



VOLUME 107, NO. 3

DECORAH, IA

May-June 2017



**LUREN SINGING SOCIETY
Decorah IA**

The picture above shows the several groups of all ages in joint concert on Sunday, May 7th, at Decorah Lutheran Church. The Viking Voices of the Decorah Middle School, a group of young men from the High School, the Norsemen (freshmen) from Luther College, and Luren had each performed several selections, and then joined in two numbers. This event is one of our highlights of the singing season, and we commend it for other groups to emulate.

Dean Beckman, Middle School vocal instructor, commented on how he appreciated so much the mentoring of the older groups. This has been an

annual concert for almost 30 years and demonstrates the joy of singing together, regardless of age.

Many of us in Luren attended the spring concert of the Northern Lights (Nordlys), our companion women's chorus on April 23rd. Luren had been scheduled to sing in Harmony MN on that day, but that was moved to the next Sunday, April 30th. The occasion was the 90th Anniversary of the dedication of a monument honoring the Norwegian-American artist Herbjørn Gausta. Gausta painted many altar pictures for Norwegian Lutheran churches in the U.S.

We were honored to be invited to the wedding of Emily Bicknese and
(continued on p. 11)

**NORMENNENES SINGING
SOCIETY
Chicago IL**

Dear Friends,

There is sad news that we must share. Long-time member of Normennenes Lowell Hertsgaard passed away on Monday, April 17, 2017. He was waked on Thursday, April 20th, and the chorus performed. The funeral was April 21st.



Lowell Hertsgaard

Lowell was an active member of Normennenes for 60 years and certainly will be missed. He was 81.

Lowell is survived by wife Judi, daughters Holly and Kristi, and three grandchildren.

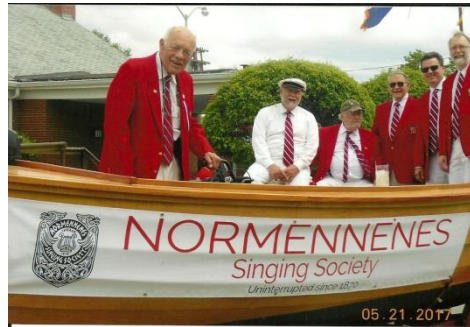
Our condolences are extended to Judi and the family.

The Chorus has been active, starting with participating at *Minnekirken* in their 17th of May celebration. We had the pleasure of singing with Bjornson Male Chorus, and we had a great performance. We enjoyed a coffee social afterward and the company of a full house.

On Friday, May 19th, the Chorus performed at the Norwood Crossing Nursing Home, formerly the Norwegian Old People's Home. The concert was well attended and sounded wonderful.

A highlight of our performance included our featured tenor duet of Karl Tangeros and Henry Carlson, singing *Barndomsminne fraa Nordland*.

Sunday, May 21st, was the *Syttende Mai in Park Ridge*. Actually, we were named honorary Grand Marshals of the Norwegian Constitution Day celebration, which was a welcomed surprise! The parade was great, and our chorus along with Bjornson sang the National Anthems. Also, many of our members attended the banquet and dance on Saturday evening, May 20th.



Normennenes in the parade.

The Chorus has had great rehearsals in preparation for our June 16th spring concert. The program will feature a variety of music, and several guest performers.

Wishing everyone a great summer.
Yours in song,



Thor Fjell.

**NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB
Minneapolis MN**

As this is written we have just finished another successful Glee Club Spring Concert at *Mindekirken*. Our director Carsten Slostad included again the talented 87 Giftsö Women's sextet, which he also directs, and added the fine Main Street String

Quartet. This gave our Concert a new dimension that was well received by our audience. A salute to Carsten for a well constructed program, and a hats off to Mark Olson for his tenor solo part in our music.

This was a very busy Sunday at the church, as it was also appreciation day for Pastor Sundt for her years of service in the congregation. She is now returning to Norway to a new Call. She will be missed.

