



VOLUME 101, NO. 3

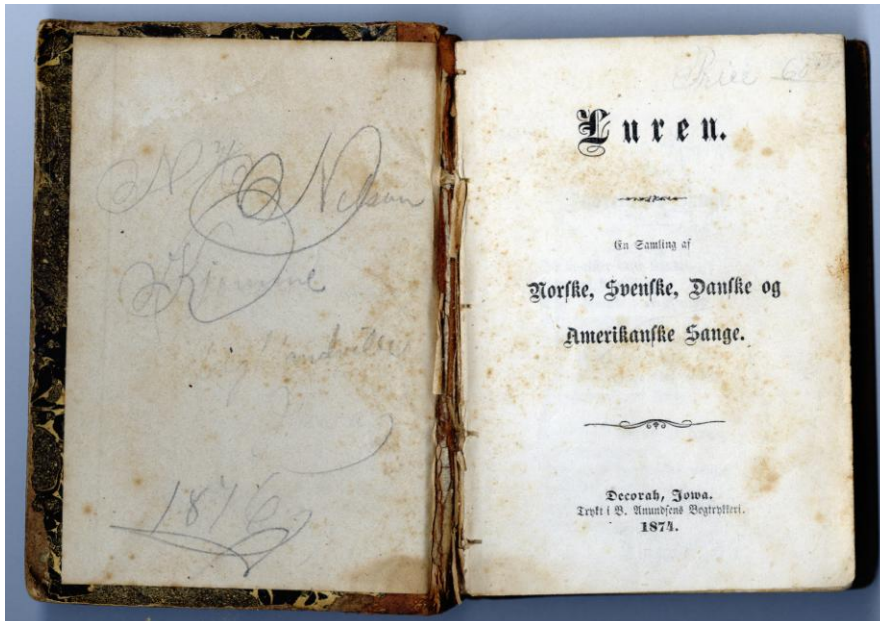
DECORAH, IA

May-June 2011



Cover of the *Luren* song book (1874)

Photos courtesy Vesterheim Museum



Title page of the *Luren* song book.

About the Cover

Just after Christmas 2010, while I was reading *The Norseman*, the publication of the Norse Federation, I saw an item about the upcoming Conference of the Norwegian-American Historical Association – Norway, to be held at Luther College in June 2011 in conjunction with the sesquicentennial of the College. I was wondering whether I could submit a proposal for a presentation during the Conference, and was informed by one of the NAHA Board members that I could do so. I quickly typed up a brief outline of my proposed topic and made the deadline.

“Migrant Journeys” is the theme of the Conference. My proposed topic is entitled “The Importance of Music for the Norwegian-American Immigrant.”

As I began research, I remembered that, several years ago, I had seen in *Decorah Posten* an interesting feature. At the bottom of each page of the early newspaper there was a page from a collection of songs. When I went back to the newspaper, I learned that this had been included from the very first issue of the paper, which began publication on Sept. 5, 1874.

Off the microfilm of the paper I made copies of the first three months’ issues. After the first three months, the publisher, B. Anundsen, changed the format. Subscribers would get the pages of the songbook on a monthly basis, and were encouraged to save them and bring them in to be bound into their own copies of the songbook.

What I had not noticed initially was that this was the Luren Songbook. The title page says it is a Collection of Norwegian, Swedish, Danish and American Songs. Further, that it was a *Feuilleton til “Decorah Posten.”*

That French word means “a part of a European newspaper or magazine devoted to material designed to entertain the general reader...” We would call it a supplement. But notice further, that it was being printed in Decorah by the B. Anundsen Book Press, in 1874.

Earlier in 1874, on March 17th, the Luren Singing Society had organized as a chorus. They chose the same name as the quartet that had had its picture taken on March 17th, 1868, and they chose the same name for their songbook.

When the chorus organized, one of the officers was -- B. Anundsen. Whether he sang actively is not known, but several of his employees did take part. Emil Berg, who had come with Anundsen from LaCrosse, was Luren’s first director. Bernt Askevold, the first Editor of *Decorah Posten*, was the author of several of the selections in the songbook. It is quite likely that these three and maybe some other men were involved in choosing what to include and other details, such as their order.

By the way, the copy cost 60 cents!

For my presentation I am analyzing the selections included, bearing in mind the time frame – just a few years after the Civil War, the situation back in Europe and Norway, etc. I may be able to give a synopsis of my findings in a later issue of *Sanger-Hilsen*.

