

4

1952 Columbus

SHUX! I CAN'T COMPETE WITH THAT SINGING - I'M GOIN' SOUTH!



21ST ANNUAL NATIONAL GYMANFAWYD
THIS IS TRULY NOSON LAWEN



MEMORIAL HALL
AUGUST 30TH & 31ST
Sponsored by
THE WELSH SINGING SOCIETY
OF COLUMBUS

RAY EVANS JR.

BRINGING A BIT OF OLD WALES TO COLUMBUS

COLUMBUS, OHIO 1952

GETTING THEM STARTED IN THE RIGHT KEY!



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Farm Talk

'DEUCH, CANWN I'R ARGLWYDD'

1952

Welshmen to Gather Here For Annual Gymanfa Ganu

Music lovers living in and near Columbus are in for a rare treat during the Labor Day week-end when over 5000 Americans and Canadians of Welsh descent will gather here for their 21st Annual National Gymanfa Ganu.

They will sing at Memorial Hall, where most of the sessions of the song festival will take place; at the First Congregational Church, where they will hold a Welsh-English religious service on Sunday morning, and at the Neil House, where they will set up their headquarters.

And in all likelihood, they will sing on the streets of downtown Columbus during the festive week-end, for whenever two or more Welshmen get together, they sing. It's part of their heritage. And nothing stronger than good Welsh tea is needed to bring a song to their lips.

FOR THE MOST PART, their songs are religious and, in a sense, a Gymanfa Ganu is a hymn-fest. Some of the world's greatest sacred music comes from Wales where every village has its singing society. Many Welsh hymns have their origin in antiquity, and combine religion with folk melodies that have been passed on for generations from father to son. Only during the past hundred years or so have most of these songs been written down. In very few instances is the original composer known.

Wales is not a wealthy country by material standards. In the south Welshmen work the mines, and in the north they eke out a living on their small farms in the windswept valleys between the rugged Welsh hills. But the highest values in Wales are not financial. A great preacher, an outstanding poet, or a fine choir-master is more respected than a financial genius.

THE LAND HAS ITS beauty, to be sure, although the dirty slag hills and the soot from the coal

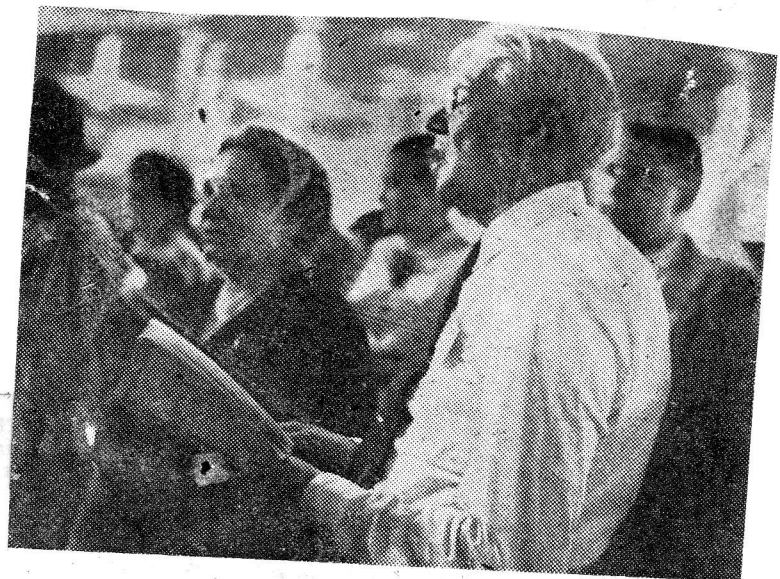
dust often hides it; but for real beauty, inner-beauty and spiritual joy, Welshmen turned to their chapels. It is not surprising then, that the greatest of Welsh music is religious. Nor is it surprising that all Welsh songs are sung in a minor key, for this is true about the music of deeply religious people all over the world.

But it would be incorrect to look upon Welsh music as sad; most of it, in fact, is exceedingly happy—happy in the way that only deeply-felt, highly emotional music can be. In more than any other way, Welsh singing represents the history of that small land on the west of England.

