

For The Second Time National Gymanfa Ganu

Events

3, 1964
Stratford Hotel

4, 1964
the Bellevue

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5, 1964
(Academy Room)
John Wanamaker

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Edwards of Niagara

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R. Williams

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Programs Ready, Hosts Await Guests

Officers, chairmen and members of committees in charge of arrangements for the 1964 National Gymanfa Ganu have been working hard for many months and hope their labors will ensure an enjoyable convention.

John E. Rosser, president of the committee, was born on the border line of England and Wales in the county of Flint, and has been in the United States since 1923. He served on the committee for the earlier National Gymanfa Ganu in Philadelphia and, as secretary of the Welsh Society of Philadelphia, has been close to all things Welsh in the City of Brotherly Love. As an executive of the Girard Estate he has been familiar with many of the Philadelphia problems.

R. Charles Davies, committee treasurer, is deputy insurance commissioner of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He was born in Cum Penmachno, Caernarvonshire, Wales, and his father and mother, on their arrival in the United States, settled in Delta, Pa. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and speaks Welsh fluently.

David J. Jones, secretary, was born in Minersville, Pa. He is chairman of the board of stewards of the Welsh Society of Philadelphia.

Heading the finance committee are Allen C. Thomas, Jr. and James M. Davis. Mr. Thomas is a graduate of Haverford College and of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Mr. Davis, born in Wilmington, is a graduate of Philadelphia schools and of the University of Pennsylvania. He is an official of the Girard Trust Corn Exchange Bank and is very active in many civic affairs. He also is serving as commissioner of Springfield township in Delaware county.

Thomas M. Rowland, Jr. and Mrs. William H. Pritchard are co-chairmen of the hospitality committee. Mr. Rowland, born in Philadelphia, is a graduate of Temple University. He is presently serving as administrative assistant to the president and registrar and director of admissions of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathy. He is active in

civic work and in Republican politics. Mrs. Pritchard was born in Merthyr Vale, Glamorgan-shire, Wales and came to this country as a child. She was educated in the public schools of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia School of Office Training, and the Philadelphia College of the Bible. She has been active in the work of the Welsh Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. Mrs. Pritchard is a past president of the local Women's Welsh Club and last month was elected National President of the Women's Welsh Clubs of America.

Serving with William B. Pugh, Jr. on the religious committee is Judge Edward J. Griffiths. Judge Griffiths, a native of Philadelphia, is a product of the public schools and the University of Pennsylvania Liberal Arts College and Law School. He was elected to Common Pleas Court in 1953. Earlier, he served as a member of the state house of representatives in Harrisburg.

Two able lawyers are serving on the advisory committee and their contributions to the planning have been most helpful. They are George O. Phillips of

in Philadelphia. He served until 1956 as employment manager with the Philadelphia Transportation Company.

Program chairman for the Gymanfa Ganu is James H. Williams. He was educated at Westminster College and is general public relations manager for the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania.

Three very able leaders, Dr. Francis K. Davis, Dr. Collins Healey, and Mrs. William H. Pritchard, are watching over the work of the publicity committee. Dr. Davis is a professor of physics at the Drexel Institute of Technology and is a familiar figure to most Pennsylvanians as the meteorologist for Station WFIL-TV. Dr. Healey is well known to both the Welsh Society in New York and the Philadelphia Society, having been associated with Columbia University and the Drexel Institute of Technology.

Chairman of the women's committee is Mrs. Edgar W. Cox. Mrs. Cox is president of the Women's Welsh Club of Philadelphia. She has studied piano and voice and sang with The



Elisabeth E. Griffith

Chester, Pa. and George Brinley Richards of Lansford, Pa.

