

DANIA

SOCIETY

1862-1937



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - U. S. A.

TO DANIA SOCIETY, CHICAGO, ILL.:

On this festive occasion, marking your 75th anniversary, we wish to extend our heartiest congratulations with our good wishes for your continued success; and may we thank you for the splendid support you have given us in the past.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
DANISH OLD PEOPLES HOME

THE DANISH OLD PEOPLES HOME will hold its biennial BAZAAR in DANIA HALL, 1651-53 North Kedzie Avenue, Chicago, on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4th, and SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 1937.

The BAZAAR is open on both days from 2 p. m. to 12 o'clock midnight.

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1862
Foreningen



Dania
1937
FESTSKRIFT

udgivet i Anledning af
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fejret i
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Søndag den 21de November, 1937
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INTRODUCTION

TO DANIA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Dania Jubilee Committee has hereby the pleasure of presenting members of Dania and a host of friends with DANIA JUBILEE BOOK.

The publication of this volume was undertaken after due deliberation and upon the expressed desire of friends and wellwishers of Dania Society that such publication should see the light of day on the occasion of Dania Society passing its 75th year of existence, as a lasting memorial and a souvenir in connection with the Jubilee Festival.

The committee, in accordance with the expressed wish, went to work to accomplish this purpose.

Society Dania and its Jubilee Committee, through their work, learned, that not only members but friends in great numbers were glad and willing to support the publication of this commemorative work, to such an extent, in fact, that the Jubilee Committee found no difficulties in its way, nor any lack of funds to provide for the book.

Dania Society and Dania Jubilee Committee find it difficult in words to express its gratitude and appreciation of such magnificent cooperation from members and our friends. May the result of our endeavors only be commensurate with our will to do our very best, in face of such friendly attitude.

Dania Society and its Jubilee Committee express their sincerest thanks and gratitude for the help we received from far and near, from one and all, to make Dania Jubilee Book worthy of the occasion.

Cordially and truly yours,

Dania Society,

Dania Jubilee Committee.



VOR

HJÆRTELOGSTE

LYKØNSKNING

TIL DANIA



JOS. JENSEN og HUSTRU

Danias 75 Aar

Korte Træk af Foreningens Historie

Det er selvfølgelig umuligt at fremstille et blot nogenlunde solidt Billede af Foreningen Danias Daab og 75-aarige Eksistens i de faa Linjer, der her er stillet til Raadighed, men Hensigten er da ogsaa nærmest at trække et lille Omrids af de mest betydningsfulde Episoder i dette tre kvart Aarhundrede af dansk-amerikansk Foreningshistorie, saaledes at ogsaa udenforstaaende vil kunne forstaa, hvorfor Søndag den 23^e November, 1862, nu og frem i Tiden vil staa som en hellig og uforglemmelig Dag for Dania-Folket.

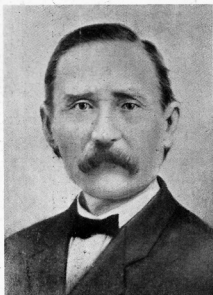
Danias Protokoller, "Danske i Amerika," Skrifter af Anton Kvist, Christian Nielsen og Charles Wilde, samt en Samling Emigrant-Breve er benyttet som Vejledning.

DET var kun nogle faa Hundrede Danske, som i Begyndelsen af Trédserne havde slaaget sig ned i det dengang endnu gryende Chicago. Forholdene var heller ikke særlig tillokkende. Østen førte endnu an baade som Arbejdsplads og i Forretning, og ellers gjaldt det om at naa ud til Vestkysten, som igen stod i Guldskæret. Enkelte danske Udvandrere havde imidlertid grundet Hjem og Virksomhed i den vordende Storby, og indenfor disse Nybygger-Helte finder vi Foreningen Danias Stiftere.

To store Fællesrejser fra Danmark bragte paa dette Tidspunkt et Par Hundrede Haandyærkere til Chicago, og Nykommere og de ældre Danske begyndte at samle sig i Kvarteret omkring La Salle Street og Kinzie, hvor Lejen var mindre kostbar. I Løbet af kort Tid havde Kinzie Street paa Strækningen fra La Salle Street og helt ud til Broen faaet et helt dansk Præg. De forfaldne Rønner kom snart til at se helt pyntelige ud; Vindueskarmene bugnede af Blomster og Planter, og smaa sirlige Butikker, velplejede Forhaver med Lysthuse, blanktpolerede Dørhamre og hvidskurede Trappegange fortalte Amerikanerne, at her holdt Danskerne til i Chicago.

Det mest kendte af Kvarterets mange Udskækningssteder var Kinzie Inn (det

senere Klondyke Inn) næst til Hjørnet af La Salle Street. Det var ogsaa Samlingspladsen for mange Danske, som her modtog deres Post og her fik Lov til at



Johan Foster

læse "Fosters Avis"—en to Maaneder gammel Udgave af Den kgl. priv. Berlingske Tidende.