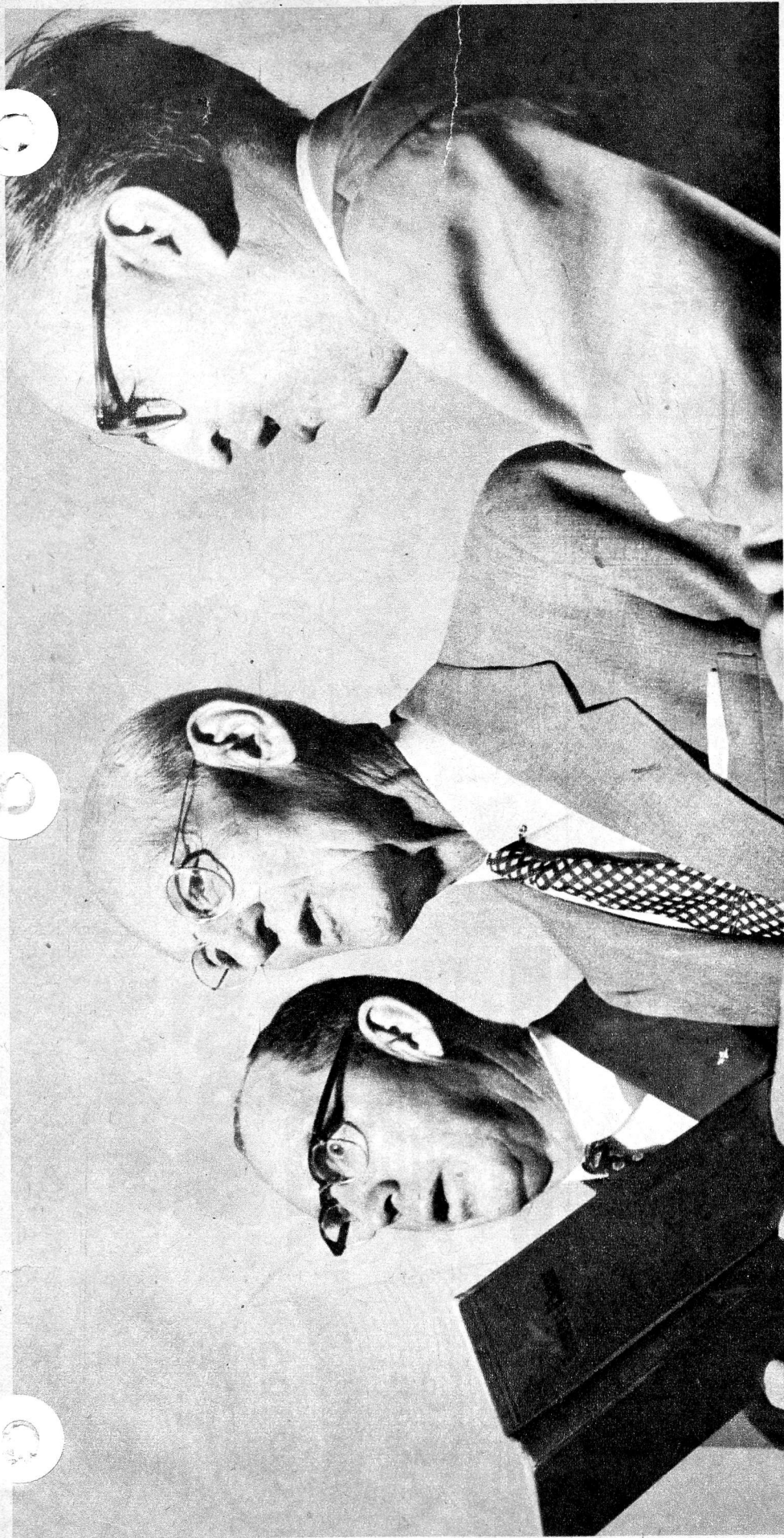
This is the sort of music that

will be sung in Columbus during the week-end of Aug. 30 and 31. On Saturday evening, the participants will hold their "Noson Lawen," or "happy occasion," when friends will renew old acquaintanceships along with their singing; and on Sunday, they will sing hymns at their morning church service and at Memorial Hall in the afternoon and evening.

The 21st Annual National Gymanfa Ganu is sponsored by the Columbus Welsh Singing Society, whose president is Evan I. Evans, consulting actuary. Men's choruses will be present from Jackson and Venedocia, Ohio, and Salt Lake City, Utah. People are expected to attend from almost every state in the nation as well as from Canada. There will also be some visitors from Wales. During the last week-end in August, Columbus citizens will more often than not be greeted, not with "Hi, neighbor," but rather, "Deuch, Canwn I'r Arglwydd," which means in English, "Come, Sing to the Lord."



Judge David G. Jenkins of Youngstown is Welsh authority.



Welsh Singing Society of Columbus members practice before national meeting. Left to right, E. I. Evans, John T. Davies and David E. Morgan.

The Welsh have a song for it---

By ROSE MARIE PESCHAN

Gymanfa Ganu Comes to Columbus

Church in Jackson County, mother church of the Welsh settlements in that area. The church couldn't accommodate all the visitors, so the crowd outside would sing along with those within.

again take on meaning for you," says David Morgan, Columbus attorney and secretary of the Welsh Singing Society. "It's like coming back and shaking hands with the atmosphere of your youth."

many folks with their eyes closed, lost in reverie. Suddenly someone will pick up the strains of the chorus, still ringing in his mind. It won't necessarily be one of the good singers, and very possibly he'll be a little

WELSH SINGING SOCIETY
April 12, 1946



Gymanta Canu Comes to Columbus



Church in Jackson County, mother church of the Welsh settlements in that area. The church couldn't accommodate all the visitors, so the crowd outside would sing along with those within.

