

# The Norwegian-American Historical Association

NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Number Thirty-Two

May, 1956

## News Letter

FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE  
TO THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

### PROMOTING N. A. H. A.

#### —In Illinois

A group of Norwegian-American Historical Association members in the Chicago area sponsored an "Old Settlers" picnic which was held September 25, 1955 at Norway, Illinois.

Five hundred descendants of pioneer settlers from the surrounding sections of Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin attended the event and re-lived history.

This place has been marked by the State of Illinois as an historic site, where the first Norwegian settlement in the Middle West was established in 1834—122 years ago—the second settlement by Norwegians in modern times, and the forerunner of thousands of similar settlements in Illinois and other states to the north and south. The historic marker is located seventy miles southwest of Chicago.

The following program was presented at the "Old Settlers" picnic:

National Anthem . . . . . Trumpet Duo  
Gene Calvert, Allen Holverson  
Accompanist, Mrs. John Eastwold

America . . . . . Audience  
Devotions . . . . . Arthur Pederson  
Pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Leland, Ill.

Welcome . . . . . Pastor Nils Klungvedt  
Chairman: Committee on Arrangements

Address . . . . . Benjamin Ostrem  
Pastor of Newark and Norway Lutheran Churches  
Group of Songs . . . . . Ottawa High School Chorus

B. J. Muus, Director  
"Jesus Priceless Treasure" . . . . . Bach  
"O Holy Father" . . . . . Palestrina

"Lost in the Night" . . . . . Arr. F. Melius Christiansen  
"Behold the Host" . . . . . Arr. by Grieg  
"God's Son Hath Set Me Free" . . . . . Grieg

Address . . . . . Dr. J. A. Aasgaard  
President, Norwegian-American Historical Assn.

Song: Audience . . . . . "Ja Vi Elsker Dete Landet"  
Address . . . . . Dr. Paul C. Johnson  
Editor of "The Prairie Farmer," Chicago

Song: Audience . . . . . "God Bless Our Native Land"  
Benediction . . . . . H. A. Weltzin  
Pastor of Freedom and St. Petri Lutheran Churches

The committee in charge of the picnic included Pastor Nils Klungvedt, chairman; Harvey J. Norem, secretary and treasurer; Pastor Arthur Pederson, Pastor H. A. Weltzin, Pastor Benjamin Ostrem, Ole Twait and Jonas Foss. The committee is already planning another picnic to be held this year.

#### —In Minnesota

Four friends of the Public Library in Alexandria, Minnesota, presented a complete set of Norwegian-American Historical Association publications to their

local library. Ingvald Lillevik sponsored the idea which was supported by three other public-minded men: A. P. Hustad, Richard Osterberg, Sr., and Anton Egeberg.

The new books were a special feature at the annual Friends-of-the-Library Tea observed on Thursday and Friday, April 19 and 20. The local press gave generous space to the event and the four donors were interviewed on a 15-minute radio broadcast telling about the gift of N.A.H.A. books.

#### —In Utah

Our genial Second Vice President, Marthinus A. Strand, has donated complete sets of N.A.H.A. publications to the following institutions: University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah; Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; and State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.

### INTERESTING BOOKS COMING

#### —Studies And Records

Volume 19 of *Norwegian-American Studies and Records* is in the editorial stage of preparation for publication, and it promises to be fully as interesting as previous volumes. The volume will contain about nine articles and the usual bibliographical essay. Subjects covered in the articles will include: an analysis of the significance of "America letters"; a study of Norwegian folk art as preserved in America; a Selbu folk legend; Norwegian emigrants holding university degrees; Norwegian-Danish Methodism on the Pacific coast; Norwegian Mormons; Snowshoe Thompson; and a translated "America letter." An article on H. H. Boyesen's views on emigrants may also be included. It is hoped that the volume can be published by late 1956 or early 1957.

#### —"West Of The Great Divide"

We are happy to announce that the Board of Editors is planning to publish Dr. Kenneth Bjork's study of Norwegian migration to the West Coast in 1957. The book will be titled: "West of the Great Divide; Norwegian Migration to the Pacific Coast, 1847-1900."

According to Dr. Bjork, the volume will contain three chapters on the Scandinavian Mormons; four on early California experience; two on mining activities and settlement in the Rockies; also chapters on the Pacific Northwest, on religious, economic, and social life along the Pacific coast, and on the migration to Alaska. Present plans call for a total of eighteen chapters.

The greater part of the manuscript will be submitted to the Association next fall and the remainder the following spring. It is our hope that the book will be in the hands of our members before the end of 1957.

