



Three thousand singers make vast choral group as everybody sings at Gymania Gana. There is no audience—everybody comes to sing.  
Eastern Regional Pittsburgh - 1957(C)

# Welshmen Planning Festival

In Northwestern Europe the Welsh are as well known for their music as the Italians are in sunnier climes. Like the Italians they produce a large number of tenors.

More than 3000 people of Welsh ancestry will take part next week end in a singing festival known as Gymanfa Ganu (pronounced "Gomanva Ganny"), two days of sacred song in the Hilton Hotel Ballroom.

Sponsored by the Men's Welsh Club of Pittsburgh, it will bring visitors from everywhere east of the Mississippi and Eastern Canada.

The program will consist of a concert at 7 p. m. on Saturday, a sermon in Welsh at 11 a. m. on Sunday and two marathon congregational singing sessions on Sunday at 3 p. m. and 7:30 p. m., led by a local choir of 150.

Evan Lloyd, of Braddock, will be music director. Soloists on Sunday evening will be Robert Bodycombe, tenor, and Aneurin Bodycombe, organist at First Presbyterian Church, Downtown.

# Top Welsh Singers Plan Festival Here

3000 To Gather For Week End

Regional Gymanfa Ganu

Pittsburgh

Thousands of the finest Welsh singers in Eastern America will gather in Pittsburgh next week end for the first such meeting here since the International Eisteddfod of 1938.

From 2500 to 3000 singers are expected at the First Regional Gymanfa Ganu, whose sessions will be held in the Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel.

Sessions will be held Saturday evening and Sunday morning, afternoon and evening. At the Sunday morning session at 11 a. m., the Rev. T. Rees Williams of Oswego, New York, will preach in Welsh.

Delegates will be present from Welsh organizations over the entire area east of the Mississippi River. Large groups will attend by chartered buses from Erie, Johnstown, Wheeling, Cleveland, Youngstown, and other cities having large Welsh populations.

Among the oldest of the visitors will be Alfred E. Roberts, 81, of Pine Grove Mills, who was honored last month at the 50th anniversary of his graduation from Pennsylvania State University.

Mr. Roberts, a prominent retired mining engineer, began life as a mule driver in Eastern Pennsylvania mines after leaving the third grade in school. After fighting in the Spanish-American War, he became interested in music, learned to play the violin, and graduated from the University when he was 31 years old.

The song festival here was planned after it was decided to hold the annual Welsh Eisteddfod in California—too far away for many of the enthusiastic singers to be able to attend. Mr. Roberts plans to attend both meetings, however.

The Gymanfa Ganu is not a contest, however, as is the Eisteddfod, held from year to year in various parts of the United States and Canada. Instead, it is a festival, where the entire group will often be singing together.

Saturday evening's session

# Pittsburgh Gymanfa Sessions Planned

A bus load of local residents plan to attend the first Eastern Regional Gymanfa Ganu to be held in the Pittsburgh-Hilton Hotel, July 16 and 17.

The local group will assemble at the First Congregational Church, E. Reynolds St., where the bus will leave at 8 a. m. July 17. A few more seats are available on the bus.

The Sunday afternoon and evening sessions will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Pittsburgh Hilton with accommodations for 2,500 people arranged.

A Welsh worship service is planned for Sunday morning with Rev. Rees T. Williams, Oswego, N. Y., formerly of the First Congregational Church, New Castle to be heard.

The director for the Gymanfa Ganu will be Evan Lloyd, Bradock, Pa., who has conducted 300 Cymanfaoedd in Canada, U.S.A. and Wales. The accompanist is to be Dr. Aneurin Bodycombe, organist of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh.

The soloist is Bob Bodycombe, popular Welsh tenor.

The local committee handling the bus reservations and arrangements include: Mary Owens, Mrs. Ben Fowler, Mrs. Mary Jones and Mrs. Bessie Llewellyn.

at 7:30 p. m. will be a Nosen Lawen, or "happy night," devoted to secular songs of all kinds. Hymns will be sung at the sessions Sunday morning and at 3 and 7:30 p. m.

Pittsburgh has contributed many great singers to the Welsh organizations, among them Capt. William R. Jones, Andrew Carnegie's great iron-master, who was killed in an accident in 1889.

The International Eisteddfod held in Pittsburgh in 1913 was a memorial to the great Welsh singer and industrialist.