It is remarkable that B. Anundsen, as a struggling young newspaper man, would commit to such a project, not knowing what kind of market there would be. We do not know how many copies were sold.

It is interesting too, that Vesterheim has in its collection a similar book that was a collection of National and

Social Songs with Music, compiled by Knud Henderson and published in 1876 in Chicago by John Anderson Publishing Co. Perhaps someone in the Chicago area can tell more about Knud and his Collection.

Further, I've done some comparing of the songs in the Luren book with those in both the Norwegian and the English editions of Sons of Norway Songbook.

So, was music important for the Norwegian-American Immigrant? *Ja, det var meget viktig!* (Yes, it was very important!) DLB

From NSAA President

The following article comes from the program book of the 39th Biennial Sangerfest, which was held at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in downtown Chicago in 1972. The Sangerfest was hosted jointly by Normennenes Singing Society, Bjørnson Male Chorus, Bjørgvin Singing Society and Danish Singing Society Harmonien.

Erling Stone served as *Sanger-Hilsen* Editor for 20 more years, which means Donald Berg has served as Editor and Business Manager for the last 20 years. To think there have been only three editors in the 103 year history of the publication is remarkable. Until next time.



Roger Stavnem,
Chairman, Sangerfest 2012.

The Norwegian Singers' Association Of America, Inc.

1892 A Brief Historical Sketch 1972

In America there existed only a few scattered Scandinavian Singing Societies in the early seventies, and these were located mostly in the Eastern states. But in 1885 Mr. C. M. Machold from Philadelphia decided to attempt the experiment of uniting the Scandinavian singers into a musical union and thereupon arrange singing festivals at stated intervals.

The purpose was partly to draw the Scandinavians of the United States into closer harmony and relationship, to bring the Scandinavian composers and their works before the American public, and finally by these means to demonstrate to the country at large the intellectual standing of the Scandinavians and especially their musical and vocal gifts.

An invitation was issued to Eastern Singing Societies and at the first meeting five societies were represented, which then and there decided to organize as The United Scandinavian Singers of America. It was also decided to hold the first festival in 1887 at Philadelphia.

Two Norwegian choruses took part in this first Sangerfest: the Norwegian Male Chorus of New York and the Normennenes Singing Society of Chicago, who showed up at the Sangerfest with 43 active singers.

The festival exceeded all expectations and the success of the undertaking was thus assured. Two years later, the second festival was held in Chicago, where 24 choruses were represented. In the next two years the union continued to grow and, when Minneapolis entertained

(continued on page 5)

SANGERHILSEN
("SINGERS GREETING")

Published Bi-Monthly, by the Norwegian Singers
 Association of America
 Incorporated under State Laws of South Dakota as an
 Educational Society.

Address all matters for publication subscriptions, renewals,
 change of address, and make remittances payable to:
 "Sanger-Hilsen" Office:

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "Sanger-Hilsen"
 Office.

DONALD L. BERG
 Editor-Business Manager
 407 Leif Erikson Drive
 Decorah, IA 52101

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Subscription price \$22.00 per year

Periodicals postage paid at Decorah, Iowa.
 Sanger-Hilsen USPS 481-380

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**DEADLINE FOR
 JULY-AUGUST ISSUE
 JULY 29, 2011**

the singers in 1891, more than 50 choruses from Boston to San Francisco took part. Star soloists from the Scandinavian countries assisted.

In 1890 a Norwegian male chorus had been formed at Sioux Falls SD and given the name *Minnehaha Mandskor*. Most of the members had taken part in the Minneapolis festival and thought it would be an excellent idea to get up a similar Singers Union on a smaller scale in the northwest. Two men who took hold of this plan deserve honorable mention: Mr. G. Bie Ravndal, president of *Minnehaha Mandskor*, and Dr. J. S. Johnson. With the backing of the chorus, invitations were sent to singing societies in neighboring states to come to Sioux Falls for a sangerfest in miniature.

Only two choruses responded: *Skandia* from Willmar MN and *Heimdal* from Granite Falls MN. With the local singers, the joint chorus numbered around 60 voices when they appeared on the stage of the old Germania Hall. Rasmus B. Anderson, Professor of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin, at that time on a speaking tour in the Northwest on behalf of Leif Erikson as the real discoverer of the American continent, was induced to come and address the assemblage.

