

Hydle Leaves Bequest of \$59,000

Odmund L. Hydle, Quartz Hill, California, died November 9, 1984, 95 years old. He was a life member of the NAHA and vitally interested in the work of the Association. He mentioned in a casual manner in a letter to the Secretary in 1981 that he had included the NAHA in his will. Since no figures were mentioned, it was assumed that the amount would be as modest as the tone of his letter. Things proved otherwise. When his estate was settled, his bequest, a residual provision, amounted to \$58,916.

Born in Hardanger

Odmund L. Hydle, born in Osa, Hardanger, Norway, February 2, 1889, emigrated to the United States in 1906. He taught school for a time, managed banks in North Dakota and Montana, and founded his own insurance business in 1931 in Los Angeles, and retired in 1956. Along the way he also earned a BA degree from the University of California.

Hydle was an active man with many interests: a member of the Sierra Club, The Writers Rendezvous Club, The California Lutheran Hospital Society, The Sons of Norway, and for a number of years a member of the Board of Trustees of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Los Angeles.

Novelist, Historian, Philosopher

He devoted his retirement years to writing and produced seven books which he published himself. Two of his books were novels: *The Secret Journal of Stanley Smith* (1969) and *Against the Storm* (1972). Both deal with central characters who struggle against negative forces, internal and external, but through perseverance find their rightful place in life. *Pathways to Progress* (1972), a collection of essays and musings about life, reveals a strong commitment to Christian ethics without the author ever becoming pious or self-righteous. *Quartz*

Hill, Yesterday and Today (1971) provides an appreciative account of the community in which he lived during his retirement years. It attests to his strong communal interests and his love of nature. The blooming of the almond trees around Quartz Hill brings him back to the orchards and blossom time in Hardanger. *High Adventure* (1965) deals with his Sierra Club travels through the western states, Canada and Alaska. *Food for the Mind* and *Thoughtways to Achievement*, his first publications, reveal an author pondering the most basic question of all: How does one lead a good and full life?

Family

An older brother, Lars Hydle, who came to the United States in 1904, earned a PhD degree in education and held teaching positions at the University of Colorado and later at Ball State University, Indiana. A daughter of Lars, Katrina Hydle Stearns, Crest Park California, served as administrator of her uncle's estate. Hydle's nearest survivors were nieces, nephews and cousins. Katrina Hydle Stearns will visit the NAHA in Northfield this coming spring for a formal recognition of her uncle's bequest.

Use of Funds

The precise use of the bequest remains to be determined by the Executive Board. It will form an endowment fund and in all likelihood its income will be directed toward special projects and acquisitions for the Archives. This would mean that the Archives, in terms of supporting permanent funds, would hold equal status with the O.E. Rølvaag Fund (general expenses) and with the Kenneth O. Bjork Chair Fund (publication expenses). In a word, the Hydle gift would form a partnership with the Fosholt Archives Fund (\$50,000).

We salute the memory of Odmund L. Hydle, his generous spirit, and his useful life.

It Was a Good Year

Gifts and Bequests

In terms of financial growth, 1985 has no equal in the past. In fact, years may pass before anything similar will be repeated. Gifts and bequests amounted to \$129,000. Sanford K. Fosholt established the Archives Fund at \$50,000. Odmund Hydle left a bequest of \$59,000. Lutheran Brotherhood gave a grant of \$7,500 to the Chicago History Project. Selma Casberg of Holman, Wisconsin, left a bequest of \$5,000. Laura Wendt Lokke, who died May 12, 1985, willed \$1,000 to the NAHA in memory of her late husband, Carl. Lokke, the author of *Klondike Saga*, published by the NAHA in 1965.

Added to the above were gifts of \$1,000 from Harriet Hustvedt. Grethe Seim and one anonymous donor. These persons have made similar annual gifts for many years. The following members contributed \$100 or more: R. I. Jacobson, \$300; Gretchen Otness, \$250; Clarence A. Clausen, \$200; Ole V. Groos, \$165; Corrine Davidson, Freda Hovden, Gladys Weseth Nelson, Stanley Nuland and Nils William Olsson each gave \$100. Contributions of less than \$100 amounted to \$1917.

Unless specified by the donor to the contrary all gifts are allocated to the Ole E. Rølvaag Memorial Fund, a permanent fund where the accrued interest is used for operational expenses. This fund now approaches \$100,000.

