

8/26/56  
Plain Dealer

**Open House Planned by Welsh Hostesses**

Interest in the convention of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association of the United States and Canada, Sept. 1 and 2, here in Hotel Statler is not confined to Welsh groups. People from the surrounding communities attend the hymn-singing festival.

The four local Women's Welsh Clubs will be hostesses for two teas connected with the program. Since Cleveland is the location of the National Welsh Home, there will be an

open house there for the 3,000 secretary of the convening convention guests expected. group.

Mrs. A. T. Williams, chairman of the home board, is in charge. Buses will take the guests out to the home on Center Ridge Road. Mrs. M. W. Hasenpflug is chairman of hostesses. A Clevelander, Elsie Hutton, has a dual role in the proceedings since she is financial secretary of the National Welsh Women's Clubs and also

**3,000 to Converge Here for Welsh Song Marathon**

Shades of the Druids of old will be humming all through the night next weekend in tune with four-part harmony wafted over downtown Cleveland.

The Joneses, Davises, Williamses and others of their ilk will be here from homes as far as 3,000 miles away for a few hours of song in the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church.

About 3,000 folk of Welsh blood are expected for the 25th national gymanfa ganu of the United States and Canada, Sept. 1 and 2.

Some nationality groups unite for dance, others for oratory or food. When four or more Welshmen assemble, they hold a gymanfa ganu, or festival of sacred song, as the historian Giraldus observed 800 years ago.

**All Get in the Act**

Lovers of group and choral singing will have heard nothing like it here since 1934, when the sixth gymanfa ganu was held in Public Hall. The assembly sings hymns and traditional songs until they tire, when they sit back and listen to choruses and soloists. Then the audience takes over again.

Life is sustained during these marathons on a diet of Welsh cakes and tea.

Parts of the festival here will be broadcast live, and will be taped for broadcasting in Wales over the British network, according to John G. Roberts, attorney and secretary of the host committee.

Opening event Saturday will be a tour of the Welsh home in Rocky River. Saturday night will be given over to a Noson Lawen ("pleasant evening") in the downtown church.

The Noson Lawen is a Welsh version of a talent scouts program, when untried vocal talent is invited forward. Chair-

man of this event will be Herbert Evans, Columbus radio executive.

After a Sunday morning sermon in Welsh by the Rev. Emylne Davies of Toronto, the convention will get down to the business of the year in afternoon and evening song sessions. Cleveland's William Albert Hughes will lead, and his Cambrian Welsh Male Chorus will sing. Soloist with the gymanfa mixed chorus in an aria from Handel's "Messiah" will be Orton Reed.

Roberts will be president and Prof. John Hughes of McGill University, Montreal, chairman of the afternoon festival. Corresponding roles at night will be taken by William R. Hopkins and Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin.

The people who call themselves the Cymry, and whom the English dubbed Welsh, or foreign, will blend their voices in "Ar Hyd y Nos" ("All Through the Night"), "Gwyr Harlech" ("Men of Harlech") and a dozen other airs given by Wales to the world of song.

But most of the words will be in English. Too many young people have forsaken the old tongue, as it was foreseen in the national anthem, Hen Wlad Iy Nhadau:

"While sea her wall, may naught befall  
To mar the old language of Wales."

National gymanfa ganu officers include Dr. M. D. Thomas of Menlo Park, Calif., president, and George Bundy of Warren, O., secretary-treasurer.

**All's Well**

PELLA, Ia., Aug. 25. (UP)—Want ad in the Pella Town Crier: "For Sale—Three rabbits well bred; also a cage, well made."

**2500 Welsh Singers Expected for Labor Day Week-End Rally**

The national Welsh singing society, the Gymanfa Gantú Assn., meets and sings in Cleveland Aug. 31 through Sept. 3. More than 2500 participants will join in songfests to be held at the old Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, Euclid and E. 18th St.

Headquarters for the Gymanfa will be at Hotel Statler instead of Hotel Cleveland as originally announced. President of the Cleveland Gymanfa branch is John G. Roberts.

Press - 8-25-56

# 2,000 to Sing in Welsh Festival

From many cities but with one purpose in mind, upwards of 2,000 men and women of Welsh descent will converge on Cleveland today for the 25th Festival of Sacred Song of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association.

The two-day songfest will be held at Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, 1926 E. 18th Street. There will be no

speeches at the Sunday session and few at any others. No one expects to debate resolutions. None will be introduced.