Sept. 24, 1891, the singers met in joint session to discuss organizing a singers union. When the meeting adjourned, The Northwestern Scandinavian Singers Association was born, with Mr. G. Bie Ravndal as president and Dr. J. S. Johnson as musical director.

Soon after, new societies sprang up at Canton SD, Madison SD, Sioux

City IA, Fort Dodge IA, Baltic SD and other places. When the first Sangerfest was held in Sioux Falls in 1892, ten choruses took part.

In the World's Fair year of 1893, the United Scandinavian Singers of America held its fourth festival with concerts at the Music Hall on the fair ground, assisted by Theodore Thomas Orchestra of 125 pieces, and soloists from the Scandinavian countries. This became the last festival held by the Scandinavian Union. The Swedish singers withdrew and formed their own organization and the Northwest branch which in the meantime had gained a remarkable growth, therefore dropped "Scandinavian" and became "Norwegian-Danish Singers Association."

At a meeting of delegates held in Odin Club, Minneapolis, June 1, 1907, it became known that the few Danish Singing Societies in the west were also discussing forming their own union. Therefore at the next convention in Sioux Falls in 1910 it was decided unanimously to drop "Danish" from the name. So for 62 years we have been known as "The Norwegian Singers' Association of America."

Within the Association there are four different units holding district sangerfests in off-years: The Sioux Valley, the Red River Valley, the Midwest, and the Northwest Division. A fifth group is the Veteran Chorus, men of 60 years and older. Director of the Veteran Chorus is the well-known soloist and director, Prof. Clifford J. Olson, Sioux Falls SD.

Prof. Frederick Wick served the NSAA as Director-in-Chief for over 40 years. At the time of his retirement

in 1960, he was elected to the office of Honorary Director-in-Chief.

Prior to the Minneapolis Sangerfest in 1908, the executive committee launched a publication under the name of "Sanger-Bulletin" containing news and other matters of interest to the members. This Bulletin of four pages soon enlarged as the news accumulated to six and eight pages and was sent in bundles to all affiliated choruses. Strong efforts were made during the early years to establish a publication for the singers to bring them into closer contact with each other. Several individuals imbued with the right spirit made a try of it, but finally gave up with a headache, loss of energy and money.

At the convention of delegates held in Chicago Sept. 25, 1909, it was decided to provide the association with a publication under the name of *Sanger-Hilsen*, with the late Th. F. Hamman, NSAA Corresponding Sec., as Editor and Manager, a position he held until his death in 1944.

The present Editor is the Executive Vice President of the NSAA, Erling Stone, who has served on the Board of the Association for the last 38 years.

Our publication has done a lot of good, holding our association together and it is sincerely hoped that the singers at large and others interested in the cause will take care of the publication in years to come.

NORDIC MALE CHORUS

Sioux City IA

At this writing, the Chorus is nearing the close of its season with only one home session remaining. Merged rehearsals and the Memorial Day holiday will lead to the Sioux

Valley Sangerfest on June 11th at Brandon (SD) Lutheran Church.

At the close of the concert year, the singers will be laying away their uniforms and music as they begin vacations and outdoor fun. Following the pattern of other choruses and church choirs, the Chorus will resume its Fall schedule in September, the 120th year since it was established in 1891.

"When Ole and Lena were young and in love, they would go to their favorite spoot to park. One night, while parked, hugging and kissing, Ole asked Lena, 'Lena, how would you like to go in the back' 'No,' she replied, 'I want to stay in front with you.' "

Bob Hansen, Corr. Sec.

BJORNSON MALE CHORUS

Chicago IL

Dear Singer Brothers,

Time's a-wastin' So here goes! The summer is almost upon us with too few rehearsals left to prepare. On Sunday, June 5th, we're appearing at our director, Ed Kramer's, church in Grays Lake at the 10:30 service. Ed is the organist and choir director there. So, we'll join in with them once again. Another wonderful church to sing in and praise the Lord.

Our annual spring concert will be on Friday, June 10th, at the Avalon Banquets. The chorus is very comfortable singing there. It's also pretty familiar for our audience, coming to the same place these several years. Dave Kurk's Trio will provide dinner music plus music to "trip the lite fantastic" later on. They'll even throw in a schottische or two.

Our program will consist of contemporary tunes and Scandinavian melodies – 12 songs in all. After half of the program we'll break and join our guests to enjoy a fine dinner.

