

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS



LETTER

From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 43

OCTOBER 1970

Editor L. HUSTVEDT

Chicago Chapter Organized

Sixty members and friends of the NAHA attended an organizational dinner at the Norske Klub in Chicago on June 26. President Magnus Bjordal has for some time promoted the idea of establishing chapters or committees in the larger cities. Chicago was the first to respond under the leadership of W. R. Anderson, an energetic insurance broker in Chicago. Anderson, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, has written a number of articles treating Norwegian-American subjects.

The organizational dinner coincided with a meeting of the Executive Committee of the NAHA. Professor Kenneth O. Bjork, the main speaker at the dinner, outlined the needs of the Association. It needed, he said, a broader membership base, an endowed chair in immigration history whereby the professor filling this chair would serve as editor, and a paid full-time director. It would not be realistic, he felt, to believe that the objectives of the Association could continue to be advanced only through donated services. Other speakers were W. R. Anderson, President Magnus Bjordal and Honorary Chairman Lionel G. Thorsness.

After the dinner the Chicago Chapter was established and a slate of officers elected: President, W. R. Anderson; Vice President, Kieth Hertsgaard, a graduate of Luther College and former president of Normenneses Singing Society who is associated with Costigane and Geiger, jewelers; Secretary, Orrin Stangeland, a graduate of St. Olaf College who recent-

ly returned from a tour of duty as an officer in the Navy; Treasurer, Paul Olsen, assistant cashier in the Pioneer Trust and Savings Bank in Chicago.

The *Newsletter* wishes these officers and their chapter well. They are clearly pioneers in a new venture which we hope will serve as a model for similar chapters elsewhere.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN FELLOWSHIP FUND

The Blegen Fellowship Fund, which got under way a year ago, now stands at approximately \$11,000.00. Most of the donations to date have come from members of the Executive Board. The Board members have agreed that their individual donations shall not be made public, but collectively their gifts amount to \$7,300.

Gifts from persons outside the Board are as follows:

Henry Dahl Estate	\$ 752.30
Dr. Richard Giere	1,000.00
Morton S. Katz	25.00
Henrietta M. Larson	60.00
Henriette C. K. Naeseth	15.00
Eugene Wigeland	1,000.00

The members of the Association will be invited to contribute to this fund when they receive their next statement for dues. A resolution governing the use of the money, prepared by Andrew Wigeland and adopted by the Executive Committee on June 26, 1970, will accompany the appeal for gifts.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 1969

*From the Treasurer's Report prepared
by Norman O. Olson*

FUND BALANCE, JANUARY 1, 1969	\$20,128.27
INCOME:	
Dues, associate and sustaining members	\$ 5,208.94
Book sales	1,411.28
Unrestricted gifts and bequests for current use	925.00
Interest on investments	1,804.04
Miscellaneous income	254.59
Total income	<u>\$ 9,603.85</u>
EXPENDITURES:	
Publication expenses—	
Printing and binding	\$ 1,854.29
Editorial, typing, etc.	1,158.15
Newsletter expenses	303.46
Archives expense	99.17
Packaging, mailing, etc.	262.40
	<u>\$ 3,677.47</u>
General membership expenses including stenographic, membership records, postage, office supplies and new members' campaign	3,765.46
Total expenditures	<u>\$ 7,442.93</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 2,160.92</u>
FUND BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 1969	<u>\$22,289.19</u>
FUND BALANCES:	
Theodore C. Blegen Fellowship Fund	\$ 9,669.30
Ole Edvart Rolvaag Permanent Fund	18,792.37
Institutional 25-year Life Membership Fund	1,440.00
Current Fund	22,289.19
	<u>\$52,190.86</u>

Complete copies of the Treasurer's Report will be sent to members upon request.
The above is a much condensed version.

ARCHIVES

Documents, books, papers, family histories, church histories, manuscripts, letters, memoirs, and journals continue to come to the Archives. Space does not permit a description of each donation, but we do want to acknowledge our gratitude to the donors: Harry H. Anderson, Milwaukee; Leif H. Awes, Minneapolis; John E. Bergh, Volga, S. D.; Robert Bjerke, St. Olaf College; H. M. Blegen, Sioux Falls, S. D.; Arthur Eide, British Columbia; Carl M. Gunderson, Los Angeles; T. S. Hanson; Bernt Heid, Oslo; Nell M. Hoyem, Mankato, Minn.; Theodore Jorgenson, Northfield, Minn.; Ole Landsverk, Glendale, Calif.; John Lawrence, California; Ingmar A. Lee, Jr., Minneapolis; Sivert Nerheim, Minneapolis; Benjamin Paust, Minneapolis; Questad family, Texas; Jesse E. Saugstad, Washington, D. C.; Willard Torgim, Decorah, Iowa; Rasmus Udseth, Summit, S. D.

