

The Norwegian-American
Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS



LETTER

From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

Number 30

OCTOBER 1964

Editor, L. HUSTVEDT

NAHA Will Have New Quarters

St. Olaf College has announced plans for expanding the Rølvaag Memorial Library. Construction of the \$600,000 addition will begin this coming spring. The ground level has been designed to meet the special needs of the NAHA. Besides facilities for the archives, the plan calls for three offices, one of which will be used by the editor. The Association will have a private entrance. The anticipated completion date has not been announced, but the move to new quarters will likely take place about two years from now.

When the new library addition is put into use, the NAHA book collection will be merged with the college library collection. Each book will, however, be identified as belonging to the Association. This arrangement is more efficient. In return, all the library periodicals of interest to Norwegian Americans will be merged with the NAHA periodical collection and will be housed in the NAHA quarters.

The NAHA is grateful to St. Olaf College for all it has done and continues to do for us.

THE CHICAGO DINNER

An excellent attendance and an interesting speaker worked together to make the NAHA dinner held June 13 at the Norske Klub in Chicago an outstanding success.

Dr. Gunnar Gundersen of La Crosse, Wisconsin, spoke to approximately 100 guests on pioneer medicine and doctors. His vivid description of health conditions and medical problems which prevailed on the frontier made it quite clear how badly needed were the pioneer doctors and how significant was their contribution. He had not spoken long before everyone was aware that Dr. Gundersen, a son of a pioneer physician, was thoroughly familiar with many of the prominent Norwegian-American doctors. He not only called attention to their background, training, and medical contributions, but also provided short personality sketches which included their individual idiosyncracies and faults as well as their strengths.

Dr. Gundersen's address made it clear that this relatively untouched field deserves thorough research, hopefully culminating in another NAHA publication.

President Thorsness presided over the dinner. Editor Kenneth O. Bjork also spoke, calling attention to work currently being done and to long range publication aims of the Association. The enthusiasm of the evening also produced some new members.

21 NEW MEMBERS

LIFE

- J. Bernard Jacobsen, 7020 Belmont, Chicago
Olaf Bastesen, 2424 N. Sawyer Ave., Chicago (transferred from Associate to life)

PATRON

- Diderich Lunde, Jr., 316 No. Lombard Ave., Oak Park, Ill.
Maurice H. Knutson, Northfield, Minn.

SUSTAINING

- Walter Lunde, 1251 Ashland Ave., River Forest, Ill.
Normennesen Singing Society, 2414 N. Kedzie Blvd., Chicago, Ill.
Harold Schee, 2205 W. 121 Pl., Blue Island, Ill.
Loren A. Helling, 4901 Dawnview Terr., Minneapolis, Minn.

ASSOCIATE

- Mrs. Peter C. Petersen, 2816 St. Anthony Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn.
Dagfin Johnstad, 1144 Harms Ave., Libertyville, Ill.
Basil I. Peterson, 1127 Sherman Ave., Madison, Wisc.
Øystein Kartfjord, Leknes, Lofoten, Norway
J. P. Langsjoen, 874 La Sierra Dr., Sacramento, Calif.
Anton H. Haugan, 14 So. Chestnut, Toppenish, Wash.
Mrs. Clarice Oxley, Ossian, Iowa
Louis J. Olsen, 2061 N. Kedzie Blvd., Chicago, Ill.
John M. Solensten, 630 Faculty Court, Springfield, Ohio
Osmund Orland, 429 5th St., Aurora, Ill.
William O. Nilsen, Rt. 4, Box 22, Excelsior, Minn.
Nina Draxten, 2518 Girard Ave. N., Minneapolis, Minn.
Oistein Roed, 8 Barstow Road, Great Neck, New York
O. P. Sandbeck, Box 845, Trent, S. D.

TWO MANUSCRIPTS AT THE PRINTERS

Volume 22 of *Studies* and *Klondike Saga* by Carl L. Lokke are both in the hands of the printers. Volume 22 of *Studies*, dated 1964, will be ready for distribution early in 1965. *Klondike Saga*, dated 1965, should be available for distribution several months later.

Klondike Saga will be published for the NAHA by the University of Minnesota Press. Members will still receive their copies through the secretary's office, but all sales will be processed by the University Press.

GIFTS

John C. Howard of Kansas City, Missouri, gave the Association \$21.00 in memory of his sister, Marcia Howard Hoffman.

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Frequently overlooked as gifts are the regular contributions made by many members of the executive board who pay their own travel expenses. The charter stipulates that all expenses involved in traveling to and from board meetings are to be reimbursed by the Association. For bookkeeping purposes some board members are reimbursed, but immediately return their check to the treasurer as a gift. In such cases precise figures can be given. Magnus Bjorndal, however, has never turned in a statement for travel expenses in all the years that he has served. We can only guess at the sums of money he has paid for travel to and from New Jersey.

