

## Activity Highlights From President Lars Sundman

It is a real pleasure for me to report on two fine conventions that were held during the month of June this year. The Central Division festival took place in St. Paul, Minnesota, June 18-21, and was hosted by the St. Paul Swedish Male Chorus together with a hard working committee with Paul Haglund as chairman. The Radisson Hotel, with its excellent facilities, served as convention headquarters.

The Grand Concert was held at the St. Paul Civic Center Auditorium with more than 300 singers participating. The chorus, under the able direction of Dr. Bernhardt Westlund, Don Torgerson, Ed Ekloff, and Dr. Robert Ekstrom, performed brilliantly and filled the huge Auditorium with beautiful music. The soloists, Lola Watson and Ed Ekloff, performed admirably and a string ensemble from the Sibley High School pro-

vided a delightful musical contrast to the choral groups.

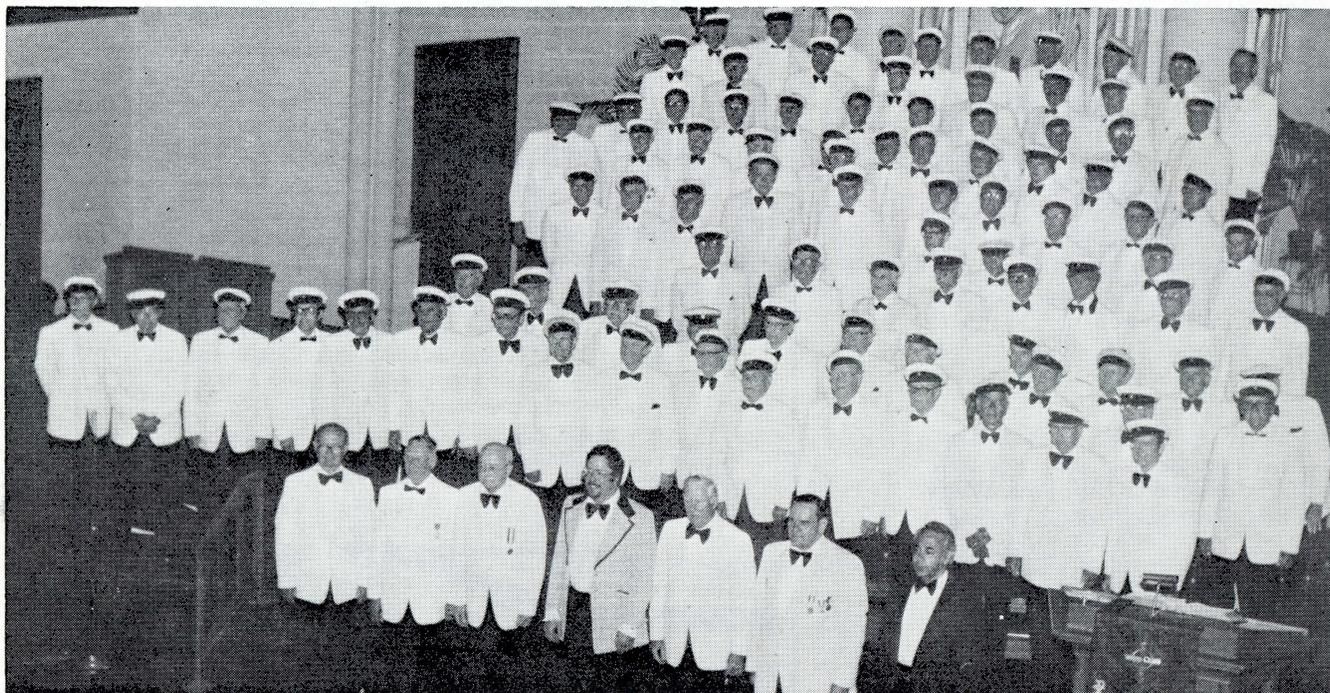
At the delegates meeting, Bill Gunnarsson, President of the Central Division, turned over the chairmanship to Pehr Bolling after many years of hard work and total dedication to the AUSS. Expression of thanks and appreciation was afforded this fine gentleman for his efforts and service. We tip our singers caps to you, Bill!

