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DECORAH, IA

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NSAA 2018 Sangerfest Logo



photo courtesy Luther College archives

Weston Noble conducts Nordic Choir at Luther College in the late 1980s.

NSAA President's Column

I noted a couple of things from the last issue of the Sanger-Hilsen. The first is the number of concerts that our ten NSAA choruses sang during the Christmas season. From the reports of the corresponding secretaries, I counted a total of 18. I assume that these concerts included a few Scandinavian pieces. My chorus sang four at our Christmas concerts. One of our NSAA goals is to promote love for Scandinavian male chorus music. Thanks for sharing those Christmas Scandinavian songs.

Second, I noted that the Bjornson Male Chorus in Chicago sang

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Weston H. Noble 1922-2016

Weston Noble, Director of Nordic Choir from 1948 to 2005 and Concert Band from 1948 until 1973 at Luther College, died Dec. 21, 2016. He was 94.

Although not an active member of Luren, he was a faithful attendee of concerts and was made an Honorary member on the occasion of a special recognition concert "An Evening with Weston" in 2004. At that time we vested him with a blazer jacket, which was a part of our uniform at that time. Many of us had some special contacts with him, either singing under him or

being a part of some organization to which he belonged.

Many are the memories and stories about Weston by those who sang or played under his direction at Luther and many other places, including All-State choruses and bands in all 50 states. He was recognized with honorary doctorates from several other colleges including Augustana (SD), St. Olaf, Carthage and Wartburg and was the recipient of the St. Olav's Medal from King Harald V of Norway.

Weston was born on a farm west of Riceville IA Nov. 30, 1922. After his years in a rural school he went on to Riceville High School, graduating in 1939. When he was 5 years old, his mother was trying to get him to take a nap. Instead, she asked, "Weston, would you like to take piano lessons?"

Some years later, while in Junior High, his aunt and uncle paid him a dime for every hour he practiced. During High School he sang in the choir and played clarinet in the band. (As I was preparing this, I wondered, "Who were his teachers?" I've not seen that tidbit of information yet.)

His first inclination was to attend the University at Iowa City, but another anonymous person, a Luther College admissions counselor talked with Weston's father, who persuaded Weston to enroll at Luther.

His college career was shortened by Uncle Sam, who wanted him in 1943. So the college arranged a "quickie" graduation. He became a tank driver and was involved in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

Weston told about attending a worship service on the eve of a major battle. He was anxious about this, but his anxieties were alleviated when he saw that the Chaplain conducting the ser-

vice was wearing a Luther College class ring. Then he knew everything was going to be alright.

After discharge in 1946, he returned to Iowa and Luther, teaching lessons at both Riceville and Luther, while also planning for graduate work. Then he found an opening for teaching at LuVerne IA, a small town west of Mason City. He intended to go to the University of Michigan for graduate work, but received a phone call from Dr. O. W. Qualley, Dean of Luther College, offering a position for a one-year replacement in 1948-49. That temporary position became a permanent one in 1950.

Already in 1950 he was inspired to begin the Dorian Music Festivals. One in the know told that he first contacted the custodians about possibly having high school students come in the dead of winter for a weekend of rehearsals, lessons and performances. Only later, after the event was in place did he let the Administration know what he had done. That program has grown to include choral, orchestra and band, and has been a strong tool for recruitment of students at Luther.

Weston was known for his efforts by telephone and letters to bring music students to Luther. The title of his biography written by Wilfred Bunge, *Warmly, Weston: a Luther College Life* (1998), was taken from Weston's signature to his letters and postcards. (That publication, now out of print, has been selling at very high prices; the College is considering having it reprinted.)

I share two of my own experiences singing under Weston. I took part in "Messiah" each year I was at Luther and later in Minneapolis while a student at the Seminary. In rehearsals

at the college he would space his own Nordic Choir members among the rest of the singers. When one of us made a mistake, he would single out his own choir members for "criticism." I got the message.

Also, when I tried out for Nordic as a freshman in 1952, I was grouped with a few other aspirants and we were asked to sing the hymn, "My God, How Wonderful Thou Art." As with most others, we knew the hymn by heart. Yet I was so bashful and timid that he wondered whether I had been singing at all.

It was a privilege to know him and to sing under him.

A visitation with sharing of stories and memories, including an a capella singing of the Hallelujah Chorus, was held at First Lutheran Church, Decorah, Dec. 29th

A memorial service is planned for May 13th at the Center for Faith and Life at Luther College, a weekend when choral directors from all over the country will have an opportunity to be present and to share their own memories and experiences of Weston. It should be a musical event for all to remember.

