

The Norwegian-American  
Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS



LETTER

*From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members*

NUMBER 61

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

MARCH, 1981

## 1980 Highlights

The most significant project in 1980 must be the launching of the Kenneth O. Bjork Chair in Immigration History. This fund exceeded \$53,000 at the close of the year. Two books were distributed to the members: volume 28 of *Studies and Makers of an American Immigrant Legacy*. Membership rose to an all-time high. Dr. Odd S. Lovoll succeeded Dr. Kenneth O. Bjork as editor of the NAHA. The Association sponsored a dinner, attended by 125 persons, in honor of the retiring editor on May 30. Marion Nelson, director of Vesterheim Museum and Lawrence Hauge, Minneapolis banker, were added to the Executive Board. The office staff fortunately remains the same, with Charlotte Jacobson as Archivist and Curator, and Elaine Kringen as Assistant Secretary. They both make up NAHA assets that do not appear in the Treasurer's report. According to the Editor, there is a backlog of manuscripts that merit publication, so there is seemingly no danger that we will run out of things to publish.

If we were, however, as in the fairy tales, granted three wishes for 1981, they would be: First, that inflation would come to an end. Printing costs, postal rates, and other services exceed our income from dues. Second, that cancellations of membership for reasons other than "death do us part" would be much reduced. The addition of new members over the past years has, in fact, been very good, but these gains tend to be lost by a high cancellation rate. Third, that the contribution base with regard to the Chair Fund would be broadened — first, to assure a successful drive, second, to distribute the burden among many rather than among a few.

### MEMBERSHIP

A total of 119 members were added in 1980. Less heartening is a cancellation total of 108, for a net gain of 11 members. Our total membership of 1356 (including deceased life members) is the highest on record. The figures below reveal our current membership status:

	January 1, 1980	December 31, 1980	Gain or Loss
Associate	731	705	-26
Sustaining	143	158	+15
Patron	39	42	+ 3
Life	338	357	+19
	<u>1251</u>	<u>1262</u>	<u>+11</u>
Deceased Life	89	94	
	<u>1340</u>	<u>1356</u>	

## BOOKS

Book sales amounted to \$5,302, matching the sales figures over the past five years. Because a large number of unpaid invoices for 1979 were carried over into 1980, income for books amounted to \$7,857. A total of 618 copies were sold, with *Makers of an American Immigrant Legacy* being the best seller. In fact, it was sold out six months after publication. Of the 64 books published by the NAHA, 21 titles are out of print, and 18 have an inventory of less than 100 copies. The total of unsold books amounts to 7,890 copies.

### TREASURER'S REPORT, 1980

*Abbreviated form*

Fund Balance, January 1, 1980	\$54,014.50
Income	
Dues, associate, sustaining patron	\$13,717.00
Book sales	7,856.86
Book royalties	39.98
Interest on investments	14,857.58
Transferred from Sigvald Qvale fund (interest)	318.75
Miscellaneous income	620.00
	\$37,410.69
Expenditures	
Publications expense	
<i>Makers of an American Legacy</i> (printing)	\$ 8,161.49
Editorial, typing, etc.	3,236.83
Packaging and mailing	1,384.76
Other	766.71
	\$13,549.79
General membership expenses:	
Salaries, postage, supplies, utilities, promotion, etc.	9,983.77
Total expenditures	\$23,533.56
Fund Balance, December 31, 1980	\$67,891.63

### FUND BALANCE

	1980	1979
Ole Edvart Rølvaag Permanent Fund	\$52,024.41	\$49,124.41
Sigvald Qvale (Norwegian Society) Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00
Theodore C. Blegen Fellowship Fund	45,181.09	42,521.09
Chair in Immigration History	53,367.49	25,136.49

*Explanation.* All life membership dues go into the Rølvaag Fund and the accrued interest is used for current expenses. When the Norwegian Society of America was dissolved, it turned its Sigvald Qvale Fund over to the NAHA. Unallocated income from the Blegen Fellowship Fund (restricted to aiding authors with publishable manuscripts) is returned to the fund. The increase in amount over 1979 reflects unused interest. The Chair Fund will remain inactive until the goal of \$100,000 is reached.

