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Activity Report From Your President Lars Sundman

April 10th, 1981, marked the 100th Anniversary celebration of the St. Paul Swedish Male Chorus. Your President had the privilege of representing the AUSS at the gala banquet with over 240 in attendance. Among the invited dignitaries present were Central Division President Pehr Bolling and the Swedish Consul from Minneapolis, Tage Pousette, who offered messages of congratulation and well wishes. During the banquet many awards were presented to chorus members for the many years of faithful service and singing.

The toastmaster for the evening was George Gustafson, a hard working member of the chorus who helped make the evening so delightful with his ready wit and humorous anecdotes. During the evening, the chorus sang several songs, conducted by various past directors as well as the present chorus director Don Torgersen, who skilfully led the singers through some difficult numbers, to the delight of all in the audience.

The St. Paul Swedish Male Chorus is one of the very few choruses in the AUSS who is enjoying a steady increase in singers in its ranks. The chorus at present is 48 strong with many fine young singers which assures this chorus a bright future.

The following day, Paul Haglund, Treasurer of the AUSS, and I caught a flight to Seattle. We were met at the Seatac Airport by Bert Sellin, Western Div. President and General Chairman of the 1982 AUSS National Convention. Bert drove us to the magnificent Red Lion Inn, headquarters for the 1982 convention, located adjacent to the airport. We met with the hotel's Sales Manager who conducted us on an extensive tour through this enormous complex. The hotel's main building is a 14-story tower with many satellite wings with a total of over 800 rooms. The many excellent meeting rooms and banquet facilities with beautiful decor throughout will make this hotel a delightful center for our convention.



LARS SUNDMAN
President AUSS

During a tour of Seattle, we visited Meany Hall, located on the campus of the University of Washington. This fine auditorium with a seating capacity of over 1200 and a stage 70 feet wide will be perfect for our Grand Concert. The acoustics are excellent and, without doubt, the best auditorium in town suitable for our requirements.

On Sunday, April 12th, Paul and I attended a reception arranged for us at the magnificent Swedish Club in Seattle by the Svea Male Chorus, its Ladies' Auxiliary and the Swedish Women's Chorus. We were afforded the opportunity of personally greeting these fine people and we were treated to a group of songs by both the Svea chorus and the Women's chorus. Both choruses performed beautifully, a tribute to their fine directors who really work hard with excellent results. The Svea chorus performed some selections from the 1982 Grand Concert program to the enjoyment of all. The hospitality and the friendly reception afforded us was just overwhelming. We shall never forget the warm welcome given us by these fine people.

Following the reception, a business meeting was held by the Convention Committee. We were given a complete outline of the progress made by the committee. Many topics of discussion were brought up and resolved during the session. After the meeting, Paul and I were shown the facilities of the Swedish Club which will be used for some convention activities. This beautiful club with its many meeting rooms and the elegant dining room overlooking Lake Union and most of Seattle will add much to the success of our convention.

The Convention Committee has many fine activities planned for us also, and judging from what Paul and I saw during our visit, the 1982 National Convention will without doubt be a humdinger of a festival!! We urge all brother singers to make plans now to attend this convention. Back up the hard working convention committee by purchasing the official song book which is a beauty. It's really the obligation of every singer and chorus in the AUSS to do so.

We salute Bert Sellin, his committee and the host choruses participating with the arrangements for this convention who are working so hard to make the coming festival an outstanding one that I am sure won't be forgotten long after the last chorus has been sung.

I wish all my brother and sister singers a happy summer.

Lars Sundman, AUSS President.

Convention Song Book

From Bert Sellin, president of Western Division and general chairman of the National Convention in Seattle, next year, we have received a copy of the official song book.

This is really something! A hard cover loose leaf binder, printed in yellow on a blue background, it contains all the grand concert numbers plus other music, and there is room for much more.

Be sure to order this life time music binder. See May issue of MT how to order. You will be pleased with the result.