Johan Foster, hvis Navn skal nævnes først i Danias Historie, var allerede paa dette Tidspunkt en kendt Mand. Han

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er blevet nævnt som Normand, som Sønderjyde, som Tysk-født, men Faktum er, at Johan Foster var født i København, og dette gælder for Majoriteten af Danias første Mænd. Det var Johan Foster, der indvarslede til det afgørende og betydningsfulde Møde i Kinzie Inn den 23' November, 1862; han udvalgte de Mænd, der sammen med ham underskrev "Resolutionen"; at vi idag stifter en dansk Forening i Chicago, og at samme Forenings Navn skal være; Foreningen DANA!

Der foreligger desværre kun ganske faa og intetsigende Beretninger om dette store Øjeblik. Der blev nedskrevet, at man vedtog at anskaffe en Postkasse, Spillekort og Spytebakker. Disse ret ligegyldige Vedtagelser har øjensynligt været meget værdifulde for Sekretæren, thi det er næsten alt, der forekommer i hans Rapport. Dette Festskrift vilde have været et kostbart Værk, hvis Danas hedengangne Første-Sekretær, P. C. Petersen, havde kunnet nedskrive de Tanker, der hin Aften fandt Flugt i den lille Stue paa Kinzie Street—og hvis vi saa forstod at gengive dem i disse Linjer.

Danias første Mænd var foruden Johan Foster: P. C. Petersen, E. Salling, Peter Allen (nævnt som Chicagos første Dansker), Brodthagen, Hoffman, Peder Møller, Christoffer Johnsen (Danas første Kasserer), Bendixen, Mikkelsen, Skov, T. Møller, J. S. Petersen, H. V. Hansen og Konsul N. P. Petersen. Salling, Brodthagen og Hoffman fik Hvervet at skrive Danias Grundlov; Indskudet skulde være \$2.00 med et maanedligt Kontingent af 50 Cents; Møder skulde afholdes hver Søndag og Betyrelsesvalg og Generalforsamling hvert Kvartal, og endelig vedtog man, at Mødet den paafølgende Søndag skulde afholdes i Wilkens (den senere saa berømte) Kælder paa La Salle Street.

* * *

Dette Stævne af danske Udvandrer fandt Sted paa et Tidspunkt, hvor alt var

i Uro i Amerika. Ingen vidste hvilke Følger Borgerkrigen skulde bringe. Store politiske Omvæltninger fandt Sted, Ejendomsværdier og Forretningskapitaler stod paa Spil hvert Øjeblik, og Arbejdsudsigterne for den kommende Vinter var alt andet end tiltalende. . . . Disse Betragtninger har sikkert blandet sig med Hjemstavnsfølelsen i de danske Hjerter, den kolde Novemberdag i 1862, da de gav hverandre Haanden paa Broderskab herude i det fremmede. Og maaske netop det er Grunden til, at Dana, eller Dania, havde Rodkræfter stærke nok til at overvinde de mange vanskelige Perioder, der skulde fremstaa i de 75 Aaar, som nu er henrundet.

* * *

DET første og maaske haardeste Knæk fik Dana faa Aar efter Stiftelsen Dr. N. P. Petersen, George Hoffman og Emil Dreyer havde været ledende, og Dana maatte allerede i sine første Aar føle Trykket af indre Stridigheder. Halvdelen holdt fast ved det originale Navn, Dana, medens de øvrige med Dreyer i Spidsen ønskede at ændre Navnet til Dania. Johan Foster var flyttet til Naperville og kom kun sjældent til Møderne, og lidt efter lidt faldt flere af de første Mænd fra. Hver Maaned flyttede Dana til et nyt Lokale, indtil man tilsidst maatte afholde Møderne i private Hjem. Det blev George Hoffman, der skulde redde Æren i Danas første, farlige Skærmydsel. I sit Hjem samlede han alt, hvad der var muligt at samle af Danas Folk; enhver maatte punge ud efter bedste Evne, for at man igen kunde leje Lokale og fortsætte Agitation og Samling, og det lykkedes. Ved samme Møde vedtog man, at inkorporere Foreningen under Navnet: Dania.

Efter dette Møde i 1865 og under det nye Navn er det som om Foreningen atter har fundet sin Retning. En Række af Byens danske "Spidsborgere" slutter sig nu til Dania, men flere af de raske Københavner-Sømænd indenfor Stifternes

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TIL LYKKE MED DE 75 AAR

HOLGER PEDERSEN

FOX LAKE, ILL.

Kres forsvinder selv Johan Foster synes ikke at kunne genkende sin egen Forening. Navneforandringen kom han aldrig over; ikke engang da Danias Medlemmer i 1869 gjorde ham til Foreningens første Æresmedlem fandt han virkelig Oprejsning. Den gamle Kæmpe, Danias Øverste, henlevede sine sidste Aar i Milwaukee, hvor han den 9^e Oktober, 1877, gik ind til den evige Hvile. Paa hans Gravplade skriver vi idag!

Dania skylder dig alt.

Hvil i Fred, Johan Foster!