As fourth- and fifth-generation Welsh were being absorbed into this nation through resettlement and intermarriage, these traditions were in danger of being lost. But the success of the national gymantafas prompted their revival in local communities. The old Welsh felt they'd never succeed, but they were proved wrong. The Columbus Welsh Singing Society was founded in 1948 and its annual gymantafa has been popular with Columbus people of Welsh descent.

The "new Welsh," though they'd become completely Americanized, realized the value of their nationalistic custom and felt it could become a part of the American heritage, as well as the Welsh.

"You have to grow a little older to have your childhood associations

again take on meaning for you," says David Morgan, Columbus attorney and secretary of the Welsh Singing Society. "It's like coming back and shaking hands with the atmosphere of your youth."

Many of the participants no longer know Welsh, but they don't hesitate to la-la-la along. If they can't carry a tune, they chime in anyway. And their voices blend well, for through "hwy!" as they call it, they become completely absorbed by the music. A profound spiritual feeling is evoked by the music, which is in minor key, to the point where tears are not an uncommon sight.

"It's as if our dried-up and hardened hearts suddenly become refreshed and alive again," Mr. Morgan explains.

There's a spontaneity not found at other concerts. When the director has finished leading a hymn, and the tones of the piano or organ have died out, the participants sit down. A look around the auditorium will show

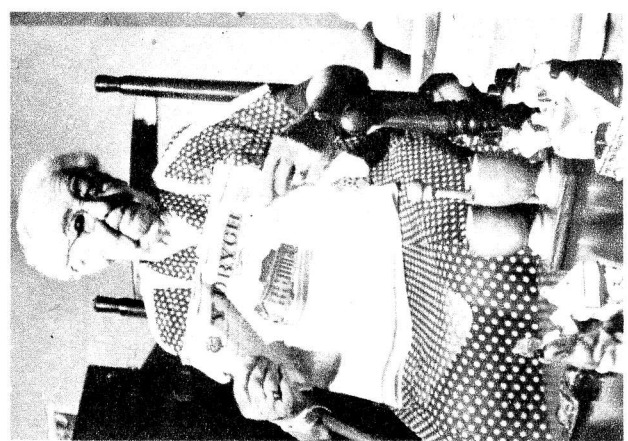
many folks with their eyes closed, lost in reverie. Suddenly someone will pick up the strains of the chorus, still ringing in his mind. It won't necessarily be one of the good singers, and very possibly he'll be a little sharp or flat, but in a moment the whole audience will have chimed in to re-sing the chorus.

"It's a spiritual emotion, not to be confused with a physical one," the Welsh point out.

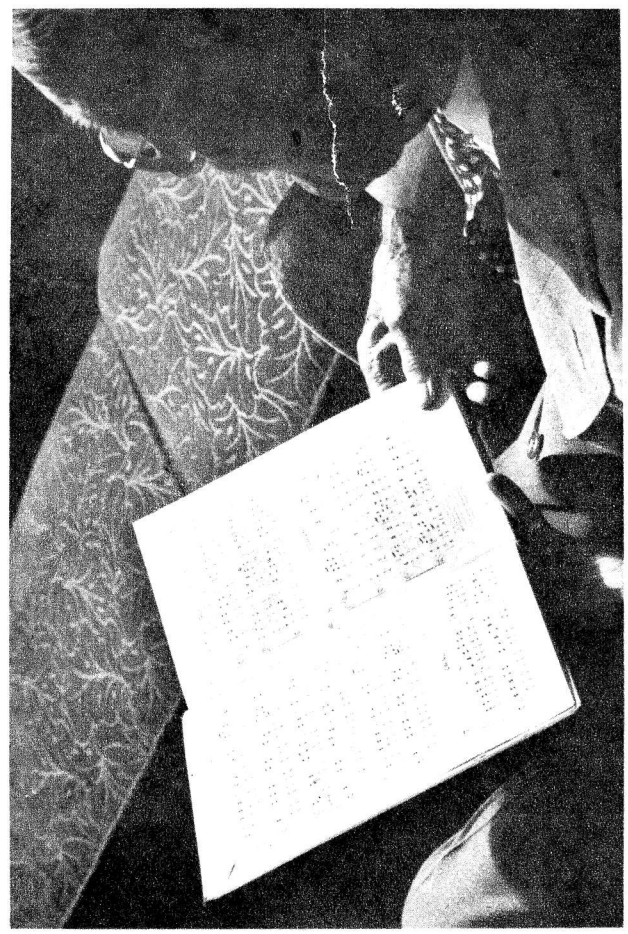
The two-day religious songfest is usually begun with a Noson Lawen (happy evening) on a Saturday night. Singing predominates, and Welsh from all over the nation make application months ahead for the honor of being asked to participate. There are solos, duets, quartets and poetic recitations.

The actual gymantafa ganu is the next day, usually in two two-hour sessions. And while there are invocations and a few remarks, it's the singing the people have come for, and that's all they really want.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOB WHEATON



Mrs. D. W. Evans, 84, reads Y Drych, the Welsh monthly.



Older Welsh music-lovers, like John T. Davies, can read the Welsh words in the songbooks; the rest are content to just la-la the melody.

WELSHMEN will journey halfway round the world to join in song. And it's immaterial to them whether or not they see anyone they know, for in song they find all they need to have in common.

Such a gathering to sing they call a "gymanfa ganu," pronounced gymantafa GAH-nee. And you'll find them held wherever there are Welshmen in any number.

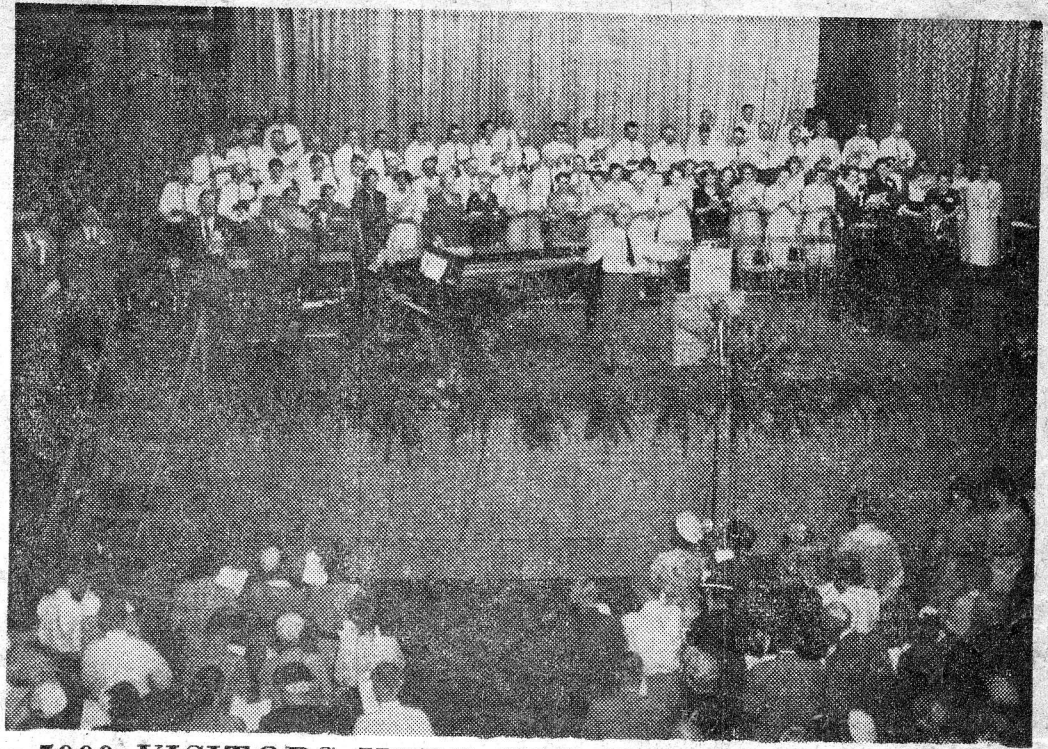
In 1929, the Welsh in Canada and the United States put these religious songfests on a national basis, made them an annual event (except during the war years). Now they regularly attract more than 6000 persons, some coming from as far as Australia.

This month at Memorial Hall, Columbus will play host to the National Gymantafa Ganu Association of the United States and Canada.

The gymantafa ganu actually dates back to the religious revival in Wales about 150 years ago. Not satisfied with just singing during church services, the Welshmen stayed after church to learn their hymns better. And from this, the religious community-type sings evolved.

Of course, any Welshman will hasten to point out that part singing was peculiar to the Welsh when the rest of Europe was singing or chanting its sacred music in unison.

The Welsh immigrants carried on their gymantafa ganus and eisteddfods (competitions in music, elocution, and cultural arts) just as they had in the old country. In Southeastern Ohio after harvest time each fall, families used to travel for miles to join in the gymantafa ganu at the old Moriah



5000 VISITORS HERE FOR WELSH SONGFEST

Memorial Hall was filled with the strains of Welsh sacred music Sunday afternoon. The occasion was the 21st

annual Gymanfa Ganu which attracted some 5000 visitors to the city over the week-end.



WELSH PREPARE FOR GYMANFA GANU

Mrs. Stanley Cherrington, 389 W. 5th Av., takes time out from making Welsh hats to serve tea, national beverage of Wales, to Mrs. Betty King, 407 N. Virginia Lee Rd, East, and Mrs. Ada Davis, 325 18th Av. The ladies are getting in the mood for the coming Gymanfa Ganu

by modeling Welsh costumes, which consist of black skirts, white aprons and blouses, cloaks and frilly caps or bits of lace worn under the tall black hats. Johnny Jones writes about the festival in his column today.