Scandinavian Male Chorus

Portland, Oregon

We had a dancing group from Sweden visiting us in Portland. Their name Haningarna from Stockholm. Folkdancing, music and beautiful costumes. A very good performance. It was a full house at Norse Hall. Everybody had a good time — sing-along, clapping hands. It is such a thrill to see these Swedes coming over and give so much of themselves. Young and old, 100 percent performance. Our chorus sang three songs during intermission.

We told you that Mt. St. Helens was sleeping. Not so. She woke up. We have had a few tremors, steam and ash.

This month we like to thank our second oldest member, Gösta Elfving. Joined the chorus in 1935. Gösta was born in Stockholm. Gösta attends conventions all over USA, many of you have met him. He is a powerful person. Has a good voice. Definite ideas. He is

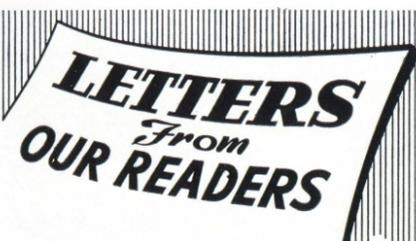
loved by everyone. We thank you, Gösta, for everything you have done. See you Monday at rehearsal.

We had a very successful Spring Concert. Full house. Standing ovation for us and the Ladies' Chorus. I think this year we gave the public what they wanted. Happy songs and patriotic numbers. We thank the directors Janet Howland and Stan Trogen for a job well done.

May 16th our chorus sang at Norse Hall for their yearly 17th of May celebration.

Big event coming up. Scandinavian Midsummer Festival in Astoria, Oregon. The date, June 19 and 20. The festival will be held on the grounds at the Astoria High School. Our chorus is invited and we are looking forward to it. Lots of fun, good singing, music and Scandinavian food. The City of Astoria, located at the mouth of Columbia River, is a very Scandinavian looking city.

Hans Thorin.



A FLORIDA TRIP

One day in the middle of March I decided to visit my kid sister who resides in Largo, Florida. So I called my old friend Martin Ahlm to book me for a flight to warmer realms of our country. Upon arrival in Tampa I found the temperatures was the same there as in Chicago.

While in Florida I had the pleasant opportunity to visit with several friends and Brother Singers, who in the twilight of life have replanted themselves to the Sun-coast, with the hopes of eternal summer, and to find warmth for their chilly bones. Here they live in their magnificent villas, spending their time fishing, raising exotic flowers and picking weeds.

Amongst my singer friends from the Svithiod Singing Club, we find Lambert and Dagmar Shodeen in Largo, Thure and Anna Bodine in Port Richey and Holger and Astrid Holm in New Port Richey. I also had a nice visit with AUSS treasurer Paul Haglund, in Clearwater.

My next visit to a Brother Singer was to P.P. of the AUSS Erland Levine on Holmes Beach. After a phone call to be sure to find him home, I took my sister along, and covering 54 miles we arrived at Holmes Beach on the key of Anna Maria, out in the Gulf. Driving along the street we spotted a home with a Swedish flag gently fluttering in the temperate Gulf breeze. This must be the place. Sure enough; here we were greeted with a friendly embrace by good old effervescent Erland and LePetite Betty, in their charming home on the shores of the shimmering blue Mexican Gulf. Here we spent a lovely afternoon, pondering the past as well as the future of the AUSS. Spending their leisure hours fishing, they each have their own motor launch.

In conclusion I must not forget my visit to John and Jenny Brolin, past members of the now defunct Viking Male Chorus of Chicago's south side. Before leaving, John entrusted me with a year's subscription to Musiktidning.

Here I also met Mrs. Gunborg Johnson, now residing in Sweden, and here on a visit to her son and oodles of friends throughout U.S. She is the widow of well known top tenor Fred Johnson of the Svithiod Singing Club.

When you are reading this, I and my friend Irma will be celebrating Midsummer in Värmland, Sweden.

"Ja, jag kommer, hälsn glada vindar, ut till landet, ut till fåglarne..."

Med veteransångarhälsning,
Einar B. Olson.

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Central Division Officers Meet in Waukegan



FIRST ROW: Ernest Gunnarsson, Detroit, Hon. Pres.; Pehr Bolling, Chicago, President Central Division; Bernard Halvorsen, Waukegan, 1st V. Pres.; Erik Johnson, Detroit, 2nd V. Pres.

