



## Archives Fund Established by Fosholt



*Sanford K. Fosholt presenting Charlotte Jacobson with the gift credentials.*

Sanford K. Fosholt has given to the Association the largest single gift it has received since its founding in 1925 — a total of \$50,000.00. The gift, appropriately named the **Fosholt Archives Fund** will function as an endowment where the accrued income will be used exclusively for the maintenance and growth of the Archives. Fosholt hopes that his gift will stimulate future contributions and that the principle will progressively increase with time, but no matching conditions were attached to the gift.

### **Sanford K. Fosholt**

Fosholt, educated as an electrical engineer (Iowa State University, Ames) began to work for Stanley Consultants, Inc. in Muscatine, Iowa, in 1938. Down through the years his responsibilities were increased and broadened to include assignments in design, field surveys, construction, inspection and firm management. His expertise as an electrical engineer covered systems such as

steam, diesel, hydro-electric power plants, water reservoirs and the installation of radar systems at military missile sites. When he retired from his position in 1981, he was Senior and Executive Vice President of Stanley Consultants, Inc.

### **A Personal Matter**

At a recognition dinner sponsored by the NAHA at St. Olaf College on July 13, Fosholt gave a moving speech which told of a personal odyssey where he had gradually moved from youthful indifference with regard to ancestral roots to a deep concern for his Norwegian family background. He also related that as young man he had helped to "clean out" a deceased uncle's home, discarding then what he later concluded were books, documents, and letters, which more rightly should have found a permanent home in an archives like ours. His gift, he said, was in no small way related to this incident.

## The Recognition Dinner

The grant was officially turned over to the NAHA by Fosholt at the dinner mentioned above. Archivist Charlotte Jacobson received the gift on behalf of the NAHA. Present, in addition to members of the Executive Committee and their spouses, were Wilma Fosholt, Sanford's wife; his daughter Louise Fosholt Jesson and her husband John; and the president of St. Olaf College, Melvin George and his wife, Meta.

A metal plaque on a wood background has been made for display in the Archives. A copy of this plaque was presented to the Fosholts. It reads as follows:

The Norwegian-American Historical Association Archives  
Are Supported by  
*The Fosholt Archives Fund*  
Established in 1985 by  
Sanford K. and Wilma Fosholt

## Family Histories

Quite consistent with our collecting policies, Sanford K. Fosholt hoped that we might intensify our efforts to make the Archives a repository for the many family histories that have been or are being written and researched across our country. This will be done. As a start we ask the members of the NAHA to keep the Archives in mind if they have, know of, or are themselves preparing a family history.

We have experienced that some are reluctant to send us copies of their efforts for fear of critical appraisal, or because they themselves regard their work as inferior. These works are for preservation, not publication. If these histories contain information useful to coming generations—as they all do—they have value, regardless of workmanship and quality of language.

## New Equipment

The NAHA, together with the Department of Norwegian at St. Olaf College, now owns a computer. It will be mainly used by the editor for storing research data and for the preparation of manuscripts. With time the NAHA may utilize a computer to store membership records, form letters, mailing lists, and for functions like printing statements for dues.

We have used the St. Olaf College computer for many years, but this has been restricted to printout of names and addresses (sticker labels) of members when needed.

## Institutional Membership

A letter has gone out to the presidents of the Sons of Norway lodges (approximately 300) inviting the lodges to subscribe to an institutional membership in the NAHA (same as life membership with a 25-year limit).

The founders of the NAHA conceived of the Association as a historical and archival service center for all Norwegian-American related organizations, and they believed that subscription to membership in the NAHA would be a routine matter. Even though their optimism on this score outran realism by a considerable distance, the concept is worth preserving and advancing.

Since an institutional membership equates to \$6.00 per year the financial burden is hardly excessive, nor can the income factor to the NAHA be the central issue. What is important is the **participation factor**. For example we encourage organizations that do not have their own libraries or other facilities to keep books, to have the books due them sent to one of their local libraries: public, school, retirement center, etc. This means expanding the availability of our books to the public and this brings its own set of rewards.

Members of the NAHA, especially those who hold memberships in other organizations as well, can be of great help. A statement from them, given the right time and place, will prove to be far more effective than letters from the Secretary's Office.

## Editorial

By common consent the officers and board members of the NAHA have in the past turned the limited resources of the NAHA in the direction of publications. This policy — if it can be called that — has produced seventy publications. The enviable reputation that the NAHA has earned in the public eye has come about through its publications. However, in terms of the objectives stated in the NAHA Charter, the Archives have historically played a necessary step-child role when it came to budget allocations. With the coming of the Fosholt Fund, much will be corrected.

To date the Archives have gone through two distinct stages of development. Roughly speaking, the first 35 years were given to energetic collecting, but little could be done by way of organization, at least along professional lines. With the coming of Beulah Folkedahl in 1960, our first archivist, the era of organization began. She was succeeded by Charlotte Jacobson in 1974. Fundamental to any archives is one basic question: Do you know what you have and do you know where to find it? Thanks to Folkedahl and Jacobson, our unsung heroines, the answer to this question is today an unqualified yes! Before their coming, this question was an embarrassment.