A sincere welcome was extended to the newly elected executive board and to President Pehr Bolling as they take over the reins of the division. A fine example of comradeship and brotherly love was recently displayed by the Swedish Glee Club of Waukegan who had presented a check for \$1,000 to the Svea Söner chorus of Rockford, Ill., to help them rebuild after the tragic loss of their clubhouse to a disastrous fire. We salute the

Waukegan chorus in admiration for their generosity and good will.

The banquet was held in the giant ballroom of the Radisson Hotel. There were over 600 persons present including a visiting chorus of 118 singers from the Smålands Sångarförbund, here from Sweden on a tour. This chorus performed several selections during the banquet which resulted in a standing ovation by the audience. The President of the Smålands Sångarförbund, Bertil Oscarsson, addressed the banquet with the aid of an interpreter. He thanked the AUSS for the warm welcome and friendship extended to his organization, and at the conclusion of his message presented a gift of \$800 to Musiktidning from the Smålands Sångarförbund, and also made several presentations in form of gifts to the various officers and singers. As a

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100 EASTERN DIVISION SINGERS gather in the chancel of Jamestown's First Lutheran Church for the Grand Concert. In the front row (left to right) Directors Carl Richmond, Seth Hokanson, Walton Huestis and Keith Shawgo are lined up with Eastern Division President Gunnard Peterson, AUSS President Lars Sundman and Frank Pullano, baritone soloist.

**Sveas Söner Singing Society**

Rockford, Illinois

With or without a club building to call our own since the fire, it seems like our singing engagements never end. Our chorus sang a full dress concert for Rockford's "Summer Evenings in the Park" on June 15.

Our 90th spring concert on May 10 was sung to a full house and rewarded us with success financially. The afterglow party was held at Rockford's Svithiod Club and a great time was had by all.

Our chorus' trip to the Swedish Glee Club in Waukegan on May 18 had a wonderful surprise ending. Following the usual sumptuous brunch and our informal concert, we were overwhelmed when Richard Vojtko, club president, presented our chorus with a very generous check. Sveas Söner gratefully thank our brother singers in Waukegan for their concern for our future.

Svea Söner's chorus social season ended with a splash — in the Kishwaukee river. At least 125 members, friends and kids gathered for a potluck supper and pig roast, courtesy of our hosts, the Westberg families at the end of June. Several prospective chorus members were guests for the day.

The annual meeting, held on June 10, resulted in the following officers being elected: Eugene Quinn, president; Guy Sendele, 1st vice pres.; Craig Weberg, 2nd vice pres.; Frank Chalke, treas.; Earl Whitehead, rec. sec'y; Jim Lightcap, corr. sec'y; Ron Heinen, concert manager; Scott Monroe, librarian.

Chorus news. Our singers presented a "super" concert at the Sinnissippi Park bandshell on June 15 to a very responsive crowd. Wednesday morning 42 singers and wives left Rockford for St. Paul, Minn., and the Central Division convention. We returned Sunday after having a great time at the convention. A special invitation was given to us while there by the Waukegan Glee Club to join them on Nov. 15 to help celebrate their 75th anniversary.

Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 11, at the Lyran Club. Ken Flodin will be our director until Prof. Westlund returns from his England "junket."

J. Lightcap.

**• Volvo**

continues to report success for its bus and public transport systems. The company recently sold 200 bus chassis to the Singapore Bus Service and 68 chassis for trolley buses to the Wellington City Corp. in New Zealand.