## News in Brief

- Dr. Lawrence Hafstad was awarded a Congressional citation for his pioneer work in developing high voltage accelerators. The citation, presented by Congressman Mike McCormack, a member of the Committee on Science and Technology, was given in connection with a celebration recognizing the 50th anniversary of the development of the cyclotron and high voltage accelerators.
- Dr. Harold Larson, one of the early members of the professional staff of the National Archives, was named a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists during the society's annual (1980) meeting in Cincinnati.
- A conference on "Scandinavian Literary Life," celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Symra Literary Society, will be held in Decorah, Iowa, October 30-31, 1981. The papers delivered are to be published as a *Festschrift*. Symra and Luther College are co-sponsors.
- North Park College of Chicago was awarded \$175,000 challenge grant from NEH. The college must match this grant \$3 for \$1. The plan is to create a chair in Scandinavian studies.
- The archives received recently from Solveig Tweet Zempel her Ph.D. dissertation entitled 'Language Use in the Novels of Johannes B. Wist: A Study of Bilingualism in Literature.' Wist, more than any other Norwegian-American writer, let his characters speak Norwegian as it came to be spoken in this country.
- Doris Haugh Briggs, provided us with *From There to Here*, a carefully prepared family history. Unlike many such works, this one is objective in tone and at times painfully honest in its discussion of some of the early pioneer figures that are treated.
- Dr. Odd Lovoll has been awarded a \$20,000 research grant by the Minnesota State Historical Society. He will take a leave of absence from his teaching duties during the academic year 1981-1982. This grant supports his forthcoming book on Norwegians in America to be published by the University Press in Oslo, Norway.

• February 14, 1981, marked the centennial of the landing of 635 Norwegians in Hawaii to work in the production of sugar cane. Governor Arioshi declared the day Scandinavian Day. A number of Norwegians from stateside helped observe the occasion.

## Editorial

It might be worthwhile to get the Chair Fund out of the way for no other reason than to be spared these editorials. As indicated elsewhere in this *Newsletter* the established goal of reaching \$50,000 by the end of 1980 was met. We have the needed matching funds of \$10,000 for 1981. Contributions at large equaling this amount will place the fund at \$70,000, the projected goal for the close of this year.

As our reports have revealed, we have received a number of large gifts. In the main they explain the successful beginning. One might guess, however, that future success will hinge on a large number of smaller gifts. In fact, if each member who has not contributed would match his or her dues as a gift in the next two years, the fund would exceed its projected goal. We stop here. Long sermons risk a small offering. — L. H.

### SPECIAL ON BOOKS

Members, but members only, may select three of the following titles for \$10 plus postage. Add \$3 for each additional title selected. Retail price is indicated in parenthesis.

*Norwegian-American Studies* vol. 27 (\$8)

*Norwegian-American Studies* vol. 28 (\$10)

Laurence M. Larson, *The Changing West and Other Essays* (\$7)

Laurence M. Larson, *The Log Book of a Young Immigrant* (\$7)

Birger Osland, *A Long Pull From Stavanger* (\$7)

Kenneth O. Bjork, *Saga in Steel and Concrete* (\$9)

Clarence Glasrud, *Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen* (\$7)

John T. Flanagan, *Theodore C. Bleugen: A Memoir* (\$7)

*Cultural Pluralism versus Assimilation: The Views of Waldemar Ager* (\$5)

## PUBLICATIONS

Members will receive two books in 1981. *Pathfinder for Norwegian Emigrants* by Johan Reinert Reiersen, translated by Frank G. Nelson, will be distributed in March. *Ethnicity Challenged: The Upper Midwest Norwegian-American Experience in World War I*, by Carl Chrislock, will be mailed to all members next fall.

The first mentioned work makes for the ninth volume in the *Travel and Description Series*, a series which today has only two titles still in print. *Pathfinder (Veiviser for norske emigranter)* includes a generous introduction of fifty-seven pages by the translator. The second book is a scholarly work, based on research, dealing with the hysteria and nativism which surfaced on the American scene during World War I and the years that followed. This work constitutes volume 3 of *Topical Studies* and will retail at \$10. *Pathfinder*, 239 pages, commands a price of \$12.

## THE LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Not long after Ole E. Rølvaag died in 1931, the Executive Board of the NAHA determined that life membership dues should be allocated to a permanent fund (The Ole Edvart Rølvaag Memorial Fund), a fund which increases in amount with each added member. Since that time only the accrued interest from this fund has been used for operating expenses, thus providing much needed income stability. The fact that the NAHA during the depression of the 30s lived a rather hard to mouth existence makes the foresight of that board even more impressive.

Apart from the income security this fund provides, a life membership is attractive to both member and to the Association as a whole. Because the cost of a life membership is equivalent to ten years of associate dues, it is more economical in the long run, so much so that it might seem foolish to promote it. Yet, the perpetual income and convenience it provides compensates for any potential loss of revenue. Life memberships eliminate the annual exchange of statements and dues and the attending clerical work, now a significant cost item in

the operation.

Members are therefore encouraged to consider such a membership for themselves, and more importantly as a durable gift for the younger generation. Those who find a single payment of \$150.00 difficult may opt for three installments within a calendar year.

## FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Beyond *Ethnicity Challenged* by Carl H. Chrislock, which is currently being printed, other manuscripts are scheduled for publication. Dr. Lovoll has completed the editing work on Svein Nilsson's articles on early Norwegian settlements, published in his *Billed-Magazin*, Madison, Wisconsin, in the 1860s. These articles, translated by Dr. C. A. Clausen, will see print in 1981.

Editing of *Studies*, volume 29, is underway. This volume will emphasize the background of Norwegian emigration and will contain a number of articles by young Norwegian scholars. Volume 30 will concentrate on the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, and plans are being made to devote *Studies*, volume 31, to the urban story. Several manuscripts are being considered by the Board of Publications. They will be reported on later if accepted.

