

**The Norwegian-American
Historical Association**

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS



LETTER

From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 40

SEPTEMBER 1969

Editor L. HUSTVEDT

The Fifteenth Triennial Meeting

Fund Drive Launched

The most dramatic aspect of the triennial meeting held in Chicago, June 7, was the action taken by the Scholarship and Grants-in-Aid Committee. This committee, consisting of Dr. Gunnar Gundersen (chairman), Professor Kenneth O. Bjork and Mr. Magnus Bjorndal, reported at the close of the general session that a sum of \$7,000 had been donated or pledged to this fund. An additional \$3,000 has been pledged since that date. So far all donations and pledges have come from members of the Executive Board. Additional funds will be solicited from members and friends of the Association.

The committee has set an initial goal of \$30,000, which it hopes will be increased by direct gifts and bequests. The fund will be used to assist scholars to complete manuscripts which will ultimately be published by the Association. Editor Kenneth O. Bjork explained that a number of young scholars find it difficult for economic reasons to give the time needed to produce manuscripts which are in accord with NAHA publication standards. In many instances worthwhile projects suffer delays, said Dr. Bjork, because of the pressure of teaching assignments.

This fund will appropriately be called the Theodore C. Blegen Memorial Fund, in honor of the late editor who served the Association from its inception in 1925 to 1960.

Dr. Gundersen, who spoke for the committee, expressed the hope that the generosity shown by the members of the Executive Board would provide the needed inspiration for similar generosity among members and friends of the NAHA. During the course of the year 1970, each member will be asked to contribute to the fund and also provide the committee with the names of potential donors who may otherwise escape their attention. This committee, made up of men with vision and noble plans for the future of the NAHA, deserves our wholehearted support.

Magnus Bjorndal—President

Magnus Bjorndal, president of Tech Laboratories, Inc., in Weehawken, New Jersey, succeeded Lionel G. Thorsness as President. Attorney Thorsness of Chicago had ably served as President for nine years, the longest term thus far. Mr. Thorsness will continue to serve on the Executive Board, holding the title of Honorary Chairman. He has served the Association in an official capacity since 1945.

Mr. Bjorndal, an engineer and industrial executive by profession, has for many years taken an active interest in Norwegian-American cultural affairs, and has given generously of both his time and money to causes he found worthwhile. He has served the Association since 1948, first as a local vice president, later as a member of the Executive Board, and in recent years as Vice President.

Please turn to following page

THE FIFTEENTH TRIENNIAL MEETING

Continued from previous page

Three Members Added to Executive Board

All members of the former Board were re-elected for the coming triennium. The new members elected are Oscar A. Anderson, president of Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Mr. Truman Eddy, a Chicago businessman and president of the Chicago Norwegian National League; and J. Bernard Jacobsen, president of U. S. Manufacturing Company in Chicago.

Banquet

The banquet held at the Chicago Norske Klub was among the Association's more successful ones. A total of 160 members and friends attended. Participating in the program were Consul General Finn Koren, Kenneth O. Bjork, and O. G. Landsverk. The Normenneses Male Chorus, under the direction of Knut Hanson, provided a number of selections. Dr. Henrietta Larson, formerly professor of history in the School of Business Administration at Harvard University, gave the main address, speaking on the topic "The Businessman in Norwegian-American History."

Mr. J. Bernard Jacobsen and Mr. Truman Eddy arranged the banquet and managed all attending details such as invitations and entertainment. The large attendance and over-all success of this banquet reflects careful planning and much hard work on the part of Mr. Eddy and Mr. Jacobsen.

Contributions

As mentioned in earlier Newsletters, contributions over and above dues have been solicited from the members. This action was taken instead of increasing the annual membership fee. At the end of August a total of \$608.00 in contributions had been received. Those who have given \$10.00 or more are: Diderich Lunde, Jr., \$50; Harry J. Williams, \$50; Karl F. Rolvaag, \$25; Steven Rockefeller, \$25; G. Norman Wigeland, \$20; Reuben Jacobson, \$15; J. B. Lind, \$15; and Sidney A. Rand, \$15. Ten dollar contributions were received from the following: Thor M. Andersen, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Ayers, Carl W. Blegen, N. F. Johnsen, David E. Johnson, Harold Larson, Walter Lunde, Chester A. Mathison, P. A. Pederson, T. K. Sabo, Sons of Norway—Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson Lodge No. 97, Lionel G. Thorsness, and Harry R. Tosdal.

Twenty-two members during 1969 have raised their membership categories upwards. This action, of course, should also be regarded as a contribution, as the annual income is increased thereby. Other members are urged to take similar action if it is within their economic powers to do so.

Bequests and Gifts

The late Henry Dahl of Dayton, Ohio, and life member of the Association, named the NAHA as a beneficiary of a bequest in his will. The attorneys administering the Dahl estate informed the secretary's office that a pro-rated share to the Association will amount to \$752.30.

The Bygdelagenes Fellesraad (the Common Council of the Bygdelags) presented the Association with a gift of \$200.

Pioneer Cook Book

The Norwegian-American Museum has recently issued *Pioneer Cook Book*. The book, compiled by the Volunteers of the Norwegian-American Museum, is a neatly arranged and carefully edited work. A volume of 219 pages, it contains a table of contents, an index, illustrations by Thelma and Elma Olsen of Elkhorn, Wisconsin, instructions on how to make everything from soap to butter, and even some nineteenth-century hints on proper housekeeping, manners and dress. The book sells for \$2.50, and can be bought directly from the Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, Iowa.