Don Berg

**(NSAA President's column,
continued from page 1)**

a Norwegian piece arranged by Ed Kramer, their director. This made me wonder how many of our NSAA choruses are singing pieces arranged by someone from their group. Bernie Gluth, Luren's assistant director, has made great arrangements of Lullaby Sweet Jesus, Down to the River to Pray, What A Wonderful World, Jesus Loves Me, and the traditional Zulu song, We Are Singing.

Another goal of NSAA is "to assist and encourage Scandinavian musicians." Do our choruses share these special arrangements with each other? Maybe our directors could bring copies to each Sangerfest and make them available to the other chorus directors. The music can be copied for a modest fee and choruses might discover some delightful new pieces to sing.

P.S. Just after I wrote this column David Erbeck, a member of the Washington Male Chorus from PCNSA, sent me an email asking if his composition of *Til Island* might be considered for use at the 2018 Grand Concert. It is an original folk tune with variations.



Roger Buhr, NSAA President

**NORDIC MALE CHORUS
Sioux City IA**

The Nordics have returned from holiday recess to begin rehearsals for the Sioux Valley Sangerfest planned for June 10th in Sioux Falls. Individual choruses will be hosting practices with the combined group, and Sioux City will take its turn on April 3rd. The program contains a good mixture of Scandinavian and American selections.

A new member has been welcomed into the chorus. Rev. Robert Awe is pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in South Sioux City. He sings low bass. The Chorus also has a new accompanist, Yvonne Hazlett, an excellent well-known Sioux City musician. More on this in the next edition of *Sanger-Hilsen*.

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**DEADLINE FOR
Mar.-Apr. 2017 ISSUE
April 12, 2017**

Still in the planning state is a 125th anniversary dinner to mark the milestone of the group's long organization. The event will be scheduled when the cold weather ends.

And finally, a big, long Thank You to Gary Munson, the Nordic President, who regularly fixes delicious popcorn for the men to enjoy after our rehearsals, and then rushes off to his night job. It's much appreciated!

Opera is, when a guy gets stabbed in the back, instead of bleeding, he sings!



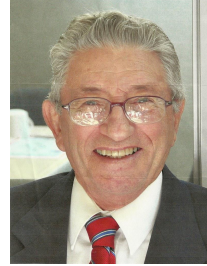
Bob Hansen, Corr. Sec.

NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB Minneapolis MN

We start with a very sad note. Long-time friend and Glee Club member Sverre Waagen has passed. He left much of his life in a book that he wrote and published. It starts with his experiences as a boy in Norway during the Nazi German occupation. He was living on a farm with his family, surviving on meager rations and severe imposed conditions. After the war's end Sverre came to America with his sister Gerd. He wound up in Hot Springs SD, where he found odd jobs to sustain himself, and learned a bit about cooking while working in a restaurant.

The next major step was being drafted into the US Army. After finishing basic training he was sent to the war zone in Korea, where he had some close calls and here he built on his experiences as a cook for the

troops. After the cease fire in Korea he was sent to Japan as part of the occupation forces. On his return to the US, he and wife Alice established a very successful restaurant, The Big Chicken, in Bloomington MN. Always a business man, in his retirement he was a part-time buyer and seller of rare coins.



Sverre Waagen

We will miss the smile and greeting from Sverre and his valuable contribution to the Glee Club for almost 60 years. Thanks to Phil Heide for his continuous contact with Sverre during his medical problems, as well as others. What a loving and caring family he had.

Recognizing the maturity of some of our members and the cold, dark January weather up here in the North woods, we decided to take a January vacation from practice and concerts.

We will return to meet on Jan. 26th for our annual meeting. On Feb. 9th we will be installing our new officers for 2017. That meeting, of course, includes our ever wonderful potluck dinner. After our winter's rest and a couple of practices we will be singing on Feb. 17th at one of our favorite places, The Summit, in Eden Prairie. Always a great audience (and a short drive for this writer).

For a smile: A not very sociable Arab enters a taxi. Once he is seated he demands that the cab driver turn

off the radio because he must not hear music, as decreed by his religion and, in the time of the Prophet, there was no music, especially Western music, which is the music of the infidels, and certainly no radio.

So the driver politely switches off the radio, stops the cab and opens the back door. The Arab asks him, "What are you doing, man?" The cabby answers, "In the time of the Prophet, there were no taxis, so get out and wait for a camel."



Charles Engh, Corr. Sec.

LUREN SINGING SOCIETY Decorah IA

Our lead article for this issue tells of the death of Weston Noble. Attached to this report is the obituary of Wilbur Stoen, a former member who died Jan. 26th, at 90. We sang for the memorial service on Feb. 11th. A side note: the Stoensø daughter Barbara was the Luren accompanist at the time of the 1973 tour to Norway, so her folks were on that trip, even though he was not at that time an active singer in Luren.