## NAHA MEMBERS MEET IN TACOMA

Thirty-seven members and friends of the NAHA gathered at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma for a program and lunch on November 22. Some members came from as far away as Portland, Oregon, and Stanwood, Washington.

Professor Janet Rasmussen, Pacific Lutheran University, who arranged the affair, presided over the program which featured Professor Ingrid Semmingsen, Oslo, as the main speaker. She spoke on the history of immigration research in the United States and upon the central role the NAHA has played since its founding in 1925. In addition there were greetings, statements about the future publication plans of the NAHA, and a discussion on the need for research into the Scandinavian heritage of the Northwest.

# The Chair Fund

The below lists those who have made contributions or pledges from October 1, 1980 to March 1, 1981. An asterisk follows the names of persons who also contributed in 1980. Payments on pledges reported earlier are not included. In order to derive full benefit from the matching funds, approximately \$5,000 still needs to be raised before the close of the year.

## Matching funds for 1981

Anonymous	\$5,000
Clarence C. Clausen	1,500
Kenneth O. Bjork	1,500
Bygdelagenes Fellesråd	1,000
Elsie Melby	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gifts and Pledges</i>		
Leif J. Melgaard	\$1,000.00	Wayne Boles	25.00
Einar Haugen*	500.00	Arne Brekke	25.00
Edward Seljeskog, M.D.*	500.00	Jerome Ernest Bublitz	25.00
Sverre Arestad*	500.00	Lewis J. Carlson	25.00
Harold Larson	250.00	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cheetham	25.00
William J. Jacobson	200.00	Lucille B. Eimerman	25.00
David A. Schmidt*	200.00	E. D. Farwell	25.00
Lloyd A. Svendsbye	200.00	G. Bernhard Fedde	25.00
Sivert Klefstad	150.00	Eugene L. Fevold	25.00
Ingrid Semmingsen*	150.00	Sanford K. Fosholt*	25.00
Torske Klubben*	150.00	Esther Gulbrandson*	25.00
Dr. Alf H. Altern*	100.00	Joseph Gunderson	25.00
Mrs. Ray W. Bengston	100.00	Alden B. Hanson	25.00
Henning and Ragnhild Boe	100.00	Thomas P. Helmey	25.00
Edvin Brye	100.00	Lois Hofmann	25.00
Mrs. Selma S. Casberg*	100.00	Evelyn Holter	25.00
Albert and Marion Finholt	100.00	Wilma Johnson	25.00
Sigurd Gimnes	100.00	Annette and Edward Mahlum*	25.00
L. R. Hafstad*	100.00	Mr. and Mrs. Chas. D. O'Kieffe	25.00
Henry M. Halvorson*	100.00	Kristoffer F. Paulson	25.00
Freda S. Hovden*	100.00	Paul and Marjorie Reigstad	25.00
Henning W. Jacobson	100.00	Mrs. Ruth Rogne	25.00
R. I. Jacobson	100.00	Christian K. Skjervold	25.00
Duane and Elaine Kringen	100.00	Sons of Norway Restauration 548*	25.00
C. G. Martin, Jr.	100.00	Ragnar Standal	25.00
Gladys Weseth Nelson*	100.00	Olander Suldahl	25.00
Pacific Mutual Life Insurance	100.00	Richard J. Sveum	25.00
F. A. Schiotz*	100.00	Orlando Tweet	25.00
Mrs. Nils O. Seim*	100.00	C. H. Uran	25.00
Richard E. Solheim*	100.00	Harry J. Williams*	22.00
Robert C. Steen	100.00	James S. Hamre	20.00
Grace Weseth*	100.00	Sigvald Holden	20.00
Harry and Evelyn Anderson	50.00	Julien H. Collins	15.00
Mary Holum*	50.00	Gunnar J. Malmin	15.00
Gerhard B. Naeseth*	50.00	LeRoy A. Swanson	15.00
E. J. Nordby, M.D.*	50.00	Mr. and Mrs. Rudie Baack	10.00
Norwegian Lit. Soc. of Chicago	50.00	S. A. Engene	10.00
Inez G. Schaefer*	50.00	Myron Floren	10.00
John A. Vieg	50.00	Dean H. and Ann Gesme	10.00
Ronald Flugum	40.00	Olaf A. Hougen*	10.00
Janet Shickell	40.00	Clare Linn Larson	10.00
E. A. Norem*	30.00	Alice C. Nelson	10.00
Brit Aabakken Peterson	30.00	Thelmer J. Nelson	10.00
Marion R. Aaker	25.00	Kathryn Share	10.00
Oscar A. Anderson	25.00	Betty Lou Strand	10.00
James Andvik	25.00	Dorothy E. Albertson	5.00
Almyra Molly Baker	25.00	C. A. Berdahl*	5.00
		Vivian L. Iverson	5.00

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NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
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