**N. A. H. A. NEW MEMBERS**

September 1, 1955, to Date

## ASSOCIATE

Arne Foss, Leland, Ill.  
 Cornelius Clausen, Sandwich, Ill.  
 Andrew Svihus, Shabbona, Ill.  
 Magnus Svihus, Shabbona, Ill.  
 Peter I. Bukowski, Chicago, Ill.  
 Otto Madland, Madison, Wisc.  
 Orville B. Anderson, Skokie, Ill.  
 Goodrun Leigh Foss, Philadelphia, Penna.  
 National Namdalslag, Worthing, S. Dak.  
 Miss Jennie Olson, Minneapolis, Minn.  
 Hans Ronnevik, Carlisle, Minn.  
 Leigh M. Jordahl, Northfield, Minn.  
 Rev. G. A. Sundby, Decorah, Iowa  
 Robert Halvorson, Chicago, Ill.  
 William J. Jacobson, Chicago, Ill.  
 Henry W. Halvorson, Cambridge, Mass.

Arthur T. Olsen, Chicago, Ill.  
 President J. W. Ylvisaker, Decorah, Iowa  
 Prof. Gerhard L. Belgum, Decorah, Iowa  
 L. Don Myrah, Milwaukee, Wisc.  
 Niels W. Johnsen, Decorah, Iowa  
 Prof. Arne Brekke, Decorah, Iowa  
 Albert L. Negstad, Arlington, South Dakota  
 Miss Clara O. Herm, Lake Mills, Iowa  
 J. Frederick Weltzin, Moscow, Idaho  
 C. C. Smith, Decorah, Iowa  
 Dr. Eugene L. Fevold, St. Paul, Minn.  
 Miss Mary Benson, Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Raymond A. Rovang, Decorah, Iowa  
 Captain David Gabriel Dietrichson, San Pedro, Calif.

## SUSTAINING

Samuel Abrahamsen, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Forest Olson Midtmoen, San Antonio, Texas  
 Grieg Lodge No. 15, Sons of Norway, Portland, Ore.  
 C. A. Christiansen, Frederic, Wisc.

## THE NORWEGIAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the Year ended December 31, 1955

RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS	
Opening Cash Balance, Jan. 1, 1955.....	\$ 7,335.80	Publication Expenses:	
Life membership Fees.....	\$ 300.00	Printing . . . . .	\$ 93.00
Dues, associate and sustaining		Editorial Typing, etc. . . . .	492.35
members . . . . .	3,058.50	Secretary's Office Expenses:	
Book Sales . . . . .	644.41	Archives . . . . .	93.97
Gifts and Bequests to		Publications . . . . .	150.79
Rolvaag Fund . . . . .	5.00	General . . . . .	452.02
Interest and Investments . . . . .	580.00	General Expenses . . . . .	96.90
Miscellaneous Income . . . . .	9.80		
Contributions for the Publication		Total Disbursements . . . . .	\$ 1,379.03
of Elisabeth Koren Diary . . . . .	150.00	Closing Cash Balance Dec. 31, 1955 . . . . .	10,704.48
Total Receipts . . . . .	4,747.71	Total Funds Accounted for . . . . .	\$12,083.51
Total Funds Available . . . . .	\$12,083.51		

## Comparative Figures — Income and Expense

	1955	1954	1953
Receipts (Including Life Membership Fees and special			
Gifts credited to Rolvaag Fund) . . . . .	\$4,442.71	\$5,201.28	\$5,488.91
Publication Expenses . . . . .	585.35	2,957.87	2,162.21
Total Disbursements . . . . .	1,379.03	5,015.96	3,818.72

## Comparative Balance Sheet

	ASSETS		
	Dec. 31, 1955	Dec. 31, 1954	Dec. 31, 1953
Cash . . . . .	\$10,704.48	\$ 7,335.80	\$ 7,077.99
Investments . . . . .	20,371.47	20,371.47	20,371.47
	\$31,075.95	\$27,707.27	\$27,449.46
NET WORTH			
The Ole Edvart Rolvaag Memorial Fund . . . . .	\$10,112.37	\$ 9,807.37	\$ 9,734.88
Contributed for Publication of Elisabeth Koren Diary . . . . .	625.00	475.00	
Current Funds . . . . .	20,338.58	17,424.90	17,714.58
	\$31,075.95	\$27,707.27	\$27,449.46

Investments, carried at \$20,371.47, consist of bonds which are held in safekeeping in the Trust Department of the City National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago.