



BELLEVUE/EAST KING COUNTY
Convention & Visitors Bureau

Welcomes

**NATIONAL
GYMANFA GANU**

September 1 - 5, 1994

*We appreciate your business and wish you
a successful convention.*

BELLEVUE/EAST KING COUNTY
Convention & Visitors Bureau

520 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 101
Bellevue, WA 98004
(206) 455-1926

VISITOR CENTER OPEN: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

SINGING IN SEATTLE

WHAT would you say to a weekend in Seattle?

Cor Meibion Llanelli have no doubt - they recently said yes.

Last week they returned from fulfilling a concert and gymnanfa engagement with the National Gymanfa Ganu Association of the North American Welsh Societies, held this year at Seattle.

Musical Director Eifion Thomas told the News later: "The area around Seattle is probably one of the most spectacularly-scenic parts of the world.

"You have the historical beauty of the city itself, with its bustling waterfront Puget Sound to the west with meandering inlets teeming with salmon and orcas; then you have the grandeur of Mount Rainier and the Cascade Mountains as a protective border to the east and south.

"Perhaps these were considerations taken into account

when decisions were made to go to Seattle!

"Yet, surely, the decision was also born from the knowledge that people in this part of the Pacific North-West would extend a welcome which would be nothing short of warm, wonderful and Welsh."

It was the third time for the Choir to accept an invitation to sing at the National - and the third time for Eifion to have the honour of also conducting the hymn-singing session during the actual Gymanfa.

The Choir's first commitment was to present a concert on the Saturday evening at the Meydenbauer Centre.

To celebrate the Choir's appearance at this prestigious 63rd annual festival, Eifion had compiled an innovative programme of poetry and prose from Anglo-Welsh

authors to introduce the various pieces of music sung by them.

The Llanelli public had their first chance to hear the programme, entitled The Loud Hill Of Wales, in August when there was a premiere performance at the Selwyn Samuel Centre.

In Seattle, recalls Eifion, "it was greeted with such enthusiasm and pleasure by the audience of 1,500 that it was obvious that the correct level had been attained in reaching out to the emotions and feelings of the audience."

The rich baritone voice of Desmond Jones conveyed the narrative passages in a very evocative and unique manner, while the solo contributions of Eifion and Welsh National Eisteddfod winner tenor Teifryn Rees, along with the accompaniment of Alan S. Rees, added that extra dimension to the performance.

The event was altogether an emotional affair.

"It is difficult to describe the depth and intensity of emotion which is engendered when such a large group of Welsh exiles meet together so far from home," said Eifion.

"You see long-lost friends renewing acquaintances, you hear countless tales - apocryphal and true - being recounted about the good, old days, and you see grown men literally crying - both in the audience and in the Choir!"

The Seattle Gymanfa Committee had decided to organize an eisteddfod as part of their celebrations so both Eifion and Alan were involved from the early hours of the Saturday morning in adjudicating the instrumental, solo-singing and choral competitions.

The other adjudicator was Mari Morgan, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Eifed Morgan,

of Spovart Avenue. She is currently on a concert tour of the USA and was happy to strengthen Llanelli representation at the event.

Culmination of the Gymanfa was the hymn-singing session on the Sunday evening at which Cor Meibion Llanelli provided two songs.

Under Eifion's direction and accompanied by Alan at the organ, a congregation of more than 1,000 sang 17 hymns, most of them in Welsh.

The Gymanfa closed with the official passing of the Welsh flag and Chain of Office to the committee of the Harrisburg Gymanfa, where it will be held in 1995.

The closing hymn, God Be With You Till We Meet Again, was another heart-rending moment, said Eifion, when the congregation stood and linked arms as the words were sung.

"All the choristers who were in Seattle certainly hope that it will not be too long before they meet again with the many friends they have in the Pacific North-West."

Cor Meibion Llanelli fans who missed the August concert will be glad to know that a new cassette and CD go on sale this month on the Black Mountain label.

The Loud Hill of Wales - a programme of music, poetry and prose in celebration of Wales and matters Welsh - includes narrations by Des Jones and Frank Lincoln.

The Choir will be in full song again on Saturday, September 24, at a concert starting at 7pm in Trinity Chapel in aid of their organ appeal fund.

The Choir committee had originally been asked to give the concert by chorister Euryrn Rogers, who died last November, and who was a founder-Choir member.

member of the then Cor Meibion Cwmfelin, Bynae.

Mr. Rogers was financial secretary and an elder at Trinity and his widow, Barbara, is a member.

Cor Meibion Llanelli decided that this, the last fundraising event for the organ appeal, would be the Euryrn Rogers Memorial Concert.

Three National Eisteddfod winners are on the programme: Teifryn Rees, of Hendy, who has won the open tenor solo on several occasions at the National Eisteddfod; Margaret Morris-Bowen, of Llanelli, who won the open contralto solo four years ago, and Cymmawr soprano Marian Evans who was for years with the Welsh National Opera and on Amser Te.

Special guest at the concert is Phil Bennett and compere is SAC personality Glynog Davies.

Tickets are available from Choir members.

PUGET SOUND WELSH ASSOCIATION

Presents

A Welsh Ethnic Weekend

Friday, 2 September, at 9:00 pm (\$10)

Plethyn (from Wales)

Magical Strings (from Seattle)

Original Welsh and Celtic Folk Music

Saturday, 3 September, at 8:00 pm (\$15)

from Wales

The Llanelli Male Voice Choir

85 Voices from the Land of Song

Sunday, 4 September, at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm (\$5)

Gymanfa Ganu

Congregational singing in four-part harmony

All events are at **The Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue.**

Telephone **488-7288** for further information