

THE NEWS LETTER

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

“Newsletter” Editor,
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St. Olaf College
Northfield, Minnesota

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Happy New Year

All the officers of the NAHA join in wishing all of you a full new year and in expressing gratitude for the loyalty you have shown and for the support you have given in the year that has just passed.

RESOLUTIONS

The turn of the year is traditionally a time for resolutions. If each one of us would include the resolutions listed below with others we might make, the year 1961 will become the greatest year ever for the Historical Association.

RESOLVED: I will not be satisfied until all those with an enthusiasm for the past feel it necessary to support the Association.

RESOLVED: I will not be satisfied until our publications are on the shelves of every library in our country.

RESOLVED: I will not be satisfied until we have an endowment fund of \$100,000, the interest on which will provide grants for scholars doing research in our field.

RESOLVED: I will not be satisfied until our archives are organized according to the highest professional standards.

RESOLVED: I will not be satisfied until all Norwegian immigrant-affiliated organizations—be they social, musical, fraternal, literary or religious—remember to send us their pamphlets, publications, brochures and old records, and also feel called to support the Association by enrolling as members.

RESOLVED: I will not be satisfied until it becomes customary for friends to remember the Association with bequests and with gifts.

RESOLVED: I will not be satisfied until I have added one new member to the Association during the year 1961 and have supplied the secretary's office with the names of five potential members.

Sons of Norway Lodges Invited To Support NAHA

Because the Sons of Norway lodges have frequently declared themselves to be in sympathy with the movement to preserve the records and make public historical facts pertaining to the Norwegian-Americans, each lodge has been invited to support the NAHA. The secretary's office recently completed writing a letter (in all 220) to the secretary of each Sons of Norway lodge, inviting its membership to consider one of two proposals: That the lodge enroll as a Life Member, or that it purchase a complete set of our available publications—for its own library or for a local library of the lodge's choice.

NAHA Members Can Help

NAHA members who are also members of a Sons of Norway lodge can assist by speaking for the proposals when they come up for discussion and by explaining what a significant contribution the lodge would make to its own community and to the cause of American history if it accepts one or both of our proposals.

The Archives

Miss Beulah Folkedahl began working on the manuscript collection November 28. She is currently working on the Helge Høverstad Collection. Because this collection contains nearly all possible categories—letters, sermons, lectures, poems, newspaper clippings, etc. — it has been chosen as our target collection. In a word, it will serve as a blueprint for the organization of other collections.

Descriptions of each collection will appear in forthcoming **News Letters** and later will be issued in pamphlet form.

Norwegian Immigrant Music

Gerhard M. Cartford, University of Minnesota, is preparing a doctoral thesis entitled **A Study of Music in the Life of the Norwegian Immigrants to the United States, 1825-1925**. He has worked in our archives for the past month.

While he expressed delight with the materials he found in our collection, he believes that many significant sources are still located in homes, churches, schools and other institutions. He has in mind particularly books and articles on music and musicians among Norwegian Americans, family histories of musicians, old song books, church rituals, congregational histories, sheet music, choir songs, and information about such social customs as folk dancing and folk songs.

Mr. Cartford, a member of the NAHA, would appreciate any information our readers might provide. Letters, or the material itself, may be sent to him % NAHA.

Donor Needed

The newly established Stanislaus College, Turlock, California, wants a complete set of our publications. The college is located in an area settled by many people from the Scandinavian countries.

If an individual or an organization is interested in donating a set (\$85.00), notify the NAHA secretary.

The Lady with the Pen

Our Texas volume will soon be in the hands of the printers and will be distributed to members early in the spring, according to Dr. Kenneth O. Bjork, managing editor. It has the title **The Lady with the Pen, Elise Wærenskjold in Texas**. (Mrs. Wærenskjold was known locally in Texas as "the lady with the pen.")

New Members

Three Life Members!