"We are here to sing spiritual hymns and folk songs and to do it as one large congregation gathered from all over the country," explained Dr. M. D. Thomas of Menlo Park, Cal., a senior scientist at Stanford Research Institute and presi-

dent of the association.

He said Welsh groups in this country began holding the songfests many years ago to carry on a tradition of hymn singing that began as early as 1840 in Wales with formation of singing clubs.

"We consider our song festivals one of the finest forms of spiritual expression," Dr. Thomas added. "It's a place to put our hearts and souls."

George Bundy of Warren, O., the group's executive secretary, in an almost melodic Welsh tongue, broke in to say, as the national officers gathered at Hotel Statler: "We sing the hymns we know. There's no rehearsing. Everyone knows his part."

There will be an informal program of secular music starting at 8 tonight. The spiritual singing sessions will be tomorrow (Sunday) afternoon and evening.

"We'll sing, maybe, a group of four hymns and then take time out for a breath of air and start singing again," said Bundy.

The Cleveland songfest is sponsored by the Welsh Society and the Women's Welsh Clubs of Cleveland.

18-D

# Song Fete and Opera Sound Season Finale

By Rena C. Holtkamp

Late summer, usually a quiet time in the concert world, will be enlivened with several unusual events coming up on the musical scene, beginning with a singers' festival, a bagpipe rally and a

home - talent grand opera production later in the month, just as autumn begins.



RENA C. HOLT KAMP

The National Welsh Singing Society's Gymanfa Ganu with a gathering of 2,500 singers from the National Gymanfa Ganu Assn. of the United States and Canada began last night with a celebration of a 25th anniversary at Euclid Avenue Baptist Church.

This afternoon at 2, William A. Hughes will direct the concert with Orten Reed, baritone, as soloist. In the evening program at 7:30, Hughes will conduct the Cambrian Chorus, with David J. Twigg, tenor soloist, assisted by Ann Griffith,

pianist, and Mavis Jones Bires, organist.



**SINGING STARS.** David J. Twigg, will be soloist with the Gymanfa Mixed Chorus at a concert this evening at 7:30 in Euclid Avenue Baptist Church under the baton of William A. Hughes. Aldona Stempuzis and Judith Molnar (left) will sing leading roles in the Cafarelli Opera Company's "Rigoletto" in Masonic Auditorium Sept. 30.



# 2,000 to Sing in Welsh Festival

From many cities but with one purpose in mind, upwards of 2,000 men and women of Welsh descent will converge on Cleveland today for the 25th Festival of Sacred Song of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association.

The two-day songfest will be held at Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, 1926 E. 18th Street. There will be no

speeches at the Sunday session and few at any others. No one expects to debate resolutions. None will be introduced.

"We are here to sing spiritual hymns and folk songs and to do it as one large congregation gathered from all over the country," explained Dr. M. D. Thomas of Menlo Park, Cal., a senior scientist at Stanford Research Institute and presi-

dent of the association.

He said Welsh groups in this country began holding the songfests many years ago to carry on a tradition of hymn singing that began as early as 1840 in Wales with formation of singing clubs.

"We consider our song festivals one of the finest forms of spiritual expression," Dr. Thomas added. "It's a place to put our hearts and souls."

George Bundy of Warren, O., the group's executive secretary, in an almost melodic Welsh tongue, broke in to say, as the national officers gathered at Hotel Staffer: "We sing the hymns we know. There's no rehearsing. Everyone knows his part."

There will be an informal program of secular music starting at 8 tonight. The spiritual singing sessions will be tomorrow (Sunday) afternoon and evening.

"We'll sing, maybe, a group of four hymns and then take time out for a breath of air and start singing again," said Bundy.

The Cleveland songfest is sponsored by the Welsh Society and the Women's Welsh Clubs of Cleveland.

PLAIN DEALER, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1956



Plain Dealer Staff Photo

**SING!** Here to lead a two-day Welsh song festival are these national leaders of the Gymanfa Ganu Association, taking their musical pitch from a photographer. Standing: Executive Secretary-Treasurer George Bundy (left) of Warren, O., and Past President Henry

T. Jones of New Castle, Pa. Sitting (from left): Mrs. David I. Jones of Shaker Heights, Dr. M. D. Thomas of Menlo Park, Cal., president, and Mrs. Mary King Thomas of Marcellus, N.Y. The women are vice presidents.

