

# The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

# NEWS



# LETTER

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

NUMBER 64

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

OCTOBER, 1982

## Symposium: Norwegians in Chicago

A Chicago History Symposium will be held at Norway Center, Kedzie at Fullerton, Chicago, on October 23, 1982, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ten papers treating the activities of Norwegian Americans who lived and worked in Chicago will be presented. In the evening, a black tie (optional) dinner will be served in the old Chicago Norske Klub, followed by a program of Norwegian music. The symposium is open to the public.

The symposium will include papers by Professors William K. Beatty, John Christianson, Odd S. Lovoll, Harald Naess, Marion Nelson, Janet Rasmussen, and Gerald Thorson. Helen Fletre, Mogens Knudsen and architect Martin Reinhart are also participants. The topics cover art, literature, journalism, organizations, medical care, and general history.

The conference fee is \$15. and includes lunch and two coffee breaks. The dinner at 8 p.m. is \$25. A social hour (7 p.m.) precedes the dinner. For reservations and more information write or call Laurel Neidig, 1234 Maple Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091. Telephone: (312) 251-8234.

The chairman, Rolf Erickson, can be reached during the evenings: (312) 864-1028.

## Oh — So Close!

Speaking in round numbers, the Kenneth O. Bjork Chair in Immigration History fund now stands at \$95,000. In order to reach the goal established three years ago for the close of 1982, \$5,000 still needs to be raised. The fund drive will be terminated on December 31, 1982. Whatever you can do to help to realize fulfillment of initial aspirations would be much appreciated.

Otherwise, this is more a time for gratitude than appeal — gratitude to all who have brought the "Chair Fund" to its current high level. It represents the most ambitious financial campaign in the history of the Association. Its significance for the security of future publication plans and for the continued growth of the NAHA cannot be overestimated. Thank you!

## Future Publications

Volume 29 of *Studies* is in the hands of the printers. We anticipate distribution early in 1983.

The book will feature twelve essays, seven of which deal with the Norwegian background, and are written by Norwegian scholars in the field of emigration. This is a new and welcome development in our publication program. This volume also includes a much needed index to volumes 1

through 29 of *Studies*, prepared by the Association's archivist, Charlotte Jacobson, a task that covers approximately 8,000 pages.

This book will be followed by a study of religious pluralism among Norwegian immigrants in America up to 1900, by Frederick Hale. This book should be available late in 1983.

Dr. Odd S. Lovoll has recently completed his book *Det løfterike*

*landet* (The Land of Promise) for the University of Oslo Press. An English translation of this work will be published as a joint enterprise between the NAHA and the University of Minnesota Press. No firm publication date can be given, but some time in 1984 seems a reasonable guess.

#### A STUDY OF MARCUS THRANE

Professor Terje Leiren from the University of Washington spent some time recently in the NAHA archives researching Marcus Thrane, an early leader in the Norwegian labor movement. After some years of imprisonment in Norway, he came to America where he first settled in Chicago and later in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He was an advocate of what now must be regarded as modest socialistic views. He also rose as a social critic through the plays and other satirical works he wrote. It is Professor Leiren's plan to submit a manuscript for our Topical Studies Series.

## Ways to Build Up Your Library

As a gesture of support the NAHA bought 100 copies of *The True Saga of Cleng Peerson* by Alfred Hauge and translated by John Weinstock and Turid Sverre. The book was published by the Norwegian Society of Texas in observance of Cleng Peerson's 200th birthday anniversary, May 17, 1982. The book sells for \$10. The price includes postage. (Minnesota members add 50¢ sales tax).

#### A RARE BOOK

The NAHA has come into possession of a supply of *Omkring Fædrearven* by O. E. Rølvaag, St. Olaf College Press, 1922. These are new (unused) copies and since only one edition was printed the book would be a collector's item. The price of \$10 includes postage. (Minnesota members add 50¢ sales tax).