* * *

UNDER Fremgangsperioden i 1865 opstod Tanken om en Sygekasse, sikkert den første danske Sygekasse i Amerika, og denne traadte i Kraft det paafølgende Aar, og blev af den største Betydning for Dania. Samtidigt arbejdede forskellige Udvalg paa at skaffe Danskerne deres egen Begravelsesplads i Byen, men dette lykkedes imidlertid ikke. I al denne Aktivitet grundlagde Dania sit Bibliotek, Foreningens første Vært, Niels Uhrenholdt, blev valgt, og om Sommeren foretog man den første Tur "tillands og tilvands", nemlig en Sejlads til Winnetka. Foregaaende Aar samledes Danias Medlemmer til Sommerfester paa "Sandbankerne" (formodentlig The Indiana Sand Dunes) og i Skovene langs Des Plaines Floden.

Det følgende Aar, 1866, oprettedes den berømte Emigrant-Komite, der kom til at virke langt udenfor Danias Rækker. Komiteen skulde bistaa Nykommeren paa forskellig Maade; den var baade Arbeidsanvisningskontor, Vejviser og Raadgiver, ligesom den forestod en Aftenskole, hvor Nykommeren blev undervist i Engelsk. Skolens første Lærer var John Andersen, afdøde Udgiver af "Skandinavien", og utallige kendte Dansk-Amerikanere fra denne Periode priste hans Navn til deres Dødsdag. I Efterretningerne fra 1865-66 hedder det endvidere, at Dania indrettede sig med en "fast Teaterscene" og opførte flere af de mest kendte danske Farcer og

Lystspil med Eva Salling, Johan Foster og Niel Jensen som Hovedkræfter, efter hvilke Fester "Kvindeforeningen" serverede Æbleskiver og Kaffe. Vi finder intet som helst om hvornaar denne "Kvindeforening" er stiftet, men ifølge de støvede Protokoller har Danias første Damer paa den smukkeste Maade deltaget i Pioneararbejdet.

Paa Højdepunktet i 1866 forestod Dania Afholdelsen af Chicagos første danske Grundlovsfest med Tilslutning af Landsmænd fra hele Omegnen . . . men derefter mørknede det paa den fireaarige Forenings Himmel.

Det var iøvrigt et helt udenforstaaende Spørgsmaal, nemlig hvem der skulde være Konsul efter Dr. Petersens Død, der skabte Splittelse i Rækkerne. Dreyer, som alligevel blev bæret med Konsulværdigheden, syntes ikke at han havde faaet tilstrækkelig Støtte fra Foreningen og trak sig ud sammen med mange Tilhængere. Medlemsantallet gik ned till knapt et halvt Hundrede, og selv den solide Sygekasse vaklede. Indenfor den trofaste Skare holdt man dog Møderne vedlige, Sangkoret blev oprettet i 1870 og lod sig høre af og til helt op til 1894, indtil Sangforeningen Harmonien havde faaet fast Grund under Fødderne. Flere af de ældste Harmonister var gamle Dania Medlemmer, hvilket maaske har bidraget til, at disse to Foreninger altid har staaet knyttet med hjertestærke Baand. "Danias Salonriffel Club" hører man først om i 1871, og den slutter sin Virksomhed i 1891, efter at flere af de mest interesserede udtraadte for at stifte den nuværende Dansk Skytteforening.

I 1872 ankom Henry L. Hertz fra København. Han blev straks Medlem af Dania og gjorde sig i Løbet af kort Tid afholdt af enhver han kom i Berøring med. Hans første Aktivitet var at skabe Ro i Gemytterne indenfor Dania, og i 1874 førte han i Triumf Konsul Dreyer tilbage til den gamle Fold. Fra dette Tidspunkt tog Dreyer fat med fornyede

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Kræfter og hans pludselige Dødsfald paa Vej hjem fra Danmark i 1892 blev et Sorgens Budskab for Dania. Henry L. Hertz blev selv Sjælen i mange Dania-Bevægelser; det var saaledes ham, der først slog til Lyd for egen Bygning, og han var en kraftig Støtte for Udvalget, der erhvervede Bygningen paa Chicago Avenue. Gamle Hertz opnaaede en smuk Karriere, der kulminerede da Illinois Borgere valgte ham til Finansminister. I en Aarrække var han Danias velsete Æresgæst, indtil ogsaa han gik ind til den gamle Garde.

Den mægtige Brandkatastrofe i 1871 ramte ogsaa Dania. Alt Bohave, Bogskabene med det ret betydelige Bibliotek, Størstedelen af Protokoller og Regnskabsbøger blev Ildens Bytte; alt, der blev reddet, var Danias Fane og Billedet af Kong Frederik VII, som endnu i Dag pryder Danias Væg. Redningsmanden var Niels Uhrenholdt. En nyvalgt Bestyrelse med Fritz Frantzen som Formand, George Hoffman, Næst-Formand, C. Hansen, Kasserer, og C. Larsen som Sekretær, hver for sig meget ansete Borgere, tog straks fat paa det nye Kapitel i Danias Historie, og under deres Ledelse gaar Dania atter ind i en Sejersperiode. Dania havde i 1864 iværksat en stor Indsamling til de danske Veteraner, ligesom Franskmændene efter Krigen i 1870 blev tilsendt en Pengegave; nu blev der indsamlet til de ulykkeligstillede Landsmænd, som mistede alt efter Stormen i 1872, og hjemme fra Danmark kom den hjerteligste Tak for Danias Trofasthed.