We took a break from rehearsals during most of January, but we did try to get in some planning meetings for Sangerfest ø18. Unfortunately, we had to cope with icy conditions and had to postpone them. It's good to have some ølead time.ø *Tempus fugit.*

We did resume rehearsals Jan. 30th, turning in the Christmas numbers and beginning to work on some new and challenging pieces.

We have just one mid-week Lenten service invitation, April 5th at Decorah Lutheran Church. But we will sing at the United Methodist Church in Sumner IA on Sunday, March 26th.

Other concert dates are: April 23rd at Green-field Lutheran Church, Harmony MN as part of a rededication of a memorial to the famous artist Hjerbjørn Gausta; May 7, our traditional joint concert with the Norsemen of Luther College at Decorah Lutheran Church; June 4th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lansing IA for an anniversary event; and June 25th, at Trinity Lutheran in Spring Grove MN as part of the community "Homecoming" celebration, held every 10 years.

We are honored to be invited to the wedding of Emily Bicknese, daughter of Aaron and Carla, and granddaughter of Wayne, to Tom Stene, on May 27th at Decorah Lutheran Church, with reception at the Inwood Ballroom in Spillville IA. We are to sing at the reception.

We have not decided details for our 150th Anniversary in 2018. Officially we consider March 17th as the date, based on the picture taken that day in 1868 of the original quartet. We need to set up a separate committee and do other planning for the occasion, which will probably be in early spring 2018.



Don Berg, Corr. Sec.

NORSE GLEE CLUB Sioux Falls SD

WELCOME to 2017. So far, it is a year that has begun with anticipation,

and also, unfortunately, with some significant losses to our club.

First, to business and anticipation, on Monday, February 6th, we conducted our monthly business meeting, we turned in all the old music, and we filled out our folders with the selections for the Sioux Valley Singers Association (SVSA) Sangerfest 2017. Next Monday, February 13, begins our spring rehearsal season in earnest.

The SVSA Sangerfest 2017 will be held on June 10, 2017 at the Spirit of Peace UCC Church here in Sioux Falls. It will be the 50th biennial event (held in the odd years) for the four NSAA choruses in our area. The Norse Glee Club is the host for this year's event, and planning is well underway. Music selections have been made, and copies are being provided to the choruses. In keeping with tradition, one-half of the music will be presented in Norwegian.

Our losses this winter have been THREE in number. These men all had been long-time club members and valued assets. First, MARVIN GLEN NELSON, died on January 23rd. Members of our club, and others, had gathered weekly with him at his home every Wednesday for coffee, and two months ago, helped him celebrate his 100th birthday.

MARVIN sang first tenor in the club, having been a member for more than 30 years. He held the SVSA Pin with bronze and silver bars for his participation in 15 SVSA Sangerfests, as well as the NSAA Silver Medal for participation in their 10 Sangerfests. The lesser number here was driven by his responsibilities, precluding distant travel or absence from his farm.

MARVIN's value to the club was enhanced by his fluency in Norwegian. Frequently, he was called upon to interpret pronunciation and context of a word or phrase as we rehearsed. Sometimes, prolonged discussions might ensue among our several linguists, but all was resolved amicably. The Norse Glee Club participated at his funeral service on January 27th, as we offered *Den Store Hvide Flok*.

Our second loss was that of EUGENE A. Gene JOHNSON, who died on February 4th at the age of 85 years. Gene, like Marvin, sang tenor, and he was a member for more than 30 years. He earned the NSAA Gold Medal for his participation in his 15th NSAA Sangerfest in 2014. He retired from the club shortly thereafter due to failing health. Gene, like Marvin, enjoyed being one of our resident linguists, clarifying definition and context as we rehearsed and presented Norwegian works. That talent, on both their parts, enhanced the quality of our performances. The Glee club attended Gene's funeral on February 9th here in Sioux Falls.

Our third loss this winter was that of ROBERT L. Uncle Torvald JOHNSON. BOB passed away on January 2nd at the age of 93 years. He and wife, Betty, had been married 69 years at that point. We sang at his funeral. BOB sang bass in the club in his 40-year membership. He held the SVSA Pin with bronze, silver, and gold bars for participation in over 20 SVSA Sangerfests. As well, he held the NSAA Gold medal with one diamond for participation in more than 20 NSAA Sangerfests.