Before we begin our Summer Sabbatical, we still have commitments for a concert at The Rivers and, of course, our participation in the Scandinavian Summerfest celebration at Minnehaha Park in June. Previously, this was exclusively Norway Day, but now the Swedes have joined us. This has made it a larger attended event, and added to the overcrowded parking situation.

Phil Heide, our Care Chairman, reported that Bob Berndt has some additional health issues. We pray for this fine gentleman to get well. Ted Anderson, our business manager, is already working on our Fall/Winter schedule, assuring a fast start when we return in September.

A friend sent me a couple signs from the highways that gave me a smile: "Spring is Here, and I am so Excited that I Wet My Plants." And this one: "I Ate 4 Cans of Alphabet Soup and Just Took Probably the Biggest vowel Movement ever."



Charles Engh, Corr. Sec.

NORDIC MALE CHORUS

Sioux City IA

The Nordics and spouses enjoyed a dinner out to mark the 125th year of chorus organization. The event, held at Kahill's Steak-Fish & Chophouse in South Sioux City, Neb., provided delicious eating and fellowship staged around the beginning of Sioux City's oldest singing group.

Formed by eight young Norwegian immigrants, the chorus began in 1891 as the Normendenes Sangforening under direction of N. S. Orningaard. It has continued through the years with inspirational singing of Scandinavian as well as other literature in many get-together times.

Another Sioux Valley Sangerfest has concluded in Sioux Falls, with a concert of varied music that was audience-pleasing. Medals earned for attendance from our group included: First-time, Mike Awe; Five years, Stan Ahrendt and Dave Gross; 10 years, Larry Weil and Bob Hansen; 20 years, Dick Wightman. Congratulations to all.

With the special dinner the Chorus closed out another season of singing and will be back again the Fall. Until then, the best to all!

A Sunday School teacher asked a little boy, "Do you know what happens to boys who use bad language when they play marbles?" "Oh yes," the boy replied, "They grow up to play golf."



Bob Hansen, Corr. Sec.

SANGER-HILSEN**("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.

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Editor-Business Manager

407 Leif Erikson Drive
Decorah, IA 52101
www.nsaaonline.org
Subscription price \$20.00 per year

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

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**DEADLINE FOR
July-August 2017 ISSUE
Aug. 14, 2017**

**Bjornson Male Chorus
Chicago IL**

Dear Singer Brothers,

So far, BMC is enjoying this cool and relaxing year. Our first gig was not until Friday, March 24th at Normneness' 36th annual Festival of Song. This year it was held in Schaumburg, IL. at the Conant High School, hence no alcohol allowed. Now I know why only four choruses attended--HA! Anyhow, the school's Male Glee Club was also on the program so many of the students were there plus our own women. Each group sang two songs, which was fully appreciated by the audience.

Our next endeavor was on Saturday, April 29th in Engleside IL at our director, Ed Kramer's church. His choir and Bjornson sang together again as we did last year. Looks like this might become an annual event.

On Wednesday May 17th, we appeared at Minnekirken (Memorial Church) in Chicago's Logan Square for their Mai 17th celebration concert. We were first up on the program and sang four songs: Thou Art Holy, *Nidvelven*, Iceland, and *Hjemlengsel*. The program following us included songs from the Minnekirken's Choir, Greig Ladies Society, and a traditional piano solo by Mr. Rolf Aardal. Normneness Singing Society, with Chuck Kessell directing sang *Barndomsminne Fraa Nordland* and *Rett som ornen stiger*. Bjornson then joined them singing *Sønner av Norge*, which went well with Michael Benschish accompanying. A short Greeting was given by Paul Anderson, honorary Consul General. The popular Chicago Spelemanslag lined up to perform four Nordic numbers

that had the audience stomping their feet to a grand violin "Hoe Down."

Last on the program was the Logan Square Crescendo, a mix of a dozen boys and girls singing three songs, Real Life, *Jeg er en superhelt*, and Hope. They brought the house down! What a finale!

On Sunday, May 21st BMC attended the huge Annual Parade in Park Ridge IL. Marching through the neighborhoods with the streets lined with well wishers is always fun. At the parade's end, Normneness and Bjornson gathered on the grand stand and led the people in singing.