Up first for our second half, Ken Michaels will give our audience what they've been waiting for. He will favor them with a couple of popular songs as only he can.

Then a surprising treat. Second tenor John Myhre's teen daughter, Elizabeth, with her viola, will team up with Ed Kramer on piano and grace the audience with a terrific duet, a listening pleasure for an adoring audience.

After an evening of musical entertainment, a fine meal and dancing, who could ask for anything more?

Our last endeavor before summer break will be attending the annual Summer Festival at The Danish Home in Chicago on Sunday, June 26th. They will have a bakery booth, Scandinavian souvenirs, "Yesterday's stuff," petting zoo, children's games, special drawings and Danish open-face sandwiches, burgers, hot dogs and your favorite beverage.

Entertainment will feature the Brotherhood of Harmony, the Danish Pearls, and Bjornson. Always a fine way to spend a Sunday afternoon of fun and fellowship.

Leve Sange,



George Michals, Corr. Sec.

"Music is the art of thinking with sounds."

**MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR
Sioux Falls SD**

It felt good when the "Snowbirds" came back. It seemed like a long winter.

On May 2nd, Mandskor sang a light concert at Prairie Village Retirement complex. The attentive audience was very appreciative. John and Donna Nelson invited the chorus to their home for coffee following the concert.

On May 1st, Don Cooper with assistant Ron Beck served "Cherry 'Chord'ials" to a crowd of 700 at the Gourmet Guys fund-raiser for the Active Generation. There were about 30 other chefs serving their favorite recipes – so many good tastes for a good cause.



Ron Beck and Don Cooper

The Nordlandfest and *Syttende Mai* Committees decided to have a combined celebration at First Lutheran Church on May 17th. This year Mandskor was asked to be the guest chorus. We sang seven rousing numbers, including the National Anthems.

This year Kirk and Anita Preheim have invited the chorus to their home for a “fun-d raiser” ethnic dinner on June 5th. We suspect it will have a German flavor; we look forward to enjoying great food and fellowship at the Preheims.

Our chorus is considering cutting a CD, now that we are all here and in good voice. Again Kirk and Anita Preheim have invited us to use their recording studio. We’ll see how it goes!!

Our chorus has been working diligently on details for the 47th Sioux Valley Sangerfest on June 11th. We will be hosting the Sangerfest at the Brandon Lutheran Church.

The day after the Sangerfest, on June 12th, we have been invited to sing a few numbers at St. Lambert’s Church at 3 p.m. to celebrate Donna Nelson’s 80th birthday. She just loves our singing.

Have a good summer. We will look forward to a summer picnic, and rehearsals in the fall.
Respectfully,



Bob Stenberg

(Supplement submitted by Terry Walter, Director of Mandskor.)

The Minnehaha Mandskor gained a new 2nd tenor last September. Dennis Wollman is a native of Freeman, SD, where he began singing in grade school. He graduated from South Dakota State University as a pharmacist and has practiced in WI, IA and finally back in SD, where he opened his own pharmacy in Freeman

in the early 70's. He met his wife Carol at SDSU. They have three children and five (soon to be six) grandchildren. He is retired and commutes 50 miles to sing with the Mandskor.

Welcome, Dennis and Carol!



Carol and Dennis Wollman

**NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB
Minneapolis MN**

Usually *Syttende Mai* signals the early start of our summer, but we are a bit behind as this is written. However, we did participate as usual in the children’s parade around the neighborhood after singing and attending the service at Mindekirken on Sunday, the 15th. We were missing two of our Norwegians, Bjorn Lasserud and Carl Pederson, who had to go back, as usual, to their homeland to celebrate.

The next evening the Glee Club was engaged in a new service we are providing, that is, assisting a fine young man with his marriage proposal to his beloved fiancé at the Fine Line Music Café in downtown Minneapolis. On cue we sang the brief song he had written, while he was on bended knee. I think we should add Cupid Service to our web site and be prepared to answer requests.

The following Tuesday we sang at The Rivers in Burnsville, continuing to honor Norwegian Constitution Day. We fast forward now to July 10th for our annual performance at the Norway Day outing in Minnehaha Park.

We seem to have set up a special Benefit for Orthopedics in the Twin Cities. Three of our singers, Gary Rust (back), Andy Anderson (knee) and Erik Bruun (hip) have scheduled surgery. Fortunately they did not have to wait six months to a year for a date as is the case in many “progressive” countries. We wish them rapid recovery.

