

Just as interest in our Welsh Eisteddfod history is being revived, it is an appropriate time for *Y Drych* readers to make plans for the

1995 *Eisteddfod-gan-Post* [Eisteddfod-by-Mail]. Look over the categories listed below. They are appropriate for Welsh people with an interest in literature and music and are designed to be possible, yet challenging.

Note that you do not have to be able to speak Welsh to enter, but that there are categories for Welsh speakers and learners, too.

Consider entering now. If you can't, encourage someone else to do so. Offer to pay his or her entry fee as incentive.

Purchase the book of winning entries from last year's contest (books of previous

Fifth annual Y Drych

Eisteddfod-by-Mail

Enter the fifth annual *Y Drych* Eisteddfod-by-Mail. Send your entries to *Y Drych* by St. David's Day 1995. All entries will be judged by adjudicators from Wales. Winning entries will be announced in the June/July edition of *Y Drych*. They will then be published in a special book available at the 1995 National Gymnafa Gannu or by mail after September 1, 1995.

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Photo by William Stickney

Winners in the 1994 *Y Drych* Eisteddfod-by-Mail were acknowledged at the eisteddfod at the National Gymanfa Ganu. Greeting one another after receiving applause from the crowd, were

Gary Davis, Fennimore, Wis.; Benton Williams, Port Orchard, Wash.; and Tim Dyck, Kirkland, Wash.

Davis' poem in Welsh won, as did the musical compositions of Williams and Dyck. Other winners

who were not able to be present in Bellevue were Holly Windle, Minneapolis, Minn.; Dora Beale Polk, Segundo, Calif.; Trilby Busch, Minneapolis, Minn.; and John Jones of Deside. Clward Wajaloe

carries programs produced by BBC Wales and Harlech Television.

He considers S4C to be a remarkable engine that drives Welsh culture. He did wonder whether the energy and creativity going into this medium is at the expense of other outlets like writing and teaching.

There are pressures to conform to a European model of culture in the European community. Wales may be better able to resist these because of the strength of Welsh institutions which have resisted inroads on the culture.

Hannon recognized that although political power may reside in London, there is still a great deal of persuasive power in the Welsh Office and the Secretary for State for Wales. This results in a separate 'way of life' in Wales which Welsh Newspapers (like the Western Mail' in Cardiff) try to cover.

Together with the thriving 'quangos' such as the Welsh Trades Union Council, the Welsh Development Agency, Welsh Arts Council and so forth, a sense of separate identity and Welshness is maintained.

Wales now has 5 members in the European Parliament, and is ready for a political change in the next election which may have significant consequences for Wales. Overall, his talk left the impression that the Welsh culture is very much alive in Wales today.

It was interesting to hear that the biggest change in the last 10 years has been in Cardiff (my home town) with the work of the Cardiff Bay Development Area Corporation. It is evident that Cardiff is no longer a great port.

The redevelopment of the dock area with middle class 'Yuppie' housing and the proposed Bristol Channel barrage and lagoon (and possibly an opera house similar to Sydney, Australia) may have great consequences for the capital City.

Hannon stated that the stamina and skills of the old industries persist in the new industries and the Welsh have a reputation of being good workers. There are 40 major Japanese companies in Wales today and they are proud of the good relationship they have with their workers.

The quality of life in Wales is good for executives who move there and despite possible initial reluctance to relocate, they enjoy living there. With the influx of people from other countries and the multinational nature of communication, an international culture results which is slowly changing Wales.

Wales is no longer a Welsh-speaking, chapel-going country. Hannon considers that the language is in decline, not withstanding the vigor in the language of the substantial minority who speak it.

Hannon paid tribute to S4C, the Welsh channel which is part of the Independent Television Commission. As well as originating its own programs, S4C

Arrow Rock with a message for General William Clark in St. Louis.

By 1817 Williams was employed as an Indian interpreter, and he also worked some in trading posts. He left the Osage tribe in 1825 after his wife's death.

He joined George Sibley's party as they surveyed and mapped out routes to the west. Williams became an important member of the party. He knew the Indians and their language and had hunted and trapped on much of the land they were to travel through. The road they marked followed the famous Santa Fe Trail.

Williams was 38 years old when he came to Santa Fe with the Sibley party. If he was not already considered a mountain man, he soon would be. Up until now, history had been reasonably clear in recording Williams' life. Now, suddenly, it becomes increasingly hard to separate fact from fiction and

Seminar

By *Betty Hughes*

Patrick Hannon, well known to BBC viewers in Wales was one of the guest presenters at the 63rd Welsh National Gymnfa Ganu at Seattle. His talk "Wales Today" was not merely a recitation of statistics but provided a thoughtful and balanced account of the change-taking place in Wales today.

He pointed out that stereotypes perpetuated in films such as 'How Green was my Valley' are even less true these days than they were years ago.

There are no working coalmines in Wales since the Taff Merthyr pit closed in June 1993. There is a bigger industry in "coal industry nostalgia" than in coal mining itself. Hannon did not mention the criticism leveled at the so-called heritage industry but accepted that such tourism in Wales is a significant generator of economic activity and provides work for many.

The steel industry of Wales is flourishing and has been transformed for the better in terms of technology and style.

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? Try...*

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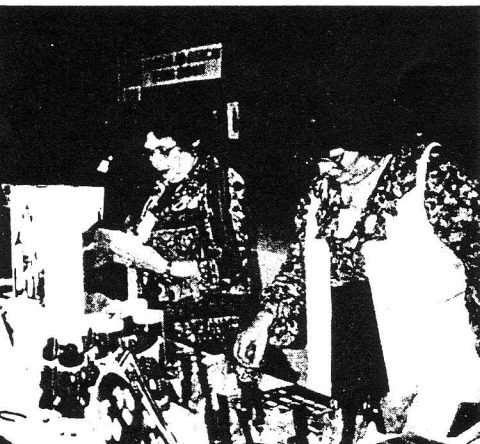
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Ninnau's regular columnists and contributors gathered for breakfast and conversation on Saturday morning at the Hyatt atrium. In addition to giving contributors an opportunity to meet and discuss the newspaper, the breakfast is Ninnau's way of saying thank you to all who help make it possible.



Bertha and Jack Smith, of Vancouver, British Columbia, try out some new steps at the Advanced Welsh Folk Dancing Class led by the Vancouver Welsh Folk Dancers.



Joanne Davies Lohse, of Wolk Creek, Oregon, and Arlene Barsamian of Wisconsin find plenty to pick from at a booth in the Welsh Market Place.



Irvin and Alice Bushong look over books and reference materials at the WAGS (Welsh American Genealogical Society) booth where members were eager to help newcomers in their family history research.



Côr Cymraeg Seattle performed at the Welcome to Puget Sound Concert on Thursday evening.

Plethyn, J. Goats) to

A Scrapbook of Gym

Plethyn

By Carole Woods

Linda Healy's voice is like the single flower in a Japanese flower arrangement. It draws the attention and then becomes essential to the beauty of the whole.

I have enjoyed and admired Plethyn's music for years, but I was 'blown away' when I heard them in person at the 1994 Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu.

It isn't just the quality of Linda Healy's voice that makes her an excellent singer, but how effortlessly and naturally she phrases the words of songs with a tiny grace note here or a trace of syncopation there. This makes the difference between a singer with an excellent voice and an excellent singer.

Plethyn are true professionals. They kept up their energy and attitude although many in the audience seemed exhausted or jet-lagged. Indeed, it was probably the middle of the night for Plethyn. They'd just flown in from Wales and had to be back teaching school in Montgomeryshire in two days. Moreover, the audience decreased by about half during a set by a local group that was

scheduled between Plethyn's two sets.

Still, Plethyn gave a performance that was all I had hoped for — and I had hoped for a great deal. I may never get to hear them again in person, but I am more than satisfied with their performance at the 1994 Cymnfa Ganu.

Worship Service

By Lee E. Morgan and Iah E Morgan

The Morning Worship Service was well attended. It was opened with a Prelude by the Organist, Richard Lind, Seattle, and followed by the Call to Worship by Rev. Enid Morgan, Wales, Great Britain. The first hymn sung by the congregation was *Eirinwg*. Rev. Enid Morgan offered the opening prayer.

