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DECORAH, IA

Mar.-Apr. 2017



Five choruses sing at the Normennenes 37th Festival of Song.

**NORMENNENES SINGING
SOCIETY
Chicago IL**

On Friday, March 24th, our chorus hosted its 37th annual Festival of Song. This is when we invite several choruses to perform two selections of their own choosing, and all choruses join in performing as a mass chorus.

This year there was a change of venue for this event. The new location was at Conant High School in Hoffman Estates. This was arranged by our accompanist, Michael Benshish, who works at the school. The coordination of the evening was headed by Frank Potempa and Dan Boyle, who did a great job.

The evening proved to be a great success. There were five participating choruses and 60+ singers. Our chorus was represented by 13 singers. Our selections were *Sønner av Norge* and Gift of Love.

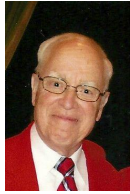
Taking part, besides Normennenes, were Bjornson Male Chorus, Chicago Latvian Menø Chorus, The Men of Conant High School, and Chicago Swedish Glee Club.

The mass chorus selections were: Let there be music; Rise up, O Men of God; *Sanctus*; Dear Land of Home; Stouthearted Men; and God Bless America.

Upcoming events include a perform-

ance at *Minnekirken* in Chicago on May 17th, combined with Bjornson. On May 21st we will take part in the 17th of May parade in Park Ridge, again with Bjornson. Our annual spring concert will be Friday, June 9th.

A new member to our chorus is John Flader. More about John in the next issue.



John Flader

Our new Corresponding Secretary is Dan Boyle. His address, etc. are in the Chorus Index.

Regards,



Thor Fjell

NORDIC MALE CHORUS Sioux City IA

The Nordics are keeping their noses to the grindstone, so to speak, as they heartily rehearse for the Sioux Valley Sangerfest on June 10th in Sioux Falls. They also hosted a combined rehearsal of the Valley Singers on April 3rd.

A Valentine dinner for members and spouses was a special activity. All are looking forward to a dinner to honor the 125th Anniversary of the Chorus.

We are very pleased with our new accompanist. You can see from the following that she has a very busy musical life: A native of New York State, Mrs. Yvonne Hazlett received her B.Mus. from Houghton College in instrumental and vocal music education, and her M.A. from Eastern Michigan University.



Yvonne Hazlett

She has taught instrumental, vocal and general music in New York, Michigan, Virginia and Iowa. Currently she is a half-time elementary music teacher at two Iowa schools, and half-time accompanist for an elementary, middle and high school music program, which includes two show choirs.

After school and weekends she is busy with her private studio of 22 students on various instruments, including bagpipes.

Yvonne is also an organist and choir accompanist at Morningside Lutheran Church in Sioux City. Summers are spent playing clarinet in the Sioux City and LeMars municipal bands. She also loves extensive traveling with her husband at the end of each summer. Also she is a bagpipe band member and performs with a Recorder Ensemble which she founded.

We are proud to honor our director Chuck Schuette, who has led the chorus for 40 years. And Chuck happily adds that his appointment as director was only temporary.

A final note: Your Corresponding Secretary was honored with a cake party by the Chorus on the occasion of his 94th birthday and he continues his love of singing. *Gratulerer med dagen!*



Bob Hansen, Corr. Sec.

**NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB
Minneapolis MN**

Our strange weather patter has not affected our concentration on our full spring practice/concert program. We returned to one of our favorite places to sing, the Summit, and soon will be singing at the beautiful expanded and remodeled Masonic Home in Bloomington. Quickly following will be our spring lutefisk dinners on April 1st (no fooling), then our Spring Concert at *Mindekirken* Sunday, May 7th. Two weeks later, of course, we will be singing and celebrating *Syttende Mai*. We are also identifying our two selections for Sangerfest 2018. Wow! Time moves too fast for this old timer.

Phil Heide, our Cheer Chair, has been checking on the physical difficulties of our dear friend and member Ron Hemstad. We miss this gentle, important singer, and hope he will soon have better days.