IN MEMORIAM

THEODORE C. BLEGEN.
1891-1969

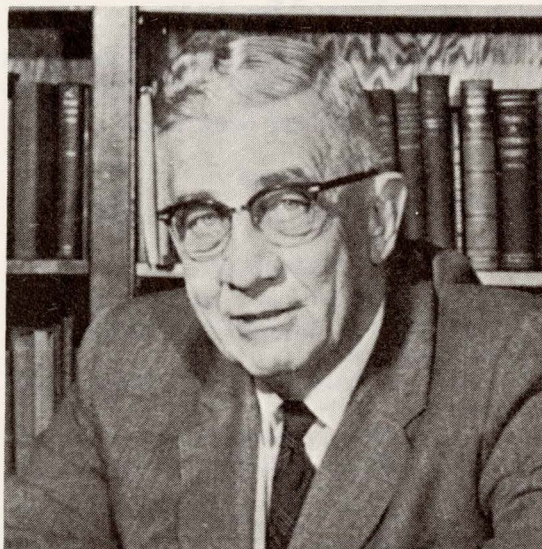
Theodore C. Blegen served the Norwegian-American Historical Association as Managing Editor during its first thirty-five years of existence. During this time, with a steady and determined hand, he guided into publication a total of forty books, two of which he authored himself. Through him the Association gained national recognition for its professional editorial standards. Because of his creative insight and deep humanity, he gave dignity and internationally recognized relevance to migration studies.

In recognition of his contribution to historical scholarship, the Scholarship and Grants-in-Aid Fund currently being raised by the Association will bear the name "The Theodore C. Blegen Memorial Fund."

Visitors

A number of visitors have recently toured the Archives: Dagfinn Mannsåker, Archivist for the National Archives in Oslo, Norway; Kjell Bondevik, Minister of Church and Education in Norway; Robert C. Wiederaenders, Archivist for the American Lutheran Church, from Dubuque, Iowa; Ulf Behbom, Director of the Emigrant Institute in Vaxjö, Sweden, and Sigurd Gustafson, holding a similar position in Karlstad, Sweden; and a group of twenty persons from Chicago traveling under the Scandinavian Pioneer Trails Group included the NAHA in their itinerary.

Among those who have recently used the Archives for research purposes are Dr. Christen T. Jonassen, Department of Sociology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Odd S. Løvoll, Department of Modern Languages, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks; Muriel Thompson, Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota; Orwin A. Rustad, Shattuck Academy, Faribault, Minnesota, and Dr. David T. Nelson, Decorah, Iowa.



Deceased

In many instances news of the death of a member does not reach us until a year later—sometimes even longer after The Newsletter feels, however, that the passing of those who have supported the NAHA should be reported to the members, whether death occurred recently or longer ago.

Edward J. Thye, former Minnesota governor and senator. A sustaining member since 1943.

Dr. T. F. Gullixson, clergyman and educator, a member since 1927.

Roy F. Hendrickson, a member since 1946.

Mrs. C. B. Christophersen, a member since 1927.

H. E. Jorgensen, a member since 1942.

Henry Dahl, life member.

Mrs. Oline Ernstsén, a member since 1939.

Mrs. Isabelle Johnson, a member since 1961.

Anton Gronningsater, a sustaining member since 1941.

A. E. Grimstad, a sustaining member since 1961.

G. F. Heltness, a sustaining member since 1962.

Carl W. Strom, a member since 1958.

Jacob Stefferud and Mrs. John Refsland. (Their memberships are being continued by their surviving spouses.)

J. A. Paasche, a life member.

Ingwald A. Rosok, a life member.

Reverend Orlando Ingvoldstad, a life member.

New Members

The following have become members of the NAHA in 1969. We extend to all of them a sincere welcome.

Patron

Mrs. Nils O. Seim, Rye, New York

Sustaining

Mrs. C. M. Sinclair, Jr., Dallas, Texas
M. Hildegard Sanderson, Holderness, New Hampshire
Mrs. Earl B. Barnett, Pico Rivera, California
Mrs. J. L. Fordyce, Seattle, Washington
Roland G. Miller, Mount Prospect, Illinois
LTJG Orrin J. Stangeland, Patuxent River, Maryland
Morris Thuney, Urbana, Illinois
Mrs. Diderich Lunde, Oak Park, Illinois

Associate

Harry H. Anderson, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Harry Lillehammer, Seattle, Washington
Mrs. Niron L. Virch, Marquette, Michigan
Dr. Frank C. Nelsen, Brown Deer, Wisconsin
Reverend Robert L. Lee, Tioga, North Dakota

Theodore Wiprud, Chevy Chase, Maryland
Clarence Fillingsness, Beresford, South Dakota
Alton J. Peterson, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Nancy Talsness, International Falls, Minnesota
Stanley P. Erwick, Los Angeles, California
Catherine A. Herzog, Cranston, Rhode Island
Mrs. Garet P. Williams, Williamsville, New York
J. Daniel Palm, Northfield, Minnesota
LaVern J. Rippley, Northfield, Minnesota
Mrs. LaVern Winney, Oak Park, Illinois
Mrs. Enoch Haugseth, Mercer Island, Washington
Donald G. Farrell, Chicago, Illinois
Mrs. Edel Brown, North Vancouver, B. C., Canada
Emigrantregistret for Värmland, Karlstad, Sweden
E. G. Dahlgren, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

In addition to the above, an immigration history class of 22 students at Luther College was enrolled as a block. The class was taught by Dr. John Christianson, Department of History, Luther College.

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

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