*This clipping sent by  
Mrs Tydfil Ealey*

Cleveland  
1964

## Welsh Settlers Bring

THE PLAIN DEALER, MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1964

# Heritage of Music

★ From First Page

ligion was quickly evident. They gathered in homes each week to hold prayer meetings. Shortly, in 1858, they established the Jones Road Congregational Church, which is the oldest and now the only Cleveland Welsh church.

"THE CHURCH was their whole life," said Daniels.

"Their social and cultural as well as their religious activities centered around their church," added Mrs. Ethel

Skillicorn who came to Cleveland from Wales in 1905.

Although most early Welsh settlers were miners who came to the Cleveland area for better pay, some also came as adventurers.

"There were some who were very young and came because it seemed like a great adventure," said Daniels. "There was a lot of opportunity here and many new and different things to see and do."

"IT WAS MOSTLY men who came first," said Roberts, the lawyer. "They came to stay, and as soon as they made a little money and could establish their families here, they sent for them."

The early Welsh made the most of educational opportunities here.

"Although not well educated back home many of them educated themselves by attending night school when they settled here," said Daniels.

"Their first concern was to establish their church and then came education," added Roberts.

AMONG Welsh Clevelanders, now dead, were: William R. Hopkins, first city manager of Cleveland, for whom Cleveland Hopkins International Airport is named; Harry L. Davis, Ohio governor and Cleveland mayor; Daniel E. Morgan, city manager and judge of the Court of Appeals; Edward Blythin, Cleve-



Penny Hodgson of 1546 Belle Avenue, Lakewood, who is of Welsh descent, is shown articles from Wales by Mrs. Edith Emmons, left, chairman of the board of managers of the Welsh Home for the Aged, and Mrs. Cora Gamble, a resident of the home. The women are wearing Welsh costumes.

Plain Dealer Photo (Robert J. Quinlan)

land mayor, common pleas judge and vice president of Western Reserve University; Charles D. Dawe, former conductor of the Orpheus Chorus, and William A. Hughes, founder and conductor of the Messiah Civic Chorus;

Alfred C. Jones, councilman; William J. Kennedy, Ohio secretary of state; Griffith J. Jones, musician and educator; Mr. and Mrs. J. Powell Jones, musician; Rev. S. W. Griffiths, pastor of the former E. 55th Street Welsh Presbyterian Church; Edwin S. Griffiths, industrialist; Dr. George W. Hopkins, who ran a clinic on Jones Road; Benjamin H. Hopkins, former president of Cleveland Graphite Bronze Co.; William H. Davey, owner of a steel mill;

Arthur Hopkins, playwright, and Martin Hopkins, industrialist;

David I. Jones, funeral director; William Davis, music supervisor; John Smallwood, owner of Smallwood Plastering Co.; W. A. Williams, furniture store owner; John E. Jerman, businessman; R. G. Jones, superintendent of Cleveland public schools; William B. Davis, founder of a men's clothing store which is now part of the Sterling Lindner department store; John O. Samuel, musician and singer; Mrs. John E. Jerman, national president of the Women's Welsh Clubs of America; Mrs. Milton W. Hasenpflug, first president of Women's Welsh Clubs of America, and Tom and Jonathan George, singers.

**WELSHMEN LOVE** a songfest. Many are annual events. One of the biggest in America is the religious songfest, the Gymanfa Ganu, which is held under the auspices of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association of the United States and Canada.

Perhaps the greatest pride of the Welsh community is the Welsh Home for the Aged in Rocky River. The home is supported by all chapters of the Women's Welsh Clubs of America.

"We are very proud of our home and we call the people in the home 'our family,'" said Mrs. Arthur Hodgson, former president of the organization.

**"THE WELSH ALWAYS** help their own," added Mrs. Henry A. Murton, national endowment chairman of the organization. "Anyone who is Welsh, of Welsh descent or married to a Welsh person may become a resident of the home."

There are approximately 20,000 Greater Clevelanders of Welsh birth or descent.

"It is a bit difficult to distinguish all prominent Welshmen today in Cleveland," said Roberts. "We have assimilated so quickly and easily. Generation after generation lose their nationality because we are not a people to cling to our past ways but adapt to the place where we live."

**A M O N G C L E V E L A N D** Welshmen today are: Dr. J. Vincent Jones, former pastor of the Jones Road Congregational Church; Common Pleas Judge William Thomas; Mrs. David I. Jones, former teacher and past national president of the Women's Welsh Clubs of America, Lewis B. Williams, a former board chairman of National City Bank.