Our President, Bob Olson #2, is still roaming the country, but he has been sighted and will soon be with us. He has not neglected his duties while absent, thanks to e-mails and phone. He advises that he has all the required manpower lined up for our lutefisk dinners, no small job.

Our master ticket controller, Earl Evanstad, reported that reservations are already pouring in. Incidentally, all of you who receive the monthly Sons of Norway magazine no doubt saw Earl's picture in a recent issue, right in the center of a large group photo. No surprise here, as he is usually at the center of all things promoting Norwegian heritage.

Past President Herb Nelson is off to a good start in his effort to secure gifts

to support current and future needs of the Glee Club. Vice-president Arne Selbyg has been subbing for Bob, and has started his aggressive sale of fish dinner lottery tickets. He doesn't want anyone to miss out on the opportunity.

For a smile: During a lady's annual medical examination, her doctor says: "Your heart, lungs, pulse and blood pressure are all fine. Now let me see the bit that gets you ladies into all kinds of trouble." The lady starts taking off her underwear, but is interrupted by the doctor: "NO! NO! NO! Don't remove your clothes! Just stick out your tongue!"



Charles Engh, Corr. Sec.

**GRIEG MALE CHORUS
Canton SD**

Members of the Grieg Male Chorus are enjoying regular weekly rehearsals, as we prepare for the June 10th Sioux Valley Singers Association Sangerfest. In preparation for this event, two joint rehearsals have been held: the first in March hosted by the Grieg Male Chorus, and the second, the first Monday in April, hosted by the Nordic Male Chorus of Sioux City.

After my parents moved last July, I have had the opportunity to review a lot of chorus and Sangerfest memorabilia. At the first Sioux Valley joint rehearsal I brought a few items to show. Since only two in the group remembered these, I am sharing these, by photo, with readers of *Sanger-Hilsen*: white pants from when the official NSAA uniform was white pants, white shoes, black coat and of

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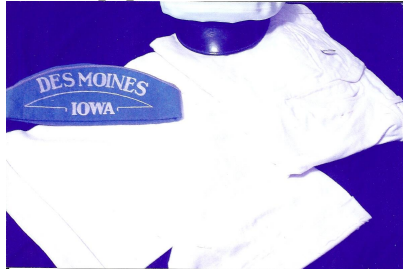
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**DEADLINE FOR
May-June 2017 ISSUE
June 12, 2017**

course white singersøcap, which some singers still wear at national events. Also pictured is a cap with Des Moines Iowa printed on it. The only note with this cap was øworn during singersø parade in Des Moines.ö

My Dad recalls performing concerts in Iowa on the way to Sangerfest with other choruses besides Grieg, but does not recall the hat. If any of you have memory of this, please inform me. There were many mentions of parades in preparation for Sangerfest. It was the PROMOTION for the Grand Concert. The photo of a parade I could locate I needed to print from an old newspaper.



White pants and singerø cap.

I have had the opportunity to walk in two such parades, one in Sioux City shortly after I joined NSAA in 1970, and one in Canton with the Sioux Valley. I enjoyed both experiences so much, proud to be walking with my brother singers, promoting our event. Times are so different, and the sidewalks may not be packed with well-wishers, but my sincere hope is there will be a Grand NSAA Parade in my lifetime, and while I can still walk.

I am including also a photo of a Sangerfest parade and the event at Mt. Rushmore, which Dad thinks is one of the last events for the uniform with

the white trousers. (*Ed. Probably the 1958 Sangerfest at Rapid City.*)



Singers parade downtown Canton SD June 26, 1937.

Greetings to you all!



Jerry Holter, Corr. Sec.

EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS Madison, WI

Our Chorus was invited to perform for the Verona Performing Arts Series on March 19. This was the first time the Series presented a show on a Sunday afternoon, and there was some concern about turnout. What a pleasant surprise when an enthusiastic audience of over 400 filled the theater!

We sang our expanded program that included three Irish songs, Danny Boy, Fergus anø Molly, and Irish Blessing, in honor of St. Patrickø Day. We were followed on the program by the Stoughton High

School Norwegian Dancers. The young people dazzled the crowd with their performance that included some challenging acrobatics.