The Special Anthem, *Jesu, Cyfall F'enaid Cu*, was sung by the Cór Cymraeg of Seattle, Mr. Paul Bauch, Director, with organ accompaniment, and flute soloist, Cynthia Taylor. The reading of Scripture, including Psalm 137:1-6 and Ezra 3:8-13, was read in English by David Williams and in

Welsh by Kenneth Thomas.

A Welsh Bible was presented by Rev. Enid Morgan to the National Gymanfa Ganu Association and accepted by Nelson L. Llewellyn WNGGA Secretary. The Bible printed in 1988, which was the Anniversary of the first Language Bible translated by William Morgan in 1588.

The next order of service was a hymn, *Hyfrydol*, which was followed by Scripture reading, Luke 19 and Revelations 21:1-6.

Nelson Llewellyn led the tract "In Memoriam," reading four of the names of the members of the deceased members were read. Enid Morgan offered the intercessory prayer.

The congregation then sang *Rhondda*.

The sermon was delivered by Rev. Enid Morgan which was very interesting. The texts were Hebrews 13:14. The theme of the sermon was, "Tents, Temples, and Some thoughts of the sermon. The Lord is always making all new. God is with us today, tomorrow and always. All nations who content with our Creator and together as we are blessed with



(Left to right): John Alwyn Jones and Paul Lovelock of the Wales Tourist Board. Mr. and Mrs. Gerwyn Morgan and Myra Thomas Lawrence of Cymru A'r Byd/Wales International, enjoy the chance to greet new friends and old at the Welsh Market Place.

Welsh by Cynthia :

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Mr. Robert A. Matthews, Chairman of the morning service, announced the offering and Rev. Enid Morgan gave the offertory prayer.

The closing hymn, *Blaenwern*, was very appropriate as it refers to the Temple and Creation. Rev. Enid Morgan pronounced the Benediction and Richard Lind concluded the morning service with the Postlude.

Seminars

By Phillips G. Davies

As usual, there were a large number of seminars ready for the choosing at the National this year. Most popular appeared to be the one on Vacations in Wales led by a representative of the Welsh Tourist Board.

Wales was also the subject of a discussion of Wales Today and of a most informative examination of the etymology and general meaning of Welsh place-names given by Gerald Morgan of the University of Wales in Aberystwyth (Continuing Education).

As I found out first hand, names can come from pre-Welsh Celtic, from the Welsh language, from Latin, French, Scandinavian, English and

even from Biblical sources. This presentation was a wonderful combination of information and entertainment.

There were beginning and advanced seminars in Folk Dancing and Genealogy, the latter by E.T. Porter of Tacoma, WA, who emphasized the resources available at the National Library of Wales. And, of course, there was singing practice for the four voices led by Mary Mergenthal and Tim Dyck.

There was a session with hands-on demonstrations on Welsh cooking by Audrey Collins of Dollgellau, Wales. The topic was War-time cooking including recipes with Spam as an ingredient. A discussion of previous American Eisteddfodau was led by Phillips Davies. These eisteddfodau were held in conjunction with World's Fairs (including one in Seattle in 1909). Also discussed was the role played by the Welsh and American Gorsedd in the Eisteddfod.

*More, on the
Bellevue Gymanfa
on the following
pages and in the
November issue.*

Bellevue Gathering Explores Strategies to Support Welsh Nation

by Eric Bowen

About 25 National Gymnast attendees gathered in Bellevue on September 3rd to discuss ways that North Americans can support the people of Wales in attaining self-government, improving their economy, and restoring the Welsh language.

"The Future of Wales, Political, Economic, and Linguistic Perspectives" was the title of a discussion group convened and moderated by Eric Bowen of the Alliance for the Welsh Nation (AWEN), based in Bellingham, Washington.

Bowen launched the meeting by asking if North American involvement in Welsh affairs was appropriate, or would be meddling in another country's business.

Gwynallt Bowen of Cwmbach, Aberdare, and Trevor Williams of Trevor, Caernarfon, welcomed involvement in their country by concerned North Americans. Griff Williams of Wales 21, Bothell, Washington, noted the irony of American fear of "meddling" while the English control Welsh affairs.

The discussion turned to ways in which North Americans could be constructively involved in promoting the interests of the Welsh people. Ideas included:

- Establishment of an American consulate in Cardiff, showing American recognition of Wales as a distinct entity, suggested by Griff Williams.
- Using the Welsh-American press, specifically *Ninnau*, *Y Drych*, *Cyngor* and *Y Monitor Cymreig*, to promote Welsh causes to the Welsh North

American community, proposed by David Morgan, import merchant from Bothell, Washington.

- An international petition in support of the Parliament for Wales campaign, advanced by Eric Bowen.

- Building Welsh pride. California attorney Rees Lloyd cited his campaign against the ethnic slur "Welsher" as a prime example.

- Creating a Welsh presence at inter-Celtic events.

- Investment in Welsh small business. "We are looking for investors, not handouts," noted businessman Trevor Williams, relating his success story in creating a thriving office-supply sales company in a remote village on the Llyn Peninsula. Williams' American partner Rees Lloyd has been promoting the idea in the United States.

- By far the most popular idea was that of using North American tourist dollars to patronize Welsh-owned businesses. Seattle Welsh activist Carole Woods volunteered to compile information on Welsh-owned tourist accommodations, and asked that travellers to Wales send addresses of such places to her. Trevor Williams offered to coordinate the project in Wales.

In a followup meeting, Eric Bowen and Rees Lloyd dubbed the proposed compilation "The Guide to Welsh Wales."

Guide to Welsh Wales

What's your favorite place in Yr Hen Wlad?

A partnership of American and Welsh entrepreneurs is seeking input from readers of *Ninnau*. The group seeks to promote the Welsh language by increasing American tourists' patronage of Welsh-owned businesses.

Information on these tourism-related businesses will be compiled into a guidebook tentatively called *The Guide to Welsh Wales*. The guide is intended not only to help Welsh businesses, but to provide visitors with a richer experience of Welsh culture in their travels.

You are invited to be a part of this venture. If you have a favorite Welsh-owned hotel or bed-and-breakfast, restaurant, gift shop, or other tourism-related business, send the name and location (full address if known) to Carole Woods, PO Box 17147, Seattle, WA 98107-0847.

Craig who prepared hors d'oeuvres for us. Welsh food, pastry ever-so flaky, crepes filled with raisins, and "faggots:" calves liver meat balls in savory mushroom sauce!

Jeff entertained us with more stories about his life and experiences while we ate.

After our repast we all traipsed down Pied Piper-style to the Pike Place Market, following our leader, the Frugal Gourmet. Through the crowds of milling sightseers and Friday afternoon produce shoppers, Jeff, on his scooter, led us all past the open air stands, ravish-

ing spectacles of eatables, all kinds of fish, seafood, many varieties of plants and flowers, some rarely seen.

Familiar with most of the merchants and many shoppers, Jeff was obviously among friends. He had worked at the market as a ten-year-old.

There wasn't much time to buy for ourselves, but it was quite a thrill to see the gorgeous display of color—tomatoes, potatoes, broccoli, apples, pears, strawberries, melons, all beautiful specimens of fruit and veg-

etables, and not to overlook the various kinds of cheeses, breads and pastry.

The tantalizing aroma of Starbucks coffee was almost too much to resist, but it was time to end our wonderful afternoon adventure. A short walk back to the bus ended with Jeff giving each of us a warm hug goodbye and a cordial invitation to return to the great Northwest.

What a privilege! How fortunate we were to have had that memorable day, that very special day!

WNGGA News

HYMNAL CHANGES PLANNED

The Board of Trustees of the WNGGA has approved a special project to reformat the current official hymnal of the WNGGA.

Guidelines approved by the WNGGA Executive Committee include the following: 1) All of the hymn numbers will remain the same; 2) Two Welsh verses and two English verses will be moved into the music with all other verses below the hymn; 3) The size of the pages will be kept the same as the present hymnal.

It is anticipated that the reformatted hymnal will be available for sale early in 1995. No hymns will be deleted or added to the hymnal.

MEMORIAL HYMNAL FUND GOES

Contributions continue to be received for the Memorial Hymnal Fund. The Fund was established by the 1992-93 Board of Trustees using bequests from the late Chris Edwards, Cleveland, Ohio, and the late Elisabeth Griffith, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The fund will be used to cover initial publications costs for reformating the WNGGA Hymnal. Contributions in any amount should be sent to

WNGGA International Headquarters, 662 Melwood Drive N.E., Warren, OH 44483.