4A The Columbus Citizen
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 1952

Singers Entertain Thousands of Welsh

Gymanfa Ganu Held At Memorial Hall

Thousands of men and women of Welsh descent filled Memorial Hall Saturday night for the first session of their annual song festival dedicated to famous music from Wales.

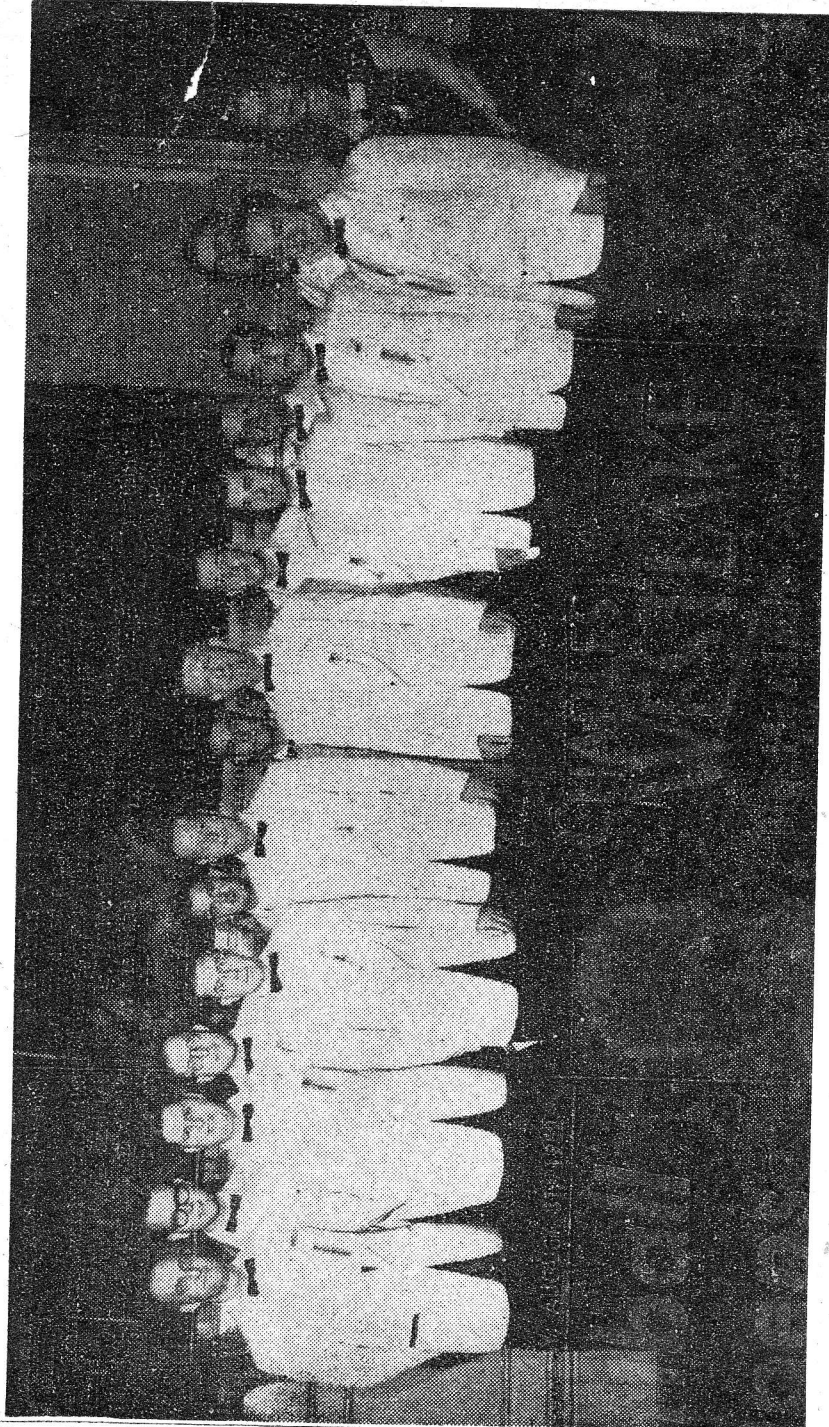
For the Welsh it is the 21st Annual National Gymanfa Ganu. At the first session known as Noson Lawen (happy occasion), songs were sung by choruses, one from Jackson and the other from Venedocia, Van Wert County.

Thomas A. Jenkins, of Iron- ton, presided. There are Welshmen from all parts of the United States and Canada and even Wales here.

The traditional service, some of it in Welsh and some in English, will be held at 10 a. m. in First Congregational Church today. The sermon will be given by Rev. Elam Davies, Bethlehem, Pa., until recently a clergyman in Wales.

The afternoon session today, also at Memorial Hall, will begin at 2 p. m. with E. I. Evans, president of the Columbus Welsh Singing Society, acting as president of the session.

D. Hayden Evans, also of Columbus, will be president at the evening session. This will be at 7 p. m. It is the final session also.