Thomas Roberts, musician; Mrs. Edwin S. Griffiths who donated the chimes and chapel furnishings for Old Stone Church; Dennis E. Lloyd, director of musical organizations, and Wyndham Burgess, principal at Browning School.

Some favorite Welsh foods are faggots of ground liver, onions and sage in a casing and the bakestone cookies.

"In the old country the women always wear white aprons," said Mrs. Loren Hutton, a past national president of the Women's Welsh Clubs "The big meal of the day was served in the late evening when the men would get home from the mines."

# Welsh Here 'Go Native' Via Music

Back to Amlwch and Llanelli, and to Aberystwyth on Cardigan Bay, went the songs and good wishes of 2,000 homesick folk of Wales yesterday.

Gathered here in the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, they recorded a two-hour program of Welsh music which will be broadcast soon throughout

their native country.

The occasion was the final day of the 25th annual gymanfa ganu, or festival of sacred song, which drew visitors from throughout the United States and Canada.

With arrangements made here by Radio Station WGAR, the program was taped for

broadcast later by the British Broadcasting System. It will be heard throughout north and south Wales, said John G. Roberts, chairman of the Cleveland host committee of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association.

In addition to congregational singing in both English and

Welsh, the program included the selection, "Worthy Is the Lamb" from Handel's "Messiah," sung by the Cambrian Welsh Chorus of Cleveland. The solo, "Why Do the Nations," was sung by Clevelander Orton Reed.

Later, in an evening session, came more group singing and the songs, "Creation" and "Y Delyn Aur" ("The Golden

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1956

Harp") by the Cambrian group. Tenor David J. Twigg sang "Open the Gates of the Temple."

But it was after the more formal part of the program closed that convention-goers really proved that wherever Welshmen gather the first thing they do is sing."

At the farewell get-together in the ballroom of Hotel Stat-

ler, the delegates raised the rafters until one felt they could be heard clearly on Public Square.

Conductor for both of the formal programs was William Albert Hughes of Cleveland. Roberts was president of the afternoon session and William R. Hopkins of Cleveland held a similar title in the evening.

Chairmen were Prof. John

Hughes of McGill University, Montreal, in the afternoon and Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin of Cleveland in the evening.

Mrs. Mavis Jones Bires and Miss Ann Griffiths of Cleveland were organist and pianist, respectively, for both programs.

Next year's convention will be held in Washington. The meeting was the first here since 1934.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1956

*Cleveland  
Gymanfa-1956*

## Urges Wider Search for Spirituality

Most people today are seeking bigger and better material gains, unwavering by the Christian gospel, Dr. Emlyn Davies of Toronto said here yesterday.

The Baptist minister addressed 1,200 persons in the auditorium of old Euclid Avenue Baptist Church in a worship service that was part of the 25th annual meeting of the National Gymanfa Association. The convention of Welsh and English visitors is to continue through today.

"The success of preaching

depends on the pew and not on the pulpit," Dr. Davies asserted. He said 75% of the preaching is going to be in vain because the desire for material thing chokes the word of God.

Christ's statements given on the Galilean hills and on the streets of Nazareth are vitally true today in "prosperous Cleveland and in prosperous California," he offered.

"You can't sing," he told his audience, convened here for the silver anniversary festival of sacred song, "but it won't make any difference unless you have heard God speak and go back to your job and there give an obedience to what God has said."

The hymns, the scripture reading and most of the sermon were given in Welsh. Mrs. Ann D. Thomas of Menlo Park, Cal., directed the hymn singing and

Miss Sandra Harris of Canton was soloist.

## Hailed for 22 Years' Aid to Welsh Units

### Warren Man Is Called 'Life' of Gymanfa

Honor for 22 years' service to Welsh groups in this country and Canada came last night as a surprise to a Warren man.

George Bundy heard himself described as the "heart and life and soul" of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association as it held its 25th anniversary convention here.

Nearly 2,000 Welshmen from as far as 3,000 miles away applauded as William J. Kennedy of Cleveland, vice president of the host committee, presented Bundy a plaque bearing 25 silver dollars.

The Warren man had just been elected to his 23rd term as executive secretary-treasurer of the national organization.

#### Oldest Woman Honored

Also honored at the meeting in the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church was Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan, 89, of Baltimore. For being the oldest woman registered, she received a woolen stole sent by the Square Hall Mills, Drefach, Wales.

Mrs. Morgan came to this country 60 years ago from Swansea, Glamorganshire, and lived in Farrell, Pa., before moving to Baltimore.