FOLK SONG BOOKS SELLING WELL

Almost 1,000 copies of the Welsh Folk Song Book, "Caneuon Y Ddraig," have been sold nationwide since its publication a year ago. The song book contains 72 selections including children's songs, Christmas carols, a sea shanty, and a penillion song. Copies are available for \$10.

HUNSTEIN ARTIST SERVICES PRESENTS



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tickets \$12 (students, seniors \$5)

Y Drafod

We have a limited number of copies of the October issue of "Y Drafod," Papur Bro Cymry'r Wladfa. (Patagonia, Argentina.)

Includes stories on the Eisteddodau and other interesting features. All in Cymraeg. For a copy, send \$5 to Ninnau, 11 Post Terrace, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920. Call ahead to be sure copies are still available, 908-766-6736.

As each layer was examined through a process called stratigraphy, we traveled further back in time. We were rewarded sparingly but significantly. Metal arrow

the nooks and crannies of Pembroke Castle, shopped in Tenby, fell in love with the beauty of Manorbier Castle and enjoyed long chats and a few pints in the pubs at night.

Susan Adkins lives in Ventura, California.

travel companies and holiday house parties are available at many hotels throughout England, Scotland and Wales, including elegant country houses, city and town hotels and historic coaching inns.

through Fridays 9:30 a.m.—7 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Those who can call in person can also get the brochure at the above address in New York City or at 625 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1510 in Chicago Mondays—Fridays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.



Dr. Edgar J. Jones

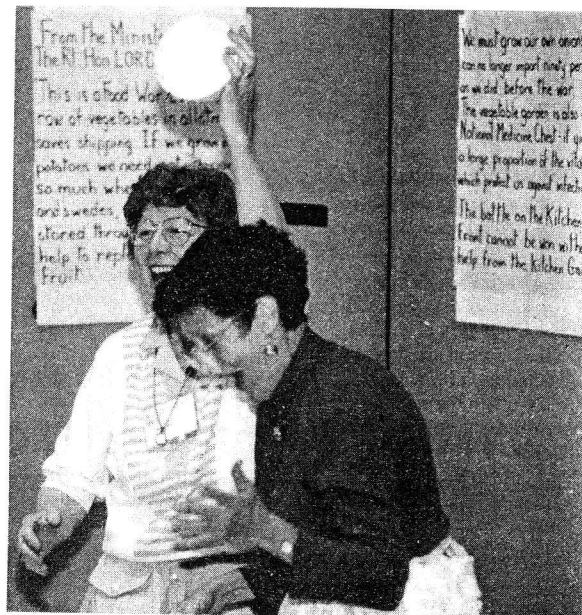
Swiss man leads Overseas Welsh at National Eisteddfod

Dr. Edgar J. Jones of Switzerland was the leader of the Overseas Welsh at the welcoming ceremony of Wales International (Cymru a'r Byd) at the National Eisteddfod in Neath in August.

The day of the ceremony was moved from the first Saturday to the Thursday of Eisteddfod week. Between 150 and 160 Welsh visitors attended the ceremony which was followed by a tea reception sponsored by the Wales Tourist Board.



Photos by William Stickney
Audrey Waybright of Elk Grove, Calif., attended her first gymanfa in Bellevue, Wash., on Labor Day weekend. She and her mother Glenys tasted some of Audrey Collins' Welsh food items.



Audrey Collins (front) and a North American cook celebrate the success of a wartime food item at Audrey's seminar at the National Gymanfa Ganu.

O Gornel y Gegin

From the Kitchen Corner

By Audrey Collins

Audrey led a wartime cooking seminar at the National Gymanfa Ganu in Bellevue, Wash. She offers here a recipe from that time.

The following recipe is an updated version of Woolton Pie which was named after Lord Woolton, the Minister of Food in 1940. There are many variations of this wartime recipe. I have used fat where none was used in the past.



Woolton Pie

- 1 1/2 lbs. vegetables (a mixture of leeks, onions, carrots, celery and parsnips)
- 2 oz. margarine

- 2-3 Tbsp. flour
- 10 fl. oz. milk
- 1/2 tsp. Marmite (vegetable extract)
- pepper (to taste)
- 1 level tsp. salt

Pastry

- 6 oz. wholemeal flour
- 1 1/2 oz. lard
- 1 1/2 oz. margarine
- 1/2 level tsp. dried sage
- 1/2 level tsp. salt
- water to mix

2 pint oven-proof pie dish

Heat the oven to 400° F. To make the pastry, pour the flour into a large bowl and rub in the fat until the mixture resembles bread crumbs. Stir in the sage and salt, then add enough water to make a firm dough. Cover and leave in the refrigerator for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, prepare and chop the vegetables into small cubes. Melt the margarine in a large saucepan, add the vegetables and fry gently for about 10 minutes. Stir in the flour and cook for one minute. Gradually stir in the milk, bring to the boil, stirring, and cook for 1-2 minutes. Stir in the Marmite and seasonings. Pour into the pie dish.

On a lightly-floured surface, roll out the pastry and use to cover the pie. Trim and decorate the edges. Roll out the leftover pastry and cut into diamond shapes. Brush the shapes with water and arrange over the pie.

Bake for 45-60 minutes, until the pastry is nicely browned and the vegetables are tender.

If wished, this pie can be served with a brown gravy.

Order YOUR Welsh cookbook NOW

Send \$7 to Y Drych for your copy of *O Gornel Y Gegin* by Audrey Collins.

Market Place Popular Stop

By Paula Evans Baker

As my United Airlines flight carried me home from the WNGG at Bellevue, I sat with two dozen Welsh cakes tucked into my capacious travel handbag. My carry-on bag filled with Welsh books, compact discs, jewelry and tea-towels was under the seat.

I was willing to risk my clothing to the hazards of the Denver baggage-handlers but not my treasures from the Welsh Market Place! Insurance could replace my clothing, but it would take another National Gymanfa Ganu to assemble so many varied Welsh items for myself and gifts.

The family members who will get "souvenirs from Wales" this Christmas will never guess that I found more good souvenirs in Bellevue in September than I did in Wales in March! As a single tourist following a self-made itinerary through mid-Wales off-season, I discovered that the type of remembrances I had in mind were difficult to locate.

Purchasing a bit of Celtic jewelry here, a few books and cards there, and only one "Welsh" CD instead of the selection I had envisioned, I had gotten through customs duty-free. I had no remembrances from the cathedral bookstore at St. David's. The bookstore/gift shop was to be closed until May.

My shortage of physical souvenirs of Wales was remedied when I stepped through the doors and into the Welsh Market Place at the National Gymanfa Ganu. There, lining the walls and filling the center of the room, were the goods I had envisioned bringing home from Wales.

The vendors had shopped the Welsh craft fairs and contacted designers to fill Welsh-American needs. I had already viewed their goods in the catalogues advertised in Ninnau. However, the knowing proprietors of the mail order services were on hand able to advise me when I told them: "I like such-and-such a singer or composer. What CDs would I like?" And just in case I couldn't make up my mind, the vendors had mail-order catalogues for my at-home decisions.

I browsed and bought at every vendor's table. Some of the selections were the same, but there was a remarkable diversity of Welsh-related items. Always,

the prices were comparable or slightly less than I had found in Wales and the selection was better.

I found beautifully illustrated books on medieval Wales that I had expected to find at the gift shop of the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff—and didn't. I seized a long-sought book on Celtic spirituality from Wales and an "easy" version of the Mabinogion.

Two vendors displayed the exquisite jewelry of Rhiannon in precious metals. Celtic design was available in jewelry fashioned in pewter, cast stone and brass—at prices below those of costume jewelry counters or art museum catalogues.

The Red Dragon reigned on golf shirts, tee-shirts, caps, scarves, tie tacks and tea towels. Post cards, stationary, love-spoons, CDs and cassettes, tall hats and little white caps, tapestry purses and place mats, and cross stitch kits—all were offered to those who wanted to take a bit of Wales home. Only the beautiful scenery and kindly people of Wales were missing—and access to them were offered at the Tourist Board's booth!

The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu may or may not be the next best thing to a trip to Wales. For those who are "born to shop," a trip to the WNGG Welsh Market Place is better!



Nancy Thomas (left) and Mair Simon, the Welsh "Golden Girls," spread cheer at the Twm Siŉn Cati booth at the Welsh Market Place.