Notable about BOB was his friendliness and good humor toward

all he encountered. His nickname, ðUncle Torvaldö came about from his collaboration with Eider ðRedö Stangland, a broadcast humorist in the area. Their teamwork displayed self-deprecating Upper-Midwest humor. BOB was the other half of the team as they went about telling stories of ðOle, Lena, and buddy Svenö to all who would listen.

One ðUncle Torvaldö quip was, ðOle married an Amish girl, and now heø driving her buggy,ö or a second quip, ðOle answered the phone at 3 a.m. It was a wrong number, so the caller apologized. To wit, Ole said, ðDatø OK, I had to get up to answer the phone anyway.ö Perhaps, it was self-deprecating, but it was ðUncle Torvald.ö

Needless to say, we, The Norse Glee Club, feel a deep loss at the passing of these men. Each will be remembered at our SVSA Memorial Service in June, and for a long time afterward.

On the lighter social side, if there can be one now, last month saw a continuation of an 18-year tradition for us when George and Judy Regan played co-hosts at a mid-winter evening of Court Whist. This year saw a ðfull houseö of seven tables of players. It is an event of card-playing, fellowship, and good food. We change card-playing partners every few hands, and rotate, as scores dictate, among the tables. At the end of the evening, recognition is given to the high scorers and low scorers.

We are hoping to see some of you, our NSAA ðBrothers in Songö in June.



Gail A. Kristensen, Corr. Sec.

EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS Madison WI

After an extended holiday break, our Chorus was set to begin rehearsals on January 10. Unfortunately, a winter ice storm hit our area and the practice was canceled. We began rehearsals a week later with only two more opportunities to prepare for our next performance. Prior to the start of practice, the Board of Directors convened to consider several important matters including Board member replacements, plans for the production of a new Chorus CD, and our upcoming concert schedule.

On February 21 we sang for the residents of Capitol Lakes Retirement Community in Madison. This was the first time the Chorus has performed at this facility. Despite our short preparation, the Chorus sounded great, the acoustics in the Great Hall were exceptional, and the audience enthusiastically enjoyed the show. We sang our expanded program that included the anthems, *Hil Dig Norge*, *Dansen på Makeskjær*, *Norge mit Norge!*, *Song for the Unsung Hero*, *The Eagle*, *The Awakening*, and *You Raise Me Up*.

A new addition to the program was Edvard Griegø instrumental for piano, violin and recorder, *Norwegian Dance Op. 35, No. 2*, performed by Mark Everson, Linda Johnson, and Linda Svanoë. Given the audienceø approval of our performance, we

expect to be invited back in the near future.

Looking ahead, the Chorusø next performance is scheduled for the Verona Performing Arts Center on Sunday, March 19. Verona is one of the fast growing Madison suburbs and home to EPIC, an electronic health records software company. After the concert we will enjoy our annual Founders Day dinner at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison. We are also looking forward to our performances in celebration of *Syttende Mai* in Stoughton the weekend of May 19-21.



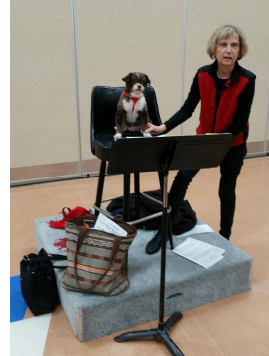
Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

**MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR
Sioux Falls SD**

The Mandskor has resumed rehearsals as of January 30. We have some snowbirds and the usual conflicts but we have had good balance, none the less. We welcomed guests Leslie Hernes (bass) and Ken Mork (tenor). Leslie is a retired Lutheran pastor (recently moved here from Canton) who has sung with the Grieg Chorus in Canton for 20 years. While we cannot replace his home chorus, we hope that he finds us to be an agreeable substitute and we would welcome him warmly should he decide that we are. Ken Mork is from Sioux Falls and sings with the choir at the local Cathedral. We would welcome him to our ranks as well, should he have interest.

Also visiting rehearsals has been our mascot, Winston Kittelson.

Winston spent nearly two weeks at the home of Terry and Don while his owners were on a cruise. He enjoyed attending rehearsals where, after greeting everyone, he spent his time napping on the podium.

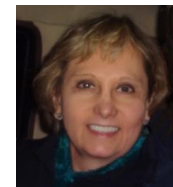


Terry Walter with mascot Winston Kittelson.

We have our Sangerfest music handed out and have been through all of it. Some of it, we used last fall so our list of songs to be learned is shorter. Our joint Sioux Valley rehearsals are scheduled and everything is a go for the Sioux Valley Sangerfest in June 2017. At this writing, our concert calendar is open.

We tolerated some very cold weather for a couple of weeks but now it's almost as if spring has arrived. It certainly does make a difference in the mood. We noted yesterday, that it was about the same temperature as it was when we were in Arizona, in December.