**Spies Gets "Roasted" For 50th Birthday**

Wayne Spies, AUSS Assistant Director-in-Chief, got both a surprise treat and "the treatment," when 120 singers and wives gathered August 2 at Swedish American Recreation Club in Chicago to celebrate his fiftieth birthday. The group included singers from all three of the Scandinavian choruses that Wayne directs — Chicago Swedish Glee Club, Chicago Swedish Male Chorus, and Bjornson (Norwegian) Male Chorus.

It was a real surprise because Wayne had just returned from Norway, where he had already celebrated on the actual date, July 1. Wayne and his wife, Mette (Askheim), had been vacationing in Mette's native land.

The menu for the evening featured prime rib of roast beef and toastmaster Gene Pellegrini (Glee Club) cleverly turned the program into a "roast" of

Wayne. Among the "roasters" were Pehr Bolling, new Central Division president, Harry Gullborg, Gunnar Seaberg, Fred Bolling and Jack Halvorson, representing the two Swedish choruses, and Glenn Heggem from Bjornson.

Of course, the evening featured plenty of music, starting with Wayne accompanying tenor George Rubin (Glee Club) on two delightful solos. Then, there was the singing of a combined chorus under Wayne's direction, followed by dancing to the accordion of Tom Bolling (Swedish Male Chorus).

Wayne's gift from the group didn't arrive in time, but Pellegrini was able to present Wayne with the key to his new attache case.

D. O.

**• Sweden and the Soviet Union**

will soon begin a joint research and export program of cooperation to study mining and applications of oil shale.

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**ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS . . .**

(Continued from page 1)

token of remembrance, Bill Gunnarsson presented an AUSS convention badge to each singer of the visiting chorus. In summing up the Central Division Festival, a delightful time was had by all who attended. The hospitality and welcome extended to all who attended was great and to the host chorus and the hard working committee we extend our thanks and appreciation for a job well done.

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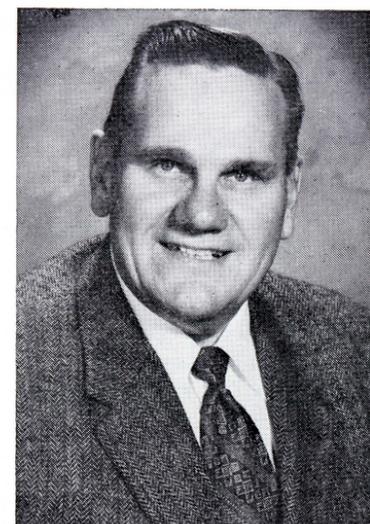
Upon returning to Connecticut, and after a brief two day recuperation, we again hit the convention trail. This time to the Eastern Division Convention in Jamestown, New York, which took place on June 25-28. We assembled at the newly constructed Holiday Inn which served as the convention headquarters. The convention was hosted by the Viking Male Chorus of Jamestown with the festival committee headed by its dynamic chairman, Larry Ross. A well planned festival with many activities clearly indicated the hard work and planning that made this convention the great success that it was. The facilities of the Viking Clubhouse greatly enhanced the festival activities and was the focal point of the Convention.

The Grand Concert, directed by Keith Shawgo, Walton Huestis, Carl Richmond, and Seth Hokanson, was truly an unforgettable concert. Approximately 110 singers filled the cathedral-like sanctuary of the First Lutheran Church with awe-inspiring music augmented by the giant four manual organ superbly played by the organist Mr. Brian Bogey.

The guest soloist, Frank Pullano, baritone, presented an impressive program of songs between the choral groups rounding out a concert which, at its conclusion, was given a standing ovation by its audience. The church was filled to near capacity with close to 1500 in attendance.

The banquet, held in the ballroom of the Holiday Inn, was a delightful event with almost 200 singers and ladies present. Your AUSS President had the privilege of bestowing the coveted Erland Levine award in form of a plaque to Esther Huestis for her many years of dedicated service in the interest of the Viking Male Chorus and the Eastern Division. We doff our singers caps to a very fine lady who richly deserves this award. AUSS Certificates of Merit were presented to 11 singers of the division in recognition for their service in their respective choruses.

