

The Way We Were in '84

In terms of tangible production the NAHA reached a highwater mark in 1984. Three publications came off the press: *On Both Sides of the Ocean*, *The Promise of America*, and *Han Ola og han Per*. The last mentioned title was distributed to members in January, 1985. We can not maintain this pace in the years to come.

A significant conference, entitled "Scandinavians and Other Immigrants in Urban America," sponsored by the NAHA together with St. Olaf College and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, was held at St. Olaf College on October 26-27. Papers were read by our nation's outstanding migration scholars and the audience at the different sessions ranged from 100 to 150. Brochures announcing this conference were mailed to all the members.

The Triennial Meeting, always a festive affair, was held on September 28 at The Minneapolis Woman's Club. The general business meeting was well attended; 125 attended the banquet as opposed to the customary figure of 80 to 90.

Membership

As the figures elsewhere will show, we have crossed the long-sought total of 1300 members and we can begin to think of reaching new mile posts. We added 141 new members in 1984. There were 51 cancellations for a net increase of 90. The high cancellation rate in recent years (around 100) dropped considerably. This may in part be due to the fact that we carry delinquent members on the roster longer than before in the hope that follow-up reminders might stimulate payment of dues or reinstatement of membership. The fact that it has been a bonanza year for receiving books with a value higher than dues may also have helped to lower the attrition.

Out of each 100 members, 43 are associate, 40 are life members (!), 14 are sustaining and 3 are patron. By way of analysis, life members provide permanent support in that only the accrued interest from their dues (\$150.) is used for current expenses. Associate members receive full value in terms of books for their dues. Sustaining and patron dues contain a gift element which help to support the Archives and other functions of the NAHA. We are pleased to report that there was an encouraging drift of transfers to higher membership categories in 1984: 103 lifted their membership while 65 lowered their status, for a net gain of 38.

1984 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

	January 1, 1984	December 31, 1984	Gain/Loss
Associate	635	628	- 7
Sustaining	160	208	+ 48
Patron	34	50	+ 16
Life	443	471	+ 28
	<u>1272</u>	<u>1357</u>	+ 85
Deceased Life	104	109	+ 5
	<u>1376</u>	<u>1466</u>	+ 90

Archives

The Archives, under the able care of Charlotte Jacobson, continue to expand, as does its use by both professional and amateur researchers. There was a marked increase in queries by mail and in requests for xerox copies of documents, especially information related to family histories. The Archives and its operation has an awesome feature. The more successful we are, the greater the burdens by way of work and costs.

St. Olaf College is drawing up preliminary plans for expanding its library facilities. This may mean expanded or even new quarters for the NAHA. There is mention of our becoming partners in a complex involving the Kierkegaard Library (now housed in a classroom building) and The College Archives. Each component would enjoy independent quarters, but each might share a common reading room where visitors are received and where researchers can work. It is too early, however, for specifics, or even to estimate when building will begin.

New Board Members

We welcome three new members to the Executive Board of the NAHA. They merit a long introduction, but we must settle for a short one.

Alf Lunder Knudsen

Despite his birth in Brooklyn, New York, Alf Lunder Knudsen received his secondary education in Stavanger, Norway, and later pursued graduate studies in music and education at the Universities of Seattle and Washington. He has taught music in the Seattle public schools for the past 21 years and also operates a private studio. His musical talents go beyond the school and into the community. He founded and conducts the Ballard Youth Band, organized and conducted the Bicentennial Ethnic Song Festival of Seattle, directs the Norwegian Male Chorus, and is director and historian for the Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association.

He has been active in the Seattle/Bergen Sister City Committee, the 17th of May Committee, Sons of Norway, Bergen Klubben, and the Norwegian Commercial Club, and is president of the Advisory Board of the Department of Scandinavian at the University of Washington. He has done much research on Norwegian male choruses in America, and hopes to produce a book on the topic.

William J. Korsvik

William J. Korsvik presents a distinguished career as a valuable Chicago citizen and banker. He was (now retired) senior vice president of the First National Bank of Chicago. He is associate secretary for the Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve System; associate director for the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin; life trustee for the Chicago Theological Seminary, and a former trustee of the American-Scandinavian Foundation and a former trustee and treasurer of the Norwegian-American Hospital. He was recently elected honorary chairman of the Chicago History Committee. Despite his "retired" status he recently accepted an assignment from the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management.

The veterans of the NAHA will be pleased to learn that Korsvik is a nephew of the late Birger Osland, treasurer and a mighty influence in the early history of the NAHA. Korsvik's mother and Osland were sister and brother.

Lois M. Rand

Lois M. Rand's first home was in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. After receiving an MA degree in music, she combined parish work with being a professional musician: organ, violin, and conducting. To these occupations can be added writer, teacher and lecturer, treating fields such as business communications, women's issues, religion, music and the arts.

She is former vice president of Minda Public Relations (Minneapolis) and has served on boards such as Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, The Minnesota Citizens Council on Crime and Justice and The Minnesota Charities Review Council. She is the current chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ebenezer Society (geriatric services), and is

a board member of The Central Chamber Orchestra of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis chapter of Nordmanns Forbundet.

His Majesty King Olav V awarded her the St. Olaf medal and The Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce recognized her with its Distinguished Achievement Award.

She is married to Sidney A. Rand, former president of St. Olaf College. If embassies have first ladies, she filled that position when her husband served as United States Ambassador to Norway during the Carter administration.

Thank You!

Lutheran Brotherhood has provided strong support for the Chicago History Project (explained elsewhere in the *Newsletter*), namely, \$7,500. This is the second large grant we have received from that institution. It made a gift of \$5,000. to the Rolvaag Memorial Fund in 1984.