#### USED BOOKS

Over time the NAHA has accumulated a large supply of its earlier publications, classified as used books. In most cases these books have been returned by members who had to dispose of their libraries. These books are in excellent condition and sell for one-half of the list price. For example, *Studies* would be \$5 per copy. This collection does not include any publications that are out of print. A complete list will be provided upon request.

#### OUT OF PRINT BOOKS

The NAHA has available a few used books that are out of print: *Studies*, vols. 12, 13, 14, 15; *Frontier Mother*; *Grass of the Earth*; *Frontier Parsonage*; *Norwegian Migration to America: The American Transition*; *Laur. Larsen*; *Pioneer College President*; *Klondike Saga*; *Norwegian Sailors on the Great Lakes*; and *Diary of Elisabeth Koren*. These books will be sold to members only. The price will vary, but none will exceed \$12. plus postage and handling. Most titles are single copies, and orders will be filled on a first come basis.

#### NEW BOOKS

Our inventory of unsold books is not as balanced as we would like it to be. Because of high inventory of the following books, members may select three of the following titles for \$10 plus postage and sales tax: *Studies* vols. 27 and 28; *Changing West and Other Essays* by Laurence M. Larson; *Long Pull from Stavanger* by Birger Osland; *Saga in Steel and Concrete* by Kenneth O. Bjork; *Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen* by Clarence Glasrud; *Theodore C. Blegen* by John T. Flanagan; *Land of the Free: Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson's America Letters, 1880-1881* translated by Eva and Einar Haugen; *Guide to Manuscripts Collections of the Norwegian-American Historical Association* compiled and edited by Lloyd Hustvedt. Additional books, over three, will be \$3 each. The above listing may be used as an order form by underlining the desired titles. We will bill you later.

## Editorial

The Treasurer's Report for 1981, prepared by Arthur Andersen III, has a special message. Income exceeded expenses in 1981, something rather unusual when the general economic picture across our nation is considered. On the other hand, expenses exceeded income from dues by \$13,000. The saving feature was income from interest on cash reserves and from permanent funds. Revenue here was in the area of what dues from 1,000 associate members would provide. In a word, if dues alone were to carry the day, they would have to be doubled.

The picture presented in the report invites the thought that there may be no need for significant increase in dues in the future, which always risks a decline in membership, provided there is an off-setting build-up of our permanent funds. When the Chair Fund has reached its goal and can be set aside, the Ole E. Rølvaag Permanent Fund will deserve our attention. Life membership dues have built this fund to \$55,000 and its income is used for general expenses. Contributions in the form of gifts to this fund in addition to what future life membership dues will provide has much to say in its favor.

Rather than increase dues, our operation could therefore move forward without financial stress, if members with the economic powers to do so would add an annual gift to their dues which would go into the Rølvaag Fund. This, to be sure, would amount to a voluntary increase in dues, save for one feature. When a commodity is received, dues, no matter how high, are not tax deductible, while all gifts over and above dues are. This plan is worth a try.

L. H.

## New Board Members

The Executive Committee, meeting on August 30, 1982, filled two vacancies on the Executive Board. Elected were Robert L. Lillestrand, Vice President and General Manager of the Informations Sciences Division of the Control Data Corporation in

Minneapolis, and Svein Gilje, a journalist who covers news related to business, finance, labor and employment for the *Seattle Times*.

Lillestrand, a physicist, has a hobby interest in arctic mapping and astronavigation. He has participated in two expeditions to the North Pole and has made several expeditions to Northern Greenland. A bottle with an appropriate note, which he left on the North Pole, was later found by a farmer on the Northeast coast of Iceland. This testifies to the fact that if you stand on the North Pole long enough, you will no longer be there.

