

The Chair Is Inaugurated!

A two-day conference attended the inauguration of the King Olav V Chair in Scandinavian-American Studies held at St. Olaf College November 6-7. In addition, the festivities included an art exhibit arranged by Marion Nelson, two luncheons, a banquet and a concluding soprano vocal concert by Irene Gubrud, accompanied by Arlene Shrut. The concert was sponsored by the America-Norway Heritage Fund (Oslo) which in turn is supervised jointly by Nordmanns-Forbundet and the Norway-America Society.

The well-conceived conference began with a chapel address, "The Past Will Last" by Sidney Rand, former president of St. Olaf College and former United States ambassador to Norway. Two lectures followed: "Romanticism to Social Realism: Art from Vesterheim," by Marion Nelson, and "In Defense of Multiculturalism," by John Bodnar, Indiana University, president of the Immigration History Society. Then came three topical sessions each with four 20-minute papers: 1) The Educational Heritage, 2) The Historians of Scandinavian America, 3) The Literary Image.

Some over 200 persons were registered for the conference, but the sessions were open to all interested. The chair was officially inaugurated by Melvin D. George, president, St. Olaf College, at the November 6 luncheon, and Odd S. Lovoll, the appointee to that chair, spoke on the durable significance and value of such a chair in American education at the November 7 luncheon. The proceedings of the inauguration conference will be published under the title *Nordics in America: The Future of Their Past* and will be distributed to the members of the NAHA in March 1993.

The Banquet, presided over by President Lawrence Hauge (NAHA), did not lack for greetings and well-wishers from high places: Kjeld Vibe, Norway's Ambassador to the United States; Bent Brogaard, Deputy Consul General, from the Royal Danish Consulate General, Chicago; Phyllis Bakke, Honorary Consulate General for Sweden; David J. Speer, Honorary Consul for Finland; Nils Hasselmo, President, University of Minnesota; John Bodnar, President, Immigration History Society; Rudolph Vecoli, Director, Immigration Research Center at University of Minnesota; Byron J. Nordstrom, representing the Society for Advancement of Scandinavian Study; Johan Fr. Heyerdahl, Secretary General, Nordmanns-Forbundet; Deborah Miller, Research Supervisor, Minnesota Historical Society; Dag Blanck, Director, Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center; J. Arnold Barton, former Editor of the Swedish-American Historical Society; Marion J. Nelson, Director Emeritus, Vesterheim, The Norwegian-American Museum; Gerald Rasmussen, President, Danish-American Heritage Society, Todd W. Nichol, Luther Northwestern Seminary, St. Paul, brought greetings from David Preus, former president of the American Lutheran Church. Hans Storhaug, who heads the Emigrant Center in Stavanger, Norway, came the distance to attend the conference.

Norwegian-American Seminar IV

A complete statement on the seminar held at Voss, Norway, August 12-15, 1992, is not possible, but the splendid work being done by the NAHA contingent in Norway needs to be acknowledged. To date it has sponsored four seminars: Oslo, Stavanger, Hamar, and Voss. At the risk of overlooking someone, we mention specially Øyvind Gulliksen, president of the chapter, Dorothy Skårdal, former president, Judy Torvik, treasurer, Dina Tolsby, (Nordmanns-Forbundet), and Ingeborg Kongslie. She assumed major responsibility for planning and arranging the seminar.

The seminar offered 30 entries, consisting mostly of individual papers — 13 by American scholars. Ulf Beijbom, the noted emigrant scholar from Sweden, made two appearances. There were 52 registered participants, but the seminar was open to the public.

Most agreed that this was the best conference to date. The papers presented a broad range of topics with balance between history and literature. The conference facilities at the Voss Folk High School and at the Mølster Museum, overlooking the lovely city of Voss, were ideal, as were lodging accommodations and meals. A conference such as this does not come about without external financial support. Somehow our diligent friends in Norway have managed this for each of the conferences. The NAHA is alive and well in Norway.

Rolf H. Erickson 1940-1992

Rolf H. Erickson, first vice president of the NAHA, died November 2, 1992, 51 years old, after a prolonged bout with cancer.

Rolf became intimately acquainted with the NAHA early in life. As a student at St. Olaf College in the early 1960s he assisted Beulah Folkedahl in the archives, doing preliminary screening of collections that awaited organization. Strong bonds developed. After graduation we heard from Rolf when he taught English in New Guinea and when he later studied library science at the University of Wisconsin. When he moved to Evanston, Illinois, and began work at Northwestern University library (latest position, circulation services librarian) he embarked on a sustained and ever-expanding interest in Norwegian-American affairs, particularly the NAHA and Vesterheim.

He scoured the Chicago area for overlooked manuscripts and organizational records, and did the same with regard to artifacts for the Decorah museum. As chairman of the Chicago History Committee, founded in 1981, he provided assistance beyond measure to the production of *A Century of Urban Life: The Norwegians in Chicago before 1930*. Odd Lovoll, the author of that work stated, "He [Rolf] became my paramount resource and comrade at arms. . . . Rolf provided dynamic and amicable leadership to joint extensive research efforts."