AMONG 5000 WELSH SINGERS taking part in the Gymanfa Ganu at Memorial Hall Saturday and Sunday are the Cavalcade Choristers who performed under direction of Dr. Merrell Davis with Mrs. Marion Maloney, of Jackson, O., as accompanist. A worship service is set for 10 a. m. Sunday in the First Congregational Church.

40,000 See Jet Crash! Camera's Eye Report on Hial

Welsh Will Sing At Week-End Festival

BY JOHNNY JONES

Those who are not familiar with Welsh singing and the traditions of the Welsh people have an excellent opportunity to learn Saturday and Sunday.

If there were something unusual at Memorial Hall in the way of singing from Italy, France, Spain or other foreign spot, the place would become a magnet. This week-end at Memorial Hall we have what is known to Welsh people as the Gymanfa Ganu. It begins with what is known as "Noson Lawen," which means in English



Jones

"Happy Occasion." This first event will be Saturday night when everybody just sings. Probably 1000 Welsh from all over the country and Canada will be present. You may have heard Italians or Germans down at the Maennerchor sing out but you have never heard singing in congregational fashion until you hear the Welsh. Pass a Welsh church and you may wonder why the congregation sings like a choir. It's because of just such affairs as this one at Memorial Hall.

Some of the great Eisteddfods have been held in Memorial Hall. These are singing contests that have kept alive throughout the centuries the culture of Wales.

THE WELSH GYMANFA SOCIETY did not just pick Columbus by chance. They look a town over. They want a place where there are many churches, institutions and places of learning. So, Columbus is offered this unusual musical festival and religious worship.

It is a great session this Gymanfa Ganu. Little churches such as those in Jackson County hold one each year. How those old Welsh just removed from Wales would have loved to know this big one was being held in Columbus. The Welsh are reported to have had their choir on the flat boat coming down the Ohio River and General Putnam has stated the singing of the Welsh people created a new atmosphere in the early settlement.

THE FOLK MUSIC OF THE Welsh has been handed down. It is like the gypsy music. Much of it is not written and only a few examples exist in the British Museum.

Recently I read Wyn Griffith's book, "The Welsh," in which he traces the Welsh history.

Actually, nobody knows if the Welsh were descended from the lost tribe of Judah. The Roman conquest did not succeed in Latinizing Wales or its people. The Celtic blood is strong. There is no Caruso but we have John Charles Thomas, Evan Williams and the Messiah of Handel.

The Welsh sing from the heart. Any race that has been hard put finds a joy in singing. We Americans do that same thing in battle. So the Welsh strike up a song to the Lord at Memorial Hall. It is deep in their makeup.

At a grave when a loved one is being buried, the quartet or choir sings as the body is lowered to its last resting place. The mourners join in. Here comes a freedom of mind and a benevolence of song.

TODAY THE SOPHISTICATES would say, "Hooley." There is no hooley to the Welsh singing. It is the "Hwyl," meaning "In the Clouds," the Welsh have.

The dragon is their emblem. Its claws at times have been sharp. "Come Sing Unto the Lord" and "The Truth Will Set You Free" are some of the foundation phrases of Welsh thinking. They are fighters, they are singers, they are the best of politicians.

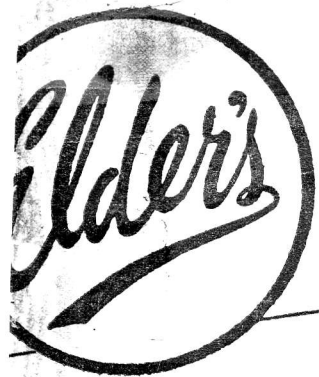
How many Welsh are there in Columbus? Just take the telephone book and take a look at the Evanses, the Joneses, the Davises, Lloyds and the like. It is about the only way one can get any idea. A man by the name of Davis or Jones would no more deny he is a Welshman than Jack Cannon or Pep McNulty would deny they were Irish, or one of the Schmidt boys, German.

Sometimes the Welsh are Celts. The Celts were late in coming to Wales. The Welsh have a sort of Druid custom as they go to the stone of Henge parading with the Bards. The Welsh have glorified the poet more than any other race. Scholars today are delving into real Welsh literature and it is hard to interpret.

EVAN I. EVANS HAS HEADED the committee as chairman and his co-workers are listed. WRFD will broadcast the services.

The committee chairmen appointed by Mr. Evans are as follows: Music, J. Irvin Jones; finance, William E. Davis; publicity, Herbert E. Evans; supply, Neal Edwards; ushers, John N. Jones; reception, Mrs. Stanley Cherrington; program, D. Harvey Davis; registration, Dan W. Jones, and accommodations, Howard I. Powell.

In addition to Mr. Evans, the officers of the Columbus Welsh Singing Society are: D. Haydn Evans and Mrs. Ada Davis, vice presidents; David E. Morgan, secretary, and Stanley Cherrington, treasurer.



SALE!