We gratefully thank the members and officers of two Sons of Norway lodges, Heimsyn No. 15 of Cloquet, Minnesota, and Oslo Lodge No. 2 of Minneapolis, for becoming Life Members. Clara Pigman and Huldah Osen are president and secretary of the Heimsyn Lodge, and Roy C. Eide and Ruby H. Bekkevold are president and secretary of the Oslo Lodge. The Supreme Lodge of Minneapolis is a Life Member of long standing. The Roald Amundson Lodge, Sacramento, California, and the Grieg Lodge, Portland, Oregon, have held sustaining memberships since 1948 and 1956 respectively.

Mrs. Ellen Nordvig Ellingson, Box 152, Capron, Illinois, is the third Life Member. She is currently collecting information on the early Norwegian settlement at Long Prairie, Illinois.

Sustaining Members

Dr. John H. Moe, Orthopedic Surgeon, 6 Webster Pl., Minneapolis 26, Minn.

Mr. Howard Sandum, 845 24th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis 14, Minn.

Mr. Donald E. Anderson, Alumni Director, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.

Prof. A. E. Finholt, Chemistry Dept., St. Olaf College, 1127 W. 2nd St., Northfield, Minn.

Mr. Joseph E. Refsnes, Investment Banker, 1814 Palmcroft Dr. N.E., Phoenix, Ariz.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Morgenson, 123 S. Sparks St., State College, Penna. (changed from Associate membership)

Associate Members

Mr. Kenneth Lower, Teacher, 3501 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis 7, Minn.

Mr. Frederick A. Schmidt, Business Manager of Music Organizations and Director of Public Functions, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.

Mr. David E. Johnson, Vice President, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.

Mr. Jack Laugen, Director of Public Relations, St. Olaf College, 905 Greenvale Rd., Northfield, Minn.

Fifty-three new members have been added in 1960. Included are 9 Life (an all-time record), 10 Sustaining, and 34 Associate members.

Some Recent Publications

Norstog-Nelson Translation of Halvor

Halvor, *A Story of Pioneer Youth*, by Peer Strømme 1893, translated and adapted by Inga B. Norstog and David T. Nelson, published by Luther College Press, is now available at the Luther College Book Store. Price (paper) \$1.95.

The translation preserves the sincere, unpretentious and warm qualities of the original. David T. Nelson, responsible for the adaptation, has, in fact, improved upon the original by deleting two chapters which digressed from the central narrative. Omissions of other irrelevant detail help to make it artistically a more compact work.

Poetry

Congratulations are in order to two faithful members, Søren C. Roinestad, Oakland, California, and Orlando Ingvaldstad, Chicago, Illinois. Each has recently published a volume of poems.

Roinestad's *True to Life Stories and Poems* is a fine collection of poetic interpretations dealing with the Old World and the New. We note a nostalgic poem,

"To Minnesota." Printed by Hawes Printing Co., Oakland. Price \$2.50.

Ingvaldstad's neat little book, **Beyond Our Dreams**, contains 150 poems treating topics as varied as life itself; it includes poetic sermons, hymns, character studies, nature descriptions, and deals with war, sorrow, and humor. His nature descriptions are particularly impressive, as is evident in the opening lines of "Pickereel Point."

A pair of herons stood so still
Amidst the willows in the bay;
The morning thrush sang on the hill
While waiting—dawn seemed far away—
Then bursting brightness of the sun . . .

Published by the author, 2255 N. Lawn-
dale Ave., Chicago 47. Price \$2.00.

Civil War Letters Featured

Apart from the two books we plan to publish in 1961, we will also feature as "Our Book of The Year" **The Civil War Letters of Colonel H. C. Heg** (edited by Theodore C. Blegen, 1936. 260 pp. \$4.00).

Because 1961 marks the centennial for the beginning of the Civil War, Colonel Heg's letters will be received with renewed interest. We expect that our supply will be sold out before the end of the year. Members who do not have this book (because of joining the NAHA after 1936) should have first option and are urged to place an early order. Next, we are most interested in making this book available to the general public. Please see if this book is in your local library. If not, encourage the librarian to order a copy, or better still, give a copy to your library as a gift.

Please send to _____

Name

Address

_____ copy/copies of **The Civil War Letters of Colonel H. C. Heg.** Price \$4.00 — Members less 25%, \$3.00

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