In this connection we can mention a recent \$200 gift from Marthinus A. Strand (Utah), but similar gifts from him in the past have not been announced. Very rarely has Professor Sverre Arestad (Seattle) drawn upon Association funds for travel. Judge Derwood Johnson (Texas) has consistently donated his travel expenses.

Treasurer Andrew E. Wigeland has frequently warned that this generous practice must not develop into policy, or be taken for granted, but be viewed as an outright gift to the Association. While he has said this, we have noted that he himself generally hosts the board to lunches and dinners at the Chicago Union League Club, where most of the meetings are held.

In statements of this kind, the risk of omitting some who deserve mention is inevitable. We console ourselves with the thought that for the moment we are more interested in letting the members know that board meetings have not been costly affairs, than in producing a precise accounting of donated travel expenses.

WHAT REVIEWERS SAY

In spite of the variety of such widely diversified topics as "The Scandinavian Immigrant Writer in America," "Questing for Gold and Furs in Alaska," "Norwegians Become Americans," "A Pioneer Diary from Wisconsin," and the like, this is one of the most valuable systematic contributions to the American history, as viewed from the standpoint of "cultural pluralism." In fact, this is the 21st volume in a series which has been analyzing the various aspects of the Norwegian immigration to the U.S. The volume also demonstrates that the real integration and appreciation of an immigrant's culture within the dominant "American" cultural framework depends ultimately on proving its academic values (and less on the political pressures which some American minorities have been using in order to promote their hopes for "acculturation" and "assimilation.")—JOSEPH S. ROUCEK, in *Social Studies*, January, 1964, p. 33-34.

LOCAL CHAIRMEN APPOINTED

The NAHA charter provides for the appointment of as many local chairmen as is deemed advisable. Their duties are to make public the objectives and accomplishments of the NAHA and to solicit support and recruit new members. Because vacancies were not filled, the number of local chairmen in recent years had dwindled to only a few.

Professor Helmer Blegen of Augustana College and O. I. Hertsgaard of Minneapolis have served in this capacity for

many years. The large enrollment of members from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Minneapolis makes clear how valuable these men have been. They were reappointed by the board.

One new appointment was made: Arne Tvete of Seattle, Washington. The Association is more than fortunate in gaining the enthusiastic Mr. Tvete as one of its public relations men. In addition to his remarkable personality, his position as manager of the Norway Center in Seattle places him in daily contact with countless potential supporters of the NAHA. As president of Sons of Norway (some 40,000 members), he travels much and for that reason the title "local chairman" may not be entirely accurate in his case. Other appointments are pending.

CHARTER AND BY-LAWS REWRITTEN

In order to bring the charter up to date and in keeping with Minnesota corporation laws, the NAHA charter has been re-edited and in part modified. Judge Derwood Johnson undertook the task of preparing the first draft. A major part of the June 13, 1964, board meeting consisted of discussing Judge Johnson's proposed changes. Judge Johnson then rewrote the charter, entering such revisions as were recommended by the board.

In order to make certain that the revised charter is in complete agreement with Minnesota regulations, it is being examined by David Graven, professor of law at the University of Minnesota. A motion to accept the revisions will be made at the 1966 triennial meeting.

REQUEST FOR IMMIGRANT SPECIMENS USED BY SCANDINAVIAN SOLDIERS DURING THE CIVIL WAR

The American Museum of Immigration, presently being built at the base of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor, is looking for items used by Scandinavian soldiers during the Civil War. Particularly important would be Civil War relics, for example, weapons, items of uniform, personal memorabilia, musical instruments, etc., used by members of the 15th Wisconsin regiment headed by Colonel Hans Christian Heg. Members of the Norwegian-American Historical Association who are in possession of such Civil War relics are urged to get in direct contact with Dr. George J. Svejda, Historian, American Museum of Immigration, U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 15 Pine Street, New York, N. Y. 10005.

FINANCE BOARD ORGANIZED

Utilizing a provision in the NAHA charter, the executive board (June 13, 1964) established a board of finance, which the treasurer serves as chairman. According to the charter: "It shall be the duty of the board of finance to devise ways and means for obtaining funds needed by the Association." Appointed were Jens M. Hovelsrud, Minneapolis

manufacturer; Maurice H. Knutson, financier, rancher, and businessman, who until recently was vice-president of finance at St. Olaf College; Gunnar Gunderson of Bradfoot Gears, Chicago; and Magnus Bjørndal, industrialist and engineer of Weehawken, New Jersey. The last two mentioned also serve on the executive board.

The new board plans to convene for the first time on the same day that the executive board holds its next meeting.

Lloyd Hustvedt, Secretary
Northfield, Minnesota

Please enroll me in the Norwegian-American Historical Association as:

Associate \$5

Patron \$25

Sustaining \$10

Life \$100

Name _____

Address _____

Occupation: _____

The latest NAHA book is given to all new members. All forthcoming publications are sent to all members at no other cost than annual payment of dues. Life membership consists of only one payment.

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

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