

W.A.Y. NEWS

WELSH AMERICAN YOUTH OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

Y GWIR YN ERBYN Y BYD
(the truth against the world)

Vol. V

Spring 1974

Issue

No. 2

FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Members of WAY -- St. David's Day has past and each of us on this continent have celebrated the remembrance of the patron saint of Wales. In San Diego we had our annual banquet dinner. The singing was inspiring and we heard a lecture on Welsh education given by Mari Rees, a Fullbright exchange teacher from Cardiff.--I hope everyone is keeping in touch with someone of Welsh heritage so this will remain a vital part of your lives. I will attend the Gymanfa in Swansea, Wales this summer. There will also be one in Cleveland, Ohio. -- The Prince of Wales is visiting San Diego this month and I will be representing the Welsh community at a reception in his honor.

Dan Reese"

Dan is most enthusiastic and proud of his Welsh heritage and will as time goes on keep members posted on tidbits of Welsh history to support our most valued heritage.

Due to the tremendous overload of activities of our WAY advisors, Dave and Bonnie, WAY News will be published and edited for the next few issues by our founder and past liaison officer of WAY, WNGGA, Mr. Gwynn J. Parri. All communications to WAY News then should be sent to WAY News, P. O. Box [redacted] Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207 Telephone (414) [redacted]

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

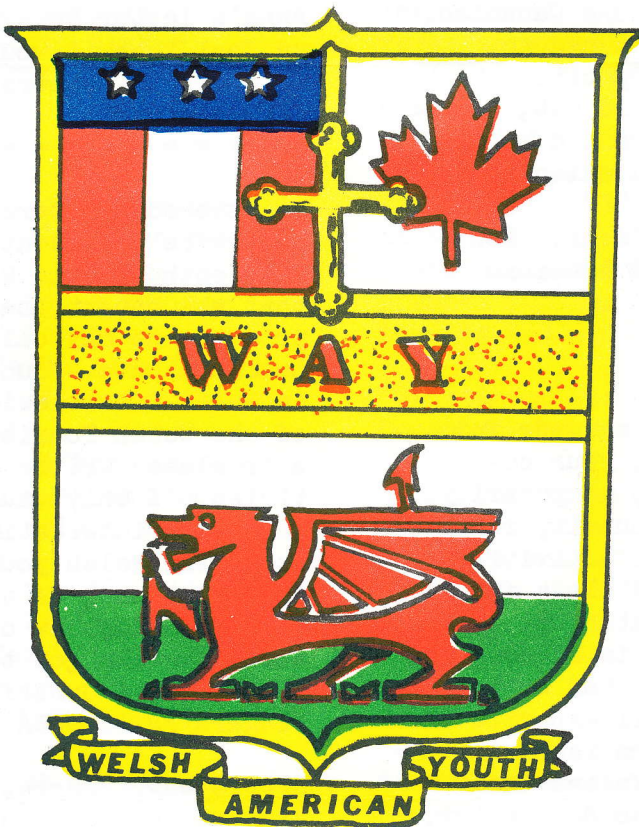
"Greetings to all!

"As we've just completed celebrating St. David's day, I think this is a wonderful time to reflect on our heritage and remember how nice it is to be Welsh. I was fortunate enough to get a week break from school and be able to come home to celebrate St. David's day. My parents and I went to St. Catharines on Saturday, March 2, for the annual banquet and dance. There I was pleased to meet up with Gwynn Parri of Milwaukee who was the guest speaker. Then on Sunday was the traditional service at St. Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo. Unfortunately there will be no side trips planned for WAY during the Swansea trip. The reason for this is that I received no names or addresses as was requested in the last Newsletter, of those interested.

Jennifer Monkhouse"

FLASH NEWS --

We have some pleasant news about Jennifer. She is to be married on May 18, 1974. Our best wishes to you, Jennifer.



SOUND OFF

Congratulations to Anna Dunets of 48 William Cragg Drive, Downsview, Ontario, Canada, M3M 1V1, for her sound off which is printed verbatim - "While I was trying to acquire new members for WAY, and just generally passing information around about WAY, I heard a comment that made a great deal of sense to me, as a Canadian member of WAY. 'WAY' stands for Welsh American Youth, and as such does not include Welsh Canadians. I realize that WAY was started in America and we owe much thanks to the innovators of the movement, but Canada has a sizeable portion of Welsh youth to add to the group. Symbolizing this is the fact that the executive for the 1974-76 term is 3/4 Canadian. Now "Welsh American Youth" happened to produce a very catchy and handy title which Welsh North American Youth would not, but it was suggested to me that WACY could be used standing for Welsh American Canadian Youth, the "C" being pronounced as a "K". Perhaps other members have different ideas. How about it, fellow Canadians and American Welsh?"