Transportation problems will be handled by Chairman William C. Lloyd. Mr. Lloyd was born in Paterson, N. J. but was educated



Dr. Leslie Wynne Evans

Cantoresau for 20 years under the direction of Edith Myfanwy Morgan. Mrs. Cox is active in her church, too, and is a former president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

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terian Church was also well attended. Rev. Dr. R. J. Williams of Scranton, preached on "Stillness and the Knowledge of God" (Psalms 46:10). The organist, Mrs. David E. Armstrong, rendered T. Tertius Noble's Prelude on an Ancient Welsh Tune, R. Vaughan Williams's Rhos Y Medre, and Richard Purvis's Fantasia on Ton y Botel. The hymns selected were Joanna, Aberystwyth, Cwm Rhondda, and Abide with Me. D. Pugh Evans sang Dr. Carleton Jones Lake's arrangement of Lead Kindly Light.

500 AT BANQUET

The banquet on Friday evening in Hotel Bellevue Stratford's Grand Ballroom was served to five hundred guests. The master of ceremonies was Clarence L. Walker, the soloists were Miss Ethel A Turnbach, the boy soprano Robert Rodgers, and the accompanist was Mrs. William L. Williams. The success of the event was a tribute to Mrs. Edgar W. Cox, chairman of the banquet committee and her efficient committee from the Women's Welsh Club of Philadelphia. The many distinguished guests, including Her Britannic Majesty's consul in Philadelphia, Terrence Grady, were seated at the dais.

A cultural opportunity that proved enriching to the visitors was the displays of Welsh imports of phonographic recordings, song books, greeting cards, scenic calendars, souvenirs, and national costumes supplied and supervised by the Welsh importer Emyr Morris of Oak Park, Illinois.

OVER 1,000 VOICES

The program at the John Wanamaker Store in Philadelphia, afforded the N.G.G.A. delegates to hear Miss Elisabeth E. Griffith play the famed Wanamaker mammoth organ. Dr. Carlton Jones Lake led over a thousand voices singing Welsh hymns and songs in four-part harmony on Saturday, September 5, at twelve noon. Dr. Lake directed from his podium over forty feet above the main floor of the store where the singers gathered in huge groups about the twenty-foot metal eagle in the center of the store. Miss Griffith played the organ accompaniment at the same level about the thirty foot northeast of Dr. Lake's podium. The sounds of the singing swelled up through the twelve stories of that city-block-size store.

The impact of the Welsh singing was noted in several church and cultural publications. Rev. Cuthbert Pratt, D.D., S.T.D., rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, in his message to his church and radio congregation:

(Sept., 8, 1964) "What a wonderful opportunity existed over the past weekend to go on Sunday afternoon and evening to Convention Hall and to hear the 33rd Annual National Gymnafa Ganu of the Welsh peoples of Canada and the U.S.A. Although Convention Hall is an impossible place in which to sing — sing they did — under effective direction aided by an electric organ and a piano, hundreds of people singing in Welsh and in English, gave all Philadelphia a lesson in congregational singing. It was splendid — the old were not reluctant and the young did not hold back. Complete participation was the order of the day.

The Rev. Dr. Pratt, prominent Episcopalian divine and scholar, had heard the reports of the Welsh singing in the Wanamaker Store and he decided to attend the Gymanfa Ganu sessions at Convention Hall the next day, Sunday. His reactions were similar to others expressed by the non-Welsh television program viewers who heard the special interviews and singing presentations arranged by Dr. Francis K. Davis Jr., with the cooperation of John E. Rosser, Miss Elisabeth E. Griffith, R. Charles Davies, and Dr. Carlton Lake over several Philadelphia TV stations.

NOSON LAWEN

The Noson Lawen conducted by Miss Elisabeth E. Griffith, prominent piano teacher and artist of Philadelphia who was born in Slatington, Pa., and who spent her childhood in Rhyl, Wales, was acknowledged to be the best planned event of its kind in the living memory in America. Possibly some of the talented vocalists were induced to sing several encores, but the master of ceremonies, Lewis Edwards of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, who is president of The Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Assn., pleased both the audience and the artists with his Welsh verbal felicity and charm.

