

BER 5, 1950

THE CANTON REPOSITORY, CANTON, OHIO

Welsh Singers End Noted Gymanfa Ganu Here



WITH the singing of a traditional Welsh hymn, the 19th national Gymanfa Ganu was concluded Sunday night for another year. The 3,000 delegates left Canton early Monday morning for points all over the United States and Canada.

One of the convention highlights was the Noson Lawen

concert, which was held Saturday night. Pictured here are some of the participants.

Canton committee members and the chairman of the Saturday meeting are (back, left to right) Edward J. Hopkins, president of the Canton Welsh-American Society; Mrs. William

T. Rowe, assistant secretary of the convention, and William A. Francis of New Castle, Pa., chairman of the Noson Lawen. Seated (left) is Mrs. David Harris, publicity chairman, and Mrs. Leland Wortman, (right) secretary of the convention.

Pictured (right) are Evan G.

Jones, six-year-old soloist of Anderson, Ind., and Rev. R. Glynne Lloyd of Utica, N. Y., who spoke at the Sunday morning service in Welsh and English.

During the business meeting, Dr. M. D. Thomas of Salt Lake City, was named vice president of the national organization.

CANTON REPOSITARY
0410 SEP 3 1950

Canton, Ohio
1950

City's Hotels Taxed by Welsh Gymanfa Ganu

Overflow at Songfest Turns to Tourist Cabins, Private Homes

Canton has opened her doors this weekend to thousands of Welsh persons who are attending the 19th annual national Gymanfa Ganu. An estimated 3,000 persons representing 21 states, Canada and Wales have overflowed the four downtown hotels into tourist and private homes as they gather for the traditional Welsh songfest and religious services.

Headquarters for the Gymanfa is St. Francis Hotel, which fairly burst at the seams Saturday night as the peak in attendance was reached at the Noson Lawen (Happy Night) concert, held in the hotel's main hall.

Sit Along Stairways

Activities began Saturday morning with registration. A business meeting was held in the afternoon. Delegates then boarded buses for a short sight-seeing trip of Canton and a visit to McKinley's Monument.

W. A. Francis of New Castle, Pa., served as chairman of the evening concert, which was heard by a more than capacity audience. Hundreds of delegates were seated in the adjoining halls and sat along stairways within hearing distance for this favorite Welsh concert. Mr. Francis was introduced by David Williams of Canton.

Mrs. Evans Gives Welcome

Mrs. David F. Evans, president of this year's Gymanfa, gave the address of welcome. Soloists included David Stephens of Canton, Miss Jean Williams of Chicago, John L. Evans of Lebanon, Pa., Mrs. Stanley Jones of Mankato, Minn., Master Evan Jones of Anderson, Ind., Mr. David K. Harris of Canton, E. Vaughn Davis of Wilkes Barre, Pa., Miss Blodwen Evans of New York City, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Morris of McKeesport, Pa., Robert Jones of Toronto, Canada, Mrs. Paul David of Rochester, Pa., and David Lewis of New Castle, Pa.

Community singing by the delegates and the closing strains of the national anthem concluded the "Happy Night" concert. An informal Welsh tea was held at 10 p.m.

Today the members will attend a morning Welsh service at First

Welsh

(Continued From Page 8)

Congregational Church with Rev. R. Glynn Lloyd of Utica, N.Y., in charge. Rev. Lloyd is pastor of the Moriah Presbyterian Church of Utica. Communion will be served.

Judge David D. Jenkins of Youngstown will preside at this afternoon's song session in First Christian Church auditorium at 2. Ben L. Jenkins of Wilkes-Barre will preside at the evening session at 7. These song sessions are open to the public after the delegates are seated.

Finale and farewell get-together will be held tonight at 10 p.m. in the St. Francis when members join in song for the final meeting of the 19th annual Gymanfa Ganu.

Mrs. Evans Heads Group

Mrs. Evans, who is also president of the Welsh Ladies Auxiliary, has been president of this convention, assisted by Edward J. Hopkins, president of the local Welsh-American Society. Mrs. Leland A. Wortman served as secretary, assisted by Mrs. William T. Rose. Mrs. Louis Cordier has been financial secretary and Mrs. George E. Hopkins, treasurer.