From the Editor

Some temporary changes are being made for better or worse. Dave Davies, your co-director, has asked me to help temporarily. Dave and Bonnie have as they put it "really spread ourselves too thin with activities" and have asked me to handle WAY News for a short time so that they can catch up, so here goes. Please note the change in address for the publisher which will be listed on the front and back page. This will expedite the movement of material for future issues. Dave and Bonnie asked me to express their apology for the lateness of the Newsletter, but the circumstances were unavoidable.

So, getting down to the editorial--as we all know, the Welsh people on the north American continent are looking to WAY to perpetuate everything that is Welsh and with the help of the fine slate of officers, both current and future, along with the excellent cooperation of your directors and liaison officers there is every indication that WAY will become a very powerful influence.

When WAY was founded much thought was given to a name for the organization, realizing that it represented two countries. The letters WAY (Welsh American Youth) stood out among the many names offered because of its multi-uses, such as "We are the Way" (used at Salt Lake City), "We will

show the way", "Our way is best", and many others. One could say that it did not represent Canada but then it did not represent the United States either. On the other hand American does not mean U. S. only by habit. It was then decided to use WAY since it had so much to offer, also when written out in full it would always be "Welsh American Youth of Canada and the United States". In addition Canada precedes U. S. in the name (usually reversed in most oral and written references). Welsh being the prime word, boundaries were not recognized. Incidentally, the name WAY was suggested by my wife Edna.

G.J.P.

Anna's letter however suggests a change and we feel that it would be interesting to hear from you as members.

=====

We have some interesting information from our next vice president, Jane Thomas. Jane is a very enthusiastic WAY member and she writes that she caught the latter part of a CBC TV program one day called Elwood Glover's Luncheon Date - quote - "and today they were in Wales interviewing Melvin Jones, chairman of the Welsh Tourist Board, and Ann Clwyd⁽ⁱⁿ⁾ a freelance writer, TV technician, and politician. I only caught Mrs. Clwyd but she had some very interesting things to say especially about the Welsh youth movement in various societies such as the Welsh language society. I am thinking now of writing to the CBC and see if we can get the tape of the programme to show at a Gymanfa sometime--possibly the Niagara Falls OGGA in May".

By the way, congratulations are in order for Jane as she tells us that she will be getting married the weekend after the Niagara Falls Gymanfa. She also asks for a copy of the WAY constitution as it now exists suggesting that all members should have a copy. This is an excellent idea and in all probability the constitution will be printed in the next issue of WAY News.

It would not surprise us at all to find several interesting articles appearing in future Newsletters with a byline of both Jane and her sister. Her sister has an honorary BA in history and is interested in writing a series of shorts on Welsh history. Jane suggests that many members with skills and talents could be put to use through the media of the Newsletter. We think that these are excellent suggestions.

Among many of the letters received at WAY News was a letter from Penny Brown in which she mentioned that she had been to the Pittsburgh 1st Gymanfa and they counted about 225 people - quote - "I got up and gave a speech for a third year in a row. I sorta yelled at them but they didn't seem offended afterward at the tea". She also indicates that they are busy discussing ideas for future Gymanfoedd like in New York and Philadelphia to improve and make Gymanfoedd enjoyable. She suggests that all WAY members give thought to such ideas and write to the Newsletter so that they can be aired. Finally, she mentions that we must make the people realize that without WAY the Gymanfa tradition will die.--Get WAY to higher recognized level--Let them know we mean business.

"Brown Bullsession ideas:

Registration on Sunday--a lot of people come on Sunday. I would've been happy to man the table.

Make WAY lounge a lounge, not a meeting room. Have chairs and couches, like den or living room. Maybe have stereo, we could bring albums. Like for Friday and Saturday late night.

WAY sponsor a tea Saturday afternoon-- Invite all so we could meet and make known WAY's potential, drive, and interest to keep going.

Have WAY representatives at all meetings-- WAY officer at Banquet Table.

