

# NORDIC AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER 1998

## Notes from the ANNUAL MEETING

\*\*\*\*\*

If you didn't attend the Annual Meeting ~ you missed a great time! Sometimes schedules conflict with events, but note the date for next year's meeting and try to put it into your schedule.

We now have 54 paid members and in addition mail our Newsletter to a number of Scandinavian organizations, museums and potential members. We also mail to the Nordiska Psalmodikonforbundet of Scandinavia and receive their newsletter in return. Perhaps someday we can envision a joint meeting with them in Scandinavia! Wouldn't that be a blast! Dreams do come true - - - - -

Larry Gjenvick

\*\*\*\*\*

### NOTES FROM MUSIC-ON-A-STRING

The leaves have left the trees and before we know it, the snow will be falling and we will be busy with preparations for the Holidays.

---

#### *PSALMODIKONS IN CONCERT— ANOTHER FIRST FOR THE PSALMODIKONS IN THE USA!*

---

I still have pleasant memories of the 2nd Annual Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet which was held on September 19th.

It was a beautiful drive out to

Granite Falls, a friendly town located in western Minnesota, nestled on the prairie among outcroppings of granite, the Minnesota River and beautiful trees.

The meetings were held in the Conference Room at the Super 8 Motel in Granite Falls. The afternoon meeting began with a greeting from our Hostess, Eleanor Sandquist. After a short business meeting we were entertained with a very interesting slide presentation and talk by Daniel Larson of Duluth, Minnesota. He not only makes rare musical instruments but is probably the only one who is now making gut strings. Everyone found this to be a very educational and fascinating part of our meeting. Many of us now enjoy playing our Psalmodikons with a new gut string.



Daniel Larson and The Psalmodikon Concert Players

During the afternoon workshop, Daniel was very helpful in working with each individual in fine tuning their Psalmodikon. He gave us a better understanding of the capabilities of our Psalmodikons and what to expect from them. Because they are handmade and fretted, we cannot expect them to be perfect. Everyone was glad to hear that statement and know that "we" are not to blame for the squeaky off-key notes!

We had a fun afternoon sharing our ideas and practicing new songs on our Psalmodikons. In fact, we had such a successful practice session, that seven of the members felt confident enough to perform for the public and take part in the evening program. Namely, Eleanor Sandquist, Shirley Erickson, Marlyn Shroeder, Beatrice Hole, Floyd Foslien and Larry Gjenvick. The Psalmodikon group played the following songs: "Amazing Grace, Children of the Heavenly Father and Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross." PSALMODIKONS IN CONCERT—ANOTHER FIRST FOR THE PSALMODIKONS IN THE USA!

Eleanor, Marlyn, Beatrice and Larry attended the

Granite Falls Lutheran Church on Sunday and played their Psalmodikons during both of the Sunday morning worship services also.

There was plenty of time for coffee and refreshments all during the afternoon and evening on Saturday. Many of the members brought along their favorite baking to share and what a delicious table of goodies we had! A conversation piece was the cake I baked and decorated in the shape of a Psalmodikon. That was good eating too!

After a delicious dinner, we were entertained by two of the local women from the community. Kathy Dantzler-Olson of Dawson and Laurel Dikken of Renville. Kathy gave a very interesting presentation of the Langeleik, a Norwegian folk instrument of the 1500's. Laurel played some sprightly tunes on her accordion, which we enjoyed immensely. I was very impressed with the concert given by the Psalmodikon players and found that we were much improved from the previous year!!!

I have great hopes for the future of the Psalmodikon organization and know it will continue to be a success. Thanks to all of you who are interested in carrying on the Psalmodikon tradition.

In the meantime....."keep practicing".

Beatrice Hole

\*\*\*\*\*

What a treat to see old friends and meet the new members attending the second annual Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet.

The meeting was well attended and everything went along so smoothly. Our thanks go to hostess, Eleanor Sandquist who did a great job of selecting a wonderful meeting place, lodging, refreshments, advertising, etc. Tusen Takk to Eleanor!

\*\*\*\*\*

We love to hear from our members! Please send news, photos, historical finds, or other submissions to The Editor.

\*\*\*\*\*

(The following cards, received from the Nordiska Psalmodikonforbundet of Scandinavia, were read at the meeting in Granite Falls)

August 14-16, 1998

The folks attending the Psalmodikon meeting in Vitsands Sweden are very much impressed by your accomplishments in spreading knowledge about our favorite instrument. I hereby forward the spontaneous applause received at the reading of your Newsletters.

September 9, 1998

We send you a greeting from The Nordiska Psalmodikonforbund. We hope you have a nice meeting. Thank you for the videotape of Beatrice.

Helena Odvall

\*\*\*\*\*

*Beatrice Hole had an interesting visit when she was demonstrating the Psalmodikon at the Nordic Fest in Decorah, Iowa in July.*

*A fellow from Norway came strolling by the table and started asking a lot of questions relating to the Psalmodikon. As it turns out, this Norwegian often gives tours of a Museum in his town in Norway and there, they have a Psalmodikon on display. He said that he was never able to tell the visitors much about it as he did not know anything of the Psalmodikon himself. So he took a lot of notes, history sheets and tapes to bring back to Norway. He made the following comment as he left. "Isn't that something, that us Norwegians have to come to America to learn about the Psalmodikon that originated in our own country!"*

\*\*\*\*\*

I have so much fun at the Psalmodikon meetings and so naturally I am already thinking about the next one! I am open to new ideas that anyone has and also looking for a place to meet next year. Let me know if you would like to serve as Host/Hostess. There is not very much work involved in setting up a place to get together and I will help in whatever way I can. I think it is a good idea to meet at a different location each year. That way folks do not always have to drive so far and besides it gives us a chance to familiarize a new community about the Psalmodikon. September 18, 1999 is the date set for the next Annual Meeting.

Beatrice Hole

\*\*\*\*\*

(Excerpts from a letter received from one of our "newest" members)

October 21, 1998

I recently learned of the Psalmodikon society from your publication which was copied to me from the music department at Gustavus. I wish to join.....My interest stems from the fact that I inherited a Psalmodikon from my grandfather. He probably made it in western Minnesota, Clinton, or brought it from Sweden~1876. The instrument needs repair and I would be grateful if I could receive the (name and) address of someone who repairs the.....I look forward to future publications of your society.

Charles A. Swenson, 3824 County Down Ln NE, North Liberty, Iowa 52317