He co-edited *From Fjord to Prairie* (Chicago, 1976), *Our Norwegian Immigrants* (Oslo, 1978), and published *Bridges to Norway* in 1984. He compiled the bibliographical listings

("Some Recent Publications") in *Studies*, vols. 32 and 33. He compiled information on Norwegian-American art and music. Attesting to the breadth of his interests, he was also a member of the executive board of the Swedish-American Historical Society. He was awarded the St. Olaf Medal in 1985 and was a recipient of the America-Norway Heritage Award in 1989. A memorial service was held November 21 at the Alice Millar Chapel, Northwestern University.

We mourn the loss of a dear friend and dedicated worker. We salute the contribution he made and the remarkable person he was.

Beyond the Call of Duty

Some over a year ago we appealed to Northfield members to volunteer some of their time to our biographical file started by Andrew Rowberg in 1914. It involved mounting clippings (most of them obituaries) on 3 x 5 cards. We provided our volunteers with a packet of 200 clippings, the required cards and glue. Because of a backlog of about 50,000 unmounted clippings that had been collected by Orville Bakken, Northwood, North Dakota, there was much to be done. Some agreed to do a second packet, and a few as many as three. This is tedious work.

Among our volunteers were Kay and David Dole. They are still at work. What is more, they have entered all the names into a computer, making possible a printed rather than handwritten name entry for each card they prepare. They recently picked up the last box of unmounted clippings. When this has been completed, we estimate that the Doles have done 28,000 cards! That Kay and David Dole are remarkable people has been known for a long time, but exactly how remarkable became known only during the course of the past year.

Two Worthy Books

The first, an autobiography by Knut O. Lundeberg, based on a manuscript in the NAHA Archives, and edited by Øyvind T. Gulliksen, is available through Kviteseid Bok og Papir, N-3850 Kviteseid, Norway. Hardcover, illustrated, 112 pages, Kr. 150.

The book related Lundeberg's early years in Telemark, emigration to America, farm work, study of theology and his later career as minister, serving Norwegian-American congregations. The full title is *Glimt fra mitt liv: En utvandrers minnebok*.

The second, *Once Upon an Isle: The Story of Fishing Families on Isle Royale* is available

through the Wisconsin Folk Museum, Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin (1-800-736-9189). \$22.45.

The book contains 42 paintings (color) and companion stories by Howard Sivertson. Sivertson grew up on Isle Royale and has earned a widespread reputation as a painter of northwoods scenes. Isle Royale was the home for fisherfolk for 100 years until the island was made a national park in 1950. A reviewer in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* (June 17, 1992) found "A Norman Rockwell-like playfulness. . ." in his work.

Andres A. Svalestuen

Andres A. Svalestuen, head archivist, Norwegian National Archives, died in October only 53 years old. Beyond his brilliant career as archivist, he was an emigration scholar who built on the traditions established by Ingrid Semmingsen. One of his major studies concerned emigration from Tinn, Telemark (1837-1907). A condensed form of this work appeared in our *Studies*, vol. 29, 1983, under the title "Emigration from the Community of Tinn."

He was an active participant at the Norwegian-American Seminar IV held at Voss, Norway, this past August 12-15. If he was ill at the time, he did not let it show. Norway has lost a valuable civil servant and we a valuable co-worker and colleague.

Future Publications

It has already been announced elsewhere in this *Newsletter* that the proceedings of the conference that were a part of the King Olav V Chair inauguration ceremonies will be published under the title *Nordics in America: The Future of Their Past*. Distribution of this book to members should fall in March, 1993.

Two additional works that approach readiness for the printers will follow: *New Land, New Lives: Scandinavian Immigrants to the Pacific Northwest* by Janet Rasmussen and *Material Culture and Peoples Art of the Norwegians in America*, edited by Marion Nelson. The first mentioned title will be co-published with the University of Washington Press. Precise publication dates remain to be set.

An earlier *Newsletter* informed our readers that Millard Gieske died before completing his biography on Knute Nelson, a work scheduled for publication by the NAHA. The research was in essence completed as was a first draft. We are most pleased to announce that Steven J. Keillor has agreed to complete the work started by Gieske. Keillor is a doctoral candidate in His-

tory at the University of Minnesota, and is the author of *Hjalmar Petersen of Minnesota: The Politics of Provincial Independence* (1987). His article, "Rural Norwegian-American Reading Societies in the Late Nineteenth Century" appeared in our *Studies*, vol. 33. All that can be said now is that this valuable study will be published by the NAHA.

Random News

*Received from Mary and Bill Andersen *History of the Andersen Family* by Arlow W. Andersen, Sr. Typescript reproduction, 90 pages, 1991. Carl Andreas Andersen and his wife Rakel, both from Drammen, Norway, emigrated in 1895. Carl studied theology and later served Methodist congregations.