Have planned activities for WAY afternoons.--Know ahead of time what we can do as a group (VERY IMPORTANT - GROUP)"

The spirit of WAY is very much in evidence in Penny's letter and WE LIKE IT.

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Our next letter we feel should be quoted in its entirety because of the unique and pleasant introduction of a new and quite large WAY group in Ottawa, Canada. The Ottawa group has given strength and meaning to the future of WAY and it is hoped that other geographical locations will follow suit.

"Dear Mr. Parri -- Dr. Clive James, our president told me of your letter to him and your interest in the progress of our youth group. First, let me apologize for the

tardiness of this letter. I am a student at Carleton University, specializing in languages and sociology and have had many essays and assignments to complete before the end of the term. During the last few years, with the strengthening of the Ottawa Society there has been a strong feeling amongst various key members that something should be organized for the 13 - 28 age group. Following the National Gymanfa in Toronto when Myfanwy and Gwen Davies and myself joined the WAY group, it was decided to start one here in Ottawa. The first event, carol singing, was organized for the sixteenth of December. Thirty people expressed interest but due to bad weather, ten enthusiastic carolers turned up. If you recall, it was the worst snowfall of the pre-Christmas season and it was necessary to put all ten up at our house. That, in my opinion was half the fun. Our second venture, a hayride, drew 33 people and we had a wonderful time. We finished up with a meal of chili con carne and Welsh cakes at the home of Mrs. Davies. Since then a skating expedition on the Rideau Canal was planned but cancelled due to a typically unpredictable spring thaw.

"We started with approximately 25 people in December and now our phoning list has doubled.

"I am acting as co-ordinator at present and when time permits I will call a committee in the very near future. We have approximately \$50.00 in the kitty.

"There has been much enthusiasm regarding our group and I believe it has a great potential.

"-----if all goes well, we would be delighted to act as host for visiting WAY members at the Gymanfa Ganu in Ottawa in 1977.

Diolch yn fawr

Julie Griffiths
Amberwood Crescent
Country Place, Ottawa
K2E FB9"

We are more than happy to welcome the Ottawa WAY group into the organization and wish them success in all their endeavors.

We received a letter from the OGGA secretary, Mr. Lewis Edwards, in which he suggested a very good idea -- "Why not sell subscriptions of WAY News to non-members young and old so that the Welsh people and/or friends can learn what's going on? This will give them confidence in the future".

Thank you, Mr. Edwards. We think this has much merit and we are grateful for the interest shown by you and the OGGA. To say the least it would help a lot to combat the ever rising costs of producing the WAY News----

MEMBERS - let us know what you think of Mr. Edward's idea--how about 25¢ a copy (15¢ to Waynews and 10¢ for your club)?

Comments from Liaison Officer,
Mair Monkhouse

"Almost four years have passed since the conception and formation of WAY in Milwaukee, Wis. and we all owe a deep debt of gratitude to Gwynn Parri for the founding and continuing support of this wonderful organization. My appointment last September as your liaison officer was a great honor and joy, and I hope with all my heart that I can justify Gwynn's trust in me, and be of service to you.

"Each year it becomes more apparent that the responsibility of keeping our beloved National Gymanfa Ganu alive will be yours, and we hope with all our hearts that you will cherish the culture and traditions of our homeland as we do.

"Then, as now you will encounter difficulties, anxiety and maybe even moments of despair. There will be times when your individual efforts seem inadequate, but remembering that unity is strength and faith can conquer mountains, may you work together with your trust always in God. My desire is to help in any way I can, so please do not hesitate to make your needs known. Some of you will be attending the Ontario Gymanfa in Niagara Falls, Ontario. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

"The committee has very kindly granted my request for a meeting room for WAY. To those of you journeying to the Swansea Gymanfa, have a good trip and enjoy your stay in Wales.

"With all good wishes

Mair E. Monkhouse"

Dr. John R. Jones, your other liaison officer, is very slowly recovering from his past operation and it is hoped that he will be well on the road to recovery by the next WAY News issue so that we can hear from him. In the meantime our thoughts and prayers are always with him.

