

THE NEWS LETTER

The Norwegian-American Historical Association

"News Letter" editor,
LLOYD HUSTVEDT

St. Olaf College
Northfield, Minnesota

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Andrew A. Rowberg's Valuable Hobby

In the NAHA archives is a little-known but much-used biographical file, a product of Andrew Rowberg's unique hobby of 50 years. Shortly after graduating from St. Olaf College in 1910, Rowberg became a member of the Mohn Printing Company, Northfield, Minnesota. There he helped edit the news section of the **United American**, a weekly newspaper devoted to the publication of news of particular interest to people of Norwegian extraction. He soon felt the need for an extensive reference file, and as a result the "Norwegian-American Biographical and Genealogical File" came into being.

O. E. Rølvaag requested that Rowberg turn his file over to the NAHA, even after doing so, Rowberg—with much help from his wife—has continued to devote an average of four hours per week to this file. Growing steadily down through the years, it now consists of over 100,000 newspaper clippings (biographical in content) mounted on 3 x 5 cards, identified as to source, and arranged in alphabetical order. Clippings too large to be mounted on cards have been pasted in scrap books which now total 52 volumes, with an index card for each entry. While the Norwegian-American press has been Rowberg's chief source, he has also combed through many English-language newspapers and magazines.

The Rowberg file, always popular with persons visiting the Archives, is especially valuable to anyone seeking information about his family. "In working on my project," said Rowberg, "it has been with the hope that some people will be-

come interested in their own particular background and thereby perhaps be stirred to read and explore the part which their own group has contributed to the growth of the American continent." Mr. Rowberg now lives in Lincoln, Virginia.

We all join to thank Mr. and Mrs. Rowberg for providing us with a durable and well-organized file, a file which increases in value with each year.

Harry J. Williams

Harry J. Williams, 205 Oxford Road, Kenilworth, Illinois, a sustaining member of NAHA since 1939, recently accepted President Thorsness' invitation to become a member of the executive board.

Born and raised on a farm near Litchfield, Minnesota, Mr. Williams is one of eight children born to Norwegian-American parents who came from Gjøvik, Norway. Since World War I he was associated with Wilson & Co., Inc., meat packers in Chicago. After retirement he has served as President of the Chicago chapter of the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Williams' membership card in our office attests to a history of dedication. He has made frequent financial contributions, maintains memberships for persons other than himself, and through him 10 new members have been added to the NAHA in the past few weeks. That Mr. Williams, with his talents and enthusiasm, has been added to our staff is fortunate indeed.

19 More New Members

1 Life

Norrna Lodge No. 50, Van Nuys, California, is the 7th Sons of Norway Lodge to enroll as a Life Member. Karen E. Hogen, historian and news letter editor for Norrna lodge, has carried through a remarkable program of orienting the lodge members on the accomplishments and objectives of the NAHA.

5 Sustaining

Norwegian Club, Inc., 117 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn 1, New York.

John H. Hanson, attorney, 1808 Marguerite, Park Ridge, Illinois.

Donald Erickson, partner in Charge of Chicago Office, Arthur Andersen & Co., 120 S. LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Sons of Norway, Faerder Lodge No. 109, Brooklyn, New York.

Sons of Norway, Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson Lodge No. 97, Chicago, Illinois.

13 Associate

Leonard G. Johnson, fabric buyer, 405 S. Wille Street, Mt. Prospect, Illinois.

Arnold Hanson, carpenter, 723 N. Delphia Ave., Park Ridge, Illinois.

Erik O. Boye, Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce, 360 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Morton Hansen, Holmenkollveien 50, Holmen, Oslo, Norway.

Elmer S. Hjortland, pastor, 409 Greenfield, Oak Park, Ill.

Leroy Olsen, president, Scan-Am. Company, McHenry, Ill.

C. Sverre Norborg, pastor, 3130 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, Ill.

Peder A. Pedersen, fire insurance inspector, 628 N. Broadway, Park Ridge, Ill.

Mrs. Paul W. Niemann, housewife, 75 N. Edgewood Ave., La Grange, Ill.

M. E. Silseth, pastor, 10533 W. Rohr Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.

Tom Kilian, 2700 Jefferson, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Harold Beck, Box 92, Normanna, Tex.

Robert L. Sherman, attorney, 5406 Harper Ave., Chicago, Ill.

News In Brief

● The Sons of Norway Supreme Lodge in Minneapolis recently bought a complete set of our publications for its library.

● The Norwegian Club, Inc., 117 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn 1, New York, also bought a complete set of our books for its library.

● Mrs. Leif S. Haslund, Seattle, Washington, turned over to the Archives the papers of architect S. E. Sonnichsen and of his brother, artist Yngvar Sonnichsen.