New American Eisteddfod

Continued from page 11.

dedication added to the atmosphere of the day.

The announcement of winners was greeted with cheers and standing ovations. The response took some of our Welsh visitors quite by surprise, they did not realize that the spirit of

eisteddfodau lives in North America. But it does, and we should continue it into the future.

Readers, let your opinion be known, especially those readers who witnessed the emotion and tears of success in Bellevue. The future of the American Eisteddfod is up to you.



EISTEDDFOD FINALIST

Susy Hopkins, soprano

specializing in oratorio and sacred music

Thanks to everyone at the National Gymanfa Ganu 1994 for a truly great opportunity to compete in Welsh at the Eisteddfod.

Your warm and enthusiastic reception made singing a pleasure. "Diolch yn fawr" one and all!

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Arvilla Howell, Waukesha, WI (center) and her daughters, Sharon Klein (left) and Margie Staffeldt (right) appear to be standing on a Welsh hillside. It's actually the Wales Tourist Board display at the Welsh Market Place! Photo by Jo Simon.

In Memoriam

1993 - 1994

Edgar A. Collins	Scranton, PA
Mrs. E.J. (Gladys) Daniel	Huron, SD
Eleanor Daniels	New York, NY
Mrs. Lil Davies	Youngstown, OH
Myron E. Davies	Madison, WI
Miss Inez L. Davis	Oshkosh, WI
Mrs. Helen S. Ellison	Midland, MI
Mr. Herbert L. Ellison	Midland, MI
Mrs. Ellis Evans	Janesville, WI
Mrs. Eunice A. Evens	Ft. Atkinson, WI
Mrs. Dorothy Gustafson	Lake Crystal, MN
Mrs. Ceinwen Hughes	Scranton, PA
Mrs. L.S. (Elsie) Hutton	Rocky River, OH
Mrs. Anna Wilson Jayne	St. Petersburg, FL
Mrs. David (Martha Lloyd) Johns	Mercer, PA
Mr. Edward R. Jones	Mankato, MN
Rev. Dr. William T. Jones	Hales Corners, WI
Dr. David T. Lewis	Baltimore, MD
Mrs. Maud Lewis	Rocky River, OH
Mr. John C. Morgan	Lancaster, PA
Mrs. Dyllis V. Owen	Minneapolis, MN
Mr. Idwal Parry	Glens Falls, NY
Mrs. Reba M. Payne	Palm Desert, CA
Mr. Darwell H. Richards	Youngstown, OH
Miss Helen F. Richards	Evanston, IL
Mrs. Catherine M. Reese	Nesquehoning, PA
Mrs. Myfanwy Roberts Schmid	New Ulm, MN
Mr. David S. Scott	Rocky River, OH
Mr. Davie Richard Thomas	Latham, OH
Dr. Everett O. Thomas	Minneapolis, MN
Mr. Herbert Thomas	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Mr. Richard O. Thomas	Colborne, ONT
Rev. Dr. Gwyn Walters	South Hamilton, MA
Mrs. Nora Weisgerber	Lansing, OH
Mr. Vincent Williams	Mineral Ridge, OH
Mrs. William (Ruth) Winchell	Niles, OH

Ai am fy meiau i
Dioddefodd Iesu mawr,
Pan daeth yng ngyrm wi gariad Ef
O entych nef i lawr?

Pan grymmodd Iesu Ei ben
Wrth farw yn ein lle,
Agorodd ffordd, pan rwygai' g llen,
I bur drigflannau'r ne.

By Alan Upshall

The North American Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu this year in Bellevue held an eisteddfod with competitions in vocal solo for men and women, choral and instrumental. As this was the first time an eisteddfod had been attempted, we organizers thought that we might have a small response, sufficient to fill an afternoon. How wrong we were!

We had six entries in the men's competition, 10 in the women's (which was a bit difficult since one was a youth soprano who opted to compete in that section), four instrumentalists and four choirs.

We began the competition at 8 am with the men's preliminaries and continued through the day until 5 pm. A very long day for our adjudicators, Mr. D. Eifion Thomas and Ms. Mari Morgan of Llanelli.

The instrumental competition was judged by Alan S. Rees of Llanelli. Mr. Thomas, who was directing and singing at the evening concert, had to leave at 4 pm so the men's and women's

finals were judged by Mari Morgan and Tim Dyck of Kirkland, WA.

The Bellevue organizing committee thanks all of the competitors for entering and making the occasion very memorable. *Diolch yn fawr iawn.*

We also gratefully thank those organizations who donated the trophies. The support and encouragement of the Urdd, the Welsh National Eisteddfod, the Wales Tourist Board and the Puget Sound Welsh Association are very gratefully acknowledged.

Entries into the men's competition were: Eric Bowen, WA; Gwynallt Bowen, Wales; John Owen, ID; John Cramer, WA; David Williams, WA; and Bradley Evans, CA. The three finalists were Eric Bowen, John Owen and David Williams with John Owen taking the trophy donated by the Wales Tourist Board.

Women's entries were: Carol Ensley, WA; Lucy Goman, OR; Susy Hopkins, AZ; Barbara Morgan, MD; Shelley Cooper, ID; Babette Novello-Tregear, BC; Martha Taylor, NJ; Linda

Redman, ID; Eluned Jones, VA; and Paul Kawabon, WA (youth soprano). Finalists were Susy Hopkins, Shelley Cooper, Eluned Jones and Paul Kawabon with Eluned Jones winning the Puget Sound Welsh Trophy.

Instrumentalists were: Debra MacDonald, WA, Flute; Cynthia St. Clair Taylor, WA, Flute; Carmen Maret, ID, Flute; and Kathryn Ananda Owens, MD, Piano. The winner of the trophy donated by Urdd Gobaith Cymru was Carmen Maret.

Choirs were: *Côr Cymraeg* Seattle, WA; *Côr Cymraeg* Corvallis, OR; *Gwlad Aur* Sacramento, CA; and the Whitney Women's Choral, Boise, ID. The winners were the Whitney Women's Choral.

All adjudicator's and the audience agreed that the competition lived up to the fullest of expectations. The standard of competition was very high, worthy of a National in Wales.

The excitement and tension in the hall at the time of the adjudication was palpable.

Continued on page 14

Croeso i Bellevue!

Photo above: Alan Upshall, Chairman of the Bellevue Committee and President of PSWA, opens the Gymanfa Festivities with a Welcome to Puget Sound Ceremony and Concert on Thursday evening. Behind him hangs one of the banners made by area Welsh societies. The audience enjoyed a concert of local talent showcasing members of the Puget Sound Welsh Association.

Right: D. Eifion Thomas, musical director, *Côr Meibion Llanelli*, leads the audience in *hwyl*-filled hymns at the evening *gymanfa ganu* session. In the background, the powerful voices of *Côr Meibion Llanelli* joined the singing. Photo by Cynthia St. Clair Taylor.



WNGGA Officers Elected

At the Welsh National Gymnfa Ganu in Bellevue, Washington, the WNGGA held its Annual Meeting attending to important business of the organization.

Elections for officers were held with the following new officers elected to two year terms: President: Wm. John Lewis, MD; Vice President: Rev. Dr. R. Cerwyn Davies; Executive Director: Mr. Nelson L. Llewellyn; Secretary: Mrs. Lavina Proverbs; Treasurer: Mrs. Nancy Miller; Ex. Comm. at Large: Ms. Myfanwy S. Davies; Endowment Chairman: Dr. Phillips G. Davies.

The following trustees were newly elected for three-year terms: Mrs. Joan Owen Mandry, Ms. Barbara A. Morgan, Mr. Jack Nesbitt, Dr. Alan Upshall.

Trustees re-elected for three year terms were: Mrs. Marian Matthews, Mr. Roy Morris.

Changes in the Constitution approved by the Board and the general membership created the new office of Executive Director. This office will continue the same duties and responsibilities as the previous office of secretary. The office of recording secretary has now become the secretary with the same duties and responsibilities.

Other WNGGA news can be found on page 17.

Right: Nearly 1,100 enthusiastic singers attended the two gymnfa sessions on Sunday, September 4th. Photo by Cynthia St. Clair Taylor.



the people whom he had known only by code names, he was thrilled to be temporarily dressed in the uniform of a full colonel.