Following the performance, 60 singers and spouses gathered at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison for our annual Founders Day dinner. Special guests for the evening were Bjorn Thompson and his wife Gail. Bjorn's father was one of the original members of the Chorus when it was founded in 1925. We surprised the crowd with an appearance by 10 members of the University of Wisconsin's famous marching band that played several of our favorite pep songs. Yes, it was **loud**, but everyone enjoyed the show, and the evening will long be remembered.

The Chorus did receive some disappointing news during the month, however. Director Mark Everson requested that our Chorus begin the process of finding a new director as he begins his transition to retirement. Mark has been with the Chorus for over 40 years and is the longest serving director in our 92-year history. We face a difficult and challenging task as we search for a replacement. Mark has indicated that his departure will not be abrupt as he plans to assist our new director in our preparation for next year's Sangerfest in Decorah.

In brighter news, we are pleased to welcome new member Randy Schumann to the Chorus. Randy was born and raised in Madison and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School. Randy retired after 40 years as an attorney with the State of Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions. While in high school, Randy was involved in several school musicals and sang in the

chorus. Randy and his wife Diane formed *Trio Infinite* and sing professionally for weddings and other special occasions. We welcome Randy to our bass section.

While April is proving to be a quiet month in terms of performances, we are preparing for a busy month in May. On Saturday, May 6, the Chorus will travel to St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Rubicon, Wisconsin to perform a concert after their Saturday night service. One week later we will be recording a new CD, and we will wrap up the month with several performances celebrating *Syttende Mai* the weekend of May 19-21.



Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

NORSE GLEE CLUB Sioux Falls SD

March saw our music folders become complete with Sioux Valley Singers Sangerfest 2017 music. Rehearsals, as expected, are increasingly focused and intense, yet we seem to be progressing with some satisfaction. For six of these eight weeks we practiced as just our chorus alone, but for two rehearsals we joined with the other three choruses comprising the Sioux Valley Singers for combined rehearsals.

The richness of the sound in the larger groups gets your attention, and gives you a sense that some serious progress is being made. On March 13th, the Grieg Chorus of Canton, SD played host, and on April 3rd, the Nordic Male Chorus of Sioux City IA played host.

As the SVSA Sangerfest 2017 host chorus, we continue preparations with some early deadlines fast approaching this month and next. The site contract has been signed, catering services arranged, and menus selected for the several (men and ladies) meals planned. At the concert we anticipate about 75 voices to participate. We are waiting for the attendee registrations and fees, due to arrive shortly. Responses also will be identifying 1st time attendees, medalists, and deceased members to be remembered at the Memorial Service.

Other concert work will see us performing a spring concert at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Brookings SD on Sunday April 30th at the invitation of the local Sons-of-Norway chapter. We will incorporate some of the works we are preparing for the June Sangerfest, as well as some others of our favorite pieces. We are including Black is the Color of my True Love's Hair, Mansions of the Lord, and Sweet, Sweet Spirit. We will probably close the program with this last number.

On Saturday May 6th, the Glee Club will sing the National Anthem at the opening home game for the Augustana University's men's baseball team. This event has become an enjoyable, "weather permitting", tradition for us, and our work seems well appreciated by the fans and the teams. Also, while continuing our Sangerfest preparations, our May/June future may have us again supporting a worship service in the St. Dymas Chapel at the state penitentiary in June.

The final joint chorus rehearsal for Sangerfest 2017 will be in Sioux Falls on Monday, June 5th at the concert

site. On **Saturday June 10th, 2017** at the **Spirit of Peace UCC Church** is when it all will come together. To our NSAA "Brothers in Song," please join us that day as you may be able.



Gail Kristensen, Corr. Sec.

BJORNSON MALE CHORUS Chicago IL

Dear Singer Brothers,

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 24th we attended Normennenesø annual Singers Night Festival. Each attending chorus sang two songs. We sang *Island*, an Icelandic tune written by Henrik Møller, followed by *To the Sea* by Larry A. Christiansen.

The finale was a mass chorus singing, *Let there be Music*, *Rise up oh Men of God*, *Sanctus*, *Dear Land of Home*, *Stout Hearted Men* and to finish off the evening, *God Bless America*.