* * *

FIRE Aar efter den store Brand, 1875, er Dania vel ved Magt. Man tæller 150 Medlemmer, heraf 100 Sygekassemedlemmer, Kassereren rapporterer med 1200 Dollars i Banken, og den ene store Festlighed afholdes efter den anden. Alle Danske i Byen skal med, naar Dania kalder til Fest, og de danske Fruer i Byen knejser, naar de meddeler, at nu

er deres respektive Mænd blevet optaget i Society Dania! Takket været Niels Uhrenholdt var der kommet Gang i Forretningen, og Dania Medlemmerne saa en stor Fremtid imøde. Gentagne Tilbud om Tilslutning til andre Foreninger blev afslaaet med Tak; — Dania var ene paa sit Felt.

Møderne i Bygningen paa Hjørnet af Kinzie og Des Plaines Str., 17, 312 og 345 Milwaukee Avenue er det almindelige Samtaleemne, og der er Rift om Tillidsposterne. Mange søger til Foreningen paa Grund af Biblioteket, som nu er genoprettet i stort Format.

Sygekassens Grundlove udkommer paa Tryk, men hvad der er mere kostbart for os idag, er at Original-Skriftet er opbevaret. Det er dateret den 5' Juli, 1876, og efter Niels Uhrenholdts Underskrift følger Henry L. Hertz og Hoffenblads Navnetræk efterfulgt at mange andre store Dania-Navne.

* * *

SAMME Aar stiftedes "De danske Vaabenbrødre", hvilket i nogen Tid hæmmede Danias Vækst. De gamle Krigskammerater, oprindelig Veteraner fra 1848 og 1864, kastede kraftig Glans om deres Forening og indrullerede mangen en Dania-Mand. Der var Fest i Gaden, naar Vaabenbrødrene trak op i fuld Gala med Marchal til Hest og et dundrende Orkester, men Dania sad alligevel fast i Saddelen, og mange af de gamle Veteraner stævnedes atter mod Dania for at tilbringe en stille Time i Biblioteksværelset eller for at samles med Venner i Uhrenholdts Gæstestue.

* * *

ROLIGT og solidt fortsætter Dania ind gennem de store Indvandrigsaar i Firserne og Halvfemserne og modtager i denne Periode en Forstærkning, som skulde blive af den største Betydning. Blandt de Nulevende finder vi under Datoen, 6' August, 1887; Lauritz Olesen, Karetmager, 20 Aar, 220 N. Green Street, og under Dato of 16' Februar;

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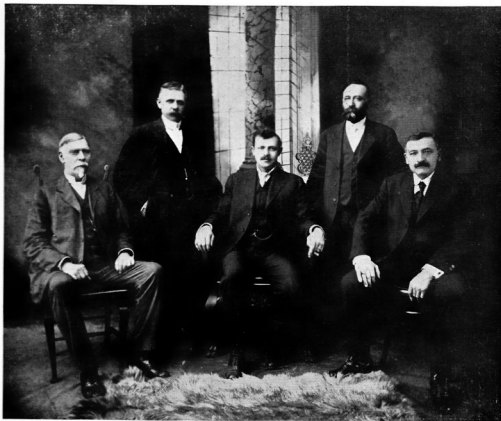
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1888; Peder Kristensen, Snedker, 22 Aar, 15 Keith Street. Lauritz Olesen udtraadte nogle Aar, men Peder Kristensen veg ikke; han er maaske den eneste Nulevende, der deltog i Danias 25 Aars Fest, og han kan næste 16' Februar fejre 50 Aars Jubilæum som Medlem af Amerikas ældste danske Forening. Andre vægtige Navne er: Charles Wilde, optaget den 2' Marts, 1889; Herman Hansen, optaget den 16' Januar, 1890; Mike Michelsen, optaget den 19' Februar, 1891; Martin Houlberg, optaget den 6' Maj, 1893; Peter Bjerrehus, optaget 1' Juli, 1893; Emil Jørgensen, optaget den 7' Februar, 1900; Fred C. Jensen, optaget den 2' Marts, 1902; Joseph Jensen, optaget den 15' Oktober, 1902 og Sophus Mathiesen, optaget den 17' December, samme Aar. Peder Kristensen,

Charles Wilde, Joseph Jensen og Martin Houlberg staar idag som Eks-Præsidenter og alle fire som Æresmedlemmer, og hver for sig har de i Sandhed gjort sig fortjent til denne Udmærkelse.