We can live with that!
Respectfully submitted,



Terry Walter, Corr. Sec.

BJORNSON MALE CHORUS**Chicago IL**

Dear Singer Brothers,

After the Christmas holidays, Bjornson was back on the line Jan. 3rd 2017. The first few weeks there was nothing much happening due to weather conditions and illness taking its toll on attendance.

Even though we have a light spring schedule, we are working on some new material for events coming up in March through June.

On Friday, March 29th we'll be attending Normennennes annual "Singers Night Festival." Each attending chorus will sing two songs. We are singing, *Island*, an Icelandic tune written by Henrik Möller, followed by Christ is a Rock. The finale will be a mass chorus singing four or five favorites yet to be named.

On Saturday, April 29th, we will be singing at our director, Ed Kramer's church, Trinity Lutheran in Engleside IL. Last year we sang there along with other groups and will do so this year as well. More detail later.

On Wednesday, May 17th, we'll be appearing in Chicago at *Minnekirken's Syttende Mai* celebration. It is always a fun time to be singing in a church full of appreciative Norskis! Ha! The following Sunday, May 21st, is the big parade in Park Ridge IL. This HUGE event will culminate in the center of town where a couple of thousands of spectators will enjoy the many vendors gathered there, selling their wares and goodies

Our Spring Concert will be at the Avalon Banquet Hall on Friday, June 2nd, but more on that later.

Leve Sangen,



George Michals, Corr. Sec.

GRIEG MALE CHORUS**Canton SD**

Greetings from the members of the Grieg Male Chorus. Following a break during January, the Grieg resumed regular weekly rehearsals on Feb. 6th. Besides turning in or passing out music, and catching up on events in members' lives since Christmas, it was also Ladies Auxiliary night, which meant following rehearsal we had delicious refreshments to look forward to. It is good to take off the month of January, with its unpredictable weather, but it is always GREAT to be back together singing.

Our Chorus will experience a change during the remainder of February. Director Lane Karli and wife Renae will be on a short, but well deserved vacation, and our accompanist Claradith Kingsbury will be touring the Holy Land. For the rest of the month Grieg will be joining Norse Glee Club in Sioux Falls for weekly rehearsal. We appreciate their invitation and hospitality.

We were saddened by the passing of long-time Grieg Auxiliary member Maureen VanDenTop, wife of Gerrit. Maureen has always been an enthusiastic active member and supporter of our organization. A musician herself, her welcoming smile will be deeply missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to Gerrit and his family.

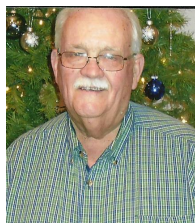
Last fall we began rehearsals with four new members. Let me introduce the other three.

Paul Sogn, Canton, sang with Grieg previously, attending his first NSAA Sangerfest in Decorah. After being away a few years, he is able to sing with us again. Paul and his wife of 32 years, Kim, live on the family farm where he grew up south of Canton. They have three daughters and one granddaughter, Avonelle. Paul's mother is Avonelle, and joyfully on Feb. 11th a large family gathering celebrated her 100th birthday three days early.



Paul Sogn

Paul is a Sales Agronomist for CHS Eastern Farms in Garretson SD. Kim's florist business is The Garden Shed, located in Canton, where Paul also lends a helping hand. A well-known soloist for events in the area, Paul's main interests, besides family, are music, lay ministry, farming, gardening and camping.



Jake Van Den Hul

Jake Van Den Hul, rural Sioux Falls. Since 1984 Jake has been in sales of heavy duty, over-the-road trucks, and the past 24 years with the Peterbuilt Co. of Sioux Falls. Jake

and wife Phyllis were married for 47½ years before she went to her heavenly home.

Since age 16 Jake has enjoyed involvement in music, singing in several Gospel trios or quartets, Barbershop choruses, and church praise teams.



Rev. Lance Lindgren

Rev. Lance Lindgren of Sioux Falls SD has been part time (semi-retired) pastor of Grand Valley Lutheran Church three miles south of Canton SD since Nov. 2015. During the summer of 2016 he was invited by Julian and Jerome Holter to become a member of the Grieg Men's Chorus of Canton, and officially joined and was accepted on Sept. 12th.

Pastor Lindgren and his wife of 54 years, Karen (Olson) are both originally from Yankton SD. They have two daughters.

Pastor Lindgren was a four-year member of the Yankton High school Chorus along with Karen, and in the high school marching and concert band. He was also selected twice to the South Dakota All-State Chorus. He sang in the children's and youth choirs at Trinity Lutheran Church in Yankon; he sang in the Adult choir at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Chula Vista CA. Both he and Karen were in the Bell Choir at St. Mark.