Membership

We ended the year with a total of 1,399 members, the highest on record. The figure stood above 1,400 for a time, but the end-of-the-year cancellations produced the present figure. A total of 156 new members were added and 99 were with regrets and pain cancelled. Members frequently move from one membership category to another: 121 raised their membership status, and 44 reduced theirs, leaving a net gain of 77.

At the close of the year, the membership statistics were as follows: Associate 603; Sustaining 238; Patron 64; Life 494. Because Life membership dues provide perpetual support, deceased members constitute an independent membership category. When these are added, our total membership stands at 1507.

Books

Only one book, volume 30 of *Studies* came out in 1985, but then there were three publications in 1984. Book sales amounted to \$5,272. Out of a total of 70 publications, 29 are out of print; 17 titles have an inventory of less than 100. Despite this we have a total inventory of 7,525 copies of unsold books, representing a sales potential of \$70,000. The current picture is that our most popular books are out of print. Some less popular books have a slow but steady sale. Other titles may remain in storage for years.

The Chicago History Project

The publication of a definitive history of the Norwegians in Chicago is under way under the direction of our editor, Odd S. Lovoll. He is being assisted by Kay Carr, a graduate student of history at the University of Chicago. The project, which will require two years of research, has adequate funding for the first year. The Chicago History Committee, under the leadership of William J. Korsvik and Rolf Erickson, is currently making plans to raise the needed funds for the final year.

The Chicago History Committee is otherwise involved in the collecting of sources and information needed for a history that will include organizations, businesses, banks, churches and benevolent institutions. The newspaper *Vinland*, December 5, 1985, carried a longer article by Helen Fletre on this project.

Odd Lovoll, who is currently on a leave of absence, divides his time between Northfield and Chicago. If all goes well, he will extend his leave an additional year.

Rolf Erickson Honored

Rolf Erickson, Circulation Services Librarian at Northwestern University and the second Vice President of the NAHA was awarded the Medal of St. Olaf. Consul General Bjarne Solheim presented the medal on behalf of King Olav V at his residence on November 24, 1985.

A portion of the citation stated that the decoration was given "In appreciation of Rolf Erickson's work to the benefit of Norwegian-American relations and his contribution to the better understanding of Norwegian history and culture in the United States."

Our Next Book

Georg Sverdrup, Educator, Theologian and Churchman, by James Hamre, should come off the press this coming February, and as a rule, distribution to members follows immediately. This publication opens a new biography series. The book, which will approximate 230 pages, will retail at \$15.

Visiting Professor

Professor Ingrid Semmingsen, now retired from the University of Oslo, is currently teaching an Interim course at St. Olaf College entitled the "Promise of America". Her class consists of 23 students who study full-time under her during the month of January.

Dr. Semmingsen is responsible for the development of migration to America studies in Norway. Her major works are *Veien mot vest* (2 vols.) and *Drøm og dåd*. The latter was translated by Einar Haugen and published by the University of Minnesota Press under the title *Norwegians in America*.

Lady Liberty Clad in Norwegian Copper

The New York Times, December 30, 1985, relates in an article entitled "Folklore Helps to Solve Miss Liberty's Mystery" that the statue's green copper skin comes from a now defunct copper mine on the island of Karmøy, Norway. The only people who had an inkling of the copper's origin were some residents on Karmøy who had learned of this through oral tradition. Scientific tests established that the local lore was true.

There is a human side. Baard Visnes Lande, a grandson of a former owner of the mine came to America in 1923. "I heard from childhood," he said, "that part of it came from grandfather's land. Now we are getting the facts, and I am happy that I am related to her." Lande, who is 83 years old, lives on Staten Island.

Emigration Records

Made possible through the Fosholt Archives Fund, the NAHA has acquired from the National Archives in Norway microfilm copies of *Emigrantprotokoller* (Emigrant Records), a total of 31 reels. The records date back to 1867 when Norway enacted a law requiring all emigrants to register with the police department at their port of debarkation, giving rise to the title the "Police Lists".

These records include the names of and information about emigrants who left Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Kristiansand. The records for Stavanger, which were unfortunately destroyed by fire, are not available. However, the parish records for Rogaland are intact and they list all persons who moved out of that district. Copies of these records have been available in the NAHA for some time.

The information provided in the earliest records is rather scant, but the later ones (when the ordinance was strengthened) include address, age, occupation, and frequently the name of the ship on which the emigrants left.

No index as yet exists. Those in search of individual names would have to know approximate time and likely port of departure for any hope of success. For the time being, at least, these microfilms will not be sent out of the Archives on loan.

