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Musiktidning

Official Journal of the American Union of Swedish Singers

SODERBLOM GUS
8049 N LAWNDALE AVE
SKOKIE ILL 60076
12-80

(USPS 368-840)

Vol. LXXV

CHICAGO, IL, JANUARY, 1981

No. 1

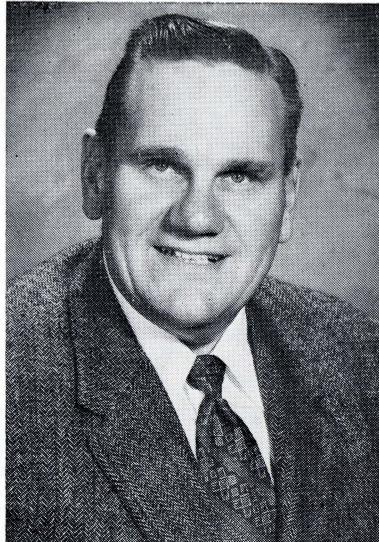
A New Year's Message From Your President

Another year has passed and with it a lot of pleasant memories of happy events and happenings. We all realize a little more the many things which we should be thankful for. This past year was a busy one for both the Eastern and Central Divisions. June 19th through the 21st, the Central division held its convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, hosted by the St. Paul Swedish Male Chorus. June 25th through the 28th, the Eastern Division convened in Jamestown, New York, for its convention hosted by the Viking Male Chorus.

Both these conventions were highly successful from all standpoints. The singing was exceptional at both concerts under the direction of excellent directors. On August 17th, the Eastern Division performed for His Majesty, King Carl Gustaf XVI of Sweden for his reception at the Scandinavian Home for the Aged in Cranston, Rhode Island. Here too, the performance was excellent and a real credit to the AUSS.

Each chorus, no doubt, has had their highlight in 1980, whether it was with a concert or an anniversary celebration. I am sure it all ended with a lot of fun and good fellowship for all. 1980 also marked the 75th anniversary for the Apollo Singing Society of New Haven, Connecticut, and for the Swedish Glee Club of Waukegan, Illinois. We congratulate these fine choruses and wish them continuing success and best wishes for the future.

1981 will no doubt present many new challenges for all of us, to our choruses and to the AUSS itself. We are constantly faced with the grim reality of ever diminishing ranks within our organization and we must make every conceivable effort to stem this decline through renewed efforts in building up our choruses with new singers. It should be each singer's personal duty and responsibility to exploit all possible avenues in acquiring new members and singers. As you all well know, almost the majority of singers in our choruses are third and fourth generation Scandinavians.



LARS SUNDMAN
President AUSS

That in itself presents no problems, as these singers are just as eager to learn our Swedish songs as our first generation was. As a suggestion to our choruses who find themselves losing membership, there is absolutely no harm in accepting non-Scandinavians who like to sing. Almost all of our choruses in the Union have had much success when accepting singers from other nationalities. In this approach, a chorus might survive and continue on as a Swedish chorus with the much needed help of good singers from other ethnic backgrounds.

At the Central Division convention last year, the Ladies Chorus of Detroit, Michigan, was accepted into the division as a member chorus. Earlier, the Ladies Chorus of Portland, Oregon, was also voted into the Western Division. This is most encouraging to all of us as these choruses can greatly benefit our AUSS in perpetuating our Swedish and Scandinavian song and culture. These choruses will be voted upon for acceptance as members of the AUSS at the National Convention in Seattle in 1982.

Plans for the 1982 convention are progressing nicely thanks to the energetic

singers of the Svea Male Chorus. This festival promises to be a real good one. Bert Sellin, President of the Western Division as well as Chairman for the Convention Committee has organized an efficient and hard working committee, and together with the Svea Male Chorus and the Ladies Chorus, we can be assured of a humdinger of a convention!!

We urge all brother singers of the AUSS to pitch in and help make this convention musically successful by learning the songs for the Grand Concert program and utilizing these selections whenever possible at your respective chorus concerts. 1982 seems far away, but it's closer than we realize. So, let's all prepare for this festival by thoroughly learning the songs.