Svein Gilje, born in Stavanger, Norway, came to the United States in 1954 to study journalism and public affairs at the University of Washington. After working for smaller papers and the Associated Press, he began writing for the *Seattle Times* in 1964. He has served as President of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of Nordmanns Forbundet, was regional and national Vice Chairman for the Sesquicentennial, is President of the Nordic Heritage Museum (Seattle) which opened in April, 1980. He holds a number of journalism awards and was decorated Knight, First Class, Order of St. Olaf, an award which recognized in particular his services to the Sesquicentennial celebration.

## Norma Knutson

We regret to inform that Norma E. Knutson died September 23, 1982. She was a member of the NAHA Executive Board, a member of the Board of Regents of Augsburg College, and Director of Urban and Ethnic Ministry of the American Lutheran Church. Her husband, Kent Knutson, was President of the ALC when he died in 1973. Norma was a daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Sigurd J. Arnesen. Colonel Arnesen published for many years *Nordisk Tidende* in Brooklyn.

Funeral services were held at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, September 26. Interment took place at Renwick, Iowa, September 28. She is survived by her mother and six children.

## News in Brief

- Received from Judith Ann Torvik "Eyvind J. Evans: Norwegian-American Lumberjack, Farmer and Writer," a typescript thesis fulfilling degree requirements at the Department of English at the University of Oslo. The work gives an account of Evans' life and an analysis of his literary contribution. Eyvind Evans lives at Kasson, Minnesota, and visits the Archives frequently.
- Received from Clarence Kilde *The White Cross in the Woods and Other Norwegian Immigrant Stories*. These stories by Waldemar Ager were translated by his daughter Hildur Ager Nicolai. Privately printed, 1982, 134 pages.
- Brynhild Rowberg, assisted by Kenneth O. Bjork, has translated Ole E. Rølvaag's *Omkring Fædrearven*.
- Received from Leola Nelson Bergman a diary (four volumes) kept by Louis Nyhammer (1894-1959), an inland waterways captain.
- Received from the author *De reiste ut*, a collection of seven articles, by Anders Buraas. The essays treat Agnes Mathilde Wergeland, Old Evinrude, Anders Furuseth, Knute Rockne, Harry Irgens Larsen, Hans Christian Heg and Ole Bull. Aschehoug, Oslo, 1982, 226 pages.
- Received from Clarice Olson Adelman her book entitled *From This Valley*. It is an honest, interesting and well-written statement about her life on a small Red River Valley farm during the depression years. Adventure Publications, P.O. Box 96, 118 North 5th Street, Staples, MN.
- More studies on Norwegian-American writers continue to come in from University of Oslo students: "Laura Ringdal Bratager: Norwegian-American Author," by Anne Marie Laegdene, 1981, 93 pages; "Generational Conflict in Immigrant Families in Five Norwegian-American Novels," by Ingeborg Bahr, 1981, 146 pages.
- Jon Austad, Superintendent of Schools on the Island of Dønna, Norway, (O. E. Rølvaag's birthplace) sent us *Dønna bygdehistorie* (two volumes), written by Axel Coldevin, an accomplished scholar and a native of Dønna.
- John K. Hanson and Barbara A. Bulman sent us *The Hanson Heritage*, a family history in two volumes (231 and 252 pages).
- For the past years we have been receiving transcripts of "America letters" collected by the Norsk Historik Kjeldskrift Institutt in Oslo. The most recent collection included sixty letters, thirty-two of which were written by immigrants in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Nebraska from 1860 to 1919. The remaining twenty-eight are from Christian Lokke who lived in Washington and Alaska (1900-1908), working as fisherman, lumberjack, sailor and fish cannery employee. At one point he informs his father: "You are not to believe everything they brag about in America."
- Professor John Christianson of Luther College and his wife, Birgitte, are editors and translators of a book series, originally published in Denmark, titled *The Dream of America*. This series of seven titles will be published by Creative Education Inc., Minneapolis.

---

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
St. Olaf College  
Northfield, Minnesota 55057

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. Postage  
P A I D  
Northfield, Minn.  
Permit No. 107