290 LOAVES OF BARA BRITH

Through Miss Griffith's planning, prescience, and precision, each factor from the 290 loaves of bara brith which Mrs. Joseph Wonderland baked in the traditional way to the registration of each prospective member of the Noson Lawen audience spelled out the success of the event. The precision, for which the Welsh are favourably regarded in America, and the cooperative effort for the commonwealth of the Welsh heritage were amiably exemplified in the work of the Women's Welsh Club of Philadelphia.

HYMN SINGING GATHERINGS

Possibly one of the more interesting but unplanned aspects of the N.G.G.A. 33rd Convention was the gathering of delegates on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights in the Burgundy Room of Hotel Bellevue-Stratford from 10.30 p.m. till after one o'clock in the morning singing Welsh hymns and songs in Welsh. On Friday and Saturday evenings Mrs. Ada Thomas, wife of Col. E. G. Thomas of Salt Lake City, Utah, volunteered as precentor and pianist. On Saturday evening, she was assisted as precentor by young Rev. Kenneth Jones of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York City. Emyr Morris of Oak Park, Illinois, was among those who enthusiastically applauded Mrs. Ada Thomas for making the hymnsinging gatherings in the Burgundy Room the cultural delights they were.

On Sunday evening Dr. Leslie Wynne Evans, after generously giving of his energy in making the afternoon and evening sessions of the Gymanfa Ganu the successes they were, led the hymnsinging in the Burgundy Room, explaining as he went from hymn to hymn the effects he sought and the nature and history of the hymns. The five to six hundred who attended on each of the three evenings feel a deep and enduring gratitude to both Dr. Evans and Mrs. Ada Thomas.

HISTORIC SHRINES TOUR

Many of the delegates took the historic shrines tour and the Valley Forge tour conducted by a local commercial tour agency. Most of the delegates relished the opportunity to visit the spots hallowed by a nation's fight to freedom.

However, the more critical few regretted that the contribution of the Welsh to the establishment of Philadelphia, and the part played by Welsh-American patriots in the founding of the United States of America was not particularized at all by the tour guides. Collins Healy, teacher of the Welsh and Irish languages at St. John's Night School, Philadelphia, is preparing a descriptive itinerary of the places of Welsh interest and hopes to have it printed by the summer of 1965.

NO WELSH PLAQUES

Though the Swedes, the Scots and the Irish have erected bronze plaques on The City Hall to memorialize their part in building and freeing Philadelphia, the Welsh have not yet done so. Yet William Penn, who founded it, had planned to name it New Wales in honour of his Welsh ancestors. Here, Thomas Jefferson, whose father was Welsh, wrote

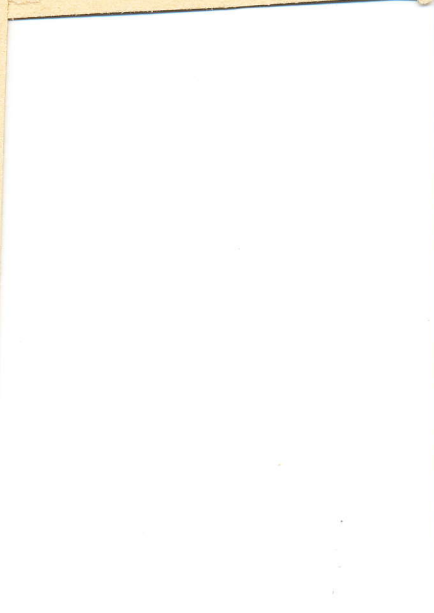
the Declaration of Independence, and Gouverneur Morris, another Welsh-American, wrote the final draft of the U.S.A. Constitution. Here, in the Duffryn Mawr they established Merion, Haverford, and Radnor in 1682. William Penn promised the Welsh 40,000 acres as a refuge from religious persecution and as a bastion for rebuilding Welsh civilization based on Welsh laws, Welsh language, Welsh blood, and Welsh character. The place-names of Wales here abound.