On Friday, June 22nd, we held our 93rd Anniversary Dinner Concert at the Avalon Banquets in Elk Grove IL. On our first two songs we were joined by some members of Ed's church choir singing Thou Art Holy and You Are Mine. We then sang three more songs until dinner time, accompanied by Ms. Janet Eckart. The 2nd part of the program we were entertained by Mr. Peter Oyloe, Ed Kramer's nephew, singing two songs while playing the guitar. Then our "famous 1st Tenor," Ken Michaels wowed the audience with Vienna, My City of Dreams, and Bring Him Home from *Les Miserables*.

For the final offering, the chorus sang To the Sea, Iceland and *Nidvelven*, and The House I Live In featuring Ken Michaels. Our final number was *Landkjending* featuring Peter Oyloe, who did a fantastic job and received a standing ovation.

Leve Sangen,



George Michals, Corr. Sec

NORSE GLEE CLUB**Sioux Falls SD**

At this writing, the 50th Biennial Sioux Valley Singers Association (SVSA) Sangerfest is ðin the books.ö On Saturday, June 10th, some 60 vocalists from the four local NSAA choruses came together to present our concert at the Spirit of Peace UCC Church here in Sioux Falls. Terry Walter, of the Minnehaha Mandskor, and our own Lyle Kroon, shared the Directorship responsibilities. In keeping with our traditions, we presented contemporary melodies, spiritual tunes, and some Norwegian standards. The latter included *Å kjøre vatten å kjøre ve*, *Brudefærden i Hardanger*, and *Vill vid denna kalla*. Some of these selections had not been performed in a number of years, so proved to be a challenge for our newer (and older) members. There were about 150 individuals in attendance for the concert.

The Norse Glee Club and our auxiliary played host this year. The planning and execution proved to be a very satisfying experience for us.

As is our custom, we welcomed two new members from our chorus, Allen Eide and Bryan Noe, into membership in the SVSA, as they were participating in their first SVSA Sangerfest. Additionally, we honored current members for their participation in a number of Sangerfests. Yours truly, Rodney Hoff, and our president David Lien received the 5-Sangerfests medal, and Joe Isakson received the 10-Sangerfests medal with brass bar.

Continuing with our other traditions, we honored the memories of current and past members that have died within the past two years.

Unfortunately, the Norse Glee Club suffered six losses. I have previously reported to you five of the six. The sixth, and most recent, was INGOLF BYRON MAURSTAD, who died on April 7th this year at age 89 years. He led a very active life. Living in Nebraska for a good part of his adult life, he was an avid golfer. He was elected to the Nebraska Golf Hall of Fame for his many contributions to the game within the state and nationally. He was a member of the Rules committee of the USGA. Upon his retirement in 2005, he returned to ðhis rootsö in South Dakota. He was a 1951 graduate of Augustana College (now University). He sang with us for a few years before experiencing failing health. Several of our club members attended his funeral.

Keeping on the membership side of things also, we were happy to help one of our members, REV. K. ROGER JOHNSON, celebrate his 90th birthday at several gatherings of neighbors and friends. At our next business meeting, we designated him to be a ðlife memberö (his annual dues will now be borne by the club).

Looking forward, the summer recess is about to begin, but we have agreed, as we do each year, to support a worship service in the St. Dymas Chapel at the South Dakota penitentiary on July 20th. Several rehearsals are planned in preparation for that event.

At the SVSA Sangerfest 2017 business meeting earlier on concert day, the following individuals were elected SVSA officers for 2017-2019:

President: Ray Schnabel
(Minnehaha Mandskor)

Vice President: TBA (Grieg Chorus)

Secretary: Gail Kristensen (Norse Glee Club)

Treasurer: David Stene (Norse Glee Club)

Marshal: Roger Amdahl (Minnehaha Mandskor)

We congratulate Ray Schnabel on his becoming our new SVSA President, and wish him and his Minnehaha Mandskor the very best as they begin to plan for SVSA Sangerfest 2019.