Medlemsantallet naar i Slutningen af Firserne atter nær de 200 og i Begyndelsen af Halvfemserne er man tæt ved halvtredje Hundrede Medlemmer, og alt imens har Tillidsmændene anbragt tre til fire Tusinde Dollars i solide Værdier. Tanken om egen Bygning bliver mere og mere fremtrædende, og endelig den 17' December, 1891, oplæser Sekretæren, Peder Kristensen, den afgørende Resolution, hvorved det særlige Udvalg faar fuld Autoritet til at afslutte Købet af Ejendommen, 249-51 West Chicago Avenue, anført som: Lots 12, 13 and 14 in block 42 in Ogdens addition to Chicago



From left to right: Fritz Frantzen, M. N. Houlberg, Peder Kristensen, Niels Herskind Petersen, C. H. C. Nielsen

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and the buildings thereon. Prisen var \$23,000.00 med en Udbetaling paa \$5,000.00; Restbeløbet blev tildelt dækket af Garanter indenfor Foreningens Rækker og Støtte af Koloniens velsituerede Mænd. Overtagelsen fandt Sted den 1' Maj, 1892; første Møde afholdtes den 2' Juli, og Indvielsen fandt Sted under mægtig Tilstutning samme Aars 23' Juli.

Andre Mænd, som indskrev deres Navne i Dania's Historie i denne Periode er: Henry Økenholt, Louis Hansen, Niels Johnsen, Adolph Christensen, Chas Ryberg, James Heyn, R. Egeberg, Robert Petersen, Rasmus Jensen og Rasmus Fensholdt.

* * *

FULDT udrustet og under den kynigste Ledelse slog Dania sig igen- nem Depressionsperioden efter Chicagos første Verdensudstilling og efterlod sit Segl paa alle større Begivenheder, hvadenten det drejede sig om Kolonien, eller det var Danmark og danske Bevægelser, der kaldte.

Rundt Aarhundredeskiftet foregaar imidlertid det andet og store Træk mod Vest af Chicagos Danske. Gruppevis slog man sig ned i Kvartererne omkring Wicker Park og Humboldt Park, og allerede i 1910 staar Dania-Bygningen næsten ene og forladt i det gamle Nabolag. Foreningens vise Mænd indsaa straks, at ogsaa Dania maatte flytte, og den 5' Marts, 1910 var man saa heldig at afsætte den gamle Bygning for et Beløb af \$20,500.00. Foreningens Kontanter beløb sig paa dette Tidspunkt til ca. \$8000, men trods alle Anstrengelser lykkedes det ikke at finde en passende Bygning i det nye Kvarter. Midlertidigt indlejede Dania sig i Steenslands dengang elegante Villa paa Evergreen Avenue, og alle større Sammenkomster maatte afholdes andetsteds. Foreningens 49 aarige Stiftelsesfest maatte saaledes afholdes i "Old Style Inn" paa Hjørnet af Division Street og California Avenue, en Festlighed som mange af Dania's nulevende

Medlemmer vil erindre, og hvor samtlige Talere enedes om, at man næste Aar samledes under eget Tag.

* * *

MED PEDER KRISTENSEN som Formand og assisteret af d' Herrer C. H. C. Nielsen, Fritz Frantzen, Herskind Petersen, M. Houlberg og flere, gik man i Arbejde for at finde en passende Grund, og den 19' November, 1911, rapporterede Komiteen, at Dania for en Sum af \$3,500.00 var Indehaver af Grunden, 1651-53 North Kedzie Avenue. Under Arkitekt Carl Nielsens Ledelse rejstes Bygningen, og den 24' November, 1912, fandt den officielle Indvielse Sted, efterfulgt af den stilfulde og uforglemmelige 50 Aars Fest Søndag den 29' December.

Som Vært i den nye Bygning valgtes Victor Andersen, som i alle Maader viste sig sin Opgave voksen. Han efterfulgtes iøvrigt af en Række dygtige og forstaaende Værtsfolk, som hver for sig har gjort deres til Dania's Sukces, baade finansielt og paa anden Maade.

Dania's elegante Sal og de hyggelige Selskabslokaler blev beundret og Salen blev benyttet af de fleste af Byens danske Foreninger. Store Festligheder afløstes af betydningsfulde Begivenheder, hvorved Dania igen viste sig istand til at løse Opgaver af dansk-amerikansk Karakter. Som man i sin Tid havde hædret Hans Christian Andersen, Holger Drachman og andre store danske Navne bragte man nu Hyldest til George Brandes, Studentersangerne, Dr. Fenger og mange flere. Dania-Folkene forlangte, at en af Parkerne i Byen blev opkaldt efter et godt, dansk Navn, og naar Parken ude paa 64' og Fullerton Avenue idag bærer Navnet: Jacob A. Riis Park, da har Dania sin store Andel i Æren.