Leslie W. Evans Of Wales Will Direct Hymn Singing

Ten years ago Philadelphia was host to its first National Gymanfa Ganu. It has not forgotten this occasion and is looking forward to a bigger and better festival this year.

Philadelphia, City of Brotherly Love, birthplace of our nation, leading industrial center and one of the country's outstanding ports has, during this 10 years, undergone considerable change. Its central city skyline will be unfamiliar to many earlier visitors. Such historic shrines as Independence Hall, Betsy Ross House, Society Hill, Old Christ Church, Old Swede's Church and Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church all have been made focal points for federal or city parks in order to preserve these sites.

Some of the old buildings and stores have been restored to the same appearance which they had when our Welsh forebears lived and worked in these surroundings. That this city was founded by the Welsh has been well established and the suburban area abounds with such names as



Carole Hirsch (left), of Springfield, Delaware county, and Deborah Strauss, of West Chester, practice for 6000-voice Welsh choral program at Convention Hall on Sunday which will climax singers' three-day convention here.



Thursday, August 27, 1964



JOHN ROSSER

Welsh Group To Hold 33d Convention

National Gymanfa Ganu Assn., headed by chairman John Ellis Rosser, 310 Shadeland Ave., Drexel Hill, will sponsor more than 6,000 Welsh singers throughout North America at the group's 33d convention Sept. 3 through 6.

The convention will be held at Hotel Bellevue Stratford and Convention Hall.

Highlights will be the banquet Sept. 4, the Noson Lawen, Sept. 5 and Welsh and English services Sept. 6.

Other local residents serving with Rosser are R. Charles Davies, 109 Gladstone Rd., Lansdowne; James M. Davies, 18 Norwinden Dr., Springfield; Collin Healy, 140 Garrett Rd., Upper Darby and George O. Phillip, The Knoll, Landon.

Welsh Songfest Closes Three-Day Convention Here

One thousand lovers of Welsh singing concluded the 33d Annual National Gymanfa Ganu (song convention) here last night with Welsh hymn singing at Convention Hall.

The closing session of the three-day Welsh-American gathering featured four-part singing led by Dr. Leslie Wynne Evans, of Cardiff, Wales, a lecturer at the University of Wales.

On Saturday night there was a "Noson Lawen," or merry night, of Welsh recitations and traditional breaking of Welsh bread together at a celebration in the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. The convention began Friday with a banquet there.

Worship services in Welsh were held yesterday morning at the Welsh Presbyterian Church, 1617 Girard av., and were repeated in English at Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church, Pine and 4th sts.

The song gathering was sponsored by the Welsh Society of Philadelphia and the Women's Welsh Club of Philadelphia for the National Gymanfa Ganu Association of the U. S. and Canada.

The local Welsh organizations have been active here since 1729. A previous Gymanfa Ganu was held here in 1954. The Welsh song-convention was originated on this continent in 1929, at Niagara Falls, N. Y., and has been held annually since then in various places in the U. S. and Canada, except during the war.

Mrs. Trefor Lloyd Roberts, of Vancouver, B. C., was elected

president of the national association on Saturday. She succeeds H. Llewellyn Roberts, of Pelham Manor, N. Y.

Welsh Song Fete Opens

The Gymanfa Ganu — a Welshman's term for a festival of song—will bring more than 6000 Welsh-American singers from the United States and Canada to the Bellevue-Stratford and Convention Hall from Thursday through Saturday for an out-pouring of four-part harmony.

It marks the 33d Convention Gymanfa Ganu (guh-MAHN-Association, this year sponsored by the 235-year-old Welsh Society of Philadelphia and the Women's Welsh Club.

John Ellis Rosser, convention chairman, said that two plane-loads of singers will arrive from London for the Gymanfa Gamu (guh-MAHN-vah GHAN-ee). Dr. Leslie Wynne Evans, of Cardiff, Wales, will lead the mass singing in Convention Hall on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 and evening at 7:30. The public is invited free.