Bundy came to Warren 50 years ago from Abercarne, Monmouthshire. Kennedy is from Dowlais, Glamorgan.

Both counties are in the far south of Wales, which Kennedy said furnished most of the visitors to the convention here.

#### Festival of Song

But whether they came from Glamorgan or from Anglesey in the north, the transplanted Welshman took literally the name of their organization. A gymanfa ganu is a festival of song. Business sessions were disposed of speedily to make way for the music.

Considering that the program was called "informal and similar to a talent show," it probably provided some of the best community singing in existence.

It started with "America" and "God Save the Queen" to honor the two countries involved. Then it turned to the lovely Welsh hymns and secular songs with their rolling r's and l's which only a Cambrian

Park, Calif., has one year to serve in a two-year term as president. Vice presidents chosen were:

Dr. Hugh O. Williams, Lake Crystal, Minn.; Allen Thomas, Detroit; Don Jenkins, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Llewellyn Lynn C. Watkins, Rochester, N. Y.; Dr. John P. Jones, Los Angeles; John S. Thomas, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Mrs. Harold Staples, Salt Lake City; Prof. John Hughes, Montreal, and Mrs. T. Lloyd Roberts, Vancouver, B.C.

Vice presidents ex officio are Mrs. Thomas Newey, Niles, national president of the Women's Welsh Clubs Association, and Henry T. Jones, New Castle, Pa., immediate past president of the national group.

John G. Roberts was president of the Cleveland sponsoring committee.

tongue can pronounce. Featured, of course, was the favorite "Gwyr Harlech" ("Men of Harlech").

The music will continue at 2 and 8 p.m. today with William A. Hughes of Cleveland as conductor and his Cambrian Welsh Male Chorus.

Both sessions will be in the same church, on Euclid Avenue at E. 18th Street. Convention headquarters is at Hotel Statler.

In the business session yesterday Washington was chosen as the site of next year's program, also to be held over the Labor Day weekend.

Dr. M. D. Thomas, Menlo



Plain Dealer Staff Photo

**HONORED** by Welshmen of this country and Canada last night were George Bundy (right), executive secretary-treasurer of the group for 22 years, and

Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan, at 89 the oldest woman visitor. Making the presentations was William J. Kennedy, vice president of the host committee.

## SONGFESTS ARE HERITAGE

# Cleveland's Welsh Settlers Brought Wealth of Music

By GERALDINE JAVOR

Back in the middle of the 19th century a small group of song-loving, religious people living in a small mountainous country on the western coast of Great Britain pulled up their roots and crossed the ocean to the New World.

These immigrants hailed from a part of the United Kingdom known as Wales.

When the Welsh arrived in Cleveland they settled together, established their church and organized song-fests.

"Wales is a singing country," states the World Book

Encyclopedia. "According to an old saying, when two Welshmen get together, they form a chorus. Most Welshmen like to sing, either alone or in a group."

"THE WELSH COME from miles around to participate in a Gymanfa Ganu, which is a religious song service," Llewelyn Daniels, who came to Cleveland from Wales in 1908, explained.

The first Welsh known to have arrived in Cleveland settled around the Newburgh area in the 1840s.

The early Welsh settlers were miners. When they arrived in Cleveland they drifted to the steel mills.

Among the first Welshmen

to come to Cleveland were David I. and John Jones, brothers who founded the Newburgh steel mills. They employed other Welshmen who began to settle in the area. This area around the mills soon became a Welsh settlement.

THE JONES MILLS later became the nucleus of the American Steel & Wire Co., now a part of U.S. Steel Corp.

Another settler, David James, built a mill known as the Crossing Mill.

"The early Welsh settlers established and developed 10 mills in Newburgh," said John G. Roberts, a Cleveland attorney of Welsh descent.

The Welsh devotion to re-

Continued on Page 9, Col. 1

## Welsh 're to Native' Via Music

Back to Amlwch and Llanelli, and to Aberystwyth on Cardigan Bay, went the songs and good wishes of 2,000 homesick folk of Wales yesterday.

Gathered here in the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church they recorded a two-hour program of Welsh music which will be broadcast soon throughout

their native country.

The occasion was the final day of the 25th annual gymanfa ganu, or festival of sacred song, which drew visitors from throughout the United States and Canada.

With arrangements made here by Radio Station WGAR, the program was taped for

broadcast later by the British Broadcasting System. It will be heard throughout north and south Wales, said John G. Roberts, chairman of the Cleveland host committee of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association.