Gail Kristensen, Corr. Sec.

EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS

Madison, WI

After a quiet April, Chorus activities increased significantly in May. On Saturday, May 6, our Chorus traveled by bus to St. Olaf Lutheran Church near Rubicon, Wisconsin. This beautiful country church was filled with Norwegian artifacts and history. We sang to an appreciative audience in their fellowship hall that offered exceptional acoustics.

The following Saturday the Chorus gathered at the Capitol Lakes Retirement Center to professionally record our first CD in several years. Singing without an audience presented a unique challenge, but gave us the opportunity to re-record all or parts of songs that needed some fine-tuning. The whole process, including several short breaks, took about three hours, but was well worth the effort. The master recording is now being reviewed and we are looking forward

to the finished product later this summer.

The culmination of our seasons work ended with performances for *Syttende Mai* weekend in Stoughton, May 20-21. Despite cool and rainy weather we drew a good crowd for our annual performance at the Opera House. We sang a full program of the songs we had recorded a week earlier. Our "Put a Buck in the Bucket" collection was also successful again this year.

Following the performance, members, spouses and friends were all invited to an indoor spring picnic sponsored by long-time member, Dr. Orin Hermundstad at the Skaalen Club House. We shared great fellowship and had an opportunity to express our appreciation to our Director Mark Everson, Assistant Director Linda Svanoë and Accompanist Linda Johnson for their leadership and musical talents. What a great way to end the year! The next morning we sang for church services at First Lutheran Church and Christ Lutheran Church followed by an outstanding Norwegian smorgasbord.

During our summer break two committees will be hard at work on significant challenges facing the Chorus. The first committee is beginning to identify and interview potential candidates for a replacement Director. A second committee is beginning the planning process for Sangerfest 2020 when our Chorus will again host the event in Madison. A benefactor of the Chorus has already made a significant contribution thereby guaranteeing that we will again be able to hold major events in our beautiful Overture Center for the Arts. We will have additional

exciting details to share as our planning process continues.

We wish all of our brother singers and their families a restful summer, and we look forward to seeing all of you in Decorah for Sangerfest 2018.



Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

**MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR
Sioux Falls SD**

The Mandskor has had a good spring. We've had some absences but we power on. Director Terry took leave for AZ for a couple of weeks, with Bill Hoffman moving ably to the podium. May 1st, had us presenting a concert at Trail Ridge Retirement Community. Our own Joan Rasmusson, widow of John (past corresponding secretary) is a resident there and is one of our biggest cheer leaders.

May 8th we hosted a combined rehearsal of the Sioux Valley Singers. May 16th we performed at the annual Sons of Norway *Syttende Mai* Banquet. The event took place in the Reformation Hall at First Lutheran Church.



Mandskor sings at Sons of Norway *Syttende Mai* Banquet.

June 5th, we joined the Sioux Valley Singers in a rehearsal hosted by the Norse Glee Club. June 10th was the date for our Sioux Valley Sangerfest. It was hosted by the Norse Glee Club. Our venue was Spirit of Peace UCC Church. This is a lovely sanctuary and it worked well for our group. Terry Walter served as Director in Chief and Lyle Kroon as Assistant Director. Deanna Wehrspann is our Sioux Valley accompanist, and piccolo player Ardelle Kleinsasser enhanced the accompaniment of Wonderful Grace and Salute to our Patriots.

We were invited to entertain members of the Norland Heritage Foundation after a brunch meeting at Augustana, Sunday, June 11th. We happily obliged as the group does wonderful work in preserving the homes of pioneers Ole Rolvaag and his wife. The buildings rest in a park created on the south side of the Augustana campus. This was our final singout for the season.

