

April, 1980

PROGRESS REPORT

Our invitation to host the 1980 Gymanfa Ganu in Vancouver was accepted by the Board of Trustees of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association in September, 1976.

A committee was formed, composed of chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer, with co-ordinators for music, hospitality, special events, publicity, social and registration.

The Committee made arrangements to view the facilities at the Hotel Vancouver and the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and a tentative booking was made with the Vancouver Hotel, pending the approval of the W.N.G.G.A.

In May 1977, the National President and Secretary, Eluned M. Thomas and Jack Meadows, respectively, visited Vancouver to view both the facilities at the Vancouver Hotel and those at the Hyatt Regency. They met with the committee and gave us their expert advice. After their review, a firm booking was made with the Vancouver Hotel.

Between that date and now, several meetings were held of the Committee.

It was decided not to bring over a choir specially from Wales, but to ascertain if there was going to be a choir on tour in Western Canada during the period of the Gymanfa Ganu. Efforts were made to this end, and then we received a telephone call from Mr. Roland Thomas of the Calgary Welsh Society informing us that the Llanelli Male Voice Choir was coming to Calgary during August and that the Calgary Society had arranged concerts for them. He suggested that they come to Vancouver over the weekend of our Gymanfa and participate in same. They would then return to Wales from Vancouver following the Gymanfa. This matter was discussed at committee and as the only costs involved would be the choir's travel costs from Calgary to Vancouver and meals en route, together with their accommodation whilst in Vancouver for three nights, it was therefore decided to invite the Llanelli Male Voice Choir to give a concert on the Saturday night. Our invitation was accepted and arrangements to this end have been made. At the same time, Mrs. Nansi Richards was invited to be the soloist at the Gymanfa Ganu sessions and her husband, Rev. Alun Richards agreed to officiate at the Sunday morning church service.

Grants were applied for to the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments during the summer of 1979, but due to the election and the change of Federal Government, it was necessary to re-apply to the Federal Government.

An official advertisement was placed in the Niagara Falls Gymanfa booklet advertising the Vancouver Gymanfa Ganu.

Confirmation of the room charges being made by the Vancouver Hotel was received in October, 1979 and these, along with other charges proposed for the various functions, were sent to the Executive Committee of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association and were approved.

The director of the Llanelli Male Voice Choir, who has had great experience in conducting was asked to conduct our Gymanfa Ganu, and he agreed to do this. It

had been hoped to have a local organist to play for the Gymanfa Ganu sessions but unfortunately he has become ill, and the organist of the Llanelli Male Voice Choir was asked to be the organist for the sessions, and he agreed to do this. The National Secretary, Jack Meadows, came out again in October, 1979 and once again met with the Committee, finalized details with the hotel and gave us details of mailing, etc. which had to be done, and made arrangements for the printing of envelopes, etc.

A list of the hymns chosen by our Music-sub-committee was submitted to the Conductor in January 1980, and was returned with the revision of one hymn only. This has been passed on to the Secretary of the W.N.G.G.A.

a letter from the W.A.Y. President was received requesting being allowed to have the annual WAY breakfast. This was confirmed and arrangements made on his behalf with the Vancouver Hotel.

Due to postage costs being much higher in Canada, a postal box was rented in Custer, Washington, for ease of mailing of hymn books and addressed envelopes from the Secretary of the NGGA. There was also some rumbling about the possibility of a mail strike in Canada, and this also made it advisable to have a postal box in the United States. The hymn books and envelopes were forwarded by Mr. Jack Meadows to Custer, and picked up there. The letter-head was printed locally and in March 1980 a letter was mailed to all members on the mailing list provided by the National Secretary. This asked for donations, gave details of the Gymanfa Ganu, included ticket registration form, a request for memorials donations, etc. and hotel registration cards.

The preparation of the programme is well under-way. Several local firms have been solicited for advertisements. Advertisements have been inserted in the "Ninnau" and "The Enfys", and along with our greetings to various Welsh Societies around the world on St. David's Day, the Secretary of the Welsh Society of Vancouver (who is also co-ordinator for publicity) notified the various societies about our Gymanfa Ganu and issued invitations to participate.

One of our members (co-ordinator of special events) was interviewed for B.B.C. radio by Alun Williams in a show called "Alun Yn Galw" which is a talk show, and she gave details of our Gymanfa Ganu in that broadcast.

Contact has been made with the Welsh Tourist Board for literature, etc. and they were out in Vancouver in February, 1980 and an invitation was extended to the Committee members by Lord Parry, Chairman of the Wales Tourist Board, to a reception in the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Planning for the Noson Lawen and Awr Y Plant is being carried out. The ladies of the Vancouver Welsh Society intend putting on a fashion show of Welsh Costumes of yesterday and today, with a commentary, and these costumes are authentic patterns of those worn in the 19th century as designed by the Heritage Foundation of B.C. Their group is called the Cambrian Circle of the Vancouver Welsh Society and the costumes are being made by the ladies under Heritage Foundation direction. It is intended that this fashion show will be held on Thursday evening, August 28th, 1980.

An advertisement has also been placed in the Vancouver Calendar, and the B.C. Tourist Board has agreed to send out our next mailing, free of charge, along with some literature on B.C. to all people on the WNGGA mailing list, provided we supply them with addressed labels for forwarding same. Arrangements have been made with the WNGGA Secretary to have these printed and these are to be sent out to us in time for us to get our next mailing out reminding people to return their registration forms, to make reservations at the Hotel Vancouver and to forward donations, memorials, etc. It is hoped that this letter will be sent out in early May.

We are now awaiting a list of hymns, scripture readings and the theme of his sermon from the Rev. Alun Richards for the bilingual church service on the Sunday morning.

Registrations are being received daily and we have been notified that there are some charter flights being arranged from Wales.

Letters have been sent to the Prince of Wales, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, Premier of British Columbia and Mayor of Vancouver asking them to forward a message of greeting and photograph for insertion in our programme.

We were notified that Mr. Nicholas Edwards, the Secretary of State for Wales will be in North America during the time of the Gymanfa Ganu and an invitation has been sent to him to be our guest of honour at the luncheon to be held on the Saturday afternoon.

It is felt that arrangements are quite well in hand and a further committee meeting is to be held on May 12th, when it is hoped progress reports will be supplied by the various co-ordinators.

Respectfully submitted

Alice Thomson
Alice Thomson
Secretary, Vancouver 1980
Gymanfa Ganu Committee

The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc.

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DEUWCH, CANWN I'R ARGLWYDD

(Come, Sing to the Lord)



Y DDRAIG GOCH
A DDYRY CYCHWYN

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THE VANCOUVER GYMANFA GANU ASSOCIATION
welcomes you to the 49th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu
on August 28, 29, 30 and 31, 1980.

May 5th 1980 .

To; Officers & Trustee's.

Re; Progress Report Of 1980 National Gymanfa Ganu At Vancouver B.C.

It is a pleasure for me to pass along to you such a fine progress report.

I'm sure you will agree that the Vancouver committee has done an excellent job and should be congratulated.

I am also happy to report that Mr Glyn Abraham is making a splendid recovery and possibly could be in attendance at the National Gymanfa.

Sincerely

Jack Meadows
Jack Meadows, secretary.
W.N.G.G.A.

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