



PARTY—
Ladies of
Welsh descent
recently met
at a
garden party
at the home of
Mrs. Harold
A. Staples
in Holladay
to plan
entertainment
for the visitors
expected
in Salt Lake
during the
special week.
The festival
has never
before been
held in the
west.

en **LDS COMPOSER HONORED**

Welsh Hold Tabernacle 5000-Voice Songfest

Simple hymn melodies which drew their inspiration from the green hills and valleys of Wales were transplanted to the heart of the Rocky mountains Sunday by some 5000 who raised their voices in song in two sessions of the International Gymanfa Ganu Welsh song festival.

Though they were sung by 20th century Americans and Canadians in the tabernacle of the Church of Jesus Christ of

Gymanfa Ganu

Rates Rave As 'Brilliant'

By **LOWELL DURHAM**

The throngs that attended the 18th annual Gymanfa Ganu sessions in the Salt Lake tabernacle Sunday afternoon and evening will never forget the spirit radiated by the music of the beautiful hymns that were sung by the nearly 5000 participants of Welsh descent.

Here was congregational singing as we seldom experience it—literally thousands of singers blending in well-balanced four-part harmony, with pleasing tone quality, musicianly phrasing and nuance, and sure intonation. In short, it seemed to be a professionally-trained choral unit of grandiose proportions.

William Albert Hughes, Cleveland, O., was an energetically effective director of the Gymanfa Ganu. His dynamic personality combined with his profound knowledge of choral technique to produce miracles of choral production. His advice of not singing hymns "unless you believe firmly in its message" is a clue to any who might wish to develop effective congregational singing.

Latter-day Saints, instead of in the coal mining villages of Wales, the ancient melodies brought together several thousand Welshmen in their favorite occupation—singing.

And they provided unusual entertainment for an equal number of Salt Lakers who joined in the song services at 2:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday under direction of William Albert Hughes, Cleveland, O.

"There will be no audience for this performance," Judge Edward Blythin, Cleveland, O., chairman of the afternoon session, announced at the outset, "you are all expected and invited to join

(Another Gymanfa Ganu story page 17.)

in." Many accepted the invitation, using special hymn books, though only the genuine Welshmen were able to follow effectively the Welsh words.

Evan Stephens Honored

Programs at both sessions were made up largely of Welsh hymns, though on both occasions Frank W. Asper, tabernacle organist, the tabernacle choir, directed by J. Spencer Cornwall, and the Cambrian chorus of Cleveland, O., presented selections.

A special feature of the afternoon session was a moment's silence in memory of Evan Stephens, composer of Welsh songs and hymns for the LDS church and onetime conductor of the tabernacle choir. One of Mr. Stephens' hymns, "Tanymarian," was the first presented.

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Mrs. Mary E. Thomas models an old Welsh dress handed down from her grandmother—it is now more than 200 years old

Gymanfa Ganu Provides New Thrill in Singing

By Conrad B. Harrison

The Welsh have two words for it—Gymanfa Ganu—and they sing with emphasis on both.

For the eighteenth time they gathered at their international festival of sacred music Sunday, drawing some 5000 into the Tabernacle for congregational part-singing to be heard only at a Gymanfa Ganu.

Perhaps it was the spirit of song native to the Welshman, or the enthusiasm that attends directors like William Albert Hughes, the Cleveland conductor or the great building enclosing the singers or any one of a combination of several other things. Whatever it was, the feeling and

expression brought forth by fervent and harmonious singing is a new musical experience for anyone attending their first such songfest.

For in every favorite Welsh hymn, sung in Gymanfa Ganu tradition, there is a fervor developed that seems to carry the singers, individually and collectively, to thrilling choral heights.

There may have been times when the precision wasn't the most professional—congregations never sing perfectly together—and when the Welsh words were used the size of the singing chorus naturally diminished, but never was the spirit and enthusiasm lacking.

Actually, the Gymanfa Ganu is concentrated in a chorus of Welshmen and descendants of Welsh from throughout the United States and Canada numbering around 2000 voices. The remainder of the audience joins the sing when the hymns become familiar. Consequently, the singing is greater in English than in Welsh.

Mr. Hughes, aided on both sides by the members of his Cambrian Male Chorus of Cleveland, O., kept his congregation "feeling" the hymns. He also had behind him the Tabernacle Choir, under J. Spencer Cornwall; Frank W. Asper at the organ and Ann Davies at the piano. During the afternoon session the organ was used, but for the evening session and Columbia Broadcasting System broadcast, which also was recorded for use by the "Voice of America," the piano furnished accompaniment.

Choir Gives Selections

Added features at each session were groups of selections by the Tabernacle Choir and Cambrian chorus, along with organ selections by Dr. Asper. In all, the spirit of the occasion was well retained. One of the choir's featured selections was the hymn, "Come Dearest Lord," by its former Welsh conductor-composer, Evan Stephens, whose memory was honored with a moment's silence at the afternoon songfest.

The Cambrian singers from

See WELSH on Page B-4



SING ALL—W. A. Hughes typifies Gymanfa Ganu.

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(Continued from Page B-1)

Cleveland proved one of the fine male choruses to be heard here in a long time. Under the dynamic direction of Mr. Hughes they produced music reminiscent of the old Welsh Male Chorus which some years ago came regularly out of Wales to tour this country.

Well Balanced

Particularly notable was the balance and flexibility of this chorus of trained voices. Quality and power in the various sections was outstanding, with the work of the first tenors particularly thrilling.

Chairmen of the sessions were John James, honorary chairman, and M. D. Thomas, general chairman of the eighteenth annual Gymanfa Ganu. Master of ceremonies in the afternoon was Judge Edward Blythin of Cleveland, while Richard L. Evans was master of ceremonies and commentator in the evening.

The three-day international songfest and convention was scheduled to close Monday evening at the Saltair pavilion following celebration of the fifty-sixth annual Utah Cambrian Day, with Dr. Adam S. Bennion as master of ceremonies, and Judge J. A. Howell, Ogden, as speaker.

Preceding the celebration the visiting Welsh toured the Utah Copper mine in Bingham and lunched at Saltair.



Even in small groups, Welshmen sing. Harmonizing informally at Salt Lake Cambrian Assn.'s Saltair outing are, from left, Billy

Evans, Los Angeles; William Griffiths, Provo; Mrs. Don C. James and Mrs. Lucy Baugh, Salt Lake, and Griffith I. Wrench, Provo.

The Deseret N

THE FAMILY NEWSPAPER

Salt Lake City, Utah, Monday Evening, September 5, 1949



EVERYBODY SIGNS AT GYMANFA GANU—Part of the 5000-voice chorus that participated in Welsh international sacred song festival on historic Temple Square on Sunday.

Welsh Have a Song for It

AS HOST for the 1949 Gymanfa Ganu Sept. 4, Salt Lake City will be entertaining several thousand civic and business leaders from nearly every state in the union and the Dominion of Canada; men and women who are drawn together by the two powerful magnets of a common ancestral heritage and deep abiding love of music and song.

The National Gymanfa Ganu Assn. (with international groups in most countries) is a fellowship of people with Welsh antecedents who gather together to sing the Gymanfa Ganu in church and elsewhere partly for a love of the singing itself and partly to keep alive the sacred songs of Cambria in the native Welsh tongue.

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WHEREVER Welshmen gather Gymanfa Ganu singing is as much a part of life as their work and sleep and play. And while both Gymanfa Ganu and Cambrian associations have been active for many decades in the United States, the national annual meetings extend back only 18 years and have been primarily an eastern function heretofore.

Credit for drawing these outstanding singers to Salt Lake City in 1949 lies mainly in the efforts of one man, "Welshman" that is, Mr. John James, an 85-year-old member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who has been

as, a research scientist for the American Smelting and Refining Co., made his presentation before the audience at the 1948 Gymanfa Ganu and while he had anticipated a possible approval, he was unprepared for the wonderful and spontaneous acclamation his proposal received. The suggestion was carried on the instant by a roar of applause and cheers.

HE LEARNED that every singer at the Detroit convention was familiar with the tabernacle choir and literally hundreds of them collared him during the evening to tell him how much they admired the Sunday broadcasts over KSL.

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As in all Welsh regions, Gymanfa Ganu singing is a year-round activity, but heretofore there has been more of it in the eastern industrial areas where they have regional meets at frequent intervals and where many outstanding conductors make a profession of conducting prominent choral groups.