In addition to congregational singing in both English and

Welsh, the program included the selection, "Worthy Is the Lamb" from Handel's "Messiah," sung by the Cambrian Welsh Chorus of Cleveland. The solo, "Why Do the Nations," was sung by Clevelander Orton Reed.

Later, in an evening session, came more group singing and the songs, "Creation" and "Y Delyn Aur" ("The Golden

Harp") by the Cambrian group. Tenor David J. Twigg sang "Open the Gates of the Temple."

But it was after the more formal part of the program closed that convention-goers really proved that wherever Welshmen gather the first thing they do is sing.

At the farewell get-together in the ballroom of Hotel Stat-

ler, the delegates raised the rafters until one felt they could be heard clearly on Public Square.

Conductor for both of the formal programs was William Albert Hughes of Cleveland. Roberts was president of the afternoon session and William R. Hopkins of Cleveland held a similar title in the evening.

Chairmen were Prof. John

Hughes of McGill University, Montreal, in the afternoon and Common Pleas Judge Edward Elythin of Cleveland in the evening.

Mrs. Mavis Jones Bires and Miss Ann Griffiths of Cleveland were organist and pianist, respectively, for both programs.

Next year's convention will be held in Washington. The meeting was the first here since 1934.

## Cleveland Press Welsh to Hold Church Service

Welsh men and women from all parts of the United States and Canada will attend a Sunday morning service Sept. 2 in the auditorium of the former Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, E. 18th St. and Euclid Ave.

The event will be held in connection with the National Gymanfa Canu Assn.'s 25th annual meeting, scheduled here from Aug. 31 to Sept. 3.

The Rev. Emlyn Davies, pastor of the Yorkminster Baptist Church, Toronto, Can., will preach the sermon in Welsh and translate portions of it into English.

Miss Ann Griffiths and Mrs. Mavis Jones Bires, both of Cleveland, will aid in the musical program at the service.



CLEVELAND - OHIO - 1956

## 3,000 to Converge Here for Welsh Song Marathon

Shades of the Druids of old will be humming all through the night next weekend in tune with four-part harmony wafted over downtown Cleveland.

The Joneses, Davises, Williamses and others of their ilk will be here from homes as far as 3,000 miles away for a few hours of song in the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church.

About 3,000 folk of Welsh blood are expected for the 25th national gymanfa ganu of the United States and Canada, Sept. 1 and 2.

Some nationality groups unite for dance, others for oratory or food. When four or more Welshmen assemble, they hold a gymanfa ganu, or festival of sacred song, as the historian Giraldus observed 800 years ago.

### All Get in the Act

Lovers of group and choral singing will have heard nothing like it here since 1934, when the sixth gymanfa ganu was held in Public Hall. The assembly sings hymns and traditional songs until they tire, when they sit back and listen to choruses and soloists. Then the audience takes over again.

Life is sustained during these marathons on a diet of Welsh cakes and tea.

Parts of the festival here will be broadcast live, and will be taped for broadcasting in Wales over the British network, according to John G. Roberts, attorney and secretary of the host committee.

Opening event Saturday will be a tour of the Welsh home in Rocky River. Saturday night will be given over to a Noson Lawen ("pleasant evening") in the downtown church.

The Noson Lawen is a Welsh version of a talent scouts program; when untried vocal talent is invited forward, Chair-

man of this event will be Herbert Evans, Columbus radio executive.

After a Sunday morning sermon in Welsh by the Rev. Emlyne Davies of Toronto, the convention will get down to the business of the year in afternoon and evening song sessions. Cleveland's William Albert Hughes will lead, and his Cambrian Welsh Male Chorus will sing. Soloist with the gymanfa mixed chorus in an aria from Handel's "Messiah" will be Orton Reed.

Roberts will be president and Prof. John Hughes of McGill University, Montreal, chairman of the afternoon festival. Corresponding roles at night will be taken by William R. Hopkins and Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin.

The people who call themselves the Cymry, and whom the English dubbed Welsh, or foreign, will blend their voices in "Ar Hyd y Nos" ("All Through the Night"), "Gwyr Harlech" ("Men of Harlech") and a dozen other airs given by Wales to the world of song.

But most of the words will be in English. Too many young people have forsaken the old tongue, as it was foreseen in the national anthem, Hen Wlad fy Nhadau:

"While sea her wall, may naught befall  
To mar the old language  
of Wales."