News in Brief

- The Minnesota Historical Society has reprinted O. E. Rølvaag's *The Boat of Longing (Laengselens Baat)*, translated by Nora Solum and first published by Harper and Brothers in 1933. This edition includes an introduction by Einar Haugen. Paper, \$7.95; 304 pages, 1985.
- Received from Paul and Arlen (Haugen) Hales, *Haugen History*, a family account which begins at Stundehaugen farmstead in Gudbrandsdalen. Commercially printed, bound, illustrated, 99 pages, 1985.
- Received from Edward Faust his *Johannes C. and Sophie Holden Hoovel: A Line of Descent*. Typescript reproduction, spiral bound, illustrated, 108 pages, 1985.
- Received *Castles and Cathedrals: The Fraas, Sorenson Lah Family History from 1062*, by Carol Gavle and Karen Klassen. Typescript reproduction, bound, illustrated, 229 pages, 1983.
- Received *The Family of Stephen and Brita Knudsen*, Typescript reproduction, bound, 35 pages 1984.
- Received from Barbara Jacobson Pykles her father's (Armyle Jacobson) translation of Peer Strømme's *Erindringer*. Jacobson (1894-1977), a dentist, devoted the last three years of his retired life to translating Strømme's memoirs. It is not unthinkable that this work will some day be published. Strømme's *Erindringer* are basic to Norwegian-American cultural history.

- Received from Gerhard Ellestad *The Ancesters and Descendents of Bjørn Olson Sata Garnaas, 1798-1868 and Sidsel Nilsdatter Nubgaard, 1803-1833*, by Oscar Garnaas. Typescript reproduction, bound, photos, 501 pages, 1985. This is a superb piece of work.

- Received from David and Katherine Dole, *Abel Catherine Anderson Von Krogh Amundson Reunion*, Typescript reproduction, bound, 181 pages, 1985.

- Received from Shirley A. Reed *A History of the Sakrison Family* by Richard C. Thompson, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Typescript reproduction, bound, 93 pages, 1985.

- Received from Richard L. Lee, *The Charles Lee Family Reunion, August, 1985*. Typescript reproduction, 25 pages, illustrated. Treats also Thorreson and Hanson families, Alpina, Michigan settlers.

- Received *Peterson Fra Peterson*, translated article about, and letters to and from Peter Peterson Haslerud, the founder of Peterson, Minnesota. Translated by Karl Pedersen and edited by John Erickson. Commercially printed, paper bound, 50 pages, 1985.

- Received from J. Harry and Josefa Anderson a two volume album of photos of buildings in Chicago that relate to Norwegian-American industry, organizations, churches, restaurants, cemeteries, hospitals, etc. It is a pictorial history of the Norwegian element in Chicago. Anyone looking for a hobby of durable value, might consider a similar undertaking for cities like Brooklyn, Minneapolis, Seattle, etc.

- *There Lies a Fair Land; An Anthology of Norwegian-American Writing*, edited by John Solensten with graphics by Arch Leean, is an attractive paper bound book of 176 pages, which presents short stories,

sketches, and poems from many authors. Published by New Rivers Press, 1985, and distributed by Bookslinger, 213 E. 4th St., St. Paul, MN 55104

- *Minner Fra Drangedal*, vol. 8, 1985, includes a 35-page article about Clarence A. Clausen. Dr. Clausen, a member of our Editorial Board and a steady contributor to our publication program, will soon be 90 years old.

Special Offer to Members Only

The following NAHA publications are available to members in any combination of three titles for \$12.00 (includes a \$2.00 assessment for postage). For all books in addition to the minimum order of three, add \$3.00 per copy. For example, five books would come to \$18.00.

Studies, Vols. 10, 11, 17, 20, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29.

The Changing West and Other Essays, by Laurence M. Larson, 1937, 180 pp.

A Long Pull From Stavanger, by Birger Osland, 1945, 263 pp.

Saga in Steel and Concrete: Norwegian Engineers in America, by Kenneth O. Bjork, 1947, 504 pp.

John A. Johnson: An Uncommon American, by Agnes M. Larson, 1969, 312 pp.

Guide to Manuscript Collections of the NAHA, by Lloyd Hustvedt, 1979, 158 pp.

Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen, by Clarence A. Glasrud, 1963, 245 pp.

Theodore C. Blegen: A Memoir, by John T. Flanagan, 1977, 181 pp.

Land of The Free: Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson's America Letters, 1880-1881, by Eva and Einar Haugen, 1978, 330 pp.

The above may be used as an order form. Check the desired titles and return to Norwegian-American Historical Association, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057.

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