

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

Northfield, Minnesota

NEWS



LETTER

From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

Number 22

MARCH, 1963

Editor, L. HUSTVEDT

1962

Membership

Although 61 members were added in 1962, the net balance shows a decrease of 17, as cancellations totaled 78. Of these, 38 were dropped because of no response to statements, 26 by request; 14 members were reported deceased.

These figures make it evident that there must be sustained recruitment of new members. About 75 must be added each year merely as replacements for those who drop out. Not until this is done, can we think in terms of genuine membership growth.

Our warmest thanks to all who have provided new members, or who have sent to the secretary the names of potential members.

Books

A total of 276 orders for books were received in 1962; sales amounted to \$1,869.75, approximately \$425 less than in our record year of 1961. A total of 664 books were sold; of this number, 314—slightly less than half—were copies of *Studies and Records*. Volume 21 understandably led the *Studies* sale with 92 copies. *The Lady with the Pen* proved to be the strongest overall seller — 117 copies.

Archives

In November Miss Beulah Folkedahl began her third year of work organizing NAHA manuscripts. News of this activity in the Archives has stimulated additional contributions of materials, and as a result it will take at least another year to complete the project.

To date, 309 separate collections of papers have been processed. Of this number, 239 contain from 1 to 50 items; 30 contain 51 to 100; 10 have from 101 to 200; 13 from 201 to 1,000; and 17 between 1,001 and 10,000. The American Relief for Norway Collection is the largest, with 23,220 items; the Birger Osland Collection is second, with 19,342; and the Oscar Tingelstad Collection is third, with 15,357.

The processing includes the writing of a general description of each collection. These descriptions should be of much help to researchers, as they give details concerning the nature, content, and historical setting of the papers. Where a large number of letters are involved, the names of the principal correspondents are also included. When this task is finished, we hope to publish these descriptions.

Birger Osland 93 Years Old

Birger Osland, for many years treasurer and a forceful and generous spirit in the NAHA, celebrated his 93rd birthday March 1.

Lional G. Thorsness, Kenneth O. Bjork, and Lloyd Hustvedt visited Mr. Osland in his North Chicago home on February 22. They found him enthusiastic and spry. Though it is some years ago since he retired as treasurer, he has continued his deep interest in the Historical Association. Despite his 93 years — and quite typical of Mr. Osland — he preferred to talk about the future of the Association, rather than its past.

LIBRARIES WANT OUR BOOKS

A questionnaire was recently sent out to 700 prominent American libraries. The response to one of many queries is of primary concern to all of us. Fifty libraries stated that they were interested in having a complete set of our publications, but that their budgets did not permit buying them.

These libraries should have our books. Because each of our publications has already been heavily subsidized, the NAHA cannot make outright donations. Nor can it, for obvious reasons, sell books to one library and donate them to another.

The solution rests in finding donors, whether individuals or organizations. We might say that a "three birds with one stone" effect can be realized through such a donation. First, a valuable service is performed for the library. Second, the income can be directed toward future NAHA publications. Third, our books can be taken from our stock shelves—where they do no one any good—and be made available to the reading public.

It is our hope that among our 1,000 members there will be many who will know of or will seek ways and means of having our books placed in the libraries listed below. A complete set of our books is sold at a much reduced price of \$85.

The original list included 51 libraries. But Marthinius A. Strand of Salt Lake City—ever ready to step in where he is needed—bought a complete set for the Utah State Historical Society Library of his city. The remaining fifty libraries are:

- Arizona State College Library
Flagstaff, Arizona
- Burlingame Public Library
Burlingame, California
- Chico State College Library
Chico, California
- Claremont Graduate School Library
Claremont, California
- Los Angeles State College Library
Northridge, California
- University of San Diego Library
San Diego, California
- Westmont College Library
Santa Barbara, California
- Jacksonville University Library
Jacksonville, Florida
- Florida State University Library
Tallahassee, Florida
- Atlanta University Library
Atlanta, Georgia
- Morningside College Library
Sioux City, Iowa
- McPherson College Library
McPherson, Kansas
- University of Kentucky Library
Lexington, Kentucky
- University of Louisville Library
Louisville, Kentucky
- Northwestern State College Library
Natchitoches, Louisiana
- Howard-Tilton Memorial Library
New Orleans, Louisiana
- Bates College Library
Lewiston, Maine
- University of Maine Library
Orono, Maine
- University of Baltimore Library
Baltimore, Maryland
- Wheaton College Library
Norton, Massachusetts
- St. John's University Library
Collegeville, Minnesota
- St. Cloud State College
Library
St. Cloud, Minnesota
- University of Mississippi Library
University, Mississippi
- University of Kansas City Library
Kansas City, Missouri
- Montana State College Library
Bozeman, Montana
- State Historical Society Library
Lincoln, Nebraska
- Midland College Library
Fremont, Nebraska
- Upsala College
East Orange, New Jersey