Director Carsten Slostad is off to the British Isles for a vacation, and pianist Martha has two scuba diving trips planned for the summer. She says the fish are beautiful and friendly. Other members will be boating, fishing and resting at their cabins.

Bjorn Lasserud has added another laurel to the 30 World and 40 American cross-country ski trophies he has been awarded. This picture shows him receiving a beautiful plaque from the President of the Minnesota Nordic Skiing Association, electing him to their Hall of Fame.



Lasserud and MNSA President Bjorn has also won five Gold Medals and, besides being a world champion,

he has spent many hours helping other skiers with their training. Two replacements of knees and hips never slowed this athlete down

Bob Olson #2 has been having many interviews with our “old timers” in preparing a history of the Glee Club for our 2012 Centennial. Not many organizations survive a full century, and we have several members who span over half of that time. It’s always great to have two of those Gold with Diamond medal winners, Clarence Hansen and Sverre Waagen, join us on Ladies’ Nights on the second Thursday of each month. They have stories to tell (some quietly).

Words of wisdom:

1. Accept the fact that some days you are the pigeon and some days you are the statue.
2. Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because you won’t have a leg to stand on.
3. Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
4. If at first you don’t succeed, sky diving is not for you.
5. Drive carefully...it’s not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.

Charles Engh, Corr. Sec.

NORSE GLEE CLUB

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

At this writing, “springtime” is here, but doesn’t seem to have arrived yet. Below average temperatures are the normal. Nonetheless, our work goes on. We continue, in rehearsal, as individual choruses, and collectively as the Sioux Valley Singers, in preparation for our Sangerfest on June 11 at the Brandon, SD Lutheran Church. Besides these rehearsals, the Norse Glee Club has performed in

support of three other events. We sang at the St. Dymas Chapel at the SD Penitentiary in their weekly worship service on May 12th. Earlier, on April 23rd, we sang the National Anthem in the opening ceremonies at an Augustana College baseball home-game. Lastly, on June 12, the day after the SangerFest, we will be participating in a Sunday evening worship service at the Central Baptist Church, here in Sioux Falls.

Summer plans are underway as well. Discussions of a potluck cookout are on-going, as well as the development of a rehearsal schedule in order for us to be ready to support, and participate in, the 100th anniversary celebration of the East Nidaros Lutheran Church in Baltic, SD on August 27th, 2011.

In closing, it is again with sadness that I must inform you of the passing of two individuals important to us. Mrs. Eugene (Barbara) Johnson succumbed to a multitude of illnesses on March 30th, at age 76. She had been a popular member of our Auxiliary for over 30 years. The second person was Elwood (Ed) Carlson. He passed away on May 19th at age 89. He was currently a retired member of the Glee Club, but for over 25 years had been a very active member. He was an avid sportsman, antique collector, and accordionist.

Ed formed several bands in the area and played for local dances. In WWII, he served in the US Army 38th Division. In later years he participated in Civil War reenactment. The Glee Club was asked, and was honored, to sing at his memorial service. The family requested we sing "Lead, Kindly Light", and "Vakre Sky."

Gail Kristensen, Corr. Sec.

EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS

Madison, WI

It has been a busy and exciting Spring for our Chorus. It began with a performance trip to Door County on Mothers' Day weekend, May 6-8. The Chorus sang two concerts as guests of The Peninsula Singers, a mixed choral group that performs a winter and spring concert each year. The joint performance was aptly named "A Harmonious Blend." The Saturday evening performance was held at the Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Sturgeon Bay, and the Sunday afternoon concert was at the First Baptist Church of Sister Bay. Earlier on Sunday the Chorus sang for services at First Baptist.

The Peninsula Singers began each performance with six songs including Gustav Holst's "Homeland," the Scottish folk song "Loch Lomond," and "O Lord God," the signature piece of the Luther College Nordic choir. Our chorus then sang six songs including Grieg's "*Den Gamle Mor*," along with "*Norge, mit Norge!*" and "The Gift of Love." In the second set, we sang five songs including three Norwegian pieces, "*Nidelven*," "*Brudenfærden i Hardanger*," and "*Dansen på Måkeskjær*."

The Peninsula Singers wrapped up the second set with six more pieces including three John Rutter arrangements, "Home is a Special Kind of Feeling," "Skylark" and "When the Saints Go Marching In." The finale of the concert was "Beautiful Savior" sung by all 100 performers. This piece, arranged by F. Melius Christiansen, is the signature piece of the St. Olaf College choir. Based on the responses we received from members of the

audience, the concerts were well received and appreciated. Chorus members also enjoyed the opportunity to explore Door County on a beautiful spring weekend.