Pastor Lindgren entered the U.S. Navy after high school and became a member of the Navy's only Recruit

Training Drum and Bugle Corps in San Diego CA. He retired as Senior Chief Petty Officer after 20 years service, including several deployments to Vietnam.

Pastor Lindgren studied at Fuller Seminar in San Diego, and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, where he received a M.Div. degree in 1996, and was ordained in 1997. Pr. Lindgren is elated to be a member of the Grieg Menø Chorus.

We welcome our new members and sincerely hope they enjoy our harmony and fellowship.



Jerry Holter, Corr. Sec.

NORMENNENES SINGING SOCIETY Chicago IL

Some of you realize I have been dealing with health issues. On Oct. 31st I had spinal stenosis surgery, and Jan. 2nd I had hip replacement surgery. Luckily both were successful, and I am now feeling well.

The main problem I had was from Oct. 30-Feb.3, when I was confined to hospitals and rehab centers. It is certainly great to be home. I am currently involved with home exercises and physical therapy, while being confined to a walker.

On Feb. 11th the chorus performed at the Sons of Norway Torske Club luncheon. This was the annual Ladies Day event, in which many of our singers' wives participated. There were 120+ in attendance, and a great day was had by all.

The music selections we performed were: Sentimental Journey; *Nidelven*

and Fly Me to the Moon, plus the two national anthems

Next on our performance schedule is preparation for our 37th annual Festival of Song on Mar. 24th. This is when we invite several choruses to perform two selections each, followed by all choruses singing six numbers in a mass chorus. Last year there were seven performing choruses, with about 90 singers. This year there will be a change of venue; it will be held at Conant High School in Hoffman Estates.

Regards,

Thor Fjell.



HARMONY SINGING SOCIETY Rockford IL

We sang at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints the first weekend of December. This is our third year to sing for their special nativity display program. More than 500 nativities were on display from around the world. This was a two day program with different music being presented every half hour. It was a pleasure being part of their program.



One of many nativity displays.

The following week we sang at Prairie View Assisted Living in Winnebago IL. This home is a short distance from Rockford. They look forward to us singing and we certainly

look forward to being there. I think this is our third time to sing for the residents and staff. After, our chorus heads to a local spot for food and conversation.

Mid-December we had a party at the Harmony Clubhouse. Joe Metzler prepared a turkey dinner and we all brought dishes and goodies to pass. After eating we sang a few numbers and then many Christmas favorites. This is a time we look forward to each year.

The Harmony Singing Society is very fortunate to have a Clubhouse in Rockford IL. There are four groups within the club that plan and put on activities: the chorus, the officers, the sports members, and the ladies auxiliary. Activities range from outings, bingo, anniversary dinners, corn beef and cabbage dinners, and steak dinners, to name a few.



Ladiesø Auxiliary



Singing at a Harmony Club dinner.
(continued on page 16)

Obituary

Wilbur C. Stoen was born April 22, 1926, in Spring Grove MN, one of four children of Knut and Mildred (Leikvold) Stoen.. He attended rural school and graduated from Decorah High School in 1944.

In 1947 Wilbur purchased his first farm near the one homesteaded by his ancestors in 1851. The following year he married his pastor's daughter, at Big Canoe Lutheran Church, on Aug. 29th He and Eunice (Hexom) became the parents of two children: Barbara and William.

Wilbur was very active in farming, devoting much time to soil conservation and served as a County Soil Commissioner for many years. His farm was visited frequently by dignitaries from other countries, including Norway, who were interested in the history of a Norwegian immigrant farm.

Wilbur was a member of Sons of Norway and later in life joined Luren as a Second Bass.

Wilbur died Jan. 26, 2017. His memorial service was held Feb. 11th, at which Luren sang *Den store hvide flok Aftensang* and *I Jesu Navn* (Norwegian Table Prayer).

Wilbur was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and one brother. He is survived by his widow Eunice, daughter Barbara (Don) Dowd, Cedar Falls IA, son William, Decorah; three grand-daughters and five great grand-daughters, as well as two sisters-in-law.



Wilbur Stoen

**Norwegian Singers Association
of America, Inc.**
(www.nsaaonline.org)
**Pacific Coast Norwegian
Singers Association**
(www.pcnsa.org)
Club Membership Index

**ILLINOIS
CHICAGO**

Bjornson Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Each Tuesday 7:30 p.m. at 1st United Methodist Church, 9857 Schiller Blvd. Franklin Park IL 60131. 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 (630)837-8615; Director: Edwin Kramer, 32600 East Lane, Grayslake, IL 60030, tel. (847) 546-2050, ed.kramer@ATT.net.