University of New Mexico Library
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Syracuse University Library
Syracuse, New York

Dickenson State Teachers College
Library
Mayville, North Dakota

Muskingum College Library
New Concord, Ohio

Oberlin College Library
Oberlin, Ohio

Antioch College Library
Yellow Springs, Ohio

Oklahoma State Library
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

University of Tulsa Library
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Pacific University Library
Forest Grove, Oregon

Altoona Public Library
Altoona, Pennsylvania

John Stewart Memorial Library
Wilson College
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

Lackawanna Historical Society
Library
Scranton, Pennsylvania

King's College Library
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Eastern State Normal School Library
Madison, South Dakota

Dakota Wesleyan University Library
Mitchell, South Dakota

Fort Worth Public Library
Fort Worth, Texas

Washington State University Library
Pullman, Washington

Whitman College Library
Walla Walla, Washington

Eau Claire Public Library
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Public Library
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Wisconsin State College Library
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Wisconsin State College Library
Superior, Wisconsin

NATIONALLY KNOWN INDUSTRIALIST ON EXECUTIVE BOARD

Prominent Chicago businessman Gunnar E. Gunderson filled the last vacancy on the Executive Board. The board now has its full complement of eleven members, as required by the 1960 charter amendment.

Only a brief sketch of Mr. Gunderson's remarkable career can be given here. Born in 1893, in Oslo, Norway, he came to Chicago with his parents when he was eight years old. After attending Chicago public schools, he worked as an apprentice toolmaker for three years; he then served for three years as a gear cutter.

After a tour of duty in the United States Navy (1917-19) as a Chief Machinist Mate, he became a foreman at Foote Bros. Gear and Machine Company, Chicago, and, later, president of the firm. While he worked as a foreman, he also attended night school at the Lewis Institute, studying mechanical engineering. In 1924 he became vice president of Brad Foote Gear Works, advancing to president in 1950. In 1959 he was made chairman of the board of Brad Foote Gear Works, Inc., and its subsidiaries.

Under Mr. Gunderson's guidance, Brad Foote Gear products have made their way into every field where high precision gearing is needed. For example, it has supplied gears for the British Mark II heavy tank, for the bomb bay doors in the B 29, for atomic submarines, mine sweepers, landing crafts, battleships, and radar equipment.

Production has not, however, been restricted only to ordnance, but has entered into all phases of domestic and commercial life, from farm machinery to heavy steel presses. Brad Foote Gears also offers a complete line of marine equipment, such as hydraulic winches, cargo cranes, towing winches, anchor windlasses, and steering gears.

Many honors and responsible positions have been given Mr. Gunderson. He has

served as president of the American Gear Manufacturers Association, of the Cicero Manufacturers Association, of the Norwegian-American Hospital in Chicago, and of the Chicago Norske Klub. In 1959 he went to the Soviet Union as a representative of American industry. He is a member of the board of directors of the Cicero State Bank, and is chairman of the executive committee of the Chicago chapter of the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce. He was recently decorated by King Olav V of Norway with the Knight's Cross, First Class, of the Royal Order of St. Olav, for his contribution to Norwegian trade and culture. In 1960 he received the Immigrants Service League Award.

Mr. Gunderson lives with his wife, Alice, at 1335 Astor Street, Chicago. The NAHA is fortunate, indeed, in having Mr. Gunderson on its board.

TRIENNIAL MEETING SET FOR MAY 11

The triennial meeting of the NAHA will be held at the Norway Center, 1455 West Lake Street, Minneapolis, on May 11. The principal speaker will be Dr. Walter Muir Whitehill, director and librarian of the Boston Athenæum. Dr. Whitehill has recently published a book of 600 pages, entitled *Independent Historical Societies*. This book, which pro-

vides an historical survey of each of the many historical societies in America, includes a generous treatment of the NAHA.

The April *News Letter* will be devoted solely to the triennial meeting. More details about the program and our speaker will be given at that time.

Professor Bjork Honored

Our Editor, Professor Kenneth O. Bjork, was awarded the Knight's Cross, First Class, of the Royal Order of St. Olav on October 29. Acting Consul General Bernt Stangholm of Minneapolis presented the award on behalf of King Olav at a recognition dinner given at St. Olaf College in honor of Professor Bjork.

In his response, Professor Bjork claimed that his receiving of this award could only be understood in terms of the work he had done in the Historical Association. Because this is true, he said, the Association deserves a large share of the honor. He continued by reviewing the history of the Association and calling attention to its objectives and the significant contributions it has made and is still making to the field of American historical scholarship. We all congratulate Professor Bjork.

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