After the war he soon became professor of economics and political science at the University of Wales Cardiff where he remained until 1973. Not only did economics flourish in Cardiff under his leadership, but his department spawned a number of cognate departments including law, accountancy, sociology and politics. Following his "retirement" in 1973, Thomas was a visiting professor in a number of North American universities. He was still conducting post-graduate classes in the School of Demography at the University of Berkeley in California in his mid-80s. He published his last book, *The Industrial Revolution and the Atlantic Economy: selected essays* (1993) at the age of 87.

Despite his love of travel and his long sojourns in North America, Brinley Thomas was above all else a Welshman. A fluent Welsh-speaker, he was a lifelong friend of the Welsh poet Waldo Williams, who composed an englyn in his honour.

In an article entitled "Wales and the Atlantic Economy" published in 1959, he advanced the thesis that the industrial revolution had been a blessing to the Welsh language, a doctrine which departed abruptly from the orthodox view enshrined in Welsh history texts. In 1962, he edited a work on the Welsh economy, and from 1968–1973 he was chairperson of the Council for Wales, a high-profile committee set up by the government to give advice on Welsh issues. He was appointed OBE in 1955 and advanced CBE in 1973.

He is survived by his wife Cynthia and daughter Patricia who live in Kent, England; and three sisters, Mair Lloyd, from Utica, N.Y.; Margaret from Cardiff, Wales and Carmen who lives in New Zealand.

Thomas was born in Pontrhydyfen near Port Talbot in South Wales. He won scholarships to Port Talbot Grammar School and then to the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth, which he entered at the age of 17.

He was awarded an M.A. (with distinction) in economics there in 1928. After a break to help with family finances and make it possible for his siblings to be educated, he was awarded a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics in 1931.

A scholarship took him to Berlin, where he spent nine months studying the financial and economic crises of Germany. This led to his writing the section on Germany in Hugh Dalton's influential *Unbalanced Budgets: a Study of Financial Crises in Fifteen Countries* (1934). It also gave him an insight into the rise of Nazi Germany.

Perhaps it was his Welsh blood which made him delight in deceasing the authoritarian Nazis. Once Dalton had to dash to from Britain to Germany to keep him out of prison.

Next Thomas visited Sweden, a visit which led to his first book, *Monetary Policy and Growth: A Study of Swedish Experience* (1936), which displayed an understanding of monetary economics rare for the time.

In 1939 he was awarded a scholarship to survey migration trends in the British Empire. No sooner had he reached Canada than war broke out. He reported to the British authorities and was quickly attached to the War Trade Department of the British Embassy in then-neutral Washington, D.C. His work was secret, inquisitive and demanding of his knowledge of German.

When the U.S. entered the war he was flown back to England in a bomb-laden plane to assist Dalton who was directing the Political Warfare Executive. His work involved a great deal of undercover contact with the countries of northern Europe, where his linguistic abilities served him in good stead.

Later, when he visited liberated Denmark to meet and thank

morning, mountains invisible because of rain. And of sunrise; of lakes, valleys, river banks and woodlands; salt marshes of the west coast, sea-breezes on the Promenade at Aberystwyth and the high cliffs of the south where the big rollers pile in from the open sea. Of castles and the quiet towns lying under an ancient spell, and small villages full of quiet ways, kindly faces and soft voices. Of hushed silence on Sunday... of chapel where everyone sang with passionate vitality, no mumbling, only whole-hearted singing...and of the eloquence of Welsh preachers.

The Bellevue National Gymanf Ganu and eisteddfod proved that Welsh tradition and culture is alive and well in America. The Welsh national anthem echoed in our ears as we returned home.

"Gwlad, gwlad, pleidiol wyf i'm gwlad."

Yes, I will be faithful to Wales.

"Bydded i'r hen iaith barhau."

Californian views the National Gymanfa Ganu and national eisteddfod

By Linda A. Votteri

The Welsh who have scattered all over the world were drawn by a musical magnetism to the National Gymanfa Ganu at Bellevue. For some of us it was a new experience which will linger in our memories. Wales and Bellevue, although oceans apart, were musically merged into a Welsh community. Bellevue graciously opened her doors and presented a whirlwind weekend of Welsh culture and tradition, Welsh flavor, ambience and *hwyf* which captured all the essence of Wales.

The activities held an appeal for all ages, albeit, the under 50s were sadly under-represented and the clear message was that we must work harder to increase youthful participation. On a brighter note, the activities included a first-ever "youth performer award;" a concert by the visiting Llanelli choir; a performance by the popular Welsh folk group, Plethyn; folk dancing; Welsh cooking demonstrations; and bus tours to local Welsh historic sites.

The central focus was the Welsh marketplace where flying dragons hovered over Welsh shoppers who browsed and chatted. Cups of tea and Welsh cakes made for a homey melting pot of familiar smiling faces, voices and memorabilia.

On the appointed day of the Eisteddfod, we awoke to rainy Welsh-like skies and mist which later cleared to provide magnificent glimpses of Mount Rainier, which rose above the mist in all its splendor like a Welsh druid ready to preside over the eisteddfod.

The eisteddfod is still the premier event of all Welsh cultural activities. Hundreds are held every year in Wales in chapels, villages and schools. The highlight of the year is the National Eisteddfod with its emphasis on fostering talent and acknowledging the best expressions of the performing arts. The eisteddfod held in Bellevue was no exception. Although small by Welsh standards, what it lacked in quantity it made up for in quality. Our own John Ward and his talented group of choristers from Sacramento presented a noteworthy performance. The adjudicators, who were flown from Wales, conveyed to the audience the art of song and verse delivery in the Welsh tradition.

The winners of *Y Drych's* Eisteddfod-by-Mail were announced and the excited winners were awarded their prizes. The editor solicited entrants for the next eisteddfod competition.

The bilingual Sunday service was conducted by Enid Morgan of Aberystwyth, the director of mission for the Church in Wales. She is an accomplished Welsh speaker who addressed her theme of

change with fervent conviction. She spoke with Welsh ease and eloquence. She reminded us that everything changes including treasured tradition and culture. Institutions are daily being molded to meet people's changing needs. Her vivid Welsh manner transported one back to one's childhood, to the chapel—the Salem, the Horeb, the Seilo of yesteryear—where many of us spent many hours in hard-polished family pews.

We Welsh love oratory. The eloquence of famous Welsh preachers is well-known. The soul of Wales found its expression in sermons and, when I was growing up, every child in Wales heard stories of the great preachers of the past. At the completion of Morgan's sermon she presented the executive director of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association with a Welsh Bible and a Welsh-language tape of the litany used in the Russian Orthodox church in Blaenau Ffestiniog. That underscored her theme of change.

At the gymanfa itself, each hymn resounded and reflected the Welsh soul. These hymns reminded us of a loved one's wedding or funeral or christening or of the simple gathering of family and friends around the home piano. With each note we embraced the melodies of home. As we sang our favorite hymns, our 1,500 voices were swept along by the passionate force of the mighty organ. Sopranos, altos, tenors and basses repeated choruses of favorite hymns.

We each have our memory of Wales to share. My memory is of the mountains in sunlight, mountains in the mist in the

Classifieds

If you made a video or audio tape of the National Eisteddfod at Bellevue, Wash., on Sept. 3, please contact John Owen, 67 McGlochlin Rd., Boise, ID 83709.

THIS IS THE PERFECT PLACE to trade old books, buy or sell Welsh Corgis, advertise for bara brith recipes, or to look for genealogical information. Send your ad today for our next issue. SEND SURPRISE CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO A FRIEND THIS WAY!

Payment must accompany insertion request. Ads must be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication. RATE: \$1 per line, 5-line minimum, one line equals 25 characters.

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I see the American social fabric as a river with different layers of current. Our top layer is common to all of us. The undercurrents are our many unique heritages, such as being Welsh-American. The undercurrents have elements that filter to the top with time, adding to the richness of the national life as a whole. The undercurrents also identify us as something special with customs and traits worth maintaining, worth bragging about.

Being a hyphenated American means adding to the richness of the country. Unlike Great Britain, we are a nation of immigrants with each national input complimenting the whole, rather than a multi-national empire where the dominant nationality (English) tries to impose itself over the other nations (Welsh, Irish, Cornish and Scots).

Sincerely,
Robert Roser
Stafford, Va.

