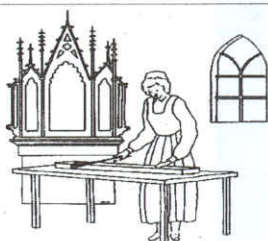


NORDIC-AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

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NOVEMBER 2001



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NOTES FROM MUSIC-ON-A STRING

By Beatrice Hole

Today I write this Newsletter in a sad frame of mind and the uncertainty of the future of our country. Several weeks have passed since September 11 and I still wake up in the morning hoping it is all a bad dream. A senseless act of terrorism is leaving no one untouched, even here in the heartland of America.

It feels good to play the Psalmodikon and make music. **"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life".**

The 5th annual meeting of the Psalmodikons was a joyful event. I could tell that everyone who was there had been practicing all year. The songs from other years had become easy to play and we quickly caught on to the new songs. We are making progress and enjoying it!

If any of you that were unable to attend, but would like to have more information from our meeting, please get in touch with me.

We all enjoyed seeing all the Psalmodikons, bows and cases that Bud Albrecht had been making this past year. He surprised all of us by giving us our very own fold-away music stand that he had made. We thank Bud for these! Bud recently met some very friendly horses that were willing to share part of their tails with him so that he could make several Psalmodikon bows. Thus he named each bow using

the name of the horse that made the donation!

I also want to thank everyone for coming and those who brought Scandinavian treats; to Don and Ko-reen Gerdin-Paulson; Larry & Deann Gjenvick and Shirley Sorenson for all the special help they gave me. I could not have done it without them. Tusen Takk!

Nok for I dag! Happy Holidays to everyone. In the meantime, Keep practicing!

Hilsen, Beatrice Hole



PSALMODIKON GOES MODERN!

I recently "updated" my favorite Psalmodikon. Verle Austad of Mindoro, Wisconsin sent me an apparatus to amplify the Psalmodikon, much the same as he does for the fiddle. It consists of a small transducer that is attached to the end of my Psalmodikon (with a gummy substance for easy removal) and the cable is then plugged into an amplifier. Works real well, and sounds great. Although I may not use this all the time, it is fun to make a big sound when I am practicing.



Back row: Larry Gjenvick, Fyllis Flannery, Floyd Foslien,
Ruth Gibson, Bud Albrecht, Shirley Sorenson.
Front row: Deann Gjenvick, Peggy Schramm, Olive Forbord,
Ardyce Albrecht, Beatrice Hole.

PSALMODIKON WEB SITE GETS NEW LOOK!

The existing web site is now in the hands of five students at Indiana University Purdue University in Indianapolis.

Under the direction of their professor, Marj Hovde, this web site team are going to create a nice professional looking site. It will be more functional, less complicated to update, and with an easier access for everyone.

Their goal of the web site is to provide awareness about the Psalmodikon society, provide a location for research on the Psalmodikon, and to gain membership into the society.

They welcome all suggestions from the members of the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet.

Tusen Takk to these students for their expertise on this project. Be sure to visit the web site:

[Http://php.iupui.edu/~dbeckman/index.html](http://php.iupui.edu/~dbeckman/index.html)

Correction: In the Newsletter, August 2001, the granddaughter of Elsie Thompson should have been written as Ruth Reitan, not Benson as printed. We apologize for this error.

Membership Notes!

From its inception, the dues for membership in the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet have been kept at a modest annual amount of \$5.00 which covers the cost of 4 Newsletters during the year, postage for mailing to our members and also complimentary Newsletters to a number of cultural organizations, museums and individuals.

Due to increased costs of postage, membership cards are no longer being mailed to members, however, the mailing label on the Newsletter indicates your membership status. Dues for the year 2002 may now be sent to Beatrice Hole, 6560 Leesborough Avenue, Eden Prairie, MN 55346. Your continued interest and support is greatly appreciated! Thanks, Takk, Tusen Takk for you attention to your membership in the organization.



LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS.....

September 11, 2001

Dear Beatrice,

I have enjoyed receiving the Psalmodikonforbundet Newsletter these past few years and following the activities of the group. I am headed to Oxford, England for two years to get my master's degree in Mathematics, and to cut down the volume of mail my parents will need to forward me, would like to ask that I be removed from the mailing list. Enclosed are my dues for 2001 — it wouldn't be fair to short you! I will keep your address and Gjenvick's and the new website, so don't be surprised if you hear from me again in a few years!

Your fellow friend of the Psalmodikon,
David Swinarski



David Swinarski

I first met David in 1993 when Harlis Anderson and I performed with our Psalmodikons at the Goodhue County Historical Museum in Red Wing, Minnesota. David had just returned from Colorado for a competition in school projects, with the Psalmodikon and bow he had made.

My best wishes to with a very fine fellow!



