

(THE MALE CHORUS IS LINED UP BEHIND THE TRANSPARENT CURTAIN, WITH NINE MEN STANDING CLOSE TO SYMBOLIZE OUR HUMBLE BEGINNING. HOUSE LIGHTS ARE LOWERED. STAGE DARK EXCEPT FOR A SMALL LIGHT TO ONE SIDE FOR PROFESSOR HANSEN. BACK-LIGHTING COMMENCES AS THE CHORUS STARTS TO SING.)

CHORUS: (NATUREN OCH HJARTAT (NATURE AND THE HEART)

(BACKLIGHTING TO REACH MAXIMUM INTENSITY AT MIDDLE OF SONG. DECREASE LIGHT TO COMPLETE BLACKNESS AS SONG ENDS -- CURTAIN -- FIX RISERS.)

NARRATOR: "WHEN I HEAR THE WILD WATERFALL POUR ITS MASSIVE SOUNDS, OR THE MURMUR OF WIND IN THE FOREST, THEN I THINK: IN THE HEART DWELL SOUNDS OF POWER AND TRUST. TO THEM I WISH TO LISTEN -- FAITHFULLY." SO SANG THE NINE MEN WHO ORGANIZED SVITHIOD SINGING CLUB EIGHTY YEARS AGO. PERHAPS OBLIVIOUS OF MAKING MUSIC, THEY WERE SEEKING COMPANIONSHIP; THEY WERE TRYING TO ASSOCIATE WITH ANY-ONE WHO COULD SPEAK OF, SING ABOUT AND -- EVEN MORE -- UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS EMBODIED IN THE MEMORIES OF THOSE WATERFALLS AND MURMURING FORESTS. "O'ER THE BAY'S GREEN BEDECKED SHORES SHINES THE AFTERNOON SUN'S REDDISH GOLD....." THOSE WERE THE OPENING LINES OF THE SECOND SONG EVER SUNG BY SVITHIOD SINGING CLUB.

(FOOTLIGHTS ON. CURTAIN OPENS SLOWLY TO REVEAL THE CHORUS AND PROFESSOR HANSEN IN THE USUAL LINEUP.)

CHORUS: AFTONRODNAN (SUNSET)

NARRATOR: IT WAS BARELY SEVENTEEN YEARS SINCE THE END OF THE TRAGIC CIVIL WAR. THE PAIN AND REGRETS AT LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION HAD BEGUN TO FADE LIKE THE MEMORIES OF SORROW AND LOSS. CHESTER ARTHUR WAS AMERICA'S PRESIDENT

NARRATOR:
(CONT'D)

AND CARTER HARRISON, SR., WAS MAYOR OF CHICAGO. THERE WERE THIRTY-EIGHT STATES IN THE UNION. HORSE-DRAWN STREETCARS WERE BEING REPLACED BY CABLE CARS. PERSHING ROAD WAS THE SOUTHERN CITY LIMIT, WITH CRAWFORD AVENUE ON THE WEST AND BELMONT AVENUE ON THE NORTH. MILK COST ONLY $2\frac{1}{2}$ CENTS A QUART, AND BUTTER WAS JUST 18 CENTS A POUND. EIGHTEEN DOLLARS BOUGHT A STEAMSHIP TICKET TO SWEDEN. SVITHIOD SINGING CLUB CONTINUED TO GROW AND IT'S CHORUS IMPROVED. IN 1896 AN INTERNATIONAL SINGING CONTEST WAS HELD AT CHICAGO'S AUDITORIUM, AND OUR CHORUS WALKED OFF WITH THE HIGHEST HONORS. MAYBE THEY WON WITH THIS SONG ABOUT THE VIKINGS. IF SO, WE DON'T KNOW WHO SANG THE SOLO, BUT TONIGHT IT WILL BE SUNG BY RALPH ANDERSON.