The following Saturday our Chorus performed a concert at the Stoughton Opera House as part of the annual *Syttende Mai* celebrations. The next day we sang for services at Christ Lutheran Church in honor of the newly crowned *Syttende Mai* King and Queen. On Tuesday, May 24, the Chorus was invited by the Capitol Chordsmen to participate in a "Combined Choirs Night" at Asbury United Methodist Church in Madison.

You may recall that the Chordsmen was the group that performed at the Grand Banquet for Sangerfest 2010. On Sunday, June 5, we sang an evening performance for the Red Cross of Constantine, a shrine organization, at the Nakoma Country Club in Madison.

Our Chorus wrapped up the performance year with two appearances on Saturday, June 18. We sang for the Summer Solstice event at Little Norway in Mt. Horeb. Then we traveled to Solbakken to join the memorial service for former member Johan Hoff. As we take our summer break we look forward to next season and Sangerfest 2012 in Chicago.



Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

**LUREN SINGING SOCIETY
Decorah IA**

Decorah Lutheran Church was packed for our joint concert with the Luther College Norsemen, Decorah

Middle School's Viking Voices, High School male groups and our own members on Mothers' Day night, May 8th. The benefit offering for "Feed Our Starving Children" was \$1527.69. We had intended to divide the offering at our Christmas concert evenly for this same cause and the host congregation. It was good to finally get to support this cause.

The chancel too was packed when we all sang the last two numbers. We had ca. 200 singers on "Rise Up," and "We Are Singing."

The serving tables for refreshments were packed as well with open-face sandwiches and bars.

For *Syttende Mai* we journeyed to Spring Grove on May 15th. This too was a benefit concert for Giants of the Earth, an ambitious project of several dimensions for the community.

Our elections went smoothly, since everyone agreed to serve another year.

We circulated a list for prospective members, who will be contacted by the Membership Committee, headed by Jim Womeldorf. We'll do more recruiting during the County Fair July 12-16.

We learned of the death of a former member, Stan Oftelie, on May 26th at Amana IA. Dave and Gail Judisch, and Don and Barb Berg attended the memorial service on May 30th. His obituary follows this report.

Four not so young men: Dave Carlson, Dennis Barnaal, Dave Judisch and Merlyn Finley, will assist Don Berg in his presentation for NAHA-Norge on Thursday, June 16th. They will sing two numbers that may have been sung by the Luren Quartet in 1868.

Our newest CD, "A Luren Christmas," will be available by Nordic Fest. Price: \$15.00.

Nordic Fest comes late this year, the last full weekend of July. A visiting choir from Sparbu, Norway, will also be here. "Take a Liking to a Viking" is the theme for July 28-30. We'll do our usual stints: Thursday evening opening exercises, Friday evening concert, and Saturday morning parade. We have one other scheduled date in August, but that's a surprise/secret.



Don Berg, Corr. Sec.
Obituary



Stanley A. Oftelie was born Nov. 8, 1926 in Fergus Falls MN, a son of Halvor and Ida (Weiby) Oftelie. He graduated from Grand Rapids (MN) High School, and served as a Medic in the US Army in the Pacific Theatre.

Stan married Sally (Erskine) July 22, 1950 in Grand Rapids. They had three children: Richard, Becky Lewis, and James.

Stan's work with Gamble's Hardware, first in Grand Rapids, led to his move to Decorah in 1968. Later he sold insurance before retirement.

Stan became a member of Luren in 1969, singing baritone, then moving to second tenor. He received his Silver NSAA medal in 1998.

Stan died in his sleep May 26th at the home of his daughter. He was preceded by his parents, wife, and three siblings.

Besides his children, he is survived by eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Stan enjoyed music.. Besides Luren he was song leader in the Sons of Norway Lodge in Decorah. He was active in Telelaget and proud of his Telemark roots.

Although he had not sung with us for several years, he attended concerts when possible and kept in contact via visits to Decorah and his subscription to *Sanger-Hilsen*. Blessed be his memory.

**NORMENNENES
SINGING SOCIETY
Chicago IL**

Greetings, Brother Singers,

I am pleased to mention that the spring concert of Normennenes on April 16th was a great success. The chorus sounded great under the direction of Chuck Kessel, and accompanist Una Stroda was wonderful.