When Olive Forbord of Benson, MN plays her Psalmodikon, this bible verse comes to mind: "Praise Him with stringed instruments and organs." Psalm 150:4b

Olive is pictured here with her Psalmodikon that was brought to America in 1870 by her father's uncle. She knows this Psalmodikon was played for church services in Norway. Olive remembers this "box" being stored in a trunk in her parents attic, but the children were never allowed to touch it. After the death of Olive's parents, the contents of the trunk were divided amongst the family members. It was not until 1991 that Olive received this keepsake from her sister who lived in Montana. After talking to Gracia Grindahl, of Luther Seminary, and Harlis Anderson, Olive realized the "box" was called a Psalmodikon. She has been making beautiful music on it ever since and telling others the history of this precious family heirloom.



C.A. "bud" Albrecht and his wife Ardyce, of Montevideo, MN putting together the Psalmodikon music stand he built.



This is the smallest Psalmodkion at the annual meeting. It was made by Bud Albrecht.
(and it really does play!)



Video Tapes for Sale:

"HOW TO PLAY THE PSALMODIKON"

Instructions on how to tune and play the Psalmodikon. Sifferskrift music included so you can play along with the songs. The video also makes good program material for a presentation about Psalmodikons.

Send: \$15.00 to:

Beatrice Hole

6560 Leesborough Avenue

Eden Prairie, MN 55346

(952) 934-4535

E-Mail: Engstreng B@aol.com

**NORDIC-AMERICAN
PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET
Report of September 15, 2001**

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the **Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet** was held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in East Bethel, MN., the church home of club members, Don and Koreen Gerdin-Paulson. Even though our thoughts were still on September 11th terrorist attack on New York City, it was good to take a break. We found peace in the familiar quote "Music is perfect, Music is comfort".

No one came by airplane this year, but there were some that left home at 4:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. By 9:00 a.m. everyone was registered and the Psalmodikons were out of their cases and all tuned up. In between conversations and many cups of coffee and Scandinavian treats, there was plenty of time to play many familiar songs. The Psalmodikon players have greatly improved since our very first meeting in September 1997. Beatrice Hole presented everyone with a notebook of songs written in two-part harmony. It was good to hear a little harmony worked in with the beautiful music of the Psalmodikon.

There were eleven Psalmodikon players present. Bud Albrecht, of Montevideo, MN, gave a presentation on the many Psalmodikons, bows and cases that he had been making this year. One Psalmodikon had dual strings. One string was of heavier gauge, tuned an octave apart. Bud had also made a folding music stand, to set on the table in front of the Psalmodikon, for each member.

A letter of greeting, from Helena Advall and the Nordic Psalmodikonforbundet was read. Larry Gjenvick gave a Treasurer's Report. The date for next year's meeting has yet to be decided.

At noon, a delicious lunch was served to everyone present by Deann and Larry Gjenvick of Muskego, WI.

After an intense afternoon of practice in preparation for the 8:00 a.m. Sunday worship service, we then departed for dinner at the Creamery Restaurant in

Isanti, MN. Shirley Sorenson suggested the Creamery, which is located in the historic Isanti County creamery of years ago—and we all enjoyed a varied choice of menu items.

Seven Psalmodikon musicians were able to attend the 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship service. Psalmodikon music was provided during the Offering and Communion.

It was another very successful meeting and everyone was so enthusiastic to be involved in carrying on the tradition of Psalmodikon music.

Our Favorite Psalmodikon Hymns:

**Children of the Heavenly Father
Amazing Grace
Beautiful Saviour
Just As I Am
Breath on Me, O Breath of God
Aftensolen
Praise To The Father
New Songs:**

Massa Dear; Now Thank We All Our God; I Sing With Joy.

A Song for the Thanksgiving Season

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Key of B flat

I 5 5 5 6 6 5 3 4 3 2 3 2 1
II 1 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 7 1 7 1

Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices,

I 5 5 5 6 6 5 3 4 3 2 3 2 1
II 1 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 7 1 7 1

Who won-drous things hath done, In whom His world re-joices

I 2 2 2 3 3 2 2 3 5 5 4+ 5
II 7 7 7 1 1 7 7 1 1 2 2 7

Who from our moth-er's arms, Hath blessed us on our way,

I 5 6 5 4 3 4 3 2 3 2 2 1
II 1 1 1 7 1 7 1 7 1 7 7 1

With count-less gifts of love, And still is ours to-day.

*Written in Stifferskrift for Psalmodikon
av Beatrice Hole - 1993*

NORDIC-AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

Return **Larry & Deann Gjenvick**
Address: **W180S8641 Cottage Circle East**
Apt. #2046
Muskego, WI 53150-7323

Mailing
Address:

PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

Notes from the Editors:

We try to keep our membership records accurate and up to date, however if you do note any error please advise the Editor for correction. **Check the date on your mailing label which indicates if your dues are current.** Dues for the year 2002 may be sent to Beatrice Hole. Thank you for your support!

The Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet Newsletter is published in March(April), August and November. The editor and staff are always looking for news worthy items or photos and welcome articles from members that you want to share with other readers.

Your \$5.00 membership fee helps to cover the cost of printing and postage for the Newsletter and also helps to defray the costs incurred at the Annual Meeting. The Newsletter is mailed to over 85 households as well as several Museums and other historical societies.