Normennenes Singing Society

Rehearsal each Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. (except July and August) at the Estonian House, P.O. Box 95, Lincolnshire, IL 60069. tel: (847)537-8016. President: Richard Fjeldheim, 831 Marseilles Circle, Buffalo Grove IL 60089, tel. (847)215-8467. Recording Secretary: Frank Potempa, 1788 W. Sherwood Rd., fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net Director: Charles Kessell, 6042 W. Grace St., Chicago, IL 60634. Tel: (773)481-5941, cell (773)858-5325, perc55@juno.com.

ROCKFORD

Harmony Singing Society

Rehearsal each Tuesday 7:00 p.m. at our Club: 1104 15th Ave. Rockford, IL 61104. President: Jim Wolf, 1104 15th Ave., Rockford, IL 61104, tel (815) 965-7833.; Corresponding Secretary: Steve James, 625 Dawson Ave., Rockford IL 61107. tel. (815)601-3813. stevej1945@comcast.net. Director: Sherry Dreyfuss, 11665 Glen Eagles Lane, Belvidere IL 61008. Tel (815)978-2245. swedishcantor@gmail.com

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: Ralph Van Fossen, 806 Linden, Decoarah IA 52101, 563-382-5880. RHVF@lurenSingers.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: Robert O. Olson, 7442 Pillsbury Ave S, Richfield MN 55423-4115; tel. (612)866-0687, bobjoolson@comcast.net ; Corresponding Secretary: Charles Engh, 7642 Prairie Flower Blvd., Chanhassen, MN 55317, tel. (952)401-8838; cbengh@hotmail.com Director: Carsten Slostad, 1065 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104-7011; tel. (651) 291-8639 carstonian@hotmail.com.

SOUTH DAKOTA

SIoux FALLS

Minnehaha Mandskor

Rehearsals: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Center For Active Generations, 2300 W. 46th St., Sioux Falls, SD. President: Marlan Velgersdyk, 5115 S. Rolling Green Ave. #210, Sioux Falls, SD 57108. tel. (605) 371-0669. mvelgersdyk@midco.net Corr. Secretary: John Rasmusson, 4312 W. 58th St. #109, Sioux Falls SD 57108, tel. (605)271-0838. jpras@midco.net. Director: Terry Walter, 2708 West Oak St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 339 0607, clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com.

Norse Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Nordic Hall. President: David Lien, 1800 Split Rock Blvd., Brandon SD 57005, tel. (605)582-3565; Corresponding Secretary: Gail Kristensen, 111 W. 17th St., Apt. #110, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, tel. (605)731-5281 mrgail@sio.midco.net. Director: Lyle E. Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 212-1309.

CANTON

Grieg Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Canton Good Samaritan Center. President: Doug Olseth, 626 N Broadway St., Canton SD 57013, tel (605)764-2928, olenorsk54@hotmail.com. 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, tel.(605) 275-5591. lkarli@sio.midco.net

WISCONSIN

MADISON

Edvard Grieg Chorus

2262 Winnebago, Madison, WI 53704

Rehearsal: Each Tuesday, 7 p.m. President: Dick Johnston, 26 Chautauqua Tr., Madison WI 53719, (608) 833-6284 richarj@charter.net. Corresponding Secretary: Dick Johnston, 26 Chautauqua Tr., Madison WI 53719, (608) 833-6284 richarj@charter.net ; Director: Mark W. Everson, 711 Highway #106, Edgerton, WI 53534, tel. (608) 884-9398 evers11111@aol.com.

**SIoux VALLEY SINGERS
ASSOCIATION**

OFFICERS:

President:: David Lien, 1800 S. Splitrock Blvs, Brandon SD. 57005. Vice President: Ray Schnabel, 2201 Pebble Beach Ln, Brandon SD 59005. Secretary: Gail Kristensen, 111 W. 17th St., Apt #110, Sioux Falls SD 57104. tel; (605) 731-5281, mrgail@sio.midco.net; Treasurer: David Stene, 6109 Canary Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57107-1076, tel. (605) 332-2055; Director: Terry Walter, 2708 West Oak St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 339 0607, clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com; Assoc. Director: Lyle E. Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 335-1624.