On Saturday, April 24th, 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 on Wednesday May 17th.

We will 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.

On a sad note, two of our singers are having a hard time these days. Our second tenor, Oystein Borsheim, is coming back slowly from a damaging stroke. He recently moved into the Danish Retirement Home in Chicago. Then our "anchor" Bob Weldon (aka Big Daddy) 2nd bass, is recovering from Hip Replacement Surgery. Hurry back fellas!

Leve Sangen



George Michals, Corr. Sec.

MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR

Sioux Falls SD

The Mandskor is busy working on music for the 2017 Sangerfest. We have had rehearsals together with the other Sioux Valley choirs in the last weeks. We were hosted by the Canton chorus in March and journeyed to Sioux City in April. Both meetings were good in terms of learning the music. We also enjoy the fine fellowship that occurs after the rehearsals.

We sang a concert at Dow-Rummel retirement community on March 6. They have a lovely venue and always provide a large receptive audience. We have a scheduled performance at Trail Ridge retirement community on May 1, and will sing for the *Syttende*

Mai banquet to be held at First Lutheran Church, May 16.

Our accompanist, Deanna Wehrspann traveled to Finland to take in International Ice Skating. In her absence, Terry Walter moved to the piano and Hans Peterson stepped out of the bass section and onto the podium. Hans brought expertise and insight to the practice session.

We have two more singers. Leslie Hernes has officially joined the bass section, having recently moved to Sioux Falls from Canton. The Grieg loss is our gain. Derrick McKenna, whose job interfered with attendance at Monday night rehearsals is now available to sing with us again. We are happy to have these fellows involved with Mandskor. We will also be happy to see our snowbirds back in their respective chairs. We anticipate that by mid-April, we will be reunited.

The Active Generations (Senior Center where we rehearse) is again planning to have their "Gourmet Guys" fundraiser event, April 30. Mandskor has provided one of the chefs for many years. This year, Larry Luinenburg will prepare and Ray Schnabel and Marlan Velgersdyk will serve the bite-sized entrée. They are calling it "Southern Hummus ala Mandskor." It is a black-eyed pea creation.

Active Generations is pleased to have our participation and we appreciate the opportunity to rehearse and keep our music at their facility. It has been a long and warm relationship. While we willingly involve ourselves, it should be noted that it is no small task to prepare 600-700 servings.

So far, we are having a nice spring. An inch or more of rain would be welcomed. Usually that happens right after Iøve had my car washed or have cleaned the windows. I guess Iørn not doing my part. Respectfully submitted,



Terry Walter, Minnehaha Mandskor

NSAA President's Column

Do you realize that in 2017, we are marking NSAA's 125th anniversary? Our seal on the **Sanger-Hilsen** masthead logo, states that it was established in 1892. According to Dennis Barnaal when Herb Nelson became NSAA president, he had the logo redrawn. This is the one that hangs over the mass chorus as we sing the grand concert. According to last year's program book, the first Sangerfest was held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 1892.

Dennis also reminded me that **Sanger-Hilsen** has achieved a venerable age. The Jan.-Feb. 2017 masthead says **Volume 107, No. 1**. This means that it was first published in 1911 (as volume 1). I thank Don Berg, our Corresponding Secretary, and his assistant, Dennis Barnaal, for their faithful work in publishing this important communication piece. I also commend the corresponding secretaries of the choruses for faithfully writing their columns.



Roger Buhr, NSAA President

HARMONY SINGING SOCIETY Rockford IL

We are already half way thru the month of March. This singing season has been passing quickly.

Now that the holidays are behind us we are getting ready for our Spring Concert. This year our concert will be May 7th at Broadway Covenant Church here in Rockford at 3:00. As I recall we sang at one of their services and also performed our Christmas Concert there over the past couple years.

Our chorus is striving to sing out once each month. It is a joy to share our music. We want more exposure to our community and hopefully increase our membership, also.

Our chorus sang at Highview in the Woodlands in Rockton IL March 17th. This is a senior living community. We were pleased to see the residents respond and enjoy our music. They even requested a couple songs.