We are now on break until we gather for our summer picnic and meeting in preparation for our concession stand at the Sioux Empire Fair. We wish you all an enjoyable summer season and traveling mercies if you have such plans.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry Walter

Mandskor Member Spotlight

Leslie Hernes joined the Mandskor in February of 2017. He sings bass. After 20 years with the Grieg Chorus



Wanda and Leslie Hernes

in Canton, he and his wife Wanda moved to Sioux Falls, in October of 2016. As our president, Larry Luinenburg and wife Roxine were guests at the Canton chorus's Christmas dinner. Larry and Leslie visited at that gathering and learned that they were now neighbors. An invitation was issued to come sing with the Mandskor. Leslie agreed to give us a try and we are glad he did. The Herneses fit nicely into our Mandskor family.

Wanda was a missionary to Japan for 5 years and has also served as a parish worker. Leslie, a Canton native who attended Augustana College and Luther Seminary, served as a Lutheran pastor for 27 years. He also worked as a carpenter for several years and enjoys woodworking as a hobby. The couple has two grown children, Karen and Eric.

NSAA President's Column

This year the NSAA is celebrating 125 years. Many directors and singers have been a part of our long history of performing Scandinavian music.

I had an email from a man in Saetre, Norway, asking for information about Fred Wick. The inquirer had a gold ring with the inscription, **Fred Wick, Norwegian Singers Association of America, 1940**. He wondered if I could provide

him with any information about Fred and his family.

Rich BJORLO, one of our Luren members, checked online and came across an article written by Molly Andrus when the Norwegian Glee Club in Minneapolis hosted the 2014 Sangerfest. Bjorn Hagen was their longest member at that time. The article said, "Hagen has especially fond memories of director Frederick Wick, who also served as director-in-chief of the NSAA." According to Hagen, Wick saw something in Scandinavian music that would help to keep the Norwegian heritage fresh in the community.

When Hagen first joined, about three-quarters of the members were immigrants. He remembers Wick commenting that the group was made up of 32 different dialects and asking, "How in the world can I make it into one voice?" Hagen simply replied, "With Good Luck" but notes that somehow Wick managed to unite them. Fred Wick also arranged pieces like *Siste Reis*.

May we as NSAA members continue to make fond memories as we promote a love for Scandinavian male chorus music and create friendships among our members.



Roger Buhr, NSAA President

GRIEG MALE CHORUS Canton SD

The Sioux Valley Singers Ass'n 50th Biennial Sangerfest is history, as are the joint rehearsals hosted by the

four member choruses at their respective locations. All members of the Grieg Male Chorus experienced the usual and expected pleasure of being involved in all of the events. The friendships renewed, between members of the four choruses, are always fun.

The Sangerfest was held on June 10th at Spirit of Peace UCC in Sioux Falls. The thoughts of this writer, when the Grand Concert is over, are:

A. Relief

B. Let down---I always wish that, after all the input effort, there could be another performance at a different venue.

C. Wishing that I could have been in the audience listening as well as in the chorus singing. However, I will always opt for the latter as long as I am able.

D. Even though the summer break is nice, it is a long time until we start up again in September.

Congratulations and many thanks to The Norse Glee Club for a well organized, well run, fun event. Congratulations and many thanks also to SVSA president and my newfound cousin, David Lien, for all his work in organizing this event.

On Monday, May 22, The Grieg Chorus along with The Canton Ministerial Assn, hosted an outdoor cookout/concert at the Canton Depot. The event was a benefit for Love I.N.C.(In the Name of Christ). The food was fantastic, the concert went well in spite of the sharp stiff wind, and the Depot Museum was open. Special thanks to Grieg Director Lane Karli for the idea and plan, the Canton Ministerial Assn for their help and also to Grieg accompanist Claradith

Kingsbury whose battle with the wind was more than that of the singers.

By now, readers may have surmised that this writer is not Jerry Holter. If so, you are correct. This writer is a substitute at Jerry's request.

Jerry has been fighting cancer in the neck and throat. He has been through chemotherapy and underwent surgery on June 1st. The next afternoon he was released from the hospital. The surgery was predicted to take six hours but took half that time. The surgeon anticipated the necessity of removing a portion of his vocal cords due to a cancerous piece of tissue adjoining them. It was discovered that this tissue had dried up from the chemo. This discovery eliminated the possibility of a tracheotomy.