* * *

UNDER Verdenskrigen viste Dania igen, at langt mere end Foreningsbevægelser rørte sig i dens Indre. En omfattende Kampagne for Salg af Liberty Bonds blev en smuk Sukces, og un-

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der hele Krigen stod Dania i Forbindelse med de mange Dansk-Amerikanere, som var traadt i Tjeneste. I dette Arbejde fortjente Charles Wilde og P. C. Bjerrehus særlig at blive omtalt, og de hjemvendte dansk-amerikanske Veteraner fra Verdenskrigen glemmer aldrig Dania og disse Navne. 88 af Danias Sønner fulgte Stjerneflaget over Atlanten og over Verdenskrigens Slagmarker. To Navne, Wm. Bjerrehus og Harold Michelsen, faldt derude, og af de 86, som kom tilbage, var mange saarede. Det var Danias tunge Offer.

* * *

En ret opsigtsvækkende Ændring blev i 1921 foretaget af Foreningen, idet man valgte et Tolv-Mands Raad til at varetage de forretningsmæssige Hverv, hvorved det regulære maanedlige Møde skulde bortfalde. Dette viste sig stik imod Danias gamle Traditioner, og Aaret efter forsvandt denne Lovparagraf og Danias 12 "Apostle".

I Krigsaaret stiftedes Danias Ungdomsforening, som underligt nok aldrig helt opnaaede at indtage den Plads, en saadan Sammenslutning synes berettiget til. Den forsvandt helt i Midten af Tyverne, men er nu opstaaet under nye Rammer og forhaabentlig til mange Aars Virke.

Mange store Begivenheder fandt Sted i Tyverne og i det Ti-Aar, vi nu lever i. Der arrangeres Aftener for Oda Nielsen, Johannes Herskind og Saxtorph Mikkelsen, smukke Festaftener for Niels Juul, Henry L. Hertz, Dr. Max Henius og fl., og paa den mest værdige Maade deltog Dania sammen med Udstillingskomiteen og øvrige danske Foreninger i Verdensudstillingen i 1933. Blandt de sidste og store Dania-Foretagender vil Danmarksturen i 1930 nu og altid staa helt for sig selv. Rejsen, der blev foreslaaet i de første Guldaar, blev foretaget i Fællesskab med Sangforeningen Harmonien og vil aldrig blive glemt af det store Selskab, som paa denne Tur besøgte



Hans Chr. Ericksen

Danmark baade tillands og tilvands og hjemførte uvurderlige Minder. Sammen med George P. Jensen udførte Hans C. Ericksen her et mesterligt Arbejde, baade med Hensyn til Organisering og alt vedrørende den bevægede Fællesrejse.

Bygmester Ericksen hørte dengang til de yngre Medlemmer indenfor Dania og blev valgt til Formand i 1928. Allerede paa dette Tidspunkt viste han særlige Evner som Leder, og senere tjente han Dania som en habil Bygnings-Formand. Naar Dania derfor ved sidste Generalforsamling enedes om at overlade Hans C. Ericksen Præsident-Embedet under det 75 aarige Jubilæum, da kendte man paa Forhaand hans Kvalifikationer. Efter en



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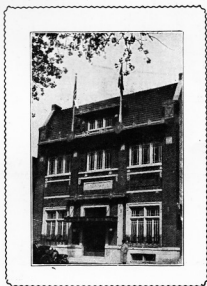
mægtig Forhaands-Reklame for Danias store Fest, forestod Hans C. Ericksen en næsten øjeblikkelig Restaurering af samtlige Lokaler indenfor Danias Mure. Det omfattende Arbejde blev gennemført præcist og til almindelig Beundring af baade Medlemmer og Ikke-Medlemmer, og gamle Dania har aldrig staaet mere elegant eller mere hyggelig end netop i disse Timer, hvor 75 Aars Stjernen stiger over Horisonten.

Oprindelig var det vel nok ogsaa Tanken, at Dania og Foreningens mange Venner skulde fejre den store Fest under eget Tag, men Tilslutningen viste snart, at dette ikke kunde lade sig gøre. Valget faldt saa paa Stevens Hotel nede i Byen, og naar vi et Øjeblik drømmer os tilbage til Dagene for femoghalvfjers Aar siden,

da er vi jo ganske nær de Hjørner hvor Johan Foster og de øvrige Dania-Kæmper færdedes, da de besluttede at foretage det afgørende Skridt.

Mange Hundrede vil stævne til denne 75 Aars Fest og tiljuble gamle Dania et hjerteligt: Leve! Mange andre, her i Chicago og langt udenfor vore Grænser, vil følge Festen i deres Tanker. Helt ovre i Hjemlandet vil Hjerterne bankes varmt for Dania og for danske Udvaldrere paa denne Stordag, og dette Mylder af gode Tanker og hjertevarme Ønsker vil kaste sit Skær over Feststemningen Søndag den 21' November, naar Foreningen Dania, Chicago, tænder Aars-Fakelen for 75de Gang.

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Et Blad Af Foreningen Danias Historie:

HÆDESBATAILLONEN:

(Samtidig med Foreningen Danias 75-aarige Jubilæum kan nedennævnte Æresmedlemmer, Ex-Præsidenter og Medlemmer fejre mindst 25 Aars uafbrudt Medlemsskab. (Hædersrullen kan ikke kompletteres paa Grund af manglende Arkivsager.)