We are striving to sing at different spots monthly. Future engagements coming up are at Independence Village of Rockford, Morning Star Village and Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center.

For a Smile:

Ole and Sven grabbed their poles and headed out to do some fishing. As they were augering a hole in the ice they heard a loud voice from above say, "There are no fish under the ice."

Ole and Sven moved about 25 feet over and started to make another hole. The voice said a little stronger, "There are no fish under the ice."

They both looked around and then looked up. Ole said in a humble voice, "Are you God?"

The voice spoke back, ðNo ya idiots! ðm the ice rink attendant.ö



Steve James, Corr. Sec.

LUREN SINGING SOCIETY Decorah IA

After a comparatively soft schedule during these winter months, our agenda for singing becomes quite filled during the next few months.

Due to a conflict in the schedule of our companion Northern Lights chorus for their Spring concert, we decided to move our concert at Harmony MN to the following Sunday, April 30th. Northern Lights was originated by several of our Luren spouses in 1996 in time for our Sangerfest that year. There are still several Luren spouses or ladies with Luren connections who sing in the chorus, otherwise known as Nordlys. The change in schedule was approved by those at Harmony who are responsible for the event.

The event is the 90th anniversary of the dedication of a monument in honor of Herbjørn Gausta, famous Norwegian-American painter of church altar paintings, landscapes, portraits, etc. Gausta was born at Harmony and is buried in the cemetery there. He died in 1924, and the monument was erected in 1927.

Gausta attended Luther College and later taught courses in art at his alma mater. Decorah became his home-base for much of his work, but eventually he relocated to Minneapolis.

Our concert is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. at Greenfield Lutheran Church, which is currently served by Pastor Rolf Svanoë, who was the guest speaker at our banquet in Sioux Falls in 2016.

The following Sunday, June 7th, we will sing our annual concert with the Norsemen, freshmen chorus from Luther College, at 7:00 p.m. at Decorah Lutheran Church. This is a bit earlier than usual (we often hit Mothersø Day), but we ran into another conflict with a policy at Luther College that protects the students preparing for their finals that next week.

In addition to the Norsemen, the Middle School ðViking Voicesö and the High School male voices will sing several selections, and we will join forces for two numbers.

Our fellowship time following the concert is also a time for our Auxiliary ladies to ðspoilö the young men with ðcare packagesö of cookies, bars and sandwiches to take back to their dorms.

The offering at the concert is to go toward the Decorah Area Food Shelf, which will be relocating to a larger site, yet to be determined, from its current space at First Lutheran Church.

A special event, unusual for our ðelderlyö group, is scheduled for May 27th, when Emily Bicknese, daughter of Aaron and Karla, and granddaughter of Wayne ðDocö Bicknese, will be married to Tom Stene. This will take place at Decorah Lutheran Church, with the reception to be held at the Inwood Ballroom in Spillville, ca. 12 miles south of Decorah. Luren will sing as part of the reception festivities.

Tom, Aaron and Wayne are all members of Luren, and others in the Bicknese family have provided their skills in various ways: vocal, percussion, etc. at many concerts.

On Sunday, June 4th, Our Savior Lutheran Church of Lansing, Iowa, will observe its 150th anniversary.

Yours truly served as supply pastor of that congregation for 14 months in 1986-87, and was honored to be the guest preacher for the 125th anniversary.

During the intervening years, I also had the opportunity to translate the minutes of the congregation from Norwegian to English. More recently I have translated the report in the Synodical newspaper of the dedication of their church structure, as well as the records of the Fægre Prairie congregation, a sister congregation of Lansing from 1867 to ca. 1920. When the church building of Fægre Prairie was finally taken down, lumber from that structure was used in an addition to the Lansing church.

Now I have been invited again to be the speaker for the 150th Anniversary for the 9:00 a.m. service. Then, following a catered meal, Luren will sing its concert at 3:00 p.m. in the church.

As part of the ðHomecomingö of the Spring Grove community on the weekend of June 24-25, Luren will sing a concert at Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 25th, at 3:00 p.m. Spring Grove has held such ðhomecomingö celebrations every 10 years on the 7s.