By calling the last 25 years a period of organization we do not mean that new acquisitions have not been added. In fact, careful organization invites donations because it builds confidence and trust. But there has been little collecting of materials that involve acquisitional expenses like the purchase of microfilms, or having microfilming done.

With the Fosholt gift we foresee a third and better era, where collecting and organization can receive simultaneous and equal rather than staggered emphasis. In light of historical perspective and future prospects, the significance of this gift looms large. Thank you! Sanford K. Fosholt!

L.H.

## An Explanation

Several members have stated that our dues procedure has some confusing elements. Our "statement for dues" lists the options available as to membership categories and the cost of each membership. Please note, however, that the attached membership card denotes the type of membership (associate,

sustaining, patron) you subscribed to in the preceding year. The method assumes continuation of the same membership category, but yet does not "lock" the member into a permanent pattern. It leaves open raising or lowering one's membership status on a year by year basis. If you have forgotten the membership category to which you subscribed last year, then check the membership card attached to the statement. It will tell you, but you are under no obligation to continue in that category. If a change is made, we understandably prefer that you raise rather than lower your status.

There are three billing months, January, May, and September. Members receive statements for dues in the month closest to the date membership application was made. This coming September's statements for dues will provide associate members with the option of adding \$6.00 to their \$15.00 for paid up membership until January 1, 1987. For practical reasons we hope to reduce our billing months to January and May, and in time remove September as a billing month altogether.

## Our Next Publication

A biography on Georg Sverdrup will be our next publication. Sverdrup, a leader in the Free Church movement, was for many years the president of Augsburg Seminary and College in Minneapolis. The target date for publication is February, 1986. This work has been carefully researched by James S. Hamre, who teaches at Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa. This publication will introduce a new series entitled Norwegian-American Biography. The precise title of the book is yet to be determined.

## Choice's Choice

*The Promise of America*, by Odd S. Lovoll, was selected by *Choice* magazine as the "Outstanding Book" reviewed by that journal in 1984. *Choice* is an organ for the Association of College and Research Libraries. Through its reviews it advises libraries as to the priorities they should give to their book purchases.

Odd S. Lovoll, the Editor of the NAHA publications, is to be congratulated. The members of the NAHA share in this recognition because their support made possible the publication of this book.

### Please

If you move, inform us of your new address. Books are not forwarded, but returned to the sender, doubling the postage costs, and they are tripled if the book is later remailed. Because annual statements for dues (forwardable first class mail) are not sent to life members, the risk of contact loss is greater here than is the case for other members.

### Volume 30

Volume 30 of *Studies* has now been distributed to all members in good standing. Should you not have received your copy, please notify the secretary's office.

★ ANNOUNCING ★

*The Publication of*

**SCANDINAVIANS AND  
OTHER IMMIGRANTS IN  
URBAN AMERICA**

*The Proceedings of a  
Research Conference  
October 26-27, 1985*

*Edited by Odd S. Lovoll. A bound typescript reproduction (6 x 9) of 214 pages. Published by the St. Olaf College Press and distributed by the Norwegian-American Historical Association. Sold at a prorated cost of \$7.00 per copy. Add \$1.50 for postage and handling. Minnesota residents (only) add \$.42 sales tax. Place orders with NAHA, Northfield, MN 55057.*

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
St. Olaf College  
Northfield, Minnesota 55057

### News in Brief

● Received from Knute Lee his book *Survivor*, Harlo Press, Detroit, 1984, 223 pages, \$9.95. Knute Lee grew up in Spring Grove, Minnesota, was a navy pilot during World War II, and later taught religion at Luther College and Pacific Lutheran University. He is currently on the faculty at Lutheran Bible Institute — Seattle, Isaquah, Washington. The book, an autobiography, has been well received.

● An 11th grade textbook entitled *The American Nation: Reconstruction to the Present* will carry a letter from *Frontier Mother* (Gro Svendsen) under the title "A Norwegian Farm Woman Writes Home". The text is published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

● The Norwegian Society of Texas celebrated its 10th anniversary with a program that extended over a period of three days, March 8-10.

● Much will be going on in Norway during the summer of 1986. Plans are being made for an emigration festival in Stavanger. Dorothy Burton Skårdal (University of Oslo) announced tentative plans for a conference (literature and history) to be held in Stavanger, June 21-24. Voss, Norway, has a planned program for June 20-23, 1986, which will recognize the 150th anniversary of emigration from Voss to America. Additional information can be obtained through 1986 Emigrant Anniversary Celebration, Box 14, N-5701 Voss, Norway.

● Dr. Ingrid Semmingsen will teach an Interim course at St. Olaf College. The course has the title "The Promise of America."

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