AMONG the better known of these conductors is William Albert Hughes of Cleveland, who is currently directing an eastern

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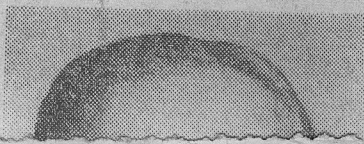
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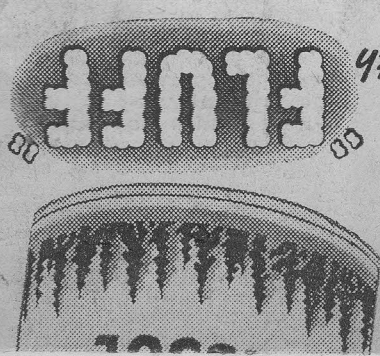
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There will be no charge for attendance at either the tabernacle or the Congregational church, where the group will sing on Sept. 4.

Several local groups are currently practicing at Barratt hall each Wednesday evening and at the First Baptist church each Monday evening under the supervision of Mrs. Lucy H. Baugh.



THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE



TISSUE made with FLUFF

is so safe, and snow-soft," making bathroom tissue. FLUFF is the whitest, this. Northern Tissue is says FLUFFY, the Northern Cup

is the registered trade-mark for the snow-white, soft pure cellulose used in making gentle Northern Tissue.



William Albert Hughes is currently directing an eastern concert series for the purpose of financing the mass attendance in Salt Lake of Cleveland's Cambrian male chorus. He will direct festival.

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MEETING OF THE CLANS

Welsh Renew Friendships In Annual Gymanfa Ganu

By JOAN GEYER

They look at first glance like Scotch-Irish, these Welsh with their soft brogue and sooty brows framing blue-grey eyes. But when the Welsh, whether grandmothers or toddlers, judges, housewives or soldiers, open their mouths and start to sing, they are unmistakably Welsh.

The Welsh have every right to look like Celts, says H. Parry-Jones, retired headmaster of Llanrwst, Denbighshire grammar school, one of the oldest grammar schools in Wales. A member of the Wales advisory council on education and deacon and secretary of one of the largest Presbyterian churches in Wales, Mr. Parry-Jones explains that the Welsh are racial cousins to their fellow Celts, the Scotch, the Irish and the Bretons of France.



Mr. Parry-Jones

Race Fiber Tough

More than 4000 years ago, said the Welsh scholar, the Celts left eastern Europe to settle the ancient British Isles. Their pagan religion is believed to have antedated even druidism, and included human sacrifices to placate the gods of fertility and harvest. Some historians say that the childish game of "eenie, meenie, minie, moe, out goes—" is a remnant of the grim ceremonial in which an annual victim was chosen.

The Welsh are a tough-fibered race, believes Mrs. Sarah J. Lewis, Lexington, Ky. A survivor of the Johnstown flood, the Loraine, O., tornado and Florida storms, Mrs. Lewis received as her 75th birthday present a trip to the Gymanfa Ganu in Salt Lake City. She has sung under direction of William Albert Hughes, Rhosllanerchrugog-born director of the Cleveland male chorus and of the Gymanfa Ganu.

While in Utah, she is visiting her daughter, Mrs. James Dillon, American Fork.



Mrs. Lewis

Sings at 85

Mrs. Samuel S. (Elizabeth) Ingram, 85, Santa Monica, Cal., also a survivor of the Johnstown flood, thinks she may be the eldest Welsh singer attending the Salt Lake Gymanfa Ganu. She has been attending the Welsh singing festivals for 66 years.



Mrs. Ingram

Edward Blythin, ex-mayor of Cleveland, now judge of the court of common pleas, left his native New Market, Flint county, Wales, to become a \$10 a week bookkeeper in a foreign city. He studied at night school to become an attorney before becoming the first foreign-born mayor of Cleveland.

Judge Blythin, as mayor, installed Cleveland's \$12,000,000 transit system with its rubber-wheeled, push-button streetcars. He is vice president of Western Reserve university.

Meet S. L. Friends

Pretty Mrs. William H. Prichard, Seattle, is typical of third and fourth generation American Welsh. American Welsh learn the multi-consonanted language of their forebears by means of phonetics.

"A thousand welcomes you'll find here before you" goes a line in an old Celtic verse.

Welsh clans, gathering several thousand strong in Salt Lake City for the Gymanfa Ganu found many welcomes from Salt Lake hosts and from long-parted friends and relatives.



Mrs. Prichard

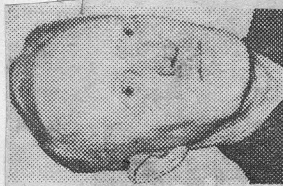
Salt Lake

Blitz Pals Unite

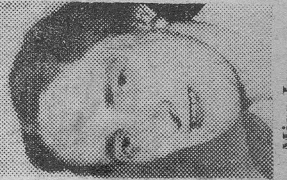
E. Hugh Andrew, Ottawa, who served with the Royal Canadian air force in World War II, found in the lobby of Newhouse hotel his good friend, Jane Louise Jones, whom he last saw during the London blitz in 1941. Miss Jones, one of the 104 Welsh Joneses registered for the Gymanfa Ganu, was born in Dolgellay, Merioneth, Wales, but worked with the American Red Cross during the war.

R. H. Jones of Toronto, Ont., a schoolmate of Evan W. Hughes, Berkeley, Cal., at Dinorwic, South Wales, parted 41 years ago, when they crossed the Atlantic. They were unexpected reunited at the Salt Lake festival.

Also reunited were the Bryanman, South Wales, friends, Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Roberts, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and Mrs. Mary M. Watkins, Bronx, New York, who had last seen each other in 1905.



Mr. Blythin



Miss Jones

Teaches Them To Sing

Welshman Prepares Provo For Songfest

Utah has taken on a "strictly from Wales" air down around Provo way and it's all because of Griffith Ivor (Ifor) Wrench.

For Mr. Wrench is an open hearth worker at Geneva Steel Plant, but even more important Mr. Wrench is a Welshman who likes to sing.

To Join Festival

So now the air around the plant and throughout Provo rings with the lovely Welsh airs sung by Mr. Wrench and his friends who plan to participate in the National Welsh Music Festival which will be held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle, Sept 1-3.

More than 10,000 persons from the United States and Canada are expected to attend the songfest, and Mr. Wrench plans to have his powerful bass voice ring out with the rest of them.

Mr. Wrench came to the United States in 1920 and only returned to his native land in 1927 when he participated in a similar music festival there.

Mr. Wrench expects his 82-

year-old father, living in Ohio, and a sister to be in attendance at the festival in Salt Lake City which will be the first one ever held in the west.

"All Welsh people love to sing," he explained, "or at least make the kind of a noise and for generations they have joined in these national songfests. The custom spread to America but was practiced only in the east and this is the first time that the activity has been brought into the Intermountain area," he added.

"It used to be sort of a contest and people would compete for distinction and honor of victory in various events but in recent years it has become a mass songfest where people who like to sing join in," he said.



WELSHMAN BOOMS OUT—Griffith Ivor (Ifor) Wrench gets some early practice in for Welsh songfest before he leaves for work at open hearth at Geneva Steel Co.

Welsh Group Invites Song Lovers

Natives of Wales, Welsh descendants and other people from many parts of the United States, Canada, Mexico and South America who "just love to sing," continued to arrive in Salt Lake City Thursday for the Gymnafa Ganu festival.

The four-day event, which is being planned for the purpose of merrymaking, singing and dancing, according to M. D. Thomas, general chairman, will begin Friday with registration at Newhouse hotel from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

A garden party Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Staples, Holladay, will welcome out-of-town visitors. It is sponsored by local Welsh singers and members of the Cambrian society.

Saturday at 7 p.m. at Newhouse hotel the "Nosen lawer" evening

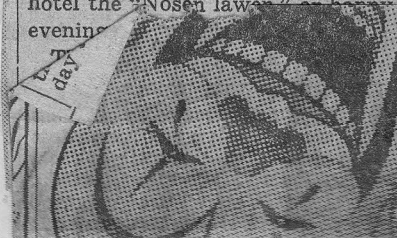
Gymanfa Ganu Committee Honors Guests at Luncheon

Salt Lake Ladies of the Gymanfa Ganu committee were hosts at a beautifully appointed luncheon held Wednesday atop the Hotel Utah Roof Garden in honor of Miss Margaret Tanner Williams of New York City and Cardiff, South Wales.