Jerry Holter

Best of all scenarios, Jerry can talk. Necessity for radiation will be determined later. If unnecessary, he will be able to sing again. You now know what the Grieg Male Chorus members are praying for. Please join us in that prayer.

Ole and Lena are sitting in the living room. Lena is knitting while Ole is silently reading the Bible.

Ole said: "Ya know Lena, I jyst come to da conclusion dat Noah vas crazy."

Lena: "And how in the vorld did ya come to dat conclusion Ole?"

Ole: "I jyst can't believe dat anybody in der right mind voulda taken dem two skunks on da boat wit him."

Bill Kortemeyer, Subst. Corr. Sec.

Luren Singers (continued from p. 1)

young Luren member Tom Stene on May 27th at Decorah Lutheran Church, and to sing during the reception following at Spillville.



Wedding of Emily and Tom Stene

June 4th we sang for the 150th Anniversary of Our Savior's Lutheran in Lansing IA. I had the privilege of being one of the preachers for the service in the morning, wearing the ðruffed collarö (prestekrage).

On Friday, June 23rd, we will sing at the memorial service for Kenneth Timmerman (see obituary).

June 25th we go to Spring Grove for their ðHomecomingö event. Concert time is 3 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran.

July 11-15 are the dates for our County Fair, our major fund-raising event of the year.

Just before Nordic Fest July 27-29, we will sing a mini-concert at the Seven Lag Stevne, meeting at Luther College's Center for Faith and Life on July 20th at 7 p.m. A stevne is a gathering of Norwegian-Americans with roots in different areas of Norway.

For Nordic Fest we will help open the festivities of Thursday evening by singing a few selections prior to the official Opening. Later, we'll do the

National Anthems of Norway and the United States.

On Friday evening, we sing at 6 p.m., prior to the Nordic Dancers. Then on Saturday morning we will be in the parade on a different flat-bed trailer; the old one is being retired.

We might get a ðbreakö until we get back together in mid-September. In the meantime, the Sangerfest 2018 committees are holding their meetings, with the Steering Committee coordinating the plans. The Hospitality Committee was holding a meeting at the Decorah Middle School when a tornado warning forced them to move to the school hallway!



Hospitality Committee in hallway.

Ongoing activities: recruiting new or bringing back former members!

Obituary



Kenneth Timmerman was born in the Postville-Castalia area on July 3, 1930, and died June 11, 2017. He was married to Mary for 66 years. He had been a resident of the Eastern Star Home for several years.

Ken loved to sing and often sang along with the Luren Singers when the group came to the Home caroling.

Ken was a long-time member of the Luren Male Chorus, often appearing as a soloist. He sang Second Bass. He received his Gold medal for attending 15 NSAA Sangerfests at Decorah in 2006.

Children of Ken and Mary are: Dawn (Rob) Mena of Houston TX, Kevin (Melanie) of LaCrosse WI, Joel (Debbie) of Decorah, and Craig (Tina) of Austin TX; also six grandchildren and six great grandchildren, one brother-in-law and one sister-in-law.

The memorial service for Kenneth is set for Friday, June 26th at Decorah Lutheran Church. The Luren Singers will sing We Shall Walk, and Beautiful Savior as part of the service.

We mourn Ken's passing, but thank God for his life and the many gifts God granted him to share, including the gift and love of singing.



Don Berg, Corr. Sec.

FIRST NORWEGIAN MALE CHORUS IN IOWA

(Continued from p.13, Mar.-Apr. 2017
Sanger-Hilsen)

At the next meeting, Gus' uncle and several other men joined, making thirty in all. Gus also reported he had heard there was a Norwegian Singing Society in LaCrosse. They agreed to have someone, namely Gus, go there and procure some books from them. They also agreed *to name June 1,*

1866 as the birthday of the first Norwegian Singing Society in the State of Iowa."