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The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu for 1974 will be held at Cleveland, Ohio on October 11, 12, and 13 and it is hoped that all members of WAY will make every effort to attend because this will be the time when the plans will be formulated for the BIG Gymanfa in New York in 1975. We have been told by Mr. Greenway, chairman of the 1975 New York committee, that they are going all out for WAY and as we understand it the Gymanfa itself will be as we have never seen before with a choir from Wales and many other wonderful and exciting things planned. Our new officers being installed at Cleveland is another good reason to attend. Now that WAY is really on the move let's show what we can do. As Penny would say, "We mean business". Remember October 11, 12, 13, 1974, Cleveland, Ohio.

Since we will be meeting in Philadelphia in 1976 it might be well to know if any Welsh-Americans had a part in the building of the United States of America. Welsh names and deeds in American democracy would fill volumes. It is claimed that there were several thousands of them here at the time of the Revolutionary War, some of them striving nobly in the cause of fair liberty, pledging their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

Perhaps one of the foremost was Thomas Jefferson whose ancestors came from the foot of Snowdon, in Wales. His family had been among the first settlers of the colony of Virginia. No man ever lived who was more strongly endued with the principles of civil and religious liberty. His history for a long period was the history of his country. As the author of the Declaration of Independence, his name will ever merit a place in the hall of fame. He early saw the menace of slavery as a political evil and did much to alleviate its hardships. He was the author of that famous "Summary View of the Rights of British Americans", which procured for him the hatred of the British. He was a member of the Continental Congress of 1775, governor of Virginia in 1779, minister to France in 1789, and President in 1800.

Jefferson may be considered as the founder of the Democratic Party, which, from the beginning, claimed for the several states all powers which were not expressly conferred upon the general government, aimed at the greatest possible simplicity and economy in the administration of public affairs; and insisted that all material improvements, such as bridges and the clearing of river-beds, should be made at the expense of the district to which they belonged.

Jefferson was deeply versed in English law, while as the framer of the Declaration of Independence he was, perhaps, of all men then living, most familiar with the principles of the American Constitution. Seven years' residence in France had filled him with dread and hatred of absolute governments, and with zeal for the universal rights of man.

In his style and demeanor as president he cultivated the extreme of republican simplicity, even receiving the British ambassador in dressing-gown and slippers. The greatest event of Jefferson's term as president was the purchase of the vast territory west of the Mississippi, lately ceded by Spain to France, now called Louisiana, for fifteen million dollars. One of the commissioners who made the deal said: "We have lived long, but this is the noblest work of our whole lives. This treaty will change vast solitudes into flourishing districts . . . and will prepare ages of happiness to innumerable generations of human creatures."

This great man's interest in the growth and prosperity of his country remained with him to the last, and its triumph in peace and war never ceased to animate his bosom. Eighty four winters had passed over his head. He had "fought a good fight." He was about to "finish his race," which occurred (what a co-incidence!) on the 4th of July, 1826--a day which he so largely contributed to render immortal.

Future issues will have more about great men of Welsh ancestry.

WAY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Age _____ (not over 30)

I am interested in joining WAY and share in pleasures, fun and comradeship that such membership entails:

My name is _____

Complete Address _____

Zip Code

Mail to: Dave Davies [REDACTED] Westview Lane, Woodridge, Illinois 60515

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Deadline for material to be used in next issue is August 15, 1974
Gwynn J. Parri -- Publisher and Editor (temporary)

1974 GYMANFA GANU
Sponsored by the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Assoc.
Sheraton-Brock Hotel

NIAGARA FALLS
CANADA
May 10, 11, and 12,
1974

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We at WAY News are very anxious to hear from
you (all of you).

You must have something to tell us about, so
why not share it with all WAY members?
President Dan told us that he would be with
the Prince of Wales (lucky guy--we mean Dan).
We would like very much hearing how the
mountain and west coast are doing.

By the way, due to the cost of mailing we are
limited to four pages (both sides) so you can
see from this issue that there is plenty of
room for you. When Dan and Jane and her
sister get going we will have some stories.
It is wonderful that we have so many talented
members (and brains too) and by combinin' all
this together we just can not miss. We feel
that WAY members everywhere should take
active parts in all Gymanfoedd in North America
Both sides (the older and young) could learn a
lot.

Has any one ever thought of having the WAY
badge made as a blazer pocket badge like
they do in Wales? That would be something
to see -- a group of young people at a
Gymanfa Ganu all wearing a blazer with the
WAY badge on it. What color should the
blazer be?

The constitution has to be photographed and
reduced in order to get it all on one page
(we have to watch that mailing cost). That
is why we could not print it now.