Included among the thirty-two present were the following out-of-town guests: Miss Helen M. Williams of New York City, Mrs. Hugh R. Hughes of Denver, Mrs. Evan Evans of Chicago, Miss Margaret E. Evans of Chicago, Mrs. Emrys L. Owen of Los Angeles, and Mrs. George Bundy of Warren, Ohio.

Serving on the committee were Mrs Henry T. Jones, Mrs.

Richard M. Long, Mrs. Carl E. Turner, Miss Louise Mann, Miss Margaret Davies, Miss Florrie Davies and Mrs. Charles F. Morrow.



Welsh Lass Here to Talk About Song Festival

The rest of the world may be disintegrating into bits, blown sky high mentally, financially and morally—but there is one little green spot on earth that is sticking together like a bunch of proverbial brothers—meet Miss Dilys Gittins of Carno, Montgomeryshire, Wales—she tells about it proudly.

Bright-eyed, poised and gracious Miss Gittins has been a nexchange teacher from Wales for the past year up in Edmonton, Canada. She has liked it so well that she has arranged to stay another year.

Gymanuf Ganu

This summer on tour through the U. S. she's on the way north again from Los Angeles. She paused to view Salt Lake City and to find out all about the Gymanfu Ganu in Salt Lake's Tabernacle on Sept. 3 and 4. Salt Lake knows all about local eisteddfods—Welsh singers from a distance held such a songfest here not so far back. But the coming national Gymanfa Ganu of the United States and Canada is another story. Upwards of 6000 delegates, singers all, met nationally last year in Detroit. The selection of Salt Lake for this year's convening met with great enthusiasm, especially because it affords an opportunity to sing with the famed Tabernacle choir.

About 4000 will attend, according to James D. Lewis, publicity assistant to Salt Lake's John James, one of the national vice presidents, and escorting Miss Gittins sightseeing while in the city.

Nine hundred reservations already have been made by forehanded Welshmen.

Singing Nation

"We Welsh," says Miss Gittins, "love to sing. It's in our blood. From babyhood in the schools our children are taught to read music and sing. It is their second language. It is the greatest pleasure of the Welsh—these cho. uses. About ten years ago a great movement to preserve the "Welsh language began and now both Welsh and English are spoken back home."

Children, she finds as a teacher, are much the same in Wales and America. She promises quite a group of singers from Edmonton will attend the September festivities.

"Each group's leader," said Mr. Lewis, "will conduct it. Coming are Welsh from Canada and Mexico as well as from over the U. S. And from Argentina."

Verbal Exercise

Mr. Lewis sat down. He got out a notebook and read carefully. "This Argentina South American group," he went on, "had the Y Drafod—that's the same as a daily Tribune—published at Chubut, write to ask all about the national meet here and as soon as I get my typewriter repaired I am answering. It has broken down under



Miss Dilys Gittins who comes on Salt Lake visit from her home in Carno, Montgomeryshire, Wales.

all these double L's and Welsh consonants—"

"The Welsh language," Miss Gittins told him distantly, "is a perfectly beautiful language when you get used to it! It's musical!"

28 Aug 1949
Tribune
Song Fest Set In Salt Lake On Sept 4

ALREADY arriving in Salt Lake are hundreds of singers from all points of the United States and Canada for the 18th national Gymanfa Ganu (sacred Welsh song festival) to be held Sunday, Sept. 4, at Salt Lake tabernacle, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The local festival is drawing nationwide interest.

Salt Lake singers—500 strong and members of all denominations—have been practicing twice weekly for the past several weeks to participate in the festival, which is being held west of Chicago for the first time in history.

Utah's Cambrian Assn. issued an invitation at Gymanfa Ganu in Detroit last year, as a result of its president's lifelong dream of hearing the Welsh hymns sung in the acoustically perfect tabernacle. The tabernacle choir will join with some 4000 performers in the presentation, which will be broadcast.

Preceding the Sunday meeting at the tabernacle there will be a Noson-Lawen ("Happy Evening") celebration at Newhouse hotel, to be followed by a tea. William Albert Hughes of Cleveland will direct the festival singing.

There will be no charge for attendance at either the tabernacle or the Congregational church, where the group will sing on Sept. 4.

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Credit for drawing these outstanding singers to Salt Lake City in 1949 lies mainly in the efforts of one man, "Welshman" that is, Mr. John James, an 85-year-old member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who has been prominent in judiciary circles of Utah for 49 years, having been elected county clerk of Salt Lake county in 1900, and ex officio clerk of the Third judicial district of Utah. He was also clerk of the board of county commissioners and the county board of health, and has lived in Salt Lake City since July, 1885.

It was John James who sparked the organization of the Utah Cambrian Assn. and fanned the interest of his countrymen in Gymanfa Ganu singing and the hotly competitive Eisteddfod participations so dear to the hearts of the Welsh people.

A NATIVE of Pembroke, South Wales, John James has been president of the Cambrian Assn. since 1927 and was secretary for 35 years previously. For approximately twenty years he was the first and only British vice consul for Salt Lake.

It has been his desire to hear the magnificent Welsh hymns rendered in the acoustically perfect Salt Lake tabernacle ever since the national Gymanfa Ganu has been sung, and he also wanted to hear the internationally famous Welsh choral groups singing more familiar sacred melodies in accompaniment with the superb tabernacle choir. Sept. 4 of this year will see the realization of both his dreams.

His invitation was carried last summer to Detroit by another outstanding Utahn of Welsh descent, M. D. Thomas, chairman of the Utah Gymanfa Ganu committee and a director of the Cambrian Assn. Dr. Thomas,

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Herald of Wales
-END MAGAZINE

SALT LAKE CITY IS GETTING READY FOR THE NATIONAL CYMANFA GANU

The eighteenth National Cymanfa Ganu of the United States and Canada is to be held in Salt Lake City on September 3, 4 and 5—the first time it has been held west of Chicago on a national scale. Mr. Earl A. Carpenter, Salt Lake City Committee secretary, writes to the "Herald of Wales":—

FINISHING touches to the arrangements for the National Cymanfa Ganu is giving the Salt Lake City committee plenty of hard work. There is less time for canyon trips, less time for bathing in the famous water of Great Salt Lake, even less time to sleep.

But during the months of preparation the bond of friendship has strengthened between the Welsh all over the States. It is hoped that when east meets west in Utah in September the bond will tighten between all descendants of Cambria.

A centenary

Utah will be host to the visiting delegates during the year that marks the centenary of the arrival of Captain Dan Jones, a native of Flintshire, and his sturdy pioneer Welsh company. They entered Salt Lake Valley on October 27, 1849, and were the first foreign-speaking group to arrive in Utah.

True to the traditions of their homeland, a St. David's Day celebration was held as early as March 1, 1852, in the two-storey abode, home of Daniel Daniels on the corner of Sixth West and North Temple streets. There were songs that night which brought memories of celebra-

tions across the sea and, of course, there was the cotillion.

Everyone was learning the new dance in those days. Not all of the new arrivals understood the "calls" but they attempted it just the same—and had fun in doing so.

There will be present at the Cymanfa Ganu in Salt Lake City Mrs. Esther Davis Stephens of Burlingame, California, whose mother, as a little girl of seven, was present at that first St. David's Day in 1852. In describing the event before her death Mrs. Davis said:

"There were only two musical instruments there, a clarinet and a violin, which young Daniels played. The music was fine, but Daniels, who chose me as his partner, though I was just a little girl, was calling the turns and play-

ing the violin at the same time, so I had to dance holding the ends of his long red sash."

When we listen to the now famous Tabernacle Choir it is well to remember that members of that original group of Welshmen under the leadership of John Parry, formed a choir which became the nucleus of that organisation. They sang in the old Bowery, located on what is now Temple-square—it was the first tabernacle in the desert—in April, 1850.



Mrs. Carpenter adds these biographical notes:—

SALT Lake City chairman Dr. M. D.

Thomas's family came to Utah from Llandebie, Carmarthenshire. They were residents of Swansea for a few years before their emigration. He is a research chemist, having graduated from Oxford as a Ph.D. He was there as a Rhodes scholar from Utah.

His maternal grandfather was Job Davies of Pentri-

gwenlais, Llandebie, who was a bard several years before his death.