Adding to the evening's entertainment were a special Norwegian group, the Chicago Spelmanslag, and the Waukegan Swedish Glee Club. A special treat included Grieg musical selections by Una Stroda...truly outstanding!

A special "*Tusen Takk*" to Hazel Peterson and Janet Wold who organized a special buffet and home-made desserts for the singers and guests. The evening included a special birthday acknowledgement for Wolly Ellertson (92) and a belated 90th for his wife Esther.

All in all, a total of 115 participants enjoyed a memorable evening of music and sociability.

The Chorus is currently on its summer break and will be anxiously awaiting fall activities. An additional incentive is Sangerfest 2012, hosted by the Bjornson Male Chorus here in Chicago.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer!

Leve Sangen,



Thor Fjell, President

**GRIEG MALE CHORUS
Canton SD**

This Spring has been very unusual for many parts of the country. Because of cooler temperatures and the recent rains and floods, we were not able to complete corn planting and soybeans until early June.

Otherwise, we have been busy with preparations and rehearsals for the Sioux Valley Sangerfest to be held on Saturday, June 11th, at Brandon Lutheran Church, Brandon SD.

Sincere greetings from the Grieg Male Chorus, the Ladies' Auxiliary, and our families. Best wishes for a restful and reinvigorating summer before returning

to rehearsals come fall.



Jerry Holter, Corr. Sec.

**NSAA SANGERFEST
through the years**

(NSAA President Stavnem asked that this be included besides the History on pages 3, 5 and 6 of this issue.)

- 1892 Sioux Falls SD
- 1894 Sioux City IA
- 1896 Omaha NB
- 1898 Duluth MN
- 1900 St. Paul MN
- 1902 Sioux Falls SD
- 1904 Grand Forks ND
- 1906 LaCrosse WI
- 1908 Minneapolis MN
- 1910 Sioux Falls SD
- 1912 Fargo ND
- 1914 Chicago IL
- 1916 Grand Forks ND
- 1918 No Sangerfest (WW I)
- 1920 Duluth MN
- 1922 Sioux Falls SD
- 1924 St. Paul MN
- 1926 Chicago IL
- 1928 Winnipeg CAN
- 1930 Minneapolis MN
- 1932 Madison WI
- 1934 Fargo ND
- 1936 Duluth MN
- 1938 Sioux Falls SD
- 1940 Rockford IL
- 1942 Minneapolis MN
- 1944 No Sangerfest (WW II)
- 1946 Minneapolis MN
- 1948 Duluth MN
- 1950 Chicago IL
- 1952 Sioux City IA
- 1954 Sioux Falls SD
- 1956 Rockford IL
- 1958 Rapid City SD
- 1960 Minneapolis MN
- 1962 Salt Lake City UT
- 1964 New York City, NY
- 1966 Decorah IA
- 1968 Sioux Falls SD
- 1970 Sioux City IA
- 1972 Chicago IL
- 1974 Madison WI
- 1976 Decorah IA
- 1978 Minneapolis MN
- 1980 Sioux Falls SD
- 1982 Rockford IL
- 1984 St. Charles (Chicago) IL
- 1986 Decorah IA
- 1988 Minneapolis MN

(Continued on page 16)

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

**ILLINOIS
CHICAGO**

Bjornson Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Each Tuesday 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, 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 Kessel, 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, scschuett@aol.com.

DECORAH

Luren Singing Society

Rehearsal: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Thomas Roberts High School. President: Roger Buhr, 105 Randall Dr, Decorah IA 52101, (563) 382-3088 buhr@mchsi.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
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; brode@alliancecom.net. Corr. Secretary: Robert Stenberg, 313 Washington Ave., Dell Rapids, S.D. 57022; (605)428-3911, abstenberg@goldenwest.net. 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, 7:30 p.m. at Nordic Hall. President: Robert Amend, 46458 267th St., Hartford, SD 57033-6917. Tel. (605)361-2061; Corresponding Secretary: Gail Kristensen, 11 W. 17th St., Apt. #121, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, tel. (605)731-5281. 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 Good Samaritan Center. President: Bill Kortemeyer, 406 E. Poplar Dr., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 764-9060. ringshanks@iw.net 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. lkarli@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; Vice President: Curt Hepner, 321 N. Lincoln St., Canton SD 57013-1721 (605)764-2914 mycurt@sio.midco.net. Secretary: Ronald Beck, 28206 465th St., Lennox, SD 57039, tel. (605) 647-2851, beckpardo@speednet.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 chegtvedt@comcast.net; Treasurer: Jeff Tremblay, 18724 Soundview Dr, Stanwood WA 98292 (360) 652-0371 jtremb2@aol.com; Trustees: California: Borre Ulrichsen, 715 Cascade Ct, Walnut Creek CA 94598, (415) 205-8064, borre@ulrichsen.net; Oregon: Orv Sletten, 3087 Oakcrest Dr NW, Salem, OR 97304, tel. (503) 581-7099, orvviv44@comcast.net; 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, markagerter@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, 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 Blaafladt, 4174 Dena Way, Sacramento, CA 95821, tel: (916) 4827919, wbraafladt@softcom.net.