Peder Kristensen, Æresmedlem (1929), Ex-Præsident, optaget: 16de Febr. 1888.

Chas. L. Wilde, Æresmedlem (1935) Ex-Præsident, optaget: 2den Marts, 1889.

Herman J. Hansen, fhv. Vært, optaget: 16de Januar, 1890.

Mike Michelsen, optaget: 19de Febr., 1891.

Martin N. Houlberg, Æresmedlem (1934), Ex-Præsident, optaget: 6te Maj, 1893.

Peter Bjerrehus, Ex-Præsident, optaget: 1ste Juli, 1893

Emil Joergensen, Ex-President, optaget: 7de Febr., 1900

Fred C. Jensen, optaget: 2den Marts, 1902

Joseph Jensen, Æresmedlem (1934), Ex-Præsident, optaget: 15de Oktbr., 1902

Sophus Mathiesen, optaget: 17de Decbr., 1902

Christ Rolandsen, optaget: 5te Marts, 1904

Lauritz Mikkelsen, optaget: 18de Maj, 1904

Christian Nielsen "Den Danske Pioneer," Ex-Præsident, optaget: 21de April, 1905

Lauritz Olesen, optaget: 18de Oktbr., 1905
(Optaget 1887, udmeldt, genoptaget)

Jacob Licht, optaget: 2den Febr., 1907

Christ Nørgaard, optaget: 1ste Febr., 1908

Wald. A. Bauer, optaget: 18de Januar, 1911

Niels H. Svarrer, optaget: 2den Decbr., 1911

Hans Licht, optaget: 2den Decbr., 1911

C. E. Jensen, optaget: 21de August, 1912

John C. Christensen, Ex-Præsident, optaget: 20de Novbr., 1912

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Et Blad af Foreningen Danias Historie:

DANIAS PRÆSIDENTER

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>J. Foster, 23. Nov. 1862 til Feb. 1863
 Geo. I. Hoffman, Februar 1863 til November 1863
 T. Martens, Nov. 1863 til Jan. 1864
 A. Skov, Jan. 1864 til April 1864
 Dr. Petersen, April 1864 til Marts 1865
 Emil Dreier, Marts 1865 til Juni 1865
 C. Munk, Juni 1865 til Okt. 1865
 M. Ballin, Okt. 1865 til Jan. 1866
 A. Skov, Jan. 1866 til Feb. 1866
 Capt. C. Johnson, Februar 1866 til April 1866
 C. Munk, April 1866 til Juli 1866
 A. Skov, Juli 1866 til Oktober 1866
 Liflang, Okt. 1866 til Jan. 1867
 Chas. Kauffeldt, Januar 1867 til April 1867
 Joh. Klug, April 1867 til Okt. 1867
 J. Skov, Okt. 1867 til Jan. 1868
 Dr. S. D. Jacobsen
 Joh. Klug, Jan. 1868 til April 1868
 J. Z. Alstrup, April 1868 til Juli 1868
 A. Skov, Juli 1868 til Oktober 1868
 E. Rene, Okt. 1868 til Jan. 1869
 Geo. P. Bay, Jan. 1869 til Okt. 1869
 N. Larsen
 Dr. Petersen (interimistisk), Oktober '69-Jan. '70
 Dr. Petersen, Jan. 1870 til April 1870
 Geo. L. Hoffmann, April 1870 til Januar 1871</p> | <p>Dr. Petersen, Jan. 1871 til Juli 1871
 F. Frantzen, Juli 1871 til Juli 1872
 Joh. Klug, Juli 1872 til Juli 1874
 Geo. I. Hoffmann, Juli 1874 til Januar. 1876
 Olaf Riechel, Jan. 1876 til Juli 1876
 Vald. Lund, Juli 1876 til Juli 1877
 Peter Jørgensen, Juli 1877 til Juli 1878
 P. Nielsen, Juli 1878 til Jan. 1879
 Geo. I. Hoffmann, Januar 1879 til Juli 1879
 Olaf Riechel, Juli 1879 til Jan. 1880
 Henry L. Hertz, Januar 1880 til Juli 1881
 R. Jensen, Juli 1881 til Juli 1886
 M. Larsen, Juli 1886 til Januar 1887
 C. Christiansen, Januar 1887 til Marts 1887
 H. A. C. Ockenholt, April 1887 til Januar 1889
 R. Fensholt, Jan. 1889 til Jan. 1890
 O. Olsen, Jan. 1890 til Jan. 1891
 H. A. C. Ockenholt, Januar 1891 til Januar 1894
 C. C. Jensen, Jan. 1894 til Jan. 1895
 J. W. Hertz, Jan. 1895 til Jan. 1896
 P. Kristensen, Jan. 1896 til Jan. 1898
 L. M. Hoffenblad, Januar 1898 til Januar 1899
 Carl Nielsen, Jan. 1899.</p> |
|---|---|