My own mother, Ann Williams, daughter of David Williams and Sarah Lodwick, was born in Llanelly, my father in Cwmbach, Aberdare. He was the son of Anna Evans and David Jenkins, whose birthplace was Morriston, Swansea.

Cards showing the old costumes of Wales and other interesting facts have been sent to me by Mrs. Elizabeth Jenkins, of Treboeth, Swansea, and my cousin Mrs. Harold G. Jones, of 59, Taff-street, Ferndale, Rhondda, has sent me part of a Welsh costume which I will wear at the garden party scheduled for Friday night, September 2, for the early arrivals.

Teacher-guests

We were pleased to have as guests two Welsh teachers who were here for the teachers convention. They were Mary Catherine Roberts, of 5 Rhedfa'r Part, Dowlais, Glamorgan, and Miss Helen Lloyd Owen, of Dolgoed, Bala, Merioneth.

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National Harmony—Welsh Style

*Deseret News
Sunday Aug 28 '49*

ON THE FIRST Sunday in September, Salt Lake City plays host to the national annual Welsh sacred song festival, known as the Gymanfa Ganu. This is the first time this event has been held west of the Mississippi River, and a strong contingent of singers is expected from California, as well as the famed groups from Pennsylvania and Cleveland, and others from intermediate points. Choirs from at least three provinces in Canada give to this annual feast of harmony truly international scope.

The Welsh in America have preserved, and in fact expanded, two types of great musical gatherings. The Eisteddfod is an assembly of competitive choirs and soloists, (originally of poets and authors also) who vie for prizes in the performance of previously announced pieces. The first Eisteddfod in Salt Lake City was directed by Evan Stephens, and there have been others since.

The Gymanfa Ganu, on the other hand, is participative rather than competitive, and is largely limited to sacred music, specializing on fine hymn tunes, many of them rich in minor harmonies. The coming event will be held in the great Tabernacle, with the participants not in the choir seats, which would be quite inadequate, but in the body of the main floor. Some thousands of spectators can be accommodated in the galleries.

A strong Salt Lake City group, which includes choir members from several different churches, has been working in preparation for the Gymanfa Ganu, under the sponsorship of the local Cambrian Society. Not all these singers are Welsh, even on one side of the

family; but all share the enjoyment of participative singing in rich harmonies of the fine old tunes, the authorship of several of which are lost in antiquity, so that they can be designated only as "Welsh melodies."

It is interesting to note that the native Welsh members of this singing group occasionally bewail the fact that some of the hymns are to be sung in English. They maintain that the Welsh language, with its abundance of vowel sounds and preponderance of soft voiced consonants, lends itself to harmonious singing of a sort that the clipped English consonantal diction cannot attain; this involves not comparative excellence, but essential difference, perhaps comparable to the difference in the same fine music as played on the organ and on the harp.

There is historical basis for the claim of Welsh leadership in harmonious singing. As early as 1188, when most music elsewhere had not progressed beyond the simple melodic stage, the historian Giraldus Cambrensis recorded that the Cymri (called Welsh by the English) had the remarkable faculty of singing skilfully blended parts, which he had heard for the first time in his life.

Salt Lake City, and its several churches, welcome the singers from all parts of the country who next Sunday, afternoon and evening, will worship at the Tabernacle in song, and bring to living reality the words of Utah's great Welsh songster, Evan Stephens:

*"With one united voice
Let us aloud rejoice;
Our offering let us bring
To God, our King."*

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A Treat for S. L.

Welsh Schedule Famed Hymnal Here Next Year

By Conrad B. Harrison
(Deseret News Music Editor)

It's news to no one that Welshmen love to sing, but it's great news to Salt Lake that the singing the Welshmen most love to do will be heard in our great Tabernacle over the Labor Day weekend in September, 1949.

THAT'S WHEN THE eighteenth annual international "Gymanfa Ganu" is scheduled here, according to W. W. Thomas, Salt Lake representative at the Welsh meet held in Detroit last weekend.

Mr. Thomas tells of some 3000 Welsh people gathering in the large Detroit auditorium to sing sacred songs in "spiritual fervor and beauty so characteristic of Welsh community singing."

"IN CONTRAST with the Eistedfod, in which choirs, quartets and other musical groups compete with each other, the Gymanfa Ganu is not competitive, but stresses rather community singing of sacred songs," Mr. Thomas said. "Solos and choir numbers make up a very small part of the program. The greater part consists of spontaneous unrehearsed singing by the entire assembly.

"Leadership is not confined to a single conductor, but two or three conductors may take turns in leading the singing. Both Welsh and English words are written for the music and the two languages are alternated in the singing. The hymnal just compiled by the Gymanfa Ganu Association includes about one hundred of the best-loved hymns and melodies — among them "Come, Dearest Lord," by the late Evan Stephens, former conductor of the Tabernacle Choir.

"UNISON SINGING is not practiced. All the parts—bass, tenor, alto and soprano—are clearly discernible, crossing and recrossing in the great assembly. It is incredible how perfect is the coordination and tempo in so large a group and how responsive are the singers to every gesture of the conductor. At a sign the music changes from a beautiful pianissimo to a volume of thanksgiving that fairly lifts the listener out of his seat.

"The Welsh people love to sing. Their deeply religious nature finds expression in sacred

songs. At Detroit they put their whole souls into their singing. This great song festival was an unforgettable emotional experience.

"THOUSANDS OF WELSH people from the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast regions and hundreds from the East may confidently be expected to assemble in Salt Lake next year. Their singing will be an inspiration to the music lovers of Utah."

Actually, the only purpose of the great Welsh songfest is "to promote Welsh hymnology in both conception and rendition, thereby preserving a traditional characteristic of the Welsh American citizenry," Mr. Thomas added.

He pointed out that a "festive choir" of several hundred voices occupies the stage or choir loft, as the case will be at the Tabernacle, and that the remainder of the assemblage fills the hall's seats and forms a gigantic second choir.

"There is no audience—only participants," he said.

SALT LAKE CITY
Sunday, August 7, 1949



WELSH LEADER—Henry T. Jones expects 5000 for Welsh songfest.

Welsh Songfest Expected To Draw 5000

A prediction that upwards of 5000 of the nation's Welshmen will join in song at the Salt Lake Tabernacle the evening of Sept. 4 was advanced Saturday by Henry T. Jones, New Castle, Pa., president of the National Gymanfa Association.

Head of the national organization since 1941, Mr. Jones is expected to arrive in Salt Lake City well before the annual convention Sept. 3-5. He said all indications point to a huge attendance at the songfest and expressed gratitude that the Tabernacle Choir had been lined to head the crowd of singers.

Born in Wales

Mr. Jones was born in Cwmavon, South Wales, and came to America with his parents as a child. The family first settled in Catasauqua, Pa., in 1889, where his father, John Bassett Jones, was employed as a shingler.

Mr. Jones has always been interested in the activities of the Welsh and as a boy became a member of the famous New Castle Male Chorus. His interest in Welsh singing largely devoted to hymns is noted in his church activities. For the past 30 years he has been chairman of the board of the First Congressional Church of New Castle.

Poetic Language

The Gymanfa Ganu president learned to speak Cymraeg in his adopted land and has continued to use the phonetic and poetic language of "Dear Old Gwalla" to this day.

Meanwhile, rehearsals in hymn-singing in this language continue in Salt Lake City under direction of Mrs. Lucy H. Baugh on Mondays at 8 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 169 Fourth East St., and on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at Barret Hall, 60 North Main St.

Choirs from Logan, Ogden, Provo, Midvale and Malad, Idaho, will assemble Aug. 21 at the First Baptist Church for a special practice session.

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DESERET NEWS

Welsh Songfest Slated



HANG IT—

This huge banner hangs at temporary headquarters of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association at the Newhouse Hotel to tell of the forthcoming festivities of the Welsh group in Salt Lake City during Sept. 4-11.

The Deseret News

THE FAMILY NEWSPAPER

Salt Lake City, Utah, Sunday Morning, September 4, 1949



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Mae'r gwael a redodd ar y groes
O ces i ces i'w gofio;

1.
O listen to our wondrous story,
Counted once among the lost;

CHIEF SINGERS—Mr. and Mrs. Allen Thomas, of Ferndale, Mich., raise their voices in song and practice-up for Sunday sessions of the Gymanfa Ganu, to be held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle at 2:30 and 7 p.m. Mr. Thomas was chosen president-elect of the Welsh organization during its 18th annual business meeting held Saturday.