In listening to the Grand Concerts in both the St. Paul and Jamestown conventions, I, as well as our directors, unanimously agree that these concerts were truly outstanding. It seems as the trend is towards constant improvement in the quality of the performances at each convention. Although our ranks have become smaller, the improvement in tonality, diction and interpretation is indicative of increased interest and effort on the part of the singers as well as the directors who continually strive for superlative performances. This spirit and interest has increased through the years and is truly gratifying.

Another important matter which comes to mind is the need for our continuing and wholehearted support of Musiktidning. Along this line, I want to again stress the utmost importance in fulfilling our obligations in support of this publication which without doubt is the lifeblood of the AUSS. In these inflationary times, it's becoming increasingly difficult to maintain our publication. We urge all brother singers to remit your subscriptions as expeditiously as possible. Our beloved Editor, Gunnar Bloom, continually pours his heart and soul into Musiktidning. Business Manager, Martin Ahlm has to cope with increasingly difficult financial problems in keeping

Financial Report — Central Division AUSS Convention

ST. PAUL, MN — JUNE 18-21, 1980

RECEIPTS		Men's luncheon	1,312.80
Loan to convention committee	\$ 1,000.00	Omni theatre	224.75
Ads in program books	5,310.00	St. Paul Civic Center Rental and concert expenses	1,550.09
Registration fee and banquet tickets	21,942.00	Refunds	560.00
Program books sold	210.00	Flowers and table decorations	548.16
Concert tickets	903.00		
Omni theatre tickets	278.00		
Total income	\$29,643.00	Total disbursements	\$25,324.68
		Leaving net of	4,318.32
DISBURSEMENTS		NET DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS	
Repayment of loan plus interest	\$ 1,120.00	Central Division AUSS	\$ 863.66
Printing of program books	4,577.20	Musiktidning	431.83
Postage, telephone, publicity and stationery	264.47		
Transportation	955.00	Total	\$ 1,295.49
Soloist and music	497.00	St. Paul Swedish Male Chorus balance	\$ 3,022.83
Radisson Hotel	11,115.21	Respectfully,	
Boat ride — Mississippi	1,400.00	Myron L. Rogers, Treasurer	
Ladies' luncheon	1,200.00	Paul F. Haglund, AUSS Member	

• **G. Hilmer Lundbeck 80**

One of the most dependable and enthusiastic pillars of the Swedish-American circles in the New York area, as well as in other parts of the country, G. Hilmer Lundbeck, celebrated his eightieth birthday on December 10th.

A mother came home from the hospital with her new baby daughter. The infant was still wearing her hospital identification tag.

Her two-year-old daughter spotted it immediately and asked, "Mommy, when are you going to take her price tag off?"

UNMARRIED COHABITATION IN SWEDEN

By DR. JAN TROST
Professor of Sociology,
University of Uppsala, Sweden.

Background

During the 1960s there was mounting discussion of the nuclear family in Sweden which carried over into debate about marriage. Some felt that marriage as a religious institution was detrimental to the individual as well as to society. Others asserted that it was marriage as a legal institution that fomented problems.

It became increasingly clear that growing numbers of couples in Sweden (and in Denmark) were living together without being married, especially during the later part of the 60s. In the early 70s, this practice was also seen on the rise in such countries as the United States, the Netherlands, Belgium and France. It seems as if initially many of these couples demonstrated against the religious and/or legal marriage. At the same time, almost all over the Western world, communes of different types started. Most of these have not endured. However, cohabitation without marriage has.

Defining cohabitation

There is considerable confusion about what the concept "cohabitation" could or should mean. The term itself is vague; different expressions are often used as synonyms: living together, quasi-marriage, shacking up, semi-marriage and consensus marriage, to mention a few.

A description often used in U.S. is "two persons of opposite sex living together without being married." Another definition is "sharing bedroom during at least four nights a week for at least three consecutive months with someone of the opposite sex." These two examples build upon the cultural background in the U.S. where cohabitation is regarded as mainly occurring among college students.

For a Swede it might seem unnecessary and even superfluous to define what is meant by cohabitation without marriage; in common language the term already has a significance. But sometimes it might be necessary even in Sweden to pinpoint what you mean by the expression. In some cases it can be hard to decide when a couple cohabits under marriage-like conditions and when not. The one partner might define the relationship in one way and the other in another. Social scientists and other observers use their own criteria.