National gymanfa ganu officers include Dr. M. D. Thomas of Menlo Park, Calif., president, and George Bundy of Warren, O., secretary-treasurer.

## Cleveland Festival

*Akron Beacon Journal*

# Welsh Will Celebrate 25th Gymanfa Ganu

*18 of 1956 August*

AKRONITES will be among the 3000 who will gather in Cleveland for the 25th annual Gymanfa Ganu, sponsored by Welsh Society and Women's Welsh clubs of Cleveland Sept. 1-3.

Hughes and the Gymanfa Mixed Chorus, and the appearance of the Cambrian Welsh Chorus Sunday evening. The programs will be held in the Euclid Av. Baptist Church.

Business meetings will begin at 9 a. m. Saturday, Sept. 1, in Hotel Cleveland with Dr. M. D. Thomas of Menlo Park, Cal., national president, presiding. Business includes regular reports and election of officers.

The weekend's program features a visit to the Welsh Home in Rocky River, a Noson Lawen at Euclid Av. Baptist Church and a Welsh sermon by the Rev. Emlyn Davies of Toronto.

Highlighting the schedule are the Gymanfa Ganu Sunday afternoon, with Prof. William A.

## Welsh Singing Group Plans Gathering Here

*8/11/56*  
*Plans Dealer Aug 12-1956*

The 25th annual Gymanfa ganu of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association will be held in Cleveland for three days beginning Aug. 31. It was previously staged here in 1934.

This Welsh hymn-singing gathering is expected to draw almost 3,000 Welsh from all over the United States and Canada. Headquarters will be Hotel Cleveland. Attorney John G. Roberts is president of the local committee in charge of arrangements.



JOHN G. ROBERTS of the local committee in charge of arrangements.

On Sept. 1 at the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church a Noson Lawen is scheduled. That is a

A Sunday morning service at the church will be handled by the Rev. Emlyn Davies of Toronto. An afternoon singing meet will be under the direction of Prof. John Hughes of McGill University, Montreal.

The gathering will conclude with a Sunday evening singing session directed by Albert Hughes of the Cambrian Chorus. Common Pleas Judge Edward Blythin will be master of ceremonies.

Visitors will have an opportunity to tour the Welsh Home, Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, on Saturday afternoon.

**Welsh Worship Service Preacher and Soloist**



**DR. EMLYN DAVIES**



**MISS SANDRA HARRIS**

**Sunday Evening Chairman**



**HON. EDWARD BLYTHIN**

**National Gymanfa Ganu Soloists**



**ORTON REED**  
Baritone



**DAVID J. TWIGG**  
Tenor



**MRS. MAVIS JONES BIRES**  
Organist

**REGISTRATION:** A registration fee of \$1.00 per person will be required and your registration badge will admit you to the various sessions. All surplus funds realized by the sponsoring committee will be given to the Welsh Home.

**WELSH HOME TOUR:** An opportunity to visit the beautiful Welsh Home at Rocky River will be provided on Saturday afternoon. Buses will leave Hotel Cleveland at 1:00 P. M., and an old-fashioned garden party will take place from 2 to 4 P. M., with the Home Board, headed by Mrs. A. T. Williams, in charge. The round trip bus fare has been established at \$1.50, and those furnishing their own transportation will be assessed 50c.

**NOSON LAWEN:** This interesting session will be held at 8:00 o'clock on Saturday evening. Exceptional Welsh talent will participate in this program and a good time is assured all who attend. A beautiful stole, a special gift from Wales, will be presented to the oldest lady registered.

**WELSH WORSHIP SERVICE:** To be held in the Euclid Avenue Church at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning, the minister will be Dr. Emlyn Davies of Toronto, Canada; soloist, Miss Sandra Harris of Canton, Ohio, and Mrs.

Ann Davies Thomas, Menlo Park, Calif., will direct the Welsh hymns.

**GYMANFA GANU** sessions will be held in the church, with the afternoon service at two o'clock and the concluding service at seven o'clock. The conductor at both sessions will be Prof. William Albert Hughes of

Cleveland. Mr. Hughes is a well known Gymanfa Ganu director and was born in Rhosllanerchrugog, North Wales. He is the director of the noted Welsh Cambrian Male Chorus and the Cleveland Messiah Chorus of 400 voices.