Salt Lake City

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 "when located on lands owned talities." **SALT LAKE TELEGRAM** Bonneville opening has been



New officers of the Gymanfa Ganu find a pretty Welsh lass in national costume ready to direct them about Salt Lake City. Left to right are Humphrey Jones, Toronto; Mrs. Nansi Maddocks Cox, 563 E. 8th South; Dr. M. D. Thomas, Salt Lake City, and Allen Thomas, Ferndale, Mich.

Will Lang

FOR GUYD

Welch Chorus Readies 18th Festival of Gymanfa Ganu

More than 3000 Welsh-Americans, each with an ear as keen as a tuning fork, were prepared Saturday to celebrate their 18th International Festival of Sacred Song—the Gymanfa Ganu. The warm-up for festival day events, to begin Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at the First Congregational Church, Fourth East and First

South Streets, was the "Noson Lawen" (happy evening), Saturday at the Newhouse Hotel.

At this affair Prof. Hywel C. Rowland, of Grand Forks, North Dakota, acted as master of ceremonies and introduced a total of 30 entertainers during the evening. They included Miss Ann Davies, of Emporia, Kan., an organist and songstress; Margaret Tann Williams, of Cardiff, Wales, who has sung before in Salt Lake in the "Messiah" and two Salt Lakers, Lois Whyte Lizez, a pianist, and Nancy Maddox Cox, soprano.

But the traditional gaiety of Saturday night will be forgotten Sunday. In its place will be the more solemn rendering of hymns and anthems, sometimes without accompaniment, for which the Welsh have been famous for centuries.

The 10:30 a.m. service will be highlighted by a sermon in Welsh and English by Rev. Richard J. Williams, of Scranton, Pa.

The long-awaited Gymanfa Ganu will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the Salt Lake Tabernacle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

John James, vice president of the International Gymanfa Ganu, will be president of this session, and Judge Edward Blythin, of Cleveland, O., the chairman.

William Albert Hughes, famed director of Cambrian choruses from Cleveland, O, who has been directing choir music since the age of 15, will take the podium to lead the singing.

The Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir, directed by J. Spencer Cornwall, will also be heard.

Dr. M. D. Thomas, who is chairman of the 18 Gymanfa Ganu, will preside at the evening session, to begin at 7:30 p.m. Pres. Richard L. Evans, of the First Council of the Seventy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, will be chairman of this meeting. He will introduce Philip O. Jones, of Pittsburg, Calif., who will direct the singing of "Malvern," a favorite Welsh hymn, after which Mr. Hughes, Mr. Cornwall and Mr. Asper will be introduced to the congregation.

Humphrey P. Jones, of Toronto, Canada, will bring greetings to the Gymanfa Ganu from its members in Canada. He is a vice president of the International.

After singing of the anthem, "Like the Grass Are All Man's Days," by those in attendance, the Tabernacle Choir will be heard in "Out of the Silence," and "Come, Come Ye Saints." This number will be directed by Mr. Cornwall.

The evening session will be interrupted from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. so that a special series of hymns can be broadcast as they are sung by the congregation and the Tabernacle Choir. Elder Evans will be commentator for this program.

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Nansi M. Cox, 563 E. 8th South, strums one of the harps that will accompany singers in the annual Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Sunday in Salt Lake LDS tabernacle. Salt Lakers will join in the songs.

Leader Arrives to Shape Welsh Songfest Plans

Singing as a means of increasing spirituality was recommended in Salt Lake City Sunday by a man who sings the way they did in the old country—Wales.

George Bundy, Warren, O., secretary, national Gymanfa Ganu Association of the United States and Canada, is the man. He arrived here to aid in final preparations for the 18th annual Gymanfa Ganu sacred song festival Sunday.

"The desire to sing is in everyone" declared Mr. Bundy. "And congregational singing is a means of worship. This increases spirituality," he explained.

"While the industrial and political leaders of the world cite the need for more spirituality, the Welsh people and other music lovers have the means to provide it," Mr. Bundy said. "The Welsh people have an amazingly simple way to improve the spirituality of peoples: by encouraging more and better hymn singing. The only way this can be done is by congregational singing," he said.

The festival, an annual international expression of the religious feelings of the Welsh, will be held Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Salt Lake tabernacle, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It never before has been conducted in the west.

Some 4000 persons are expected by M. D. Thomas, general chairman, to participate.

William Albert Hughes, Cleveland, O., director of the Cleveland Cambrian church choir, will direct the singing. Featured in the nonsectarian festival will be the Salt Lake tabernacle choir.

The National Gymanfa Ganu Assn. of the United States and Canada has scheduled a "Nosen Lowen" or "Happy Evening" for delegates to the festival Saturday at 8 p.m. in Newhouse hotel.

Singing also will be heard at an outing of the organization next Monday at Saltair resort, when Welsh costumes of the 15th century will be worn by many of the delegates.

Song books that will be distributed at the tabernacle songfest will include Welsh lyrics, spelled phonetically, so that anyone may join in the singing.

Accompaniment will be by harps, symbol of Wales and the Gymanfa Ganu.

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Gymanfu Ganu

Welsh Singers Hold Tabernacle Concert

Welshmen were concluding Monday the fourth day of their 18th annual international Gymanfa Ganu in Salt Lake City with a program centered about Saltair on the south shore of Great Salt lake.

In a most fitting setting, some 5000 of them reverently lifted their voices Sunday afternoon and evening in the Salt Lake tabernacle, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The traditional Welsh songfest of community singing was directed by William Albert Hughes, Cleveland, Ohio, the Welsh-born director of the Cambrian Male chorus of Cleveland.

His sure technique and dynamic personality contributed much to the brilliant performance of the group, whose voices were broadcast over a coast-to-coast radio hookup.

Clue to the spirit created by the sublimity of the beautiful hymns was given to the congregation of singers and awed Salt Lakers by Mr. Hughes.

"Don't sing these hymns unless you firmly believe in their message," he suggested Sunday evening at the beginning of the two-hour official program.

On Monday afternoon the Welshmen, who apparently never tire of their favorite occupation—singing—were holding an informal program of singing at Saltair.

At 2:30 p.m., the 56th annual

Utah Cambrian day celebration was scheduled to begin in the ballroom at the Saltair pavilion, with Adam S. Bennion as master of ceremonies.

The Sunday sessions in the LDS tabernacle were at 2:30 and 7 p.m. The afternoon chairman was Judge Edward Bithin, Cleveland, Ohio, while Richard L. Evans chairmanned the evening portion.

Although both sessions featured Welsh hymns, the tabernacle choir, directed by J. Spencer Cornwall; the tabernacle organist, Frank W. Asper, and the Cambrian chorus of Cleveland presented selections.

Greetings to the group of congregational singers were extended from Canada by Humphrey P. Jones, Toronto, Canada, vice president of the National Gymanfa Ganu.

Mr. Jones was one of the 104 Welsh Jones' registered for the Gymanfa Ganu.

Coincidence was noted that 1949 is the Welsh people's centennial in Utah.

On Oct. 27, 1849, 260 persons reached the Salt Lake valley under the leadership of Capt. Dan Jones, a native of Flintshire, North Wales.

As the Welsh clans were preparing to return to their various homes Monday, they were assured that the stranger had found, according to the old Celtic verse, "a thousand welcomes you'll find here before you."



John Morgan . . . Songfests draw his interest across the country.

GYMANFA GANU

Ex-Resident Here to Sing

A former Salt Laker who missed being a native of Wales by a mere 200 yards was back in Salt Lake City Wednesday to attend another Gymanfa Ganu.

"I was born in Shropshire, just 200 yards from the border of Wales," said John Morgan. "I'm English by birth, Welsh by inclination, American by preference."

Now residing in Los Angeles, Mr. Morgan has traveled to 100 Gymanfa Ganus since 1908 when he left the employ of the old Utah Copper Co., now Kennecott Copper Corp.

"Most of the singers are just folks who like to sing," Mr. Morgan said. "This is the real 'community sing' and the only professionals are those who direct the songs. People like me travel hundreds of miles just to join in the singing."