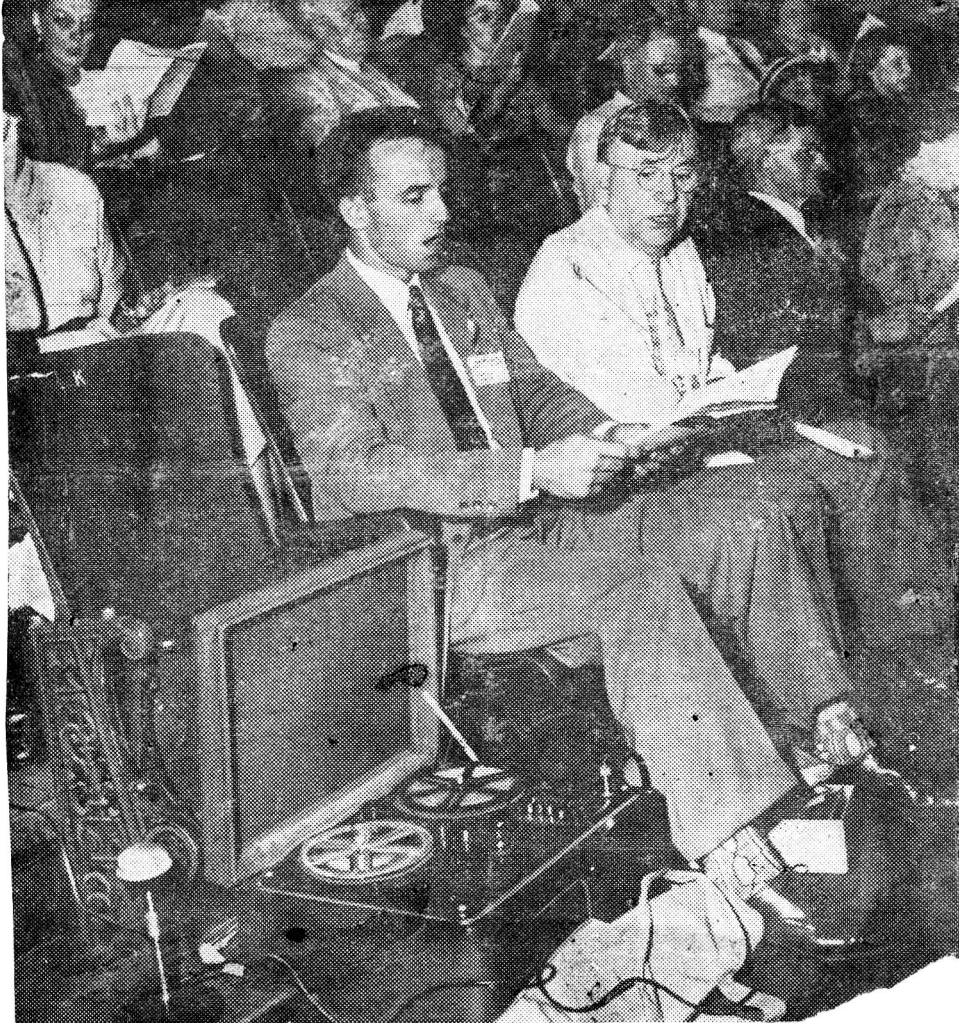
Our Famous Exclusive 17-Jewel
Matches

John Har

Record Number
From Valley Enter

WHEN the fall classes resume tomorrow at Harvard university, a record will be established by 24 Dayton and Miami Valley high school graduates attending. This is believed to be the greatest number of boys from this area ever to enter an Eastern

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Lloyd Savage (left) makes recording for oldster u

In the evening session, the chairman will be Mr. H. Parry Jones of Llanrwrst, North Wales. Mrs. Anne Davies Thomas of Salt Lake City, Utah, will act as Gymanfa Ganu director, and Mrs. Ada Davis of Columbus will be piano accompanist. Mr. D. Haydn Evans will serve as president of the session. The program of the final session will be as follows:

Organ Prelude
 Call to Order George Bundy,
 National Secretary-Treasurer
 America (No. 1 in the Hymnal)
 Prof. Ben G. Williams,
 St. Petersburg, Fla.
 InvocationRev. Byron G. Evans,
 First Presbyterian Church,
 Barnesville, Ohio
 Introduction of President of the Session
 By National Secretary-Treasurer
 Introduction of Chairman
 By President of the Session
 Introduction of Director
 By the Chairman

Hymns—
 (a) "Bangor" No. 58
 (b) "Diadem" No. 15
 (c) "Deemster" No. 31
 (d) "Dies Trae" No. 45
 SoloProf. Theodore C. Owen,
 Emporia, Kan.