Since the NAHA does not have a representative working in the field, it becomes of utmost importance that members and friends keep the NAHA in mind when they run across papers and books which touch on our interests.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Henning Boe, publisher and editor of *Western Viking*, carried an excellent editorial on the NAHA (April 10, 1970).
- Professor Einar Haugen received the Fridtjof Nansen Prize for his outstanding contribution to Norwegian philology and linguistics. This award is made by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in Oslo.
- Excerpts from our publication *America in the Forties: The Letters of Ole Munch Raeder* will appear in *Webster's Guide to American History*.
- The Encyclopaedia Britannica Educational Corporation is currently compiling a ten-volume documentary study of ethnic pluralism in the United States. It will contain excerpts from many NAHA publications, totaling more than 12,000 words. In addition, Miss Beulah

Folkedahl has sent many pictures to the photographs editor.

- *Nordisk Tidende*, February 5, 1970, carried an article on Magnus Bjorndal and on his aspirations for the NAHA. In the same issue appeared a generous editorial, surveying work which had been done by the NAHA, and areas of research which still needed attention. In its issue of August 6 this same newspaper carried another long editorial noting the publication of the Association's fiftieth book, volume 24 of *Studies*. The editorial surveys past publications and makes an urgent appeal that Norwegian Americans support the NAHA. If things do not go well for the NAHA, it will not be the fault of *Nordisk Tidende*.

- Simon Johnson, 96, Norwegian-American poet and novelist, died in Decorah, Iowa, on July 16. "An Immigrant Boy on the Frontier," which appeared in volume 23 of *Studies*, was a translated extract from Johnson's final work, *Oplevd*. Johnson's papers and manuscripts are in the NAHA archives.

- The Congressional bill, HR 14910, seeks to "improve the opportunity of students in elementary and secondary schools to study cultural heritages of the major groups of the nation." The bill calls for an appropriation of 30 million dollars through June, 1971.

- Andrew A. Rowberg, 82, died December 1, 1969. He compiled more than 150,000 biographical cards for the NAHA. His wife, Marie, is continuing his work. He earlier received the Distinguished Service Award from the Association.

MEMBERSHIP AND BOOK SALES

Sixty-seven new members were added in 1969: 55 associate, 10 sustaining, 1 patron, and 1 life. There were 64 cancellations. As of January 31, 1969, the total membership stood at 1,120. To date, 71 members have been added in 1970.

Book sales for 1969 totaled \$1,525.03. The sales for 1970 (as of July 31) have already exceeded the 1969 figure with a total of \$1,620.01.

FIFTIETH PUBLICATION

Volume 24 of *Studies* was distributed to all members in June. Since this is the fiftieth book to be produced since 1925, a major milestone has been reached. If our information is correct, no other ethnic group can match this. In the early days of the Association, O. E. Rolvaag spoke of publishing "a whole shelf of books." We do not know how large a shelf he had in mind, but this should about do it.

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

The Executive Committee of the NAHA voted to increase the membership dues, beginning January 1, 1971. Associate dues will be seven dollars (formerly five), and sustaining membership dues will be twelve dollars (formerly ten).

A new category, patron life membership, was also created. The dues for this membership will be one payment of \$250.00.

The move to increase dues was taken in light of the dramatic increase in costs of bookmaking. For example, printing

costs for this *Newsletter* ran around \$40 in 1960, and now more than \$100.

Cleung Peerson Institute

A center for the study of Norwegian migration is being established at the Rogaland District College in Stavanger, Norway, under the name Cleung Peerson Institute. Mr. George Joa is supervising the work. Sixteen cases of NAHA duplicate books and periodicals were shipped to Stavanger in June. The Norwegian America Line agreed to transport these books without cost.

WANTED! MEMBERS WHO WILL

. . . recruit new members, . . .
contribute to the Theodore C. Blegen
Fund, . . . send names of potential
members to the Secretary, . . . place
NAHA publications in libraries
throughout the United States, . . .
send letters, documents, books and
journals to the Archives, and finally,
members who *will* remember the
NAHA in their Wills.

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
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