In application as well as in research we use what is sometimes called a "phenomenological" definition, meaning that we leave it to the individuals or couples

themselves to indicate whether they are cohabiting or not. This requires a general consensus about the sense of the word. There is no doubt that such a consensus exists in Sweden today. In our studies we have asked the respondents what they mean by "cohabitation without marriage" and they have had no problem at all, whether they were cohabiting or not, to understand or to answer the question. The answers were very similar, describing cohabitation as "living together steadily under marriage-like conditions but without being married."

Marriage rate and cohabitation rate

Historical records show that cohabitation without marriage was usual in some parts of Sweden in earlier centuries.

During the 1940s, 1950s and the first part of the 1960s the marriage rate in Sweden was fairly constant. From 1966 to 1973 however it decreased by an extraordinary 40-50 percent. Since 1973 the rate has been fairly constant for all age-groups indicating a decrease in first as well as in remarriages.

The changes in cohabitation and marriage rates in Sweden have been dramatic with the same tendencies observed in Denmark. They also seem to be under way in Finland and Norway, delayed five to ten years. In France, the Netherlands, the U.S., and some other countries the increase has not reached the same proportions as in Sweden.

To cohabit or to be married — similarities and differences

When we asked newly married and unmarried cohabitants about the economic and legal advantages and disadvantages of cohabitation without marriage compared to being married, the majority answered that they had not noticed any advantages nor disadvantages with either form of living together. A small minority could see some advantages with cohabitation and another small minority with marriage. Studies from Sweden as well as the U.S. and France show the same trend: most people see no difference at all between married and unmarried cohabitation.

Furthermore, studies have shown that in their social and physical commitment to each other and in their relations to friends and relatives, etc., there is no difference between married couples and those cohabiting without being married.

Do cohabitants dissolve their relationship more often than marrieds?

Swedish experience shows that the dissolution rate among cohabitants is about double the dissolution rate among marrieds.

The comparison is however misleading, since the married couples, with very few exceptions have cohabited before they married and have had a possibility to separate during this period. A substantial number of those cohabitants, who have

(Continued on page 6)

Sveas Söner Chorus

Rockford, Illinois

Our chorus is still going strong, under adverse conditions. Our own piano, our music files, and our rehearsals are not the best. We have had and will have many singing engagements. Our chorus sang a paid concert Dec. 11, we also sang a paid concert on Dec. 20 for the multitudes of shoppers at Cherry Vale Mall.

We sang at three retirement nursing homes in the morning of Dec. 25, followed by traditional glögg at Lyran Club. Our "biggy" will be our performance at the dedication of Rockford Metro Center Stadium, Jan. 25, 1981.

We can't say enough thanks to our assistant director, Ken Flodin, who has filled in so many times. He filled the shoes of Dr. Westlund on Dec. 20, when illness hit him.

On Dec. 18 our chorus and wives held a "super" Christmas dinner party at Tullock Woods Lodge. It was great for the morale.

Of interest also, is that our club president Eugene Quinn is a favorite candidate for Mayor of Rockford, but must first win the Republican primary on Feb. 24. He is presently Winnebago County Recorder, when he is not helping our singing society find a new club home. We wish him the best of luck.

This year Sveas Söner celebrated new year's eve at Rockford's Svithiod Club. We appreciate their special invitation.

Happy New Year!

Jim Lightcap.

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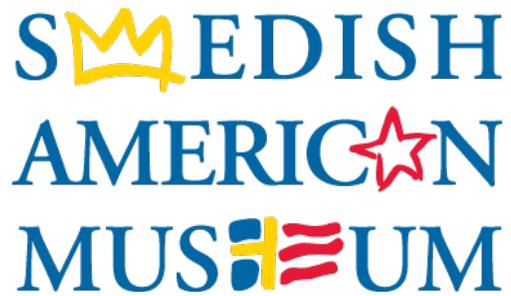
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A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

APOLLO SINGING SOCIETY, New Haven, Conn.
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NORTH STAR SINGERS, Bridgeport, Conn.
NORDIC GLEE CLUB of New York
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VERDANDI MALE CHORUS, Rhode Island
VIKING MALE CHORUS, Jamestown, N. Y.
WENNERBERG MALE CHORUS, New Britain, Conn.

THE EASTERN DIVISION CLUBS



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