Finally, we may get a break until the County Fair and Nordic Fest in July. (Nordic Fest will have an added ðattractionö this year, when bike riders on RAGBRAI will pass through

Decorah on their way to other points east Friday morning, July 28th.) We are scheduled to lead off the festivities of Nordic Fest on Thursday evening at 6:45 p.m., then sing a 45 minute concert at 6:00 p.m. Friday evening, and take part in the parade on Saturday morning. The theme this year is ðNordic Gras.ö

We experienced a change of officers recently. After several weeks of controversy and confusion, President VanFossen resigned. Vice-president Dan Alstad assumed the position, and Tom Buresh was nominated and elected to serve as Vice-president.

The obituary for Rev. Richard Vetrus, former member of Luren, is carried in another column. He had moved away to accept another Call as pastor, and had been serving an Interim pastorate in North Dakota where he died. Although unmarried, there were several other relatives who mourn his loss.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Berg, Corr. Sec.

OBITUARY



Rev. Richard J. Vetrus was born to Rev. Ole and Clara (Olson) Vetrus in Superior WI Oct. 23, 1938, third of eight children. He attended Hillcrest Lutheran Academy and later Lutheran

Brethren Seminary, both in Fergus Falls MN. Prior to Seminary he received his Bachelor's degree from Pasadena College in 1964. Also, he had a Master of Science degree in History from Wagner College in Staten Island NY in 1975.

Rev. Vettrus served several congregations in the New York City area from 1967-79; then moved across the US to Pasadena where he pastored from 1979-82. He came to West Union IA to be an interim pastor while waiting for a chance to teach English overseas. When those plans did not materialize, he was called to be the regular pastor at Bethany Lutheran Brethren congregation, rural West Union, where he served for 21 years. During most of those years he also sang baritone with the Luren Singers of Decorah IA.

He was ordained in 1971, and was President of the Eastern District of the Lutheran Brethren, 1978-79, and was Secretary of the national church body for many years, beginning in 1986.

Rev. Vettrus retired to Rolette ND, near where his grandparents had homesteaded. There he served again as an interim pastor until his death after an extended illness at Minot ND on Feb. 6, 2017. His funeral service was Feb. 10, 2017, with burial to be held in the spring.

Rev. Vettrus was preceded in death by his parents and one sister. He is survived by six siblings and their families.

FIRST NORWEGIAN MALE CHORUS IN IOWA

Recently I have had the opportunity to reread a biography, compiled by his

great-grandson, of *Gustav Gilbert, Norwegian-American: His Life & Times 1846-1930*.

Gustav Gilbert was born May 3, 1846 at Hakedalen (Yes, for you who have sung *Kjæringa mæ' staven*, there is such a valley, about three Norwegian miles north of Oslo). He is listed as *uægte* in the church records. As a young boy he worked with his mother, who wove cloth to be sold to customers in Christiania. Also they sold berries that they had picked on the land where they lived as cottagers. They walked those miles many times as they carried their goods to be sold, and returned with yarn for her next weaving projects.

Gus had limited schooling, but was a diligent student and continued home study, being confirmed in 1860 at a church in Nittedal.

He began working as an apprentice clerk in Christiania in 1858. While in school he had been singing with older classes *because I had a good clear tenor voice, and I knew several airs and songs by heart.* This background led to his inviting a few boys to go out in the country near the King's Palace where they could learn music with each other. There were 16 altogether from different backgrounds. They met on Sunday afternoons in a park much of the summer.

Gus lost his clerking job when he was 16. When the economy became tight, his thoughts turned to going to America where he had an uncle. On his 17th birthday he received a letter from his mother's brother, John J. Arnes, encouraging him to emigrate the following year. He arrived in Lansing, Iowa on Sept. 30, 1864, after a hazardous trip of several weeks.

After some delay in finding employment as a clerk, he took on helping the Lutheran pastor (Hjort) with singing in the newly organized and built church in Lansing. Gus had recruited some other young lads for the same purpose and told about his previous venture in the singing group back in Norway. One of his listeners said, "If you succeeded among that class of boys why not try the same here." Gus had many objections. "Here we must take the German Song Book as our guide, and that would mean we must have a teacher, a place to meet, have our officers and regular times to meet."