CHORUS:

VIKINGARNA (THE VIKINGS)

(CURTAIN -- LOWER FOOTLIGHTS)

NARRATOR:

THE NINETIES MUST INDEED HAVE BEEN EXCITING. CHICAGO HAD ITS WORLD'S FAIR IN 1893. IN 1896 WILLIAM MCKINLEY WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, DEFEATING THE RENOWNED ORATOR, WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN. THE U.S. BATTLESHIP MAINE WAS SUNK IN HAVANA HARBOR ON FEBRUARY 15, 1898, WITH A LOSS OF 260 MEN. THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WAS ON. ON THE LOCAL SCENE, HERE AT SVITHIOD, A LADIES ASSOCIATE CLUB WAS FORMED -- LATER TO BECOME THE

NARRATOR:
(CONT'D)

LADIES AUXILIARY WE KNOW TODAY. SVITHIOD SINGING CLUB ACQUIRED ITS OWN CLUBHOUSE, ON THE PRESENT SITE, IN 1899. THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY BROUGHT A CHAIN OF MEMORABLE EVENTS TOO NUMEROUS TO RECOUNT, BUT WE MIGHT RECALL A FEW. THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL AIRPLANE BY ORVILLE WRIGHT IN 1903. ADMIRAL ROBERT PEARY FINALLY REACHED THE NORTH POLE, ON HIS SIXTH ATTEMPT, IN 1909. THE "UNSINKABLE" LINER, TITANIC, WENT DOWN IN THE ATLANTIC AFTER STRIKING AN ICEBERG, ON APRIL 14, 1912, WITH A LOSS OF MORE THAN 1500 LIVES. WORLD WAR I BEGAN IN 1914. THE BRITISH LINER LUSITANIA WAS SUNK WITHOUT WARNING BY A GERMAN SUBMARINE OFF THE COAST OF IRELAND ON MAY 7, 1915. AMONG THE 1,153 PERSONS LOST WERE 114 AMERICANS, A FACT WHICH ULTIMATELY LED TO AMERICA'S ENTRY IN THE WORLD-WIDE CONFLAGRATION. LONG BEFORE THE ARMISTICE ON NOVEMBER 11, 1918, ONE OF THE GREAT PHENOMENA OF THE AMERICAN SCENE, GEORGE M. COHAN, HAD EMERGED. HIS BROADWAY REIGN WAS TO SPAN ALMOST FORTY YEARS, 1901 TO 1937. HE COMPOSED DOZENS OF MUSICALS AND, LITERALLY, HUNDREDS OF SONGS. THEY INCLUDED SUCH WELL KNOWN STANDARDS AS "OVER THERE," "YANKEE DOODLE DANDY" AND "GRAND OLD FLAG." WE HAVE ASKED THE LADIES CHORUS OF SVITHIOD TO SING A GROUP OF SONGS TYPICAL OF THAT TIME.

LADIES
CHORUS:

"YANKEE DOODLE DANDY," "GRAND OLD FLAG," "WONDERFUL ONE," AND "BLUE ROOM".

NARRATOR:

IN 1919 PROHIBITION RAISED ITS UGLY HEAD NATIONALLY -- LOCALLY, SVITHIOD HELD A FAREWELL PARTY TO JOHN BARLEY-CORN WHICH WAS WELL ATTENDED -- PERHAPS IT WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THE PLACE WAS LOADED.

ON AUGUST 26, 1920 THE 19TH AMENDMENT, GIVING WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE, WAS PROCLAIMED IN EFFECT. WARREN HARDING HAD BEEN ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY. THE EARLY '20'S SAW THE RISE OF THE FOX TROT AS THE POPULAR DANCE, AS IT IS TODAY, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THE BUNNY HUG WAS STILL GOING STRONG. JAZZ WAS BECOMING A PART OF THE AMERICAN SCENE. IRVING BERLIN, SIGMUND ROMBERG AND JEROME KERN WERE COMPOSING SONGS, MANY OF WHICH REMAIN CLASSICS OF AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC TO THIS DAY.