S L Tribune Sept 15 1949



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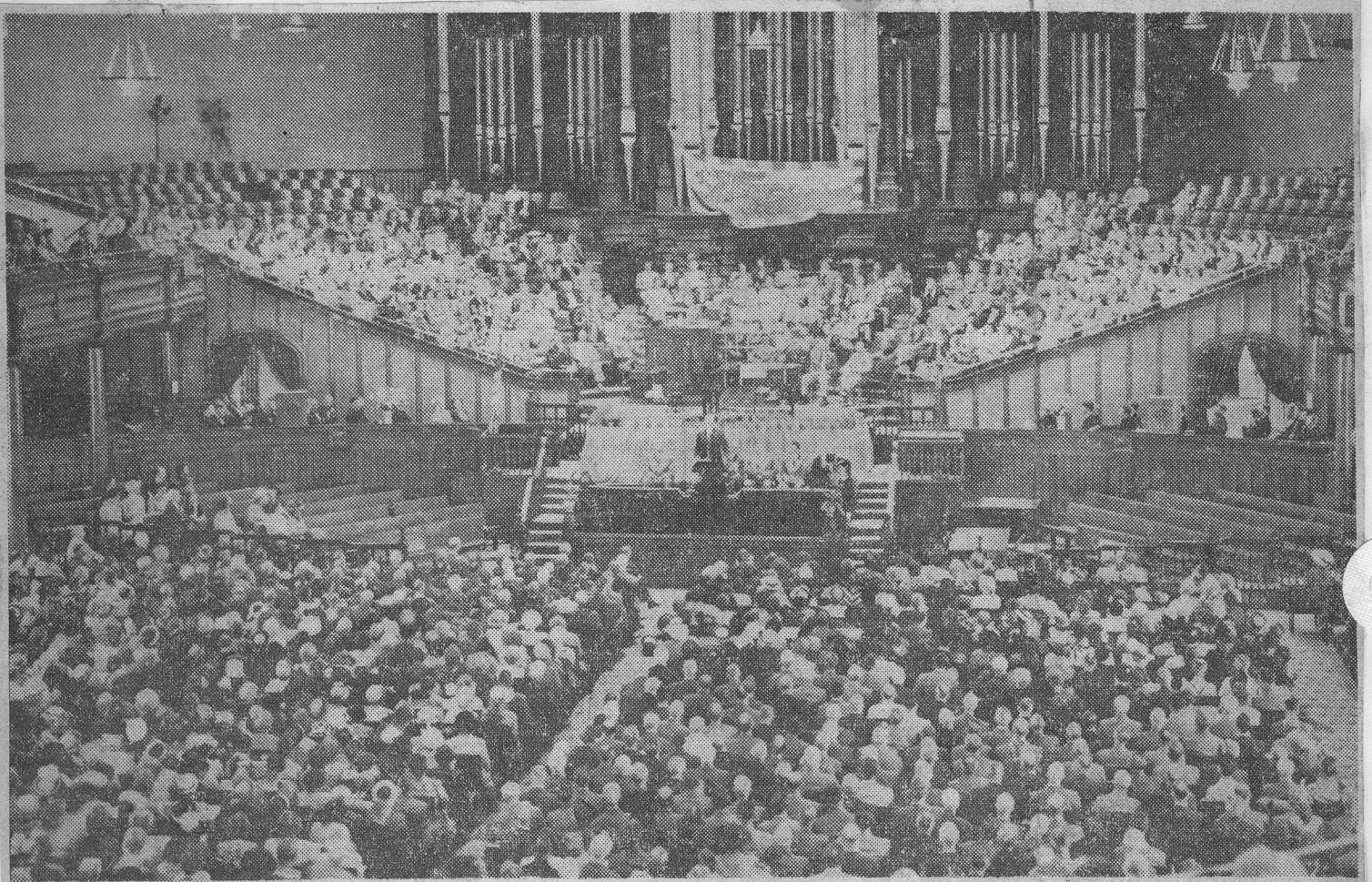
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3 L Tribune Sept 15 1949

AP RAMBLER



Tribune-Telegram Photo—Bettridge.

Thousands Thrill to Welsh Songfest in Tabernacle

More than 5000 persons assembled Sunday evening for the Welsh songfest, the Gymanfa Ganu. It was the 18th international presentation of the affair and took place in the LDS tabernacle. In the background of the picture is the LDS tabernacle choir.

Welsh Jam S. L. Hotels For 18th Annual Fest

By JOAN GEYER

The air was thick Friday with softly rolling Welsh consonants as members of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association of the United States and Canada began registering at Newhouse hotel for the group's 18th annual songfest and convention.

With hotels jammed with such typically Welsh names as Thomas, Davis, Williams and Roberts, convention officials estimated that 6000 persons may attend the three-day international convention.

"Gymanfa Ganu" is Welsh for song festival, explained the association's president, Henry T. Jones, Newcastle, Pa.

Welsh actually is a simple, musical language with its own alphabet, he said. While the American eye is startled by such lines as "Beth sydd imi yn y byd ond gorhrymder mawr o hyd!" in the popular hymn, "Aberystwyth," difficulty is caused by use of several English consonants to express a simple Welsh sound, said Mr. Jones.

The Welsh, born with a love of song but not always with operatic range, were first to hit upon the idea of extending range by using several singers, creating a symphony of voices.

Famed Tann Williams

Welsh association members, registering Friday, included such notables as Tann Williams, Cardiff, Wales, who sang the contralto role in The Messiah in Salt Lake City and at Carnegie hall last year; and William Albert Hughes, born in Rhosllanerchrugog, North Wales, now director of the Cleveland Messiah chorus, and director of the Gymanfa Ganu.

On Sunday, more than 4000 voices will be combined in a songfest when the Gymanfa Ganu Assn. unites with the tabernacle choir of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 2:30 p.m. and at 7 p.m. in the Salt Lake tabernacle.

Sunday Services

The Welsh singers Sunday at 10:30 a.m. will participate in religious services at the First Congregational church, 4th East and 1st South. Saturday at 7 p.m. they will hold an informal program of music at Newhouse hotel.

After registration Friday afternoon, association members were guests at a garden reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold S. Staples, 5286 Cottonwood ln. Saturday afternoon they will be taken on a sightseeing tour of Salt Lake City.

The Sunday evening songfest to be broadcast over the Columbia Broadcasting system, also will be heard over "Voice of America."



Henry T. Jones . . . The Welsh language is simple—to Welsh.

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Tann Williams, Welsh contralto, center, reaches for a high note, as William Albert Hughes, the director of Gymanfa Ganu, and Mrs. Charles T. S.

Parsons listen critically. Mrs. Parsons, Salt Laker, is attired in Welsh costume to greet the members of the Welsh singing society on arrival.

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Welsh Dragon Flag Arrives For S. L. Program

A 40-year-old red dragon flag of Wales with a bit of sentimental background arrived in Salt Lake City Friday for the "Gymanfa Ganu," or International Welsh Sacred Song Festival to be held Sept. 3 to 5.

The emblem, adopted during the War of the Roses after valiant fighting by Welsh troops, is made of heavy silk. It was woven in Drefnewdd, Wales, at the special request of a Welsh scholar, Thomas Price, professor of history with the University of California.

Loaned to Salt Lakers

Mr. Price presented it to William Evans, leading Welshman of the San Francisco area, to be custodian of the flag. It was Mr. Evans who has loaned it to the Salt Lake Cambrian Society for use during the coming song festival.

Dr. M. D. Thomas, agricultural research scientist for the American Smelting and Refining Company and Rhodew Scholar board member, is chairman of the local society's festival committee.

Although Welsh groups sing together regularly, it is only once a year that they gather for their "Gymanfa Ganu." Dr. Thomas, in announcing the festival program, said that Saturday, Sept. 3 will be devoted to a canyon party and social evening—"Noson Lawen."

Tabernacle Program

The next morning, following a special service in Welsh and English at the Congregational Church, the singers will present a program of hymns and anthems in the Salt Lake Tabernacle under the direction of William Albert Hughes of Cleveland. The Tabernacle Choir also is expected to sing on the program as will the Cambrian Male Chorus. The program will be broadcast nationwide in the evening.

On Monday, Sept. 5, the singing groups will tour Salt Lake City and vicinity and stage a program of Welsh folk songs and dances at Saltair.



RED DRAGON FLAG OF WALES—A 40-year-old banner of heavy silk, in red, white and green, has been loaned by a San Francisco Welshman for the International Welsh Sacred Song Festival to be held here soon. Dr. M. D. Thomas, chairman of festival committee, studies flag with Mrs. Lucy H. Baugh and Mrs. Harold A. Staples, in native garb.