Committee chairman for the event have been Mrs. Rees Edwards, music; Mrs. Roy H. Wasem, program; George D. Evans, finance; Mrs. David Harris, publicity; J. J. Williams and Mrs. William Johns, receptions; David Williams, entertainment; Mrs. Carl Roth, registration; Arthur Evans, ushers, and John E. Stock, transportation.

The beautiful grove on the shore of the lake at Rocky Glen proved a fitting setting for the annual Welsh Day gathering yesterday, sponsored by the Women's Welsh Society of Lackawanna County assisted by the recently organized Cambrian Society made up of men of Welsh blood. Thousands of the lovers of the ancient traditions of Wales joined in the singing of hymns of the church and the folksongs of Gwalia. Under the direction of Prof. David Jenkins in the afternoon and Prof. Gounod Evans in the evening the soul of the assemblage was poured out in song as only the sons and daughters of Wales can do.

The platform decorations was a large American flag along side of which was the flag of Wales.

Attorney David W. Phillips, afternoon chairman, was presented by Mrs. William Pritchard, president of the entertaining society, after she extended a welcome to the throng. She spoke in both the Welsh and English languages.

An imprimptu Cymanfa Ganu was conducted by Prof. Jenkins with Mrs. Cyril John at the piano. Rev. Dr. Upton, guest speaker of the afternoon, spoke of the priceless possessions of the Welsh race in their traditions in a dramatic presentation.

Never Enslave, Always Enrich.

"They never enslave, but enrich. They never restrict, but release. They never put chambers on your

brow, hobbles on your feet or handcuffs on your wrists.

"The finest investment a man can make is the tremendous belief in tradition."

The clergyman cited these three "needs"

"First—the need of the hour is to revive the individual that characterizes the George Washington of Wales—Cunedda—who welded all the people together.

"Second—the need of reviving our mysticism out of which has sprung the spiritual equipment, the musical power and the artistic appeal of the Welsh race throughout the world.

"Third—the need of a great grip on our Americanism, and on the traditions of America, which came from George Washington who could have been dictator, king, an emperor, but who passed them all up for the liberty of the people and the rights of the state.

"If he had become a Napoleon we would have been in the chaotic state as Spain; if he had chosen to be a Hitler, a Stalin or a Mussolini, we would today be struggling for liberty.

"But the majesty of George Washington lies in his subordination to the will of his people—therein lies America's great tradition.

"So far as we propagate the ideals and truths of the Welsh race, we will magnificently serve the country of our adoption and make the prophecy of Talisyn a reality.

"We may lose our land; we will keep our language; we will worship our God."

Two Ministers Speak.

Rev. Dr. T. Teifion Richards, who is recovering from an illness spoke briefly, and Rev. R. Dewi Williams, brought greetings from kinfolk in Wales.

William Lewis and John Davis, youthful soloists of much promise, received encores after their presentations and the chairman favorably commented on their respective voices. David Thomas, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. David J. Thomas, West Scranton, entertained with several recitations. The Temple chorus made up of John Evans; Mrs. Florence Morgan Harris, Mrs. Myfanwy Beynon Jones David Jenkins and Mrs. Cyril John entertained with several numbers at the conclusion of the afternoon.

John Reynolds, veteran conductor of Welsh gatherings, was the chairman of the evening and Arthur H. James, Plymouth, judge of the superior court, delivered the stirring address of the night in which he admonished hearers to hold fast to the traditions of Wales but to be loyal and true to the principles of America for which the founders of this government gave of their precious blood.

Prof. Evans with Mrs. Alfred Williams at the piano developed the "hwyl" so customary at Welsh song-fests. Miss Mary Davis offered a song with Mrs. Greta Davis Owens, pianist, and Morgan Leyshon sang a Welsh solo with Prof. Ivor Price at the piano.

An added feature was a program by the Taylor Choral Society under the direction of Richard Watkins.

The gathering marked the close of a financial drive of the women's organization for the Welsh home, on Capouse avenue, and the opening of a membership drive by the Cambrian Society for 1,000 members. David J. Thomas, president, made his initial address in the afternoon in which he told of the aims and objects of the new group. Everett H. Jones, vice president, spoke of the society in the evening.