93 year old enjoys Bellevue National

Dear editor,

In the October issue of *Y Drych* there were a number of pictures taken at the various events of the National Gymanfa Ganu in Bellevue, Wash. I would like to identify the little Welsh lady with her Welsh hat, purchased at the Welsh marketplace.

Mrs. Myrtle (Roberts) Thomas, who now resides at Parkwood Manor at Coquitlam, British Columbia, was the woman. She was born on Oct. 26, 1901, at Neepawa, Manitoba. Shortly after her birth the family moved to Bangor, Sask., where a colony of Welsh settlers from Patagonia, Argentina had arrived. My grandfather (We called him Taid), the late T.T. Roberts, bought a farm and set up a general store in Bangor, Sask., in 1905.

In 1934, Myrtle married Evan Thomas at Bangor.



Myrtle Roberts Thomas

They moved to Vancouver in 1936 where she has been a member of the Welsh society.

She was accompanied to the Bellevue National by her sister-in-law, Rose (Thomas) Smith of Calgary, Alb., and by her four nieces—Grace Morris of Victoria, B.C.; Merle MacDonnell of Calgary, Alb.; Glenys West of Denver, Colo.; and Morfudd Scott of Lion's Bay, B.C.

The six of us thoroughly enjoyed our stay at the Hyatt and the tours, seminars and musical activities. Myrtle at 93 was an eager participant in the informal singing until 1:30 a.m.!

Many thanks to all who organized, helped and

participated in a memorable and wonderful event.

Sincerely,
Merle MacDonnell

Letters / Llythyrau

We have a Welsh parliament with real power

Editor,
The British Labour Party entered a general election campaign, its Welsh self-interest was "to show an Assembly revenue- or legislative"—as we are led by the current public opinion paper.

Labour recognizes there are even worse of their party who are content with this kind of powerless job, so Labour offered a "consultation" paper to be debated publicly next month. The paper is to outline specific, but also limited, possible changes to Labour's proposal.

If the suggested changes will give the assembly any meaningful power, it will still be

a secretary of state for Wales, a Welsh Office and the system of appointed government agencies which currently administer Wales. The assembly will simply be an ineffective talkshop, one that will need to be supported by more taxes on the Welsh people.

Instead of simply adding another burden to the current system of English administration of Wales, Plaid Cymru has a more worthy recommendation: replace that entire system with a powerful, and independent, Welsh parliament—one that does not have to beg to the English government for finances or powers.

Labour admits that it has yet to achieve a consensus within its own ranks about its proposed assembly. Plaid has a concrete policy which was

officially adopted by its members a year ago. But I invite *Y Drych* readers to judge the two proposals for themselves. They may write to the address below to obtain free copies of both Labour's proposal for an assembly for Wales and Plaid Cymru's proposal for the government of Wales.

Labour admits in its current proposal that it is trying to find the proposal "which will command the broadest range of popular support in Wales at the general election."

Rather, Labour is more likely afraid of scaring off voters of England by offering anything stronger for Wales than its current proposal. Instead of worrying about what is best for the British Labour Party, the party should be promoting what is best for Wales by offering the level of independent self-government which Plaid promotes.

Yours truly,
David Price
Plaid Cymru
North America
106 2nd St. W.
Meadow Lake, SK
S9X 1C6
CANADA

Thanks, Llanelli!

Dear editor,

Though a month has passed since the National Gymanfa Ganu in Bellevue, the wonderful events of that weekend are still fresh in my mind. As *cymanfaoedd* go it ranks right up there with the best in just about every way.

I write now to express my gratitude to Côr Meibion Llanelli and the choir's wonderful director, D. Eifion Thomas, for the absolutely marvelous musical and narrative presentation, "The Loud Hill of Wales," at the Saturday night concert.

The choir was in its usual great form, thrilling us to the core with every note. The rich bass voice of narrator Desmond Jones only added to our enjoyment.

The all-Welsh content of the program was much appreciated and should put to rest earlier complaints about the lack of Welsh music included in the repertoire of most visiting male choirs.

Sincerely,

Mae Howells Anderson
Minneapolis, Minn.

Cwrs Cymraeg Southern

By Hefina Phillip

The Welsh people are excitedly preparing for the 1995 Welsh course is Cymdeithas Maerwridd's visit to Georgia and promise y'all a wee bit of Welsh to remember.



Photo by John Kudlaty. Cwrs Cymraeg scholar Marla Gehman and Tom McClive, Will

Cymdeithas recipient

By Loretta Clo

The Cymdeithas has a scholarship committee awarded the following students scholarship: Cymraeg Baltimore Carrie Fox of Sea Marla Gehman of Ala.; Tom McClive Hill, N.C.; Lucinda Cookeville, Tenn.; Matthew Webb of Chester, Pa. They received partial support to help them attend course.

Scholarship funds partially supplied the generosity of National Gymanfa Association and t

The use of a hyphenated American is un-American."

Editor:
In response to your editorial "Beyond the August of *Y Drych*. I am much concerned about the survival of Welsh groups in this genera-

to hyphenated Americans such as Polish-Americans, Italian-Americans and African-Americans.

Dr. Boorstin astutely observes that the menace of America today is in the emphasis on what separates

Reflections on Japanese presence in Wales

Dear editor,

I read Marion Harriss' review (*Y Drych*, April 1994) of the book *Working for the*

The Japanese, too, support cultural activities, as the following example shows. In 1991 I wrote a bilingual

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Arizona society members travel far for more Welsh experiences

By Emily Faust

While the Arizona Welsh Society was in recess during the hot summer months, several of our members were actively pursuing their keen interest in all things Welsh: history, music, language, culture. Loyal and proud of our Welsh ancestry, customs and traditions, some of us, eager to preserve and experience our culture, traveled many miles during the summer to two national Welsh events.

Evan Barraclough and Miriam Hay attended Cwrs Cymraeg, sponsored by Cymdeithas Madog. It was held in July at Towson State University near Baltimore, Md. Evan studied Welsh language with Paul Birt from Canada; Miriam had Alun Ifans of Dyfed, Wales, as her teacher. Miriam returned greatly satisfied with the improvement of her fluency

yn Gymraeg [in Welsh].

Evan also was very enthusiastic about the *cwrs* [course] and both enjoyed mixing with other Welsh learners and teachers from around North America and Wales. During the week there were great singing sessions and education trips in the Baltimore area. According to Miriam and Evan, Cwrs Cymraeg Baltimore was a big success!

Traveling northward to the Seattle area were Douglas Jones of Tucson, Elizabeth Jones, Lynn Christopherson and Emily Faust. We attended the 1994 National Gymanfa Ganu in Bellevue, Wash., in September. How was it? Wonderful! Ably planned and organized by Alan Upshall and an excellent committee from Puget Sound Welsh Association, this event was an outstanding celebration of Welsh culture.

Music at the eisteddfod, noson lawen and the welcome concert were all greatly enjoyed and the glorious hymn singing of both sessions of the gymanfa was, to me, uplifting—sounds of heaven. Added enhancement was the Côr Meibion Llanelli singing along with us. Their grand concert, "The Loud Hill of Wales," was a most brilliant performance.

Lynn and I spent a most delightful afternoon with Jeffrey Smith, the well-known TV personality known as "The Frugal Gourmet." The tour of Smith's test kitchens and personal escort to Pike Place Market in downtown Seattle made our visit to the 1994 National a very happy one.

All interested persons are cordially invited to attend the Arizona Welsh Society meetings which will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 10 and Dec. 8 at Menke Community Room, 10240 N. 103rd Ave. in Sun City.

Sarasota, Fla., picnic begins Suncoast Welsh activities

By Russell Williams

The fall picnic of the Gulfcoast Welsh Society of Sarasota, Fla., was the "Grand Opener" of the winter season for the Welsh along the Gulf of Mexico from Bradenton to Naples. The picnic was held at the Turtle Beach shelter on Midnight Pass Road on Siesta Key.

Permanent Florida residents and the many who have returned from summer vacations, plus winter visitors who will enjoy the

News of Welsh Home in Ohio

By Gwen Lloyd

The gymanfa in Venedocia, Ohio, on Sept. 4 was wonderful and very well-attended. Salem Presbyterian Church is the former pulpit of the Rev. Ellis Lloyd who lived in Cleveland many years ago.