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Gymanfa Ganu Secretary Arrives For Fete

By Gordon W. Kirby

It isn't very often that enough Welshman can get together for a Gymanfa Ganu.

That's why so many of them were arriving in Salt Lake Monday from all areas of the United States and Canada—next Sunday is the date of the 18th Annual National Gymanfa Ganu.

One of the early arrivals from distant parts is George Bundy of Warren, O., who at 72 years of age is secretary to the Gymanfa Ganu Association of United States and Canada.

Must Like To Sing

Mr. Bundy says it isn't just a matter of being able to get here that counts. If you're like the Gymanfa Ganu you've got to like to sing, in harmony, in four parts and in Cymric, like they do in the old country.

And Cymric, for reading purposes, looks like this:

Dros y brynau tywyll niwlog,
Yn dawal, f'enail, edrych draw.

Which means:
O'er the gloomy hills of darkness.

Look, my soul; be still and gaze.

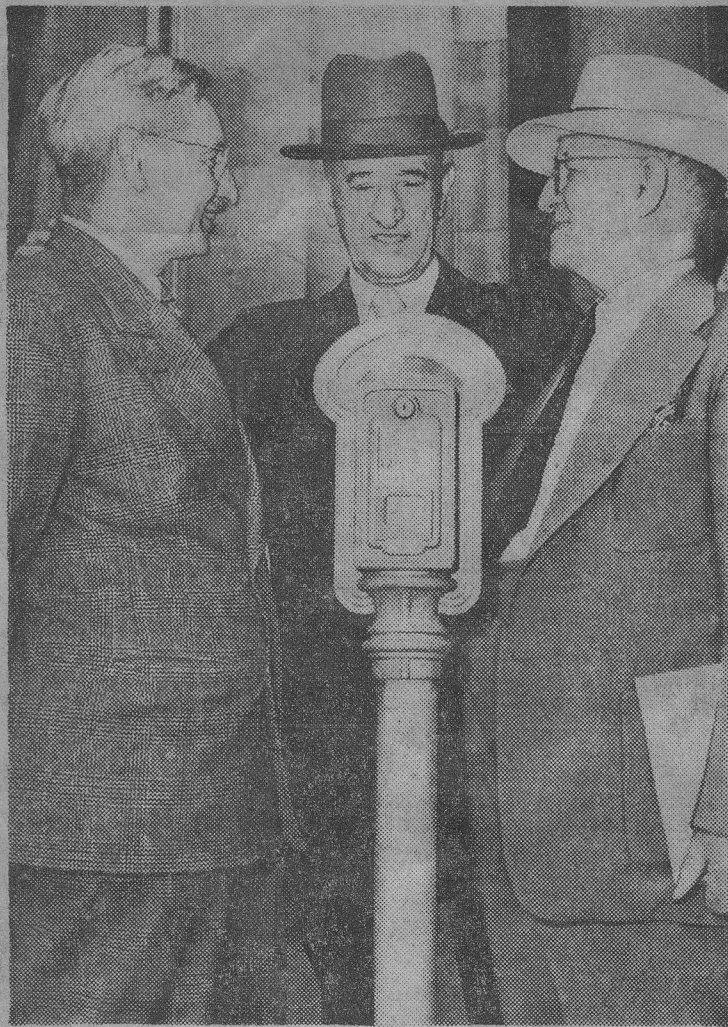
This type of spirituality, Mr. Bundy says, is typical of a Welsh hymn. A Gymanfa Ganu is in no way similar to the barber-shop singing of America. All of it is sacred singing.

Humble Beginning

"The beginnings of the Gymanfa Ganu—which means sacred song festival—were in the hills and vales of Cambria, he declared. "After the regular religious service was over the congregation would remain for an hour of song, without accompaniment and without even a tuning fork."

The Welsh, he added, believe that singing is the essence of spirituality.

Mr. Bundy met Monday with the general chairman of the eighteenth Gymanfa Ganu, Dr. M. D. Thomas of Salt Lake City. He heard from Dr. Thomas that some 4000 persons will arrive before the festival officially begins Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Salt Lake Tabernacle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



WAITING FOR THE BIG EVENT—These men have a hand in arrangements for Gymanfa Ganu, traditional song-fest of Welsh origin, Sunday. Here they meet on a downtown street for an impromptu conference. Left to right, they are Dr. M. D. Thomas, of Salt Lake, who is chairman of the event; W. J. Thomas, Salt Lake Gymanfa Ganu treasurer, and George Bundy, secretary of the national association.

Other Leaders Due

And Mr. Bundy told Mr. Thomas that Henry T. Jones of New Castle, Pa., the president of the association, along with Humphrey P. Jones, of Toronto, Ont., Canada, and Allen Thomas, Fern-dale, Mich., vice presidents, will arrive in time for the event.

William Albert Hughes of Cleveland, Ohio, will direct the singing Sunday at both the 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. sessions.

Mr. Bundy stressed that all Salt Lakers are invited to join the singers. All sessions of the Gymanfa Ganu are free.

Song books with both Cymric and English versions of hymns and melodies to be sung will be provided for everyone, he added.

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Hymns Fill Hotel as Welshmen Adjourn

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Countless conventions have ended on countless Sunday nights with festive people crowding the Schroeder Hotel lobby. If they've reached the singing stage by midnight, usually in the wee hours of Monday they progress to the unprintable verses.

It was different early Monday as about 2,000 Welshmen and their wives relaxed after their national "Gymanfa Ganu"—song festival.

LOBBIES JAMMED

They jammed the Schroeder lobbies and sang and sang, massed in impromptu choruses. They sang with enough volume to bring stragglers in from the streets.

But where ordinary post-convention singers are fueled with the fluids that help in ignoring one's own flat notes, these sang without artificial stimulation. They had no flat notes to ignore.

That was another difference. There wasn't a line of "I Want a Girl Just Like the Girl That

Married Dear Old Dad," nor "You Tell Me Your Dream." The gay tunes were such hymns as "Count Your Blessings," and the sad ones were not schmaltz but prayer.

"Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom—"

LURED BY SONG

A drunk weaved in from the street, untangled himself from the revolving door and stood listening intently.

"S'beautiful," he said.

"The night is dark, and I am

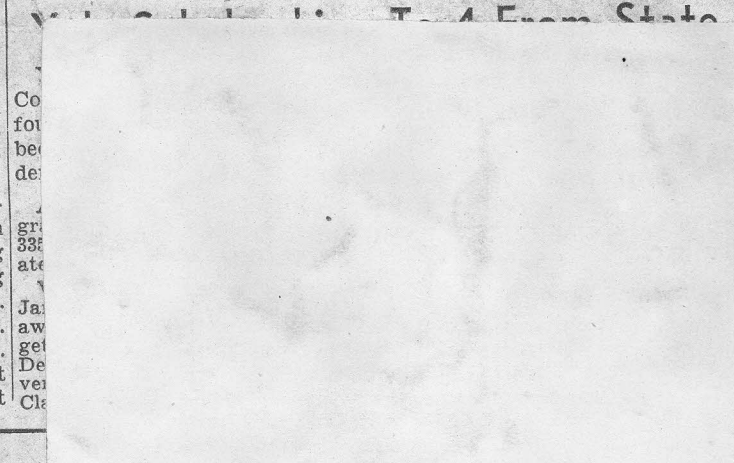
far from home—"

The drunk shivered and plunged into the revolving door again. "Too sad. I like barbershop, myself."

Bellboys and night clerks stood listening happily. Not only good music; nobody was any trouble. The crowd started to thin a little. A Welshmen said to another:

"It's late. We'd better get some sleep."

"We can't go now," his friend answered. "How could you leave when there's still singing?"



STEVE CANYON



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PROCLAIMED

—Festival committee members, Dr. M. D. Thomas, general chairman, and Mrs. Earl A. Carpenter, general secretary, look on as Governor Lee signs a proclamation declaring a "State Gymanfa Ganu Song Festival Week."
(Photos by Russel K. Whitney)

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Tribune-Telegram Photo-Conrad

Welsh Descendants Prepare for Festival

Colorfully clad in native costumes, four Welsh descendants look over music and schedules for the Gymanfa Ganu four-day festival. They are, left to

right, Mrs. Phil L. Peterson, Mrs. Don V. Hague, Billie Thomas Bullock and Kaye Haycock. They helped welcome international visitors Thursday.

