months we will be introducing fellow singers to various aspects of Sangerfest 2010 in Madison. This article includes a short history of the Overture Center for the Arts where we will conduct our practices and present the Parade of Choruses and the Grand Concert. We

believe this may be the finest performance facility to ever hold a Sangerfest.

The Overture Center incorporates three architectural elements that date back to the 1920s. The Capitol Theater originally opened in 1928 as an opulent, 2,500-seat silent-film era movie theater. (Twice renovated, the Capitol Theater will be the site of the Parade of Choruses.) In 1972, the City of Madison purchased the theater to serve as the home for the Madison Civic Center. Following its expansion and renovation, the Civic Center opened in 1980 and flourished as an arts presenter and home to local arts groups. By the mid-1990's, however, the success of the resident organizations outgrew the existing facility's capacities.

Then in 1998 local philanthropist Jerry Frautschi astonished Madison with a gift of \$50 million for a new arts facility. Overture Center for the Arts was completed in 2006 with a final price tag of \$205 million, entirely funded by Mr. Frautschi and his wife Pleasant Rowland, founder of the American Girl Company. Designed by architect Cesar Pelli, the Overture Center's facilities include three performance venues, four art galleries, and the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, with its rooftop restaurant and sculpture garden. The Grand Concert will be held in the new Overture Hall. A detailed description of Overture Hall will be provided in the next edition of Sanger-Hilsen.

Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

### LUREN HISTORY

(Continued from Sept-Oct '08)

The Luren Singing Society, which had reorganized on March 17, 1974,

went right to work on rehearsals twice each week, and began giving programs for invited audiences, mostly in Decorah, by the following fall. On Thursday, Nov. 26, 1974, the first public concert was given in Calmar, 10 miles from Decorah, at Radliff's Hall. The entire program was printed in the Saturday, Nov. 21 issue of *Decorah Posten* as pre-concert publicity. We can only presume that posters were used as well as word-of-mouth advertising. No composers' names were listed. The program was:

#### Part I

1. *Ja, vi elsker dette Landet*
2. *Reisen til Sæterenn*
3. *Søndagskvelden (solo)*
4. *Skarpskyttermarsch*

#### Part II.

5. *Norges Fjelde*
6. *Høstsang*
7. *Kys-Valz (solo)*
8. *Friargossen*
9. *Studentsang*

#### Part III

10. *Sang før armeens alle vapen*
11. *Norden er et Søskenlag*
12. *Thou aart so near (solo)*
13. *Olaf Trygvason*
14. *God Nat*

The 8 p.m. concert was followed by a dance that probably lasted into Sunday morning.

Emil Berg, an employee of *Decorah Posten*, directed the chorus and sang the three solos. (No mention is made of an accompanist.) He had come from LaCrosse, where he had directed the male Normanna Sangkor since its start in 1869. B. Anundsen, owner and publisher of *Decorah Posten*, generously promoted the young organization in its columns. He even served as one of the early

officers, both as vice president and president.

For a fairly long time, the paper also carried as a feature Scandinavian music that could be taken from the paper and eventually bound into a song book. Both music and words were included.

A month later, on Monday, Dec. 28, Luren sang its first public concert in Decorah at the relatively new Steyer's Opera House. (See the May-June 2006 issue of *Sanger-Hilsen* for an extensive article about that building.) Even though this concert took place early in the Christmas season, there was little, if any, emphasis on Christmas music.

That Luren intended to be around for a while is evidenced by a plan by the wives of the chorus members to prepare a banner in time to be used for the celebration of *Syttende Mai* 1875.

This first unofficial Luren Auxiliary sewed the substantial banner, beginning in February. The musical symbols still in use on the current banner were evident, as was the Luren motto *I sang vi forenet staa* (In song we stand united). The materials cost over \$100. How many hours of skilled seamstress labor were contributed in support of their husbands' musical dreams and goals!

The banner was formally presented to Luren by the ladies on Thursday April 28, 1875. After some speeches the singers encircled the banner and sang "*Til Damerne*" which was written for the occasion by Bernt Askevold. The *Decorah Posten* noted "After the ceremonies were over, they amused themselves in the best manner until well into the night."

ABOUT THE COVER PICTURE.

This undated picture, probably from some years after 1875, indicates that Luren was more than a singing group. At various times on the programs there were vaudeville acts and other kinds of entertainment.

The caption *Skurrekvartten i Luren* can be freely translated as "The Washboard Quartet." The verb *skure* means to rub, scrub, or scour, while the noun form means cleaning. Another verb, *skurre*, means to grate or jar the ears. Either term would probably fit the nature of this group.

Note that the four members are all in costume, playing their home-made cigar box "instruments." The bass instrument is made from an Ivory Soap box. Was their music 99 and 44/100 percent pure, or was it purely farce? It is interesting to note that the original picture had been lightly color tinted. (continued in a future issue)

**Letter to the Editor** from Finn Hedin of the Norwegian Male Chorus in Everett WA.

Jan 27, 2009.