● Martin Cornelius of Gary, Indiana, honored our request for a copy of R. B. Anderson's **First Chapter of Norwegian Immigration**. Because the editorial board wishes several complete sets of standard reference books for its own use, we are also interested in receiving copies of the studies of Norwegian migration by Martin Ulvestad, Hjalmar R. Holand, Knut Takla, O. M. Norlie, and George T. Flom.

● Helen and Harry Williams, Kenilworth, Illinois, sent a memorial gift of \$25.00 to the NAHA in memory of J. A. O. Preus, former governor of Minnesota. "We have all lost a good friend, a great American . . . in the passing of Governor Preus," wrote Mr. Williams.

DR. HALVORSON DONATES BOOKS

An appeal for a complete set of our publications to be presented to the newly established Stanislaus College in California was made in our last **News Letter**. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Homer Halvorson, who was librarian at Johns Hopkins University and who now lives at Vista, California, has answered this appeal. Thank you, Dr. Halvorson.

Treasurer's Annual Report for the Year 1960

In the year 1960 the Norwegian-American Historical Association gathered strength in both its financial position and its membership effort, in preparation for the accelerated publication program which the board of editors has undertaken.

Net worth in financial assets of the Association increased over 10% to \$31,258.95 including investments in \$26,000 U. S. Government securities, and a first mortgage high grade utility bond due in 1965.

The general campaign for addition to our membership has been conducted through the secretary's office, along with the regular business of

that office. Individual members of the executive board have also carried forward a successful membership effort on the basis of personal contacts and correspondence. The list of new Life members is one evidence of this.

These combined efforts are gaining momentum in 1961, and will be sustained by the program for publishing additional worthwhile books at the rate of two volumes a year, and by the individual efforts of the entire membership to bring these new books to the attention of their friends.

ANDREW E. WIGELAND
Treasurer

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the Year Ended December 31, 1960

OPENING CASH BALANCE—January 1, 1960	\$ 6,606.99
RECEIPTS	
Life Membership Fees	\$ 940.00
Dues, Associate and Sustaining Members	3,771.44
Dues, Patron Members	50.00
Book Sales	976.30
Gifts and Bequests for Current Use	221.00
Interest on Investments	684.02
Miscellaneous Income	10.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	6,652.76
TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE	\$13,259.75
DISBURSEMENTS	
Publication Expenses	
Editorial, Typing, etc.	\$ 344.25
News Letter Expenses	312.75
Secretary's Office Expenses	
Archives (on deposit in Oslo bank for duplicating documents)	500.00
Publications	17.90
General	1,899.65
General Expenses	369.50
Advertising	56.75
Purchase \$5,000 U. S. Treasury C of I's 3½% due 8-1-1961	5,000.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	8,500.80
CLOSING CASH BALANCE—December 31, 1960	\$ 4,758.95
	\$13,259.75

Comparative Figures Income and Expenses

	1960	1959	1958
Revenue Receipts (excluding Life Membership Fees and Special Gifts credited to the Ole Edvard Rølvaag Fund)	\$ 5,712.76	\$ 6,731.48	\$ 6,678.94
Publication Expense	657.00	3,957.94	9,361.80
Total Disbursements	3,500.80	5,664.19	12,190.36

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS:

	Dec. 31, '60	Dec. 31, '59	Dec. 31, '58
Cash	\$ 4,758.95	\$ 6,606.99	\$ 4,829.70
Investments	26,000.00	21,000.00	21,000.00
Secretary, Cash Account in Bank in Northfield .	500.00	500.00	500.00
	\$31,258.95	\$28,106.99	\$26,329.70

NET WORTH:

The Ole Edvard Rølvaag Memorial Fund.....	\$13,247.37	\$12,307.37	\$11,562.37
Current Funds	17,511.58	15,299.62	14,267.33
Current Funds, State Bank of Northfield	500.00	500.00	500.00
	\$31,258.95	\$28,106.99	\$26,329.70

<p>New Life Membership, 1960 added to Rølvaag Memorial Fund</p> <p>Sons of Norway, Oslo Lodge No. 2. \$100.00</p> <p>Conrad M. Carlsrud 100.00</p> <p>C. A. Clausen 100.00</p> <p>Francis H. Ellingson 100.00</p> <p>Leonora Hallan 100.00</p> <p>John T. Jacobson 100.00</p> <p>Everett Lee (Partial) 25.00</p> <p>David T. Nelson 100.00</p> <p>Sons of Norway, Heimsyn No. 15.. 100.00</p> <p>Monrad Reithaug 100.00</p>	<p>Olaf Simonson Memorial (Partial) 15.00</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p>1960 Gifts and Bequests for Current Use</p> <p>Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Gould toward expenses of publishing the letters of—</p> <p>Elise Wærenskjold \$100.00</p> <p>Rollo Gullickson 10.00</p> <p>J. Jørgen Thompson 5.00</p> <p>Kenneth R. Torvik 6.00</p> <p>Andrew E. Wigeland 100.00</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">\$221.00</p>
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