Along with the usual activities for the month at the Welsh Home in Rocky River, Ohio, schoolchildren will again offer their services in many ways. The residents do so enjoy seeing them. Many volunteers are returning, too, after summer vacations. What would we do without them? They are all such good friends to our residents.

The office staff has started classes in computers. They

newly-decorated after the horrible damage sustained on January 1. It has taken nine months to get it all back to working order, but the two rooms are even more of a show-place than before and well worth the wait.

Did you know that next to water, tea is the most popular and least expensive beverage in the world? It has been consumed for nearly 5,000 years. Anyone for a cup of tea and thin bread and butter?

Do take care, bye for now.

San Diego group begins new

season



In 1995, it'll be Cytarchion o Galon Pennsylvania! The Harrisburg 1995 Committee of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association sends greetings from the heart of Pennsylvania.

This enthusiastic and energetic group has already begun planning for the 64th annual Gymanfa Ganu to be held over the labor day weekend, August 31 through September 3, 1995. Come join the Pennsylvania



The total accountability has yet to be done for the National Gymnafia Ganu, but here are some numbers.

There were nearly 1100 registrants; the grand concert, 'The Loud Hill of Wales,' by Côr Meibion Llanelli was sold out at 1550 seats; over 1000 people attended each Gymnafia session; the opening concert was sold out at over 700 people; the folk concert with Plethyn sold over 700 tickets. All tours were filled to capacity and seminars had standing room only. The evening was brilliant.

What an occasion! What a

By Alan Upshall

Where do I start? I am sitting here in front of my computer thinking "How can I write a report on the National Gymanfa Ganu weekend? What do I put in? How much space will the editor let me have?"

The possibility of course is that I can go on for pages and pages recounting all of the glorious activities and incidents which occurred during the four days. To be honest though, along with many of our volunteers, I did not see a great deal of the daily activities.

Regrettably, I did not make one seminar, saw nothing of the noson lawen, missed Pleihyn and the Dancers on Saturday morning, and managed only to keep circulating and talking to people. Perhaps that was one of the problems. I found all who came so friendly and warm that I occasionally took to coming in the back way so as not to be stopped for conversation.

Nevertheless, I had a great time as did we all and I am glad that we, The Puget Sound Welsh Association, had the courage to take to the task, and I

am proud of the way in which we executed the plan.

What follows then is my own personal account of the weekend, much will be missed and for the sake of history you should write in with your remembrances, even if it is only a short comment. We are building a scrapbook of the event and it would be enhanced by the personal memories of all of us. Send yours to Ninnau or directly to PSWA, PO Box 19344, Seattle, WA 98109.

By the way, if anyone has spare photographs or even video of the weekend, we'd love to get a copy. We'll be happy to pay for copying.

What do I remember?

"... and first impressions count."

Before it all started: We arrived at the Hyatt hotel at 4 pm Wednesday afternoon loaded up with materials. We registered at the hotel and walked to the elevator. Seeing some early registrants, we went

to welcome them.

A gentleman from the east coast pulled me to one side and said "Don't mind if I make a comment do you?" "No," I replied. "Well," he said, "We all arrived here yesterday and there was no one in the foyer to receive and welcome us. You should have had a lady in Welsh costume there. I have been to the last 20 Nationals and first impressions count." Now there's a diplomatic challenge for you. I smiled and welcomed him and felt glad that the elevator had arrived.

The opening night: a lady in the third row from the front began to cry when I laid out the Welsh flag, received from last year's venue, on the floor. A moment which put nostalgia and hiraeth right to the forefront of the emotions.

Hearing, from outside, the roars of laughter at one of the performers in the noson lawen, a great sign that all was going well.

Kayla Ware and Carolyn Bell wheeling the efforts of the PSWA craft committee into the market place and me saying "are you sure you can get that on three tables?" They did and sold quite a lot of it!

The acoustics and sounds of the late evening singing in the Wintergarden, almost as good as the Gymanfa with far fewer people. People everywhere enjoying themselves, chattering and laughing and greeting old friends.

Folk night and banquet: Receiving a mug and plate containing daffodils from the Bellevue Convention Bureau, just labeled Diolch.

Tremendous harmonies from Pleihyn, enhanced by the folk dancing of the Beaumaris Grammar School class of 1939 led by Ted Stanley, all in pseudo straw boater hats.

"I will, if you will."

The Eisteddfod: Hearing the cheers and applause at the announcement of the Choral competition winners. Some disappointment that the winners were not Cor Cymraeg Seattle, but the Whitney Women's Choral of Boise were outstanding.

Talking to the most excited young girl I have seen ever, Carmen Maret, winner of the instrumental competition. She was literally jumping up and down, and my main concern was for the trophy she was holding, an exquisitely carved, specially commissioned slate piece of art from the Urdd in Wales.

Seeing the amazed look on the face of John Owen of Idaho when he won the men's competition. The story behind this victory is personal to me. I have known John for about four years, and he has an excellent tenor voice.

When we decided to mount an eisteddfod, I immediately

began working on him to enter. His first response was "I will if you will." Now anyone who has heard me sing solo will know how silly that is, but I struck him along until he agreed to enter unconditionally. I'm glad I did.

Watching Mari Morgan, adjudicator, restore the confidence of Paul Kawabori after he had broken down in the middle of his performance. Mari leapt to the stage and sang with Paul through the difficult part and until he had completed his first song, and then he had the confidence to sing the second on his own. Paul was awarded the prize for the first Youth competition, and well deserved it was.

Shaking hands with a trembling and tearful Eluned Jones who had just won the Ladies' competition. Tears of joy! It's what eisteddfod competitions are all about.

"Just like the National in Wales!"

Looking at the expression on the face of Paul Loveluck, Executive Director of the Wales Tourist Board during the solo finals and announcements. He could not believe the standard of competition and the atmosphere in the hall. "Just like the National in Wales," he said.

Grand Concert: One week before the concert, we realized that there was going to be a sell-out. The configuration of the hall at that time allowed only 1200 seats. We met and decided to change the configuration, but we did not know exactly how many seats we had.

Patrice Savery, our event coordinator at the Meydenbauer Center, promised 1400, we wanted more. It was torture for Patrice, any time she saw Bob or me, Patrice said, "I know, at least 1500 seats," she made 1550.

I have never before been involved with an event where tickets were being scalped. On the Saturday afternoon, someone offered \$100 for one. I had one gentleman say to me "How much do you want for a ticket?" I said, "Sorry, none left but there may be some at the door tonight."

"How much do you want for a ticket?"

"Did you hear?" he said, "how much do you want for a ticket?" I shrugged my shoulders and said, there are none until perhaps tonight at the door.

Before the concert, the waiting crowd singing hymns to keep themselves occupied until the doors opened.

The concert itself was an occasion not to be missed, I am sure you all will agree. An outstanding performance from an outstanding choir.

This was the first time in my life I wore a tux, and then the absolutely unexpected invitation to conduct the anthem at the end. You all now know why I do not direct the choir, waving your arms around is so tiring.

The Gymanfa: Spectacular singing made brilliant by the sound system arrangement. The best place to hear the Gymanfa was up on stage, and believe me the singing was out of this world. Directors Mary Mergenthal and Eifion Thomas, each in their own unique ways, generated tremendous hwy!

Over 1000 people singing at the tops of their voices. I knew Eifion Thomas was enjoying it by the way he was turning to the choir and smiling. Wait until

you hear the tape!

"Loud? I'll show them what loud is!"

Before the evening session I had a conversation with Alan Rees, the accompanist. "Alan," I said, "a gentleman in the church service this morning had to ask that we do not play the organ so loud." "Loud?" said Alan, "I'll show them what loud is." When Alan Rees played loud at the chorus repeat, it was amazing to hear the congregation respond.

Start as you mean to finish: We ran tours to Mount Rainier on the first Thursday and last Monday. On Thursday, just as we were about to send the bus off from the Red Lion Hotel, up screamed the shuttle from the Bellevue Inn. Two who had been late nearly missed the tour.

Believe it or not, on Monday, just as we were sending the bus off from the Bellevue Inn, a telephone call: don't go yet, two latecomers from the Hyatt, we'll be over now. Up swings Steve Ensley, still bleary eyed, with the tourists.

Scary moments: Walking into the theatre at the Meydenbauer Center at 1:30 on Friday afternoon when Richard Lind was rehearsing with Eluned Jones. Even me with my poor hearing realized something was wrong with the piano. Notes were flat and strings were broken and the Eisteddfod was to start at 8 the next morning. Near panic!