SAN DIEGO

San Diego Mannskor

Rehearsal: every Monday at Calvary Lutheran Church, 424 Via De La Valle, Solana Beach, CA 92075. President: Sven I. Olsen, 2991 Jacks Creek Pl. Escondido, CA 92027, tel. (760) 735-6171, svenio@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 Nørsemen

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, rdpiness@hotmail.com; Director: Ed Amundson, 29453 Culver Lane, tel. (541) 998-6329 amundson@peak.org

SALEM

Thorsmen

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church Annex, 1198 Lanning 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; President: Allen Feris tel. (360) 435-3144, Feris_Allen@msn.com; Secretary: Robert Bruland, tel. (425)335-1150 r.bruland@frontier.com. Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Road, Bellingham, WA 98226, tel: (360) 966-3132, stmjensen@earthlink.net, cell: (389)393-3919

POULSBO

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: Kathy Haug, 21050 Fern St. Indianola WA 98342. Tel. (360) 908-9806. Kathy@meland.com.

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 Manskor

PO Box 481, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

Rehearsal every Monday at 7:00 PM at Abel Lodge, 21098 2nd St. Conway WA 98238,. Officers: President: Jeff Highland tel. (360)387-5285. highland@smunn.edu Secretary Skip Ingraham tel (360)387-6168. Director Steve Jensen, Bellingham WA, 98226 Cell phone 360-303-3919 stmjensen@earthlink.net.

TACOMA

Normanna Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Each Monday 7:00 p.m., Gloria DeI Lutheran Church, 3315 South 19th Street, Tacoma, Wash. President: Erick Perkins, 6001-N 40th St; Tacoma WA 98407, tel. (253)272-7286, erperk@comcast.net Secretary: Loren Jangaard, 5917 34th St NW, Gig Harbor WA 98335, tel. (252)265-2312, jangaardl@hatmail.com; Director: Jon Malmin, 14211 Peacock Hill Ave, Gig Harbor WA 98332, (tel) (253)514-8677, jmalmin2@comcast.net

| | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 1990 | Madison WI |
| 1992 | Sioux Falls SD |
| 1994 | Sioux City IA |
| 1996 | Decorah IA |
| 1998 | St. Charles (Chicago) IL |
| 2000 | Madison WI |
| 2002 | Minneapolis MN |
| 2004 | Sioux Falls SD |
| 2006 | Decorah IA |
| 2008 | Fargo ND |
| 2010 | Madison WI |
| 2012 | St. Charles (Chicago) IL |

not a very significant NSAA budget item at three dollars per member.

The *Sanger-Hilsen* publication exists financially on two sources of income, subscriptions and Christmas/New Years greetings. The current subscription rate is twenty two dollars per year. For 2008 there were 311 subscriptions; for 2009 there were 308 subscriptions; for 2010 there were 290 subscriptions; for 2011 there are just 241 subscriptions. Two of our NSAA choirs DID NOT subscribe to *Sanger-Hilsen* this year! In addition, three NSAA choirs chose not to purchase a Christmas/New Years greeting in 2010. Without participation, *Sanger-Hilsen* faces financial uncertainty.

**SLIGHT NSAA MEMBERSHIP
DECREASE IN 2011**

On July 1, 2010, the Nordkap Male Chorus of Minneapolis disbanded! However, the remaining ten choruses enrolled 303 members for the current year, down just three members from last year. NSAA membership for 2008 was 308; for 2009 the same with 308; for 2010 there were 306. This is

Francis Peterson
NSAA Treasurer