In a short time, Gus took the steamboat from Lansing to LaCrosse. Soon after he arrived in LaCrosse, he met a man who agreed to guide him to his contact person. This guide, later to move to Decorah and found a newspaper called *Decorah Posten*, was B. Anundsen. Gus subscribed and paid one dollar for a year, so he may have been the very first subscriber, even though the paper did not begin in Decorah until 1874 and would continue until 1972.

Anundsen introduced Gus Gilbert to the members of the LaCrosse men's group, officially named Normanna. They did not have any books either, but had some on order from Norway, and would send a copy to Lansing.

Meanwhile Gilbert had learned the address of Marcus Thrane, and wrote to him to get some music books. Thrane did send several books, and each procured a blank book in which to copy the songs with notes. In a few weeks they were singing old Norwegian songs in four parts. Gus still had his copy book 60 years later!

As Christmas 1866 neared, the men decided to have a "Christmas Tree" party, and to prepare a hymn to sing as part of the entertainment. Their numbers had grown to 40. This became a community event, complete with tree and Santa Claus and gifts for all the children. The German singers had had parties previously, but never with an actual tree and Santa. They asked to be included in the event, and were warmly welcomed.

Added to the singing society were a few instrumentalists who performed at

the party. There was also a change of leadership. Mr. Larsen agreed to step down as teacher, and a Mr. Enksen was hired. He played the violin as well as clarinet and had been a teacher in Norway. He agreed to come, and the singers made splendid progress, learned how to march, and gained new members.

The following summer they decided to hold a picnic. They arranged to go to the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Fægre, sing a song or two, eat their lunches, dance and have a good time generally. The event began at 10 a.m. and over 100 people, including children, were hauled by teams and wagons to the picnic site. They ended at 5 p.m. *"This was the first picnic held by Norwegians in that part of the state in June 1867, arranged by the Scandinavian Singing Society of Lansing, Allamakee County, State of Iowa."*

Another welcome addition to the society and community was Ingebrigt Five (Fee-vay), a painter by profession, who brought with him from Trondheim a lot of good music, song music, and played the cello, so he helped greatly in training the men.

Gus Gilbert was married at Big Canoe Lutheran Church, rural Decorah, on March 28, 1868, to Kari Hansdatter Eggen.

Soon after returning to Lansing, Gus and a few young and single men decided to head west. They took a steamship to Dubuque where they caught a train to Fort Dodge, after which they walked most of the rest of the way to their destination. There Gus began to assemble materials for a general store, the beginnings of Sioux Rapids. He had to haul merchandise from Fort Dodge to stock the store.

After a few years, Gus Gilbert moved in 1875 farther west to Dakota Territory, to a young community that was called Swan Lake, not far from Yankton. Again he set up a grocery and general store; he also branched out into the newspaper business.

In 1879 he moved to Parker DT, near Sioux Falls. In later years the family was located in California. He died in 1930.

Questions: What happened to that Scandinavian Singing Society after he went west? Who inherited his copy book of music? Which music did Marcus Thrane send? When in Sioux Rapids, did he get acquainted with Ole Olson of the Grieg Male Chorus in Fort Dodge? And did he have any contact with the several Scandinavian male choruses located in Dakota Ter.? We will probably never know.

Don Berg, Editor

They Sang for Norway:

Olaf Oleson's Immigrant Choir

The Spring-Summer issue of Currents, the Newsletter of NAHA in Northfield, carries a notice of a book with the above title, recently published by MNHS Press, 288 pages.

Olaf Oleson helped establish NAHA in addition to the Norwegian Singers Association of America. By entertaining audiences across North America, the singers raised funds to support Norway's cause of liberation from Sweden.

A boy told his father, "When I grow up, I am going to be a musician. His father replied "I'm sorry son, I have to disappoint you. You can't do both."

Yo-Yo Ma

**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: Ray Schnabel, 2201 Pebble Beach Ln, Brandon SD 59005. Vice President TBA. 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



Sioux Valley Singers Association at 50th Sangerfest, 10 June 2017 at Spirit of Peace UCC Church, Sioux Falls SD.