Dear Editor Donald L. Berg

Much water has run out into the Puget Sound since last you heard from me, but I can tell you that I have successfully come through two lung cancer programs, one on each of my lungs and now, I am back in my singing program with the Everett Chorus.

I thought of an old poem by Ivar Aasen, that I thought went well with my own reflection of life during the time. I have rewritten it into English and, if that makes sense to you, maybe you'll find it useful. Keep up the good work and best regards, Finn. (Please see last page for the Ivar Asen poem with translation.)

**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.

**Normennes 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, thor!jell@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 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. Rockford, IL 61104. President: Steve Litteral Sr. 618 13<sup>th</sup> 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. 122<sup>nd</sup> 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: Ronald Beck, 28206 465th Ave., Lennox SD 57039 (605) 647-2851, beckpardo1 @speednet.com; 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 254<sup>th</sup> 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 480<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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, beckpardo1 @speednet.com; Vice President: Don Cooper, 2708 W Oak St. Sioux Falls, SD 57105 (605) 339-0607, [clefdwellers\\_on\\_oak@juno.com](mailto: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](mailto:jpowerlund@cox.net); Treasurer: Orv Sletten, 3087 Oakcrest Dr NW, Salem, OR 97304, tel. (503) 581-7099, [orvviv44@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jugjockp47@aol.com); Director: Dick Meyer, 3440 Adell Ct., Apt. 2, Oakland, CA 94602, tel. (510) 482-4714, [meyersfbc@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dekrogh@sbcglobal.net); Secretary: Jon Homerud, 3354 Bonica Woods Dr., Bnita, CA 91902 (619) 470-8745 [holmerud@cox.net](mailto:holmerud@cox.net); Director: Joyce Olsen, 2991 Jacks Creek Place, Escondido, CA 92027, tel. (760) 735-6171, [joyceolsen@mac.com](mailto: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](mailto:dchouse@earthlink.net); Director: Rebecca Stein, 204 Roseann, Pittsburg, CA 94565, tel. (925) 432-1120, [beccab63@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:bagaason@rio.com); Secretary: Roger Ness, 3079 Stapp Dr. Eugene, OR 97408, tel. (541) 505-7769, [mwilliams@eugenlaw.com](mailto:mwilliams@eugenlaw.com); Director:

Ed Amundson, 29453 Culver Lane, tel. (541) 998-6329 [eamundson@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:whitewolf@proaxis.com).

### WASHINGTON

#### BELLINGHAM

#### Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsals every Tuesday eveing, 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](mailto: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](mailto:chegtvedt01@foxiinternet.net); Secretary: Robert R. Larson, 1710 163rd St. S.E., Mill Creek, WA 98012, tel: (425) 379-8210, [r2larson@msn.com](mailto:r2larson@msn.com); Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Road, Bellingham, WA 98226, tel: (360) 966-3132, [stmjensen@earthlink.net](mailto: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](mailto:danbaines@earthlink.net); Corresponding Secretary: Kenneth Lake, 5003 NE 194th Pl., Lake Forest Park WI 98155, (206) 362-5611, [kennethlake@comcast.net](mailto:kennethlake@comcast.net). Director: Dr. Alf Knudsen, 1513 Debreton Lane, Mukilteo, WA 98275, tel: (425) 347-2769, [alfknudsen@aol.com](mailto: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, [hmandcjjacobsen@juno.com](mailto:hmandcjjacobsen@juno.com); Director: Jon Malmin,

Norwegian Nynorsk Poem by Ivar Aasen, translation by Finn Hedin.

### Hugen ser so Vida

Hugen ser så Vida,  
Millom von og Kvida,  
Mykje kjemmer til, som ingen hadde spaat  
Mykje kjemmer stort og verder sidan småt,  
Hugen ser så vida.

Hugen ser som dåren  
Drøymer støtt om faaren,  
Fram i vegen trur eg, er en bakke bratt;  
Naar eg kjemmer der, so er det bare flat.  
Hugen ser så vida.

Hugen ser som Draument,  
Att og fram i straument.  
Fram i vegen vist eg ventar meg en skatt  
Naar eg kjemmer der, so er han burte tadt,  
Hugen ser så vida.

Hugen fyljer tidon,  
Trøytennes ut av stridom  
Naar eg ser, eg inkje huset større ser,  
Gjerer eg meg nøgder med det, som det er.  
Hugen ser så vida.

### The Mind sees Far and Wide

The Mind sees many things,  
Between hope and pains,  
Much is later added, no one could foretell!  
Much of what comes great later much deflates,  
The mind sees far and wide.

The mind sees like a fool,  
Always dreams of danger,  
In the road ahead, I'd see, a steeper path,  
When I'd come there, everything is flat,  
The mind sees far and wide.

The mind sees like the dream,  
Moving in the stream,  
In the road ahead awaits a treasure,  
When I arrive I find no pleasure,  
The mind sees far and wide.

The mind follows time,  
Tires out by struggle,  
When I see the house, no larger is,  
I satisfy myself with the very fact!  
The mind sees far and wide.