TYPICAL OF THIS MUSIC IS "WANTING YOU" WHICH DORIS KIMBALL AND EVERETT WESTMAN WILL SING FOR YOU NOW.

DUET:

"WANTING YOU"

NARRATOR:

CALVIN COOLIDGE SUCCEEDED TO THE PRESIDENCY ON THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARDING IN 1923 AND WAS ELECTED TO A FULL TERM IN 1924. ON MAY 21, 1927, CAPTAIN CHARLES A. LINDBERGH MADE HIS LEGENDARY SOLO-NON-STOP FLIGHT FROM NEW YORK TO PARIS, THE SVITHIOD SINGING CLUB CHORUS, NOT TO BE OUTDONE, MADE A CONCERT TOUR OF

NARRATOR:
(CONT'D)

SWEDEN IN 1928. THE STOCK MARKET CRASH IN OCTOBER 1929 CLOSED THE TURBULENT TWENTIES AND INAUGURATED THE "LEAN" THIRTIES. THERE WERE MANY ITEMS OF INTEREST, HOWEVER. "TALKIES" BECAME ESTABLISHED. PROFESSOR HANSEN BECAME A "FIXTURE" AT SVITHIOD, ROOSEVELT AND HITLER APPEARED ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. SALLY RAND ADDED A NEW "WRINKLE" TO WEBSTER'S DEFINITION OF "FAN." DOUG CORRIGAN UNDERTOOK HIS FAMOUS "WRONG-WAY" FLIGHT TO CALIFORNIA, WHICH ENDED IN IRELAND. SVITHIOD BEGAN ITS NOW WELL-KNOWN TUESDAY STAG NIGHTS. ONE OF THE GREAT SONGS FROM SVITHIOD'S 1928 SWEDEN TOUR WAS "HELL, DIG, ÅLSKADE NORD."

CHORUS:

HELL DIG, ÅLSKADE NORD (HAIL THEE, BELOVED NORTH)
(PROFESSOR HANSEN WILL INTRODUCE THE REMAINING SONGS IN THIS GROUP.)

NARRATOR:

EXPANSION OF OUR CLUB FACILITIES WERE BEGUN IN 1948 AND COMPLETED IN 1951. THE REMAINDER OF THE "FIFTIES" SAW VAST CHANGES AND TREMENDOUS STRIDES IN MANY FIELDS. GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER BECAME PRESIDENT AND JONAS SALK PRODUCED HIS REVOLUTIONARY POLIO VACCINE. FLYING OVER THE OCEANS BECAME A TIMETABLE REALITY. TRAVELING TIME TO SWEDEN WAS REDUCED FROM DAYS TO HOURS. THE PERENNIAL THIRTY-NINE YEAR OLD, JACK BENNY, SUCCUMBED TO THE EROSION OF TIME AND ADVANCED TO HIS EARLY SIXTIES. PROFESSOR HANSEN PRESIDED OVER A ONE

NARRATOR:
(CONT'D)

HUNDRED MAN SVITHIOD CHORUS IN THE ORCHESTRA HALL
CELEBRATION OF THE CLUB'S SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.
ALWAYS PROUD OF OUR SVITHIOD LADIES AND WELL AWARE OF
THEIR GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR CONTINUED SUCCESS, WE
THOUGH IT FITTING TO INVITE THEM TO JOIN US ON THIS
AUSPICIOUS OCCASION, OUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY. THE MOON,
THE STARS BELONG TO EVERYONE; THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE
ARE FREE! ON THIS HAPPY NOTE, WE TAKE GREAT PLEASURE
IN PRESENTING THE LADIES CHORUS AND THE SVITHIOD SINGING
CLUB CHORUS IN THE CONCLUDING NUMBER, GOOD NEWS MEDLEY.

LADIES CHORUS,
MALE CHORUS: GOOD NEWS MEDLEY

(CURTAIN)

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