"Can you tune a piano?"

Back to the hotel, talked with their services personnel who connected me with Joseph at Sherman Clay. "Joseph, I have a major problem! Can you either tune a piano or put a rental in its place by tonight?" "Who will pay?" was the response. "I will," I said. "O.K."

Within 30 minutes, Joseph was there and he spent over 3 hours repairing and tuning the piano. "One note will be a little flat where I had to replace strings, but most people won't notice," he said when he finished. He was right, I didn't notice (and the Meydenbauer Center paid).

Two last memories (at least for now): the presentation of the decanter to me by the choir. My relationship with the Llanelli choir and Eifion Thomas is something special. It has been that way since their concert here in 1990. That decanter, made of Welsh Royal Crystal and engraved with the Llanelli emblem is a treasure. My only complaint: It came empty!

"Had a wonderful time, thank you..."

Remember the gent who gave me a hard time for not having a Welsh lady welcoming him two days before we started. He came up to me Monday morning as we were leaving, patted me on the back and said, "Had a wonderful time, thank you very much."

There are probably many more memories which I will recall as time goes by. However, one question I will not forget which was asked by many. "When are you going to do this again?" Anyone want to answer?



One Look Back

By Betty J. Aston-Graham

The National Gymanfa Ganu of 1994 in Bellevue, WA—how can I describe this wonderful event? When Ninnau publisher Arturo Roberts asked me to write on one of the four days that I enjoyed the most, I chose the Sunday when the Choirs and all the audience were participating.

Of course, needless to say, the entire Gymanfa was outstanding. The events took place in the famous Meydenbauer Center, which was just a stone's throw away from our hotel. The Center is huge, and it was the perfect setting for such a perfect concert.

The Sunday services were beautiful with the combination of both Welsh and English wordings throughout the service, and Rev. Enid Morgan outdid herself in a wonderful and inspiring sermon. Rev. Morgan was from Ammanford, South Wales, with an extensive background in the Welsh ministry.

The afternoon session was conducted by Mary Morris Mergenthal of St. Paul, Minnesota. She directed all the favorite hymns, such as Ebenezer, Blodwen, and of course finishing up with Cwm Rhondda.

The rafters shook with the vibration of all the Welsh singing. It was a delightful afternoon, followed by a delicious light supper, which was getting us ready for the full blown Gymanfa of the evening. The evening opened with a rousing organ recital by Alan S. Rees, from Ailwen, Wales, and he made that organ speak. Our

Hwy! was already off and running. The huge Welsh banners blew gently in the auditorium, and you definitely felt your Welshness.

And then, the highlight of the evening and of course the whole Gymanfa, the wonderful choir—Cor Meibion Llanelli. To say that D. Eifion Thomas was outstanding is just not a strong enough adjective to describe the musical talent of this man. We were all stirred by his conducting and he certainly brought out the hwy! in all that were present.

The lead soloist was Teifryn Rees, and he tore the house down with his beautiful tenor voice. Of course, the soloists including director Eifion Thomas stood out, but the entire choir was a soloist—they received standing ovations and sang many more times for the enjoyment of the over 1000 people in attendance. You left with a song in your heart and were glad to sing—I am Welsh!

The entire Gymanfa weekend was a wonderful event. It was very well run and organized from the moment of arrival to the sad time of departure. The Bellevue organizers saw to our every need.

It was great seeing everyone from the year before. This reporter really enjoyed the fellowship shared at the breakfast with Arturo Roberts, his wife Olga, and all the other contributors from all over the country.

The Bellevue organizing committee and the Puget Sound Welsh Association deserve a rousing vote of Thanks, Diolch yn Fawr, for a job well done and for keeping alive the Welsh spirit in America.

Remember the Sounds of the Gymanfa

Hear the highlights of both sessions of the 63rd Annual Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu in Bellevue. Audio Tapes available for \$10.

I enclose check for \$ _____ Please send

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To order, complete the coupon and send with check (\$10 per audio cassette) to: PSWA, PO Box 19344, Seattle, WA 98109.

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vyd, Glamorgan, in 1904.

ys would start going from use to house singing at st light. The girls usually dn't go out singing until ontime. For some reason, was considered bad luck have the girls sing first. boy with dark hair was

"Loud Hill of Wales" concert commercially available

By Alan Upshall

The dust has settled in Bellévue, Wash. The books have been closed and the accounts settled. The purchased tapes of the gymanfa will be mailed before the end of November. There remains one last discussion point. Many people have asked us whether we recorded the Grand Concert, "The Loud Hill of Wales: a celebration of Wales in poetry, prose and song," presented by the Llanelli Male Choir. People are, of course, interested in buying a copy. The simple answer is, "No, we did not, but don't despair." The choir recorded the concert in Wales before coming and that recording is available.

The recording is entitled *The Loud Hill of Wales* and was made by the Black Mountain Choral Recording Company. It is virtually the whole concert with some minor variations. In Bellevue, only Desmond Jones narrated, whereas on the recording a second narrator, Frank Lincoln, adds an interesting contrast to Desmond's rich deep timbre. The text selections illustrate the many rich aspects of Welsh literature and were chosen to mirror or complement the music.

There is poetry of love from Michael Burn and of life from Dylan Thomas, witty and pointed prose from Gwyn Thomas and Sir Geraint Evans and *hiraeth* and nostalgia from George Borrow and Idris Davies.

This dialogue is interspersed through a collection of the best of Welsh love songs and male choral standards. The tape moves from the loving

beginning of "Paham," "Myfanwy" and "Caraf Di" (written by the choir director, D. Eifion Thomas) with D. Eifion Thomas as the soloist, through those grand Welsh favorites, "Dros Gymru'n Gwlad," "Ty-Ddewi" and "Clawdd Madog." It also includes the choral masterpieces, "Speed Your Journey" and "Pilgrim's Chorus" and a flourishing ending of Daniel Prothero's "Nidaros."

The whole program was conceived and compiled by D. Eifion Thomas, who must have scoured Welsh literature to find these gems of verbal description of past and present Welsh life. No doubt a much more difficult task than finding suitable music. I suspect the problem here was deciding which to omit from the compilation.

Throughout the record, the choir is in tip-top form. Director Thomas regards the recording as one of the finest the choir has ever made. That is a strong recommendation. The choir tape of *Pan Ddawn Nos*, made in 1982, was awarded a gold disc for sales. *The Loud Hill of Wales* should easily emulate that achievement, especially with sales in countries with a large number of exiles and Welsh ethnophiles.

In Bellevue the choir sold all of the copies they brought. If you were unsuccessful in getting a recording in Bellevue or could not make the journey there, buy a tape or CD from the North American suppliers of Welsh goods. If your favorite supplier does not stock either, complain. Then sit back and enjoy a feast of Welshness. It would be great for listening or gifting on Christmas Day.

Hearst Castle, built by William Randolph Hearst and now operated by the State of California as a historical attraction. Cambria's first gymanfa last year, with Myra Thon Lawrence of Santa Barbara as guest of honor, was attended by about 250 people. This year plans are being made to accommodate up to 350 attendees.

This year, Alan Upshall of Bothell, Wash., president of the Puget Sound Welsh Association and chairperson of this past National Gymanfa Ganu, will be the guest of honor. The 1995 event will feature some performers who appeared at the National, such as Bro Journey, Mari Morgan and Eluned Jones. Upshall will also be working at the gymanfa, as chairperson of the noson lawen, gymanfa and grand concert.

Cantorion Gwlad Aur, who appeared at the National Eisteddfod in the choral competition, will be singing. Under the direction

Welsh Home enjoy new a

By Gwen Lloyd

The Welsh Home in Rock River, Ohio, has a new activities director, Susan Gallagher. She comes with a highly-recommended with a master's degree in art therapy. She has already proven her worth in the time she has been part of the family at the Home. One of her great ideas was to ask residents for ideas of things they would like to do.

There are very few people who don't like to play bingo at the Home. This activity is run by volunteers from St. Benedette's. Another treat is time with the music therapist, Jan Ennes. She entertains with her lovely voice and cheerful disposition.

Malley's Chocolates make the Sweetest Day the sweetest day of all. The company donated these gifts for

Decorative sidebar with a scrollwork border. Text includes: "Carols", "both", "ehoboth.", "tors", "C —".