Mrs. Mavis Jones Bires will serve as organist, and Miss Ann Griffiths at the piano. Both are residents of Cleveland. Mrs. Bires is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. David Jones, who came to this country from Merthyr Tydvil, South Wales. She has long been a student of Welsh hymnology and has served several Cleveland churches as organist. Miss Griffiths is a daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. S. W. Griffiths. Mr. Griffiths came from Cwmgiedd, Ystradgynlais, South Wales, and served as pastor of the East 55th Street Welsh Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, for 36 years. As a pianist for choral groups, Miss Griffiths' services have been in great demand.

# Arrangements Completed For 1956 National Gymanfa Ganu At Cleveland, Ohio

## Honorary President



HON. WILLIAM R. HOPKINS

## Committee President



JOHN G. ROBERTS

## Gymanfa Conductor



PROF. W. ALBERT HUGHES

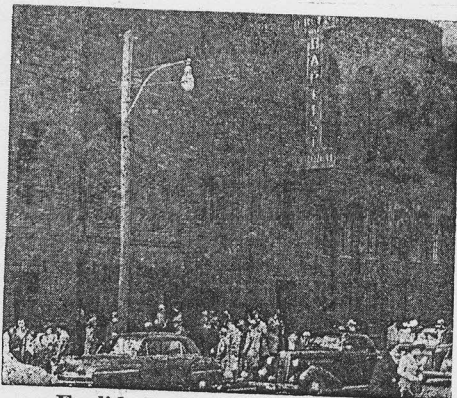
teacher in the Cleveland public system.

## Cleveland Festival Accommodations



MISS ANN GRIFFITHS  
Pianist

The hundreds of reservations already received denotes that the 25th Annual National Gymanfa Ganu will be a huge success from every standpoint.



Euclid Avenue Baptist Church

Hotel Cleveland, headquarters hotel, will be a busy place during the entire festival, with Welsh people from all sections of the United States and Canada renewing old acquaintances and reminiscing about "y dyddiau a fu." If you have not arranged for accommodations for this gala event, contact Mrs. D. M. Edwards, 3471 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio, immediately, so that accommodations may be reserved for you. All sessions will be held in the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, 18th Street and Euclid Avenue. Programs have been arranged which people and uphold the rich musical

will be of special interest to all Welsh people and religious heritage which is theirs.

Prof. John Hughes, McGill Univer-

sity, Montreal, Canada, will act as chairman of the afternoon service, and Judge Edward Blythin, Cleveland, will serve in a like capacity in the evening. Special music in the afternoon will be furnished by the Gymanfa Mixed Chorus and Orton Reed, baritone soloist. Mr. Reed is a well known oratorio artist and his services are in great demand at concerts throughout the area. The evening service will feature the Cambrian Male Chorus and David J. Twigg, tenor soloist. Mr. Twigg was born in Treherbert, South Wales, and the lovely Welsh quality is apparent in his fine voice.

**AFTERNOON PROGRAM:** Organ prelude; call to order, Dr. M. D. Thomas, national president; national anthem; invocation; introduction of chairman; introduction of Gymanfa director; hymns (group of three); solo, Orton Reed; hymns (group of four); announcements and offering; hymns (group of four); anthem by Gymanfa Mixed Chorus, directed by Prof. Hughes; hymns (group of three); benediction.

**EVENING PROGRAM:** Organ prelude; call to order; singing of "America"; invocation; introduction of chairman; introduction of Gymanfa director; hymns (group of four); tenor solo, David J. Twigg; hymns (group of four); announcements and offering; hymns (group of three); anthem by the Welsh Cambrian Male Chorus, directed by Prof. Hughes; hymns (group of three); benediction; farewell get-together at the Hotel Cleveland.

**N.G.G.A. ANNUAL MEETING:** It will be held at 9:00 A. M., Saturday morning, September 1, 1956, in the Hotel Cleveland. Those eligible to participate in the proceedings are life members and one delegate from each organization which holds membership in the Association. The agenda includes reports of officers and committees; nomination and election of vice-presidents and assistant secretary, and other business.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

August 21, 1956

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the GYMANFA HEADQUARTERS has been transferred from the Cleveland Hotel to THE STATLER HOTEL, corner of 12th Street and Euclid Avenue. In the event you prefer room accommodations at Gymanfa Headquarters and presently have reservations elsewhere, you may transfer to the STATLER if you wish.

The STATLER has ample room for all who will attend the Gymanfa and is within walking distance of the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, where all Gymanfa Sessions will be held.

JOHN G. ROBERTS, President,  
Cleveland Sponsoring Committee.