*Received from Lars Gjertveit his *Norwegian Texans in the Confederate Army*. Soldiers are identified by name and unit. When available, biographical information is given. Typescript reproduction, 50 pages.

*Received from Robert D. Hill *The Ness Genealogy 1700-1976* and *The Hill Genealogy 1600-1975*, two separate hard cover volumes, 190 and 174 pages. Both families Ness and Hill (originally Berge) have their origins in Luster, Sogn, Norway.

*Received from A.H. Olson *The Ole and Gunvor Øen (Olson, Brown) Family in Norway and America 1715-1992*. Compiled by Jean Brown Eittrem and Margaret Brown Engebretson Hills. Photos, maps and charts, hard cover, 508 pages. Gunvor Kaasa Øen, a widow, left Telemark, Norway, in 1858 and settled on Washington Prairie, near Decorah, Iowa in 1858. It is an excellent family history.

*Received from Sanford Fosholt *Ole Hansen Rustande*, typescript, 31 pages. Rustande, a member of the C. L. Clausen party, settled at St. Ansgar, Iowa, in 1853. Three sons who left Norway in 1851 settled in the same area.

*Received from Leighton A. and Valborg Berg their *Viking Accordion Band Reflects Colorful History*, typescript reproduction, photos, programs, and reviews. 142 pages, 1992. This polka band, founded in Albert Lea, Minnesota, in 1930 endured until 1978, playing at clubs, ballrooms, festivals, and over radio in the Middle West.

*Received from Arland O. Fiske his *Norwegian Heritage* and *The Scandinavian Adventure*. Both books are published by American Heritage Press, Minot, N.D., 1990, paper, 241 and 232 pages.

*Received *Between Memory and Reality*:

Family and Community in Rural Wisconsin 1870-1970, by Jane Marie Pedersen, professor of history, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. The study examines two adjacent rural communities (predominantly Norwegian) in Trempealeau County, Wisconsin. University of Wisconsin Press, 1992, 314 pages, paper, \$17.95.

*Received *Slekten Skjervøy: Rudolph Johnsons Slettshistorie*, by Rudolph and Arden Johnson, tr. by Sverre Aneng. Typescript reproduction, photos and charts, 106 pages, 1992.

*Received from Keith D. Hage *Autobiographical Writings of Gilbert and Kaja Sather: Pioneer Homesteaders of Kandahar, Saskatchewan 1860-1935*. Tells of Gulbrand Sather, born 1860, who endured poverty and hardship as an orphan in Norway. Came to Minnesota in 1880, returned later to Norway, but emigrated again in 1904, this time to Canada.

*Received from Eric Even Christensen *From the Northway to North America: The Davidson and Kittelson Family Reunion of 1992*. Typescript reproduction, maps photos, charts, 230 unbound pages.

*Received *Telemark to America: Volume II Settlements*, by Telelag of America. Paper, 212 pages. Most of the material consists of translations of articles that appeared in *Telesoga*, edited by Torkel Oftelie.

*Available: *The Register of Holla (Holden) in Telemark, Norway*, by Arne Johan Gjermundsen. It presents all public division of inheritance of Holla municipality for the period 1667-1900 (probate court records), 320 pages. Lannaveien, N-3745 Ulefoss, Norway, \$44.

*Received from Rolf Erickson his *Hans Gulbrandsen Sørum: Norwegian Immigrant, Wisconsin Farmer and Civil War Veteran*, typescript reproduction, spiral bound, photos and maps, 36 pages, 1992. Born in South Aurdal, Valdres, in 1930, Hans emigrated to Wisconsin in 1850.

*Received *The Rise and Demise of Scandinavia Academy and Central Wisconsin College 1893-1932* by Art Lee. Scandinavia Academy/CWC Alumni Association, Scandinavia, Wisconsin, 1992. Hard cover, 304 pages. Part II (pages 185-304), consisting of photos of principals, buildings, student organizations, college bulletins and faculty and student lists (both graduates and non-graduates) was compiled by the Alumni Board. The book relates a story about the school's perpetual struggle to grow and survive. Ultimately the depression of the 1930s proved to be too much of a strain for a school already in debt before the crash of 1929.

*Received from Betty and Erv Chell *The Descendants of Albert and Mathilda Hansen*, typed manuscript, 19 pages, 1988. They emigrated in 1888 and settled first in Hudson, South Dakota, and later moved to Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

*Received from Alma Guttu her *The Life Story of the Fredrik and Karen Guttu Family*. Fredrik Guttu Family. Fredrik (1861-1950) emigrated from Ringebu, Norway, in 1883 and after several years took farmland in Bottineau County, North Dakota. His wife Karen Stivland (1866-192) also came from Ringebu. Typescript reproduction, photos, and documents, hard cover, 176 pages.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Northfield, Minn.
Permit No. 107