TEMPLE IN BACKGROUNDO

1500 Welsh Linger in S. L. To Join Cambrian Fest

By JEAN BICKMORE

Reluctant to break the spell cast by their own four-part singing of melodious Welsh hymns, more than 1500 persons of Welsh extraction who came to Salt Lake City to participate in their international Gymanfa Ganu, sacred song festival, lingered in the city Monday to join the Salt Lake Cambrian Assn. in its annual outing at Saltair.

Beginning in the morning with a lecture tour of the Bingham canyon mine of Kennecott Copper Corp., the visitors stopped singing only long enough to eat, hear a short speech—and hear some more singing.

Hear Recordings

Long after the Cambrian association's program was completed in the pavilion at Saltair the group remained virtually intact to sing the popular Welsh airs. And when the main group disbanded, small groups could be heard repeating the familiar melodies or listening to recordings of Welsh music.

After the morning tour of the copper mine, the group assembled at Saltair at noon for a box lunch, followed at 2:30 p.m. by a program which featured an address by J. A. Howell Ogden.

"back in Wales they even sing hymns in football games." One person can start a whole trainload of Welshmen singing, Mr. Wrench said. "You start singing in your car and hang your head out of the window and pretty soon the whole train is singing."

Welsh Propensity

After Sunday evening church services in his native Welsh village, Mr. Griffiths recalled, the people would join together and sing from the hilltops so that the whole valley could hear. People from all churches participated, he said.

Another native Welshman who is doing his bit to keep the soft, musical Welsh language alive and who visited old friends during the festival was Billy Evans, Los Angeles. Mr. Evans helped arrange music for and played a small part in the motion picture "How Green Was My Valley," based on life in a Welsh mining town.

As a hobby he has recorded much Welsh music in an effort to preserve the language and songs.

Like many others, Mr. Evans considered this year's Gymanfa Ganu one of the most successful he ever has attended.



S. L. VISITOR—George Bundy, secretary of Gymanfa Ganu, arrives in city.

Welsh Song Unit Head To Discuss Meet Plans

George Bundy, general secretary of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association (Welsh Sacred Song Festival), arrived in Salt Lake City early Friday from Warren, Ohio, to discuss plans for the national songfest in Salt Lake City next September.

Mr. Bundy will meet at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Newhouse Hotel with John James, president, Salt Lake City Cambrian Society, and other Gymanfa Ganu members to discuss plans for the gathering of an estimated 6000 Welsh singers in the Salt Lake City Tabernacle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints next year.

Mr. James said the Salt Lake gathering will be the first songfest to be held west of Chicago,

and members will congregate from all parts of the United States and Canada.

Centennial year of the arrival of the first Welsh immigrants into Salt Lake Valley is 1949. A band of 300 Welsh pioneers crossed the plains under the leadership of Capt. Dan Jones.

Mr. Bundy will accompany Mr. James to the opening sessions of the 119th semi-annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Friday.

Sentenced to 1 Year

V. J. Crow, Price, Friday was sentenced to one year and a day in a penitentiary-type institution by Federal Judge Tillman D. Johnson for a second offense of selling liquor to an Indian.

Gymanfa Ganu in Tabernacle Welshmen to Sing Here

IN A REPORT exclusive to The Tribune, M. D. Thomas, 1418 Laird ave., delegate to the Welsh Song Festival held in Detroit recently, announces that the 3000 singers accepted with enthusiasm the local Cambrian's society to hold their Gymanfa Ganu in Salt Lake tabernacle next September.

The invitation was issued through John James, 383-7th ave., president of the Salt Lake Cambrian society.

Nearly 3000 Welsh voices singing together are impressive for sheer volume of sound. But they'll be overwhelming when heard in the tabernacle next year, claims Mr. Thomas.

GYMANFA GANU is a non-competitive meeting in which the entire assembly participates by singing with unrehearsed spontaneity under the leadership of two or three conductors who take turns leading. The conductor never knows whether the song is finished when he comes to the end. Often one of the singers will pick up the verse or refrain again; after a few bars, the whole assembly is in full swing again. This process is repeated until the singers are satisfied. Both Welsh and English words are written for the music and the two languages are alternated. Unison singing is not practiced. All four parts are clearly discernible, crossing and recrossing.



Thousands of Welshmen attending the annual "Festival of Sacred Song" sang their way through Sunday at morning, afternoon and evening meetings. Cambrians held sessions in Salt Lake churches as they ended yearly Gymanfa Ganu.



Ever See a Secretary Give a Singing Lesson?

George Bundy, Gymanfa Ganu's national executive secretary, gave some vocal coaching Saturday to Florence Wight, left, Marcia Tanner and Nansi Maddocks Cox at Kingsbury Hall recital. Programs are set Sunday for Salt Lake Tabernacle.

They Sang Their Way Through Sunday

Welsh Songs Thrill Thousands in S.L.

Harking back to old Wales custom, crowds of thousands sang their way through Sunday at morning, afternoon and evening services in Salt Lake City.

It was the concluding day, except for some sight-seeing scheduled Monday, of the 24th annual assembly of National Gymanfa Ganu.

Three Sessions

A morning session was held at first Presbyterian Church, South Temple and C Street. Afternoon and evening sessions were held at the Tabernacle on Temple Square.

Dr. Alvin L. Morris, pastor, First Presbyterian Church, invited the Rev. J. Humphreys Jones, Toronto, Canada, member of the national organization, to occupy the pulpit for the morning services.

"Give me the peace, that this world never knoweth. Peace, Heavenly peace, won by Thy pain and loss."

Thousands of men and women and children raised their voices in mass harmony to sing those words as part of memorial hymns during the afternoon session. Roy M. Darley was at the console of the Tabernacle organ.

'Noble Character'

Judge Fred M. Jones, Madison, Wis., chairman of the meeting, delivered the memorial address, paying tribute to prominent Welshmen who died during the past year. Referring to the late John James, one of Utah's widely known Cambrian leaders and former Salt Lake County clerk, Judge Jones said:

"He was a noble character who led a distinguished public life and left this world better than when he entered it."

Soloists for the morning meeting included Mary Margaret

Jones, organist, of Gomer, Ohio; Edward Gwyn Thomas, Los Angeles, and Eirlys Hughes Williams, Edmonton, Canada, vocalists.

Mrs. Jewel Johnson Cutler, soprano, Salt Lake City, and Janet Thomas Bosler, lyric soprano, New York, were soloists for the Tabernacle sessions.



Old Meets New at Gymanfa Ganu

Young and old alike enjoy the Gymanfa Ganu, as costumed Mrs. Jane Hughes, 83, and Virginia Rich, 11, demonstrate.

Welsh Stream Into S.L. for Song Festival

Utah's railways, air lanes and highways were like the spokes of a great wheel Thursday along which thousands of visitors were streaming toward the hub at Salt Lake City for the 24th annual Welsh Gymanfa Ganu or "Festival of Sacred Song."

More than 4,000 visitors from all over the U.S. and Canada, as well as some from England and Wales, are expected to attend the event, originated more than seven centuries ago in Wales. It was last held in Salt Lake City in 1949.

Colorful Garb

Clad in colorful traditional Welsh garb, early arrivals at the registration center at Hotel Utah late Thursday began the round of informal singing which characterizes the festival.

The formal program for the three-day festival begins Friday with a garden party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Staples, 5286 Cottonwood Ln.

Plan Noson Lawen

A Noson Lawen, or "Happy Evening," with music by soloists and groups from among the visitors, is scheduled Saturday at 7 p.m. at Kingsbury Hall on the University of Utah campus.

Sunday at 2:30 and 7 p.m., the entire group will gather in the Tabernacle on Temple Square for mass singing of non-denominational religious and folk songs.

Sightseeing Tour Concludes 24th Annual Gymanfa Ganu

The huge open pit copper mine at Bingham has played host to thousands of awestricken visitors from throughout the world. But Monday the gorge echoed to unique sounds

uttered by a group of distinctive sightseers.

The pit, one of the largest in the world, was visited by delegates to the 24th annual National Gymanfa Ganu, Welsh religious music festival. They were so impressed by the vastness of the copper mine they broke into song as they stood on the crater's brink.

The mine, property of Utah Copper Division, Kennecott Copper Corp., was one of several famous sites visited by the group Monday following conclusion of their festival. Lunch was served members on the shores of Great Salt Lake.

Leaving Monday evening for their homes in Wales, Canada and other states, delegates expressed appreciation for their reception in Salt Lake City.

Salt Lake City - 1955