Another boy suggested that they get together the following Sunday. Gus had heard of the recent arrival of Iver Larsen, who was a graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, but did not want to become a preacher, so he was also working as a clerk in a store. When they met and began to discuss the possibilities, Larsen said, "Song is one of my weak points. I cannot sing, which you know preachers should be well drilled in. I understand music as far as notes and time goes, but that is all." "Further," Larsen said, "I play no instrument but a common harmonica." Gus replied, "That is all the instrument we shall need for a long time."

Through other contacts, Gus heard that the vacant hall of the German Sangerforbund was available for rent for \$5 per month. A group of 15 young men investigated and agreed to pay the rent in advance. They had a few gifted men who agreed to make or get seats and a desk for the vacant hall. When they came together again, they formally organized the Scandinavian Singing Society of

Lansing, Town. Officers were elected. The men agreed to pay 25 cents per month to defray expenses and to charge all who wished to join one dollar. A Constitution and Bylaws committee was named, and each one present was made a committee of one to get new members, passive or active. The official date of organization was June 1, 1866.

We singers met again at our hall and found our carpenters had made long benches along both sides of the hall. Mr. Larsen was present and had along his harmonica. First, the Constitution Committee gave its report and had it accepted.

While the core group was trying their voices, several other men and boys showed up, who wanted to become members. After listening to the newly adopted Constitution and Bylaws, they were allowed to sign, pay their \$1 cash for membership. "Now we were twenty active members, and a lot of good singers. But we had only one common song book one of the boys had brought from Norway, so we all sang, in one voice, the national song of Norway, old style. Now came the puzzle: where and how to procure Norwegian songs for four voices with notes. There was no such thing in America as a Norwegian book store, nor did we know of any other Norwegian Singing Society."

Gus told the group that he had heard that Marcus Thrane had come to America and thought he could help out to get music books.

Editor Don Berg
(to be continued)

**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.

Normenneses 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: Dan Alstad, 19714 Co. Rd. 4, Spring Grove MN 55974. tel. 507-498-3676, dalstad@springgrove.coop .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

Rehearsal: 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: 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)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

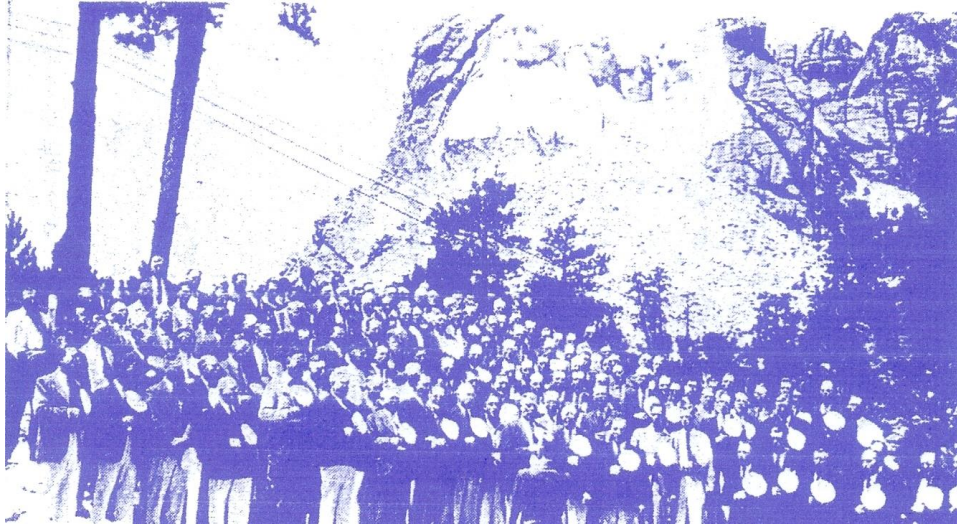
PO Box 481, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

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



Sangerfest participants gather at Mt. Rushmore SD, in 1958.
Submitted by Jerry Holter for the Grieg Male Chorus report.