The following have made gifts to the O. E. Rolvaag Memorial Fund (\$25. or more):

Harriet Hustvedt, \$1,000.; R. I. Jacobson, \$200.; C. A. Clausen, Audrey Bacon, Helga Midelfort, Gladys Weseth Nelson, \$100. each; Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Fox, \$50.; Mrs. Isak Hystad, \$35.; Clare Linn Larson, Stavangern Society, Mrs. Charles Stroebel, Mrs. Rolf Syrdal, \$25. each.

When it comes to life memberships Gerald R. Sime of Duluth, Minnesota, deserves to be named, "Uncle of the Year." Besides holding that membership for himself, he has taken out gift life memberships for four nephews and one niece.

The Chicago History Project

Plans for a thorough study of Norwegian settlement in large urban centers like Brooklyn, Chicago, Minneapolis and Seattle are not new. Until recently, however, such hopes have at best been dreams discussed by dreamers. Such projects call for financial resources that exceed routine income from dues and interest.

Now, with committed and promised help from various sources, a two-year research program seems possible. Dr. Odd S. Lovoll,

assisted by Vidar Stoen, will begin this coming summer on a history of the Norwegians in Chicago. Vidar Stoen is a graduate student in history at the University of Oslo, but is currently studying at St. Olaf College.

The project began to take concrete form when a symposium entitled "Norwegians in Chicago" was held in Chicago in October, 1982. The Chicago History Committee was formed in 1981 and placed under the leadership of William J. Korsvik, Rolf H. Erickson and Laurel Neidig. This committee is charged with the responsibility of raising funds to cover costs of the second year of the research project. While additional funds must yet be raised to cover the first year, the picture is promising enough to justify beginning work at the end of the current academic year. If everything goes according to plan, Dr. Lovoll will take a two-year leave from his teaching duties.

Book Party

Fifty-five members and guests of the NAHA gathered at a local restaurant in Northfield, Minnesota, Sunday afternoon, January 13, to meet and hear Joan N. Buckley and Einar Haugen, editors of *Han Ola og han Per*. A copy of this book was provided to each member present and later duly autographed by the editors.

Einar Haugen was in Northfield during January, teaching a course on Rølvaag at St. Olaf College. Joan Buckley made the trip from Moorhead, where she teaches at Concordia College.

NOTE!

Promise of America and *Han Ola on han Per* should have reached all members by this time. Please notify the secretary if you have not received your copy. This may be due to unreported address changes or that our sticker labels have been torn off in handling. If your name begins with W, X, Y or Z, your *Ola og Per* will be mailed later - we ran out.

News in Brief

- James P. Nelson of Camrose Lutheran College, Alberta, Canada, informed of plans to found a Scandinavian Historical Association of Alberta with headquarters at Camrose College. A symposium, dealing with Scandinavian migration to Canada will be held at Camrose, April 11-12, 1986.
- The Kvamme Memorial Library, designed to preserve Stoughton's (Wisconsin) Norwegian Heritage was opened in 1984. The library was made possible through a gift from Lois Kvamme in memory of her late husband, Tosten Kvamme.
- You cannot win them all. Some time ago we received a foreign check equivalent to \$10. After bank processing we were left with a balance of \$2.90.
- *Texas Highways*, a Texas travel monthly, carried "A Bit of Norway" in its September, 1984 issue. The photography treating the Norwegian settlement in Bosque County is superb.
- Received from Helene Munch, papers and books from her late husband, P. A. Munch, professor of sociology, University of Southern Illinois. The collection is unusually large.
- Received: *A History of Christiania Lutheran Church, 1859-1884*, by A. Gerald Dyste; a model for how congregational histories should be written. *Nordlandslaget i Amerika og Kanada. 75 ars jubileum, 1909-1984*, articles, letters, commentary, 145 pages. *A Diamond Jubilee: Seventy-five Years of Lutheranism in the Texas panhandle*, by Peter L. Petersen and Frederick W. Ratthjen, 1983, 23 pages. From Joseph Belgum, a handwritten autobiography

by Hans (Jenshus) Johnshoy, bound, 60 pages. From H. O. Wika, *Emigration for Vega, 1969-1929*, 75 pages. From Orin Lofthus, *Pioneers in the Norwegian Settlement* (Green County, Wisconsin). From Lutheran Synod Book Company, *Sigurd Christian Ylvisaker 1884-1959*. From Amlin Gray, *Kingdom Come*, his play which relies heavily on Rølvaag's *Giants in the Earth*. This play is currently on the stage in St. Paul at the Great North American History Theater. From E. Palmer Rockswold, *Per: Immigrant and Pioneer*, Staples, Minnesota, 1982.

- *When the Wind is in the South and Other Stories*, by O. E. Rølvaag, has recently been published by the Center for Western Studies (Sioux Falls, S.D.). The six stories in the collection (89 pages) were translated by Solveig Zempel, Rølvaag's granddaughter.

- *Landkjenning: Reiser i et liv* (Gyldendahl, 1983), by Hedin Brønner, ranks with memoirs like Knaplund's *Moorings, Old and New* and Larson's *Log Book of a Young Immigrant*. Brønner, however, speaks for a younger generation and for a career that combines academic and diplomatic pursuits. It tells of boyhood on the East Coast, schooling in Norway and France, teaching assignments in Chicago, military service (intelligence) in England and duty in Norway immediately after the capitulation. Later came State Department assignments (cultural attache) in Denmark, Iceland and Germany. Memoirs, like novels may be artistic enterprises. This one qualifies. The tone is warm, sincere and modest; the orientation turns more to the human and humane than to events; the carefully selected anecdote speaks beyond itself; superficial detail is deleted, and the pace is that of an express train.

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