PACIFIC COAST NORWEGIAN SINGERS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS:

President: Pete Petersen, 713 E 7th Ave. Ellensburg WA 98926, (509) 607-9406 o.petersen@gmail.com. Vice President: Jeffrey Highland; 76 Utsalady Road, Camano Island, WA 98292. (360)387-5285 highland@smumn.edu
Secretary: Doug Wright, 11921 81st Ave E, Puyallup WA 98373, tel. (253)604-4980 douglas.r.wright@gmail.com.
Treasurer: Rick Olson, 8726 Shadowood Dr, Everett WA 98208, (425)337-0795, olymeister20@comcast.net;
Trustees: California: vacant
Oregon: Paul Flora, 6042 Cottonwood St NE, Salem OR 97317 paulflora@pgn.com; Washington: Allen Feris, 23514 135th Ave NE, Arlington WA 98223, (360)435-3144, feris.allen@msn.com. Trustee at Large: vacant
;Director-in-Chief: Paul May, tel. (619)227-9979 paulthomasmay@gmail.com Asst. Director-in-Chief: : Peter Butler, 31869 Eastway, Lebanon, OR 97355, tel. (503) 259-2006, whitewolf372@centurytel.net

CALIFORNIA

OAKLAND

Normanna Glee Club

Rehearsal: time and place unknown
President: Larry Schaleger, gubedude@ajk.cin ;Secretary: Paul Eikeberg, tel. (925)485-1538 vikingike@yahoo.com
Director: unknown

SAN DIEGO

San Diego Mannskor

Rehearsal: every Monday at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of San Diego State Univ. in music Bldg. President: Sven I. Olsen, 2991 Jacks Creek Pl. Escondido, CA 92027, tel. (619) 709-6171, svenio@cox.net; Secretary: Jon Homerud, 3354 Bonica Woods Dr., Bnita, CA 91902 (619)223-2784 holmerud@cox.net; Director: Paul May, tel. (619)227-9979 paulthomasmay@gmail.com

SAN FRANCISCO

Norwegian Singing Society of San Francisco

Rehearsal: Meets every Monday 7:00 p.m. at 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94127. President: Herlev Storseter, 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94103 tel: (415) 344-0204; Secretary: Mark Mathisen, 1601 Oakwood Dr., San Mateo, CA 94403 tel: (650)947-1357, dchouse@earthlink.net; Director: Megan O'Brien.

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: Mark Williams, 29453 Culver Lane, Junction City OR 541-343-8060. Secretary: Duane Esperum, tel. (206)501-2010 desperum@gmail.com; Director: Ed Amundson, 29453 Culver Lane, Junction City OR 97448-9438, 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: Paul Flora, tel. (503)363-9753 paul.flora@pgn.com ; Secretary: Wes Anderson, tel. (503)363-1714 wander@comcast.net ; Director: Peter Butler, 31869 Eastway, Lebanon, OR 97355, tel. (503) 259-2006, whitewolf372@centurytel.net

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, cell phone (360)303-3919, stmjensen@earthlink.net.

EVERETT

Norwegian Male Chorus

Normanna Hall, 2725 Oaks Avenue
Everett, Washington 98201
Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening, 7:00 p.m. at Normanna Hall; President: Craig Fredlund, tel. (425)210-9067, craig_fredlund@jamco-america.com .Secretary: Robert Bruland, tel. (425)335-1150 burland2@comcast.net.
Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, cell phone (360)303-3919, stmjensen@earthlink.net

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: Warren Rosvold, (360)930-0504, wrosvold@gmail.com; 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: Jens Eysteinnson, tel. (205)799-8000, JensEysteinnson@AmmericanSeaffods.com Secretary: Rolf Federspiel, tel. (425)823-9080, farfarfed77@frontier.com. Director: G. Robert Johnston, 4707 NE 192 Pl., Lake Forest Park, 98155, tel. (206)362-1094, bobsings@gohuskies.com

SKAGIT VALLEY

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@smumn.edu
Secretary Skip Ingraham tel (360)387-6168. Director Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, cell phone (360)303-3919, stmjensen@earthlink.net

TACOMA

Normanna Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Each Monday 6:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 20 Tacoma Ave. S, Tacoma, Wash. President: Pete Petersen, tel.(509)607-9406, o.petersen@gmail.com
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

Our chorus is now scheduled to perform the Spring Concert, May 7th at 3:00 p.m. at Broadway Covenant Church in Rockford.

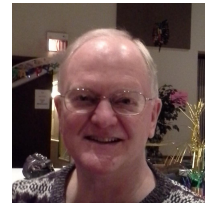
I am endeavoring to find archival history and pictures for our group. I would like to share what I find in Sanger-Hilsen.

For a chuckle:

One Sunday morning, the Lutheran pastor noticed Ole standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it.

The old Norwegian had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside Ole, and said quietly, "Good

morning Ole." "Good morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, vat is dis?" The pastor said, "Well, it's a memorial to all the men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, Ole's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "Vich service, da 8:30 or da 10:45?"



Steve James, Corr. Sec.