Hymns—
 (a) "Babel"—(In Memoriam) No. 16
 (b) "Llef" No. 59
 (c) "Trewen" No. 35
 (d) "Sychu Dagrau" No. 70
 Greetings from Canada....Hon. David
 R. Thomas, Rockcliffe, Ottawa,
 Ontario

Hymns—
 (a) "Nes i Dre" No. 51
 (b) "Joanna" No. 7
 (c) "Moab" No. 23
 (d) "Rhydygroes" No. 20
 Solo.....Prof. Theodore C. Owen
 Emporia, Kan.

Offering and Announcements
 Hymns—
 (a) "Sandon" No. 29
 (b) "Calon Lan" No. 69
 (c) "Moriah" No. 39
 (d) "Cun Rhondda"No. 42
 "Hen Wiad Fy Nhadau—(No. 76)....
 Congregation
 Closing Hymn—No. 22....."God Be
 With You Till We Meet Again"
 Benediction....Rev. Willard Thomas
 Cong. Christian Church, Harrod
 Ohio

WELSH

Continued from Page 1

extraction have every reason to be proud of their lineage."

Sunday morning at 10, a Welsh-English worship service will be held at the First Congregational Church. Dr. John A. Mann of the Royalton Center Methodist Church, Middleport, N. Y., will conduct the service; the Rev. R. L. Williams of the First Presbyterian Church, Nelson, Neb., will present the scripture and prayer in Welsh; and the Rev. Elam Davies, now of the First Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem, Pa., but until recently a member of the clergy of North Wales, will preach the sermon.

Prof. Haydn Morgan, of the Michigan State Normal College, will serve as chorister; Prof. J. Ambrose Breese, of the Wisconsin State Teachers' College, will act as hymn leader, and Dr. David Hugh Jones, of the Princeton Theological Seminary will be organist. A special anthem, "Arise, O God, and Show Thy Might," which was written especially for the occasion by Prof. Haydn Morgan, will be sung. The entire service will be broadcast by Radio Station WRFD, Worthington.

The sacred service will be followed by two sessions of the Gŷmanfa Ganu at 2 p. m., and 7 p. m. at Memorial Hall. Henry J. Jones, of New Castle, Pa., will chair the first session, which will be directed by Prof. Hywel C. Rowland of Grand Forks, N. D. Dr. David Hugh Jones will be organist at both sessions and Mrs. Margaret Breese Jenkins of Columbus, will be piano accompanist. E. I. Evans will preside. The program follows:

Organ Prelude

Call to Order By Allen Thomas

National President

National Anthem—

Mrs. Annie Wilson Jayne,

Charleston, W. Va.

Invocation Rev. Percy Thomas,

First Presbyterian Church

Varparaiso, Ind.

Introduction of President of the

Session By National President

Introduction of Chairman

By President of the Session

Introduction of Director by Chairman

Hymns—

(a) "Rachie" No. 2

(b) "Rhosymedre" No. 6

(c) "Aberystwyth" No. 19

Greetings from Columbus

Mayor James A. Rhodes

Solo Prof. Theodore C. Owen,

Emporia, Kan.

Hymns—

(a) "Bryn Calfaria" No. 5

(b) "Hyfrydol" No. 17

(c) "Penpark" No. 28

(d) "Y Delyn Aur" No. 43

Offering and Announcements

Hymns—

(a) "Huddersfield" No. 21

(b) "Llan Baglan" No. 3

(c) "Maesgwyn" No. 12

Solo Prof. Theodore C. Owen,

Emporia, Kan.

Introductions By the Chairman

Hymns—

(a) "Malvern" No. 47

(b) "St. Garmon" No. 41

(c) "Dring I Fyny" No. 72

(d) "Crugybar" No. 40

(e) "Caersalem" No. 16

Benediction, Rev. William T. Jones,

Emerald Av Presbyterian Church,

Chicago, Ill.

Three Sessions Today To End Welsh Singing Fete

Columbus - 1952

With over 5000 Americans and Canadians of Welsh descent in attendance, the 21st annual national Gymanfa Ganu will finish up its sessions Sunday at Memorial Hall.

"This has been one of the most successful Welsh music festivals ever held," according to Evan I. Evans, president of the Columbus Welsh Singing Society, which is sponsoring this week-end's activities. "This annual gathering of Welsh-Americans helps keep alive the great tradition of song and music which has distinguished Welshmen throughout the ages."

At Saturday night's Noson Lawen—or "happy occasion"—the session which traditionally opens the Gymanfa Ganu. Thomas A. Jenkins, dean of Ohio congressmen, who is himself of Welsh descent, presided.

A program of secular music, including folk singing, Welsh choruses, quartets, duets and solos, took place. Men's choruses from Jackson and Venedocia, Ohio, performed, and much of the music was sung by the entire assemblage. Mrs. Anice Dole and Mrs. Ada Davis, both of Columbus, served as accompanists. A reception was held at Memorial Hall following the singing.

Congressman Jenkins praised the work of the National Gymanfu Association as one of America's greatest cultural groups, adding: "People of Welsh

Continued on Page 4, Col. 2



Mrs. D. Howard George, Oakwood, and daughter sing with Richard Evans, Columbus.