A sincere welcome was also extended to the newly elected President, Carl-Erik



LARS SUNDMAN  
President AUSS

Westberg and his executive board with well-wishes.

Summing up the Eastern Division Convention, sincere thanks and appreciation is extended to the hosts, the Viking Male Chorus, the Convention Committee and all who made this festival a reality. Here too, the congenial hospitality afforded was appreciated by all who attended.

Our AUSS Vice-President, Dan Olch, attended both conventions and will be reporting with more detail on these festivals in his article to Musiktidning. Dan has been of invaluable assistance to me in more than one instance and has helped to reduce my work load, which I indeed appreciate.

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Another significant event which took place recently in the Eastern Division was a reception held for His Majesty, King Carl Gustaf XVI of Sweden, at the Scandinavian Home for the Aged in Cranston, R.I., on Sunday, August 17, 1980. The King and his lovely Queen had been attending the international cup races in Newport at the time.

Approximately 800 people turned out for this historic event in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Home. An honor guard of 40 singers in their white singers' caps from the various choruses of the Eastern Division lined up for the King's arrival. After a short reception for the dignitaries, an outdoor program of speeches, presentations of gifts to the King, and songs by the combined chorus preceded a message in both English and Swedish by His Majesty. At the conclusion of the program, the Singers and their families gathered at the nearby Valles Steak House for lunch. The restaurant resounded with songs during the

entire afternoon which brought to a conclusion a most memorable day.

\* \* \*

Our fall season is about to begin and soon our choruses will be back to full activities again. Our Director-in-Chief, Hulbert Keddington, has prepared the 1982 grand concert program and all choruses will soon be receiving a copy either by mail and/or through Musiktidning.

We suggest and urge all choruses to use the songs of the Grand Concert for your respective concerts and appearances whenever possible. In conclusion, let us all with renewed effort go out and get new singers for our choruses, we need them. To all our brother and sister singers, keep well, keep happy, and above all, keep singing!

**Chicagoland Veterans Chorus**

Där den svenska sången klingar högt och rent.

Taking part in the Central Division Convention and singing in the individual chorus concert, under the direction of Martin Ahlm, the Veterans presented two songs. "I natten," with Hubert Ramberg in the bass solo, and Hans Bolling as the baritone soloist. In the second song "Dansen på Svinnska Skär," something new had been added, Tom Bolling and his accordion, in a steady, time-measured beat accompanying the chorus. Both songs well performed and well received by the audience.

A reminder of our mortality has saddened the ranks of the Veterans with the passing of our second tenor Eric Ernuist, long standing member of the Orphei Singing Club and the Veterans chorus. At the memorial service singers from the Chicagoland choruses met up, and under the direction of Gunnar Seaberg bid Eric a last farewell in songs that he always loved.

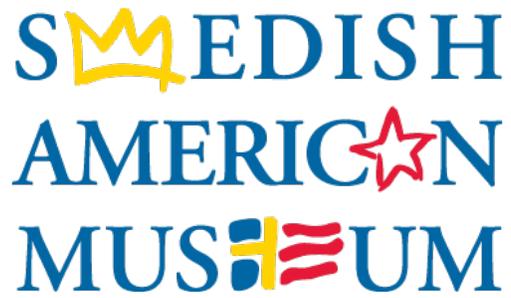
The Veterans extend their sympathy to his wife Hazel and the family. May he rest in peace.

Med Veteransångarhälsning.

Einar B. Olson.

Two men left a banquet together after they had dined too well. "When you get home," advised one, "if you don't want to disturb your family, undress at the foot of the stairs, fold your clothes neatly and creep up the stairs and into bed. It's the undressing in your room that awakens the wife."

Next day they met at lunch. "How did you get along?" asked the one. "Rotten," said the other. "I took off all my clothes at the foot of the stairs as you told me and folded them neatly. I didn't make a sound. But when I got to the top of the stairs, I found it was the L-station."



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