SECOND ROW: Martin Ahlm, Chicago, Bus. Mgr. Musiktidning; Gunnar Bloom, Chicago, Editor MT; Steven Swanson, Excelsior, Minn., Fin. Sec'y; Evert Werner, Chicago, Treas.; Earl Whitehead, Rockford, Sec'y pro tem.

Saturday, April 25, was one of those beautiful days you read about in story books. And the exquisite flower garden at the Waukegan Swedish Glee Club bid the delegates a fragrant welcome. We were greeted by the President of the Club, Dick Vojtko, and treated to refreshments.

President of the Central Division, Pehr Bolling, Chicago Swedish Male Chorus, opened the meeting at 3:30 with all officers present: Ernest Gunnarsson, Arpi, Hon. Pres.; Bernard Halvorsen, Waukegan Sw. Glee Club, 1st Vice Pres.; Erik Johnson, Arpi, 2nd Vice Pres.; Earl Whitehead, Sveas Söner, Sec. pro tem; Steven Swanson, Am. Inst. Sw. Male Chorus, Fin. Sec'y; Evert Werner, Chicago Swedish Glee Club, Treasurer.

Invited guests were Gunnar Bloom, Editor, and Martin Ahlm, Bus. Mgr. Musiktidning, who were accorded seat and vote privileges.

Bro. Whitehead read the minutes from previous meeting which was accepted as read. Steve Swanson read the fin. secretary's report, which was accepted. It was decided that President Bolling was to appoint auditors. Evert Werner's report as treasurer was accepted as read.

President Bolling dwelled on the future of the choruses in the Division and on the furtherance of the entire AUSS. He suggested that when a chorus has a special year all choruses should support the event by taking ads in their programs.

There was a letter from Minneapolis

Swedish Day Youth Chorus who wants to join the Central Division. After serious discussion it was decided to present this question to the National Convention 1982.

Gunnar Bloom proposed that Wally Walberg be appointed Honorary President of the Central Division. So be it.

Evert Werner offered the services of the Chicago Swedish Glee Club in a concert or entertainment for the benefit of Musiktidning, provided they are supported by all choruses. This was accepted with thanks.

After the meeting the Waukegan Swedish Glee Club treated all on their famous Smörgåsbord Supreme, for which we sing "Vår sångarhyllning tag."

G. A. B.

Verdandi Male Chorus

Providence, R. I.

On Sunday, May 17, the Verdandi Male Chorus presented its eighty-sixth Spring Concert at the Scandinavian Home for the Aged in Warwick, RI. Guests of Verdandi were the Barrington Boys Choir and the Barrington Men's Chorus. The program was made up of four sections, each about 20 minutes, as follows:

1. Verdandi: Several Swedish numbers with director Robert Cleasby and Mr. C. Arthur Johnson, conducting.

2. Barrington Men's Chorus, director Lucien Olivier.

3. Barrington Boys Chorus, director Lucien Olivier.

4. Barrington Men's Chorus and Verdandi Male Chorus combined (50 men). Mr. Cleasby and Mr. Olivier conducting.

The program was enthusiastically received by 150 people. A free will offering to help send Verdandi to the National Convention was accepted.

Our 1981-1982 calendar is rapidly being completed and we look forward to continued growth.

Best wishes, John Agren.

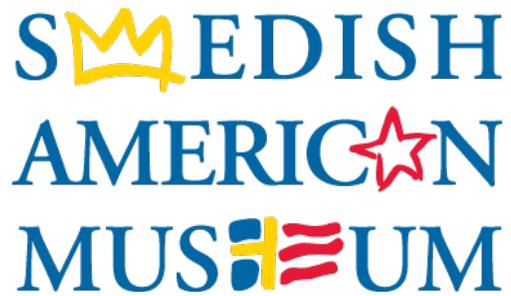
— Ungdomen nu för tiden har ju ingen som helst moral. När jag var ung hade vi till och med dubbelmoral.

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