NULEVENDE EX-PRÆSIDENTER

(Listen ufuldstændig)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Peder Kristensen
 Chas. L. Wilde
 Martin N. Houlberg
 Peter Bjerrehus
 Emil Joergensen
 Joseph Jensen
 John C. Christensen
 Christian Nielsen ("Den Danske Pioneer")
 P. C. Petersen
 Adolph Nielsen
 C. M. Christiansen
 Hans Christian Ericksen
 Geo. P. Jensen
 Jens Agger
 Paul J. Wester
 Axel M. Andersen
 Emanuel Nielsen, D. D. S.</p> | <p>LARSEN
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Et Blad Af Foreningen Danias Historie:

FORENINGEN DANIAS SAMLEDE BESTYRELSE

I JUBILÆUMSAARET, 1937:

Præsident: Hans Chr. Ericksen

Vice-Præsident: Geo. P. Jensen

Kasserer: Adolph Nielsen

Sekretær: Morten Westergaard

Tillidsmand (Trustee): Andrew Karkow

Tillidsmand (Trustee): Lauritz Olesen

Tillidsmand (Trustee): Søren Sørensen

Bygningsdirektionen: A. K. Mose, Formand

Bygningsdirektionen: Aage Schmidt, Sekretær

Bygningsdirektionen, Huskomite: Axel M. Andersen, Formand

Bygningsdirektionen, Huskomite: C. F. Geckler

Bygningsdirektionen, Huskomite: Martin J. Wester

Foreningen Danias Jubilæumskomite, 1937:

Hans Chr. Ericksen, Præsident

Geo. P. Jensen, Formand, Modtagelseskomite

Adolph Nielsen, Kasserer, Billet- og Reserveringskomite

Morten Westergaard, Sekretær

Andrew Karkow, Billet-og Reserveringskomite

Lauritz Olesen

Søren Sørensen, Festskrift-og Programkomite

A. K. Mose, Formand, Musikkomite

Aage Schmidt, Billet-og Reserveringskomite

Axel M. Andersen, Formand, Festskrift-og Programkomite

C. F. Geckler

Martin J. Wester

Jens E. Ericksen, Formand, Pressekomitee

Jens Agger, Formand, Billet- og Reserveringskomite

Herman Houlberg, Dekorationskomite

Chr. Nielsen, Pressekomite

P. C. Petersen

A. M. Frandsen, Musikkomite

Herrerne: Overbibliothekar J. Chr. Bay, og Poul Hoff Kunst have som specielle Repræsentanter bistaaet Jubilæumskomiteen med Raad og Daad.

Danias Dameforening sendte sin Præsident, Fru Anna Rasmussen, som Foreningens Repræsentant paa Modtagelseskomiteen. Hr. Andrew Karkow, Jr. repræsenterer Dania Junior League paa Modtagelseskomiteen.

Samtlige Komitemedlemmer have samarbejdet for at Danias Jubilæumsfest, Festskrift og Festprogram har kunnet blive vor gamle, hæderlige Forening værdig.

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CHICAGO

Dania's 75 Years

The History of the Society in Brief

It is of course impossible to produce a somewhat complete picture of the birth and 75 years' existence of the society Dania in the few lines the space permits, but the purpose is only, in a small way, to draw the contours of the three quarters of a century of Danish-American society history in such a manner, that also outsiders will be able to understand, why Sunday, the 23rd of November, 1862, will now and forever remain sacred and unforgettable to the Dania people.

The records of Dania, "Danes in America," writings by Anton Kvist, Christian Nielsen and Charles Wilde, together with a collection of letters from emigrants have been used as a guide.

It was only a few hundred Danes, who in the beginning of the sixties had settled in the then primitive Chicago. Nor were the circumstances very enticing. The East was still in the forefront as a place to find work and in business, or else it was the great desire to reach the Pacific coast, where gold again had been found. But a few Danish emigrants had, however, built their homes and their business in our coming metropolis, and among these pioneer-heroes we find the founders of the society Dania.

Two great public journeys from Denmark brought at that time a couple of hundred artisans to Chicago, and the newcomers as well as those Danes who were already here, commenced to settle down in the vicinity of La Salle and Kinzie streets, where rent was not so high. In a short time Kinzie street from La Salle street and way out to the bridge had taken on quite a Danish appearance. The dilapidated buildings were soon renovated; the window-sills were covered with blooming plants; and small elegant stores, well tended gardens in front with summer-houses, shining door-knockers and white-scoured stairways told the Americans that here was the abode of the Danes in Chicago.

The best known of all the inns in the vicinity was Kinzie inn (later called Klon-dyke inn) next to the corner of La Salle

street. It was also the place of meeting for many Danes, who there received their mail and were permitted to read "Foster's Newspaper"—a two months old edition of the "kgl. prv. Berlingske Tidende".

Johan Foster, whose name shall be mentioned first in the history of Dania, was already at that time a well known man. He has been called a Norwegian, a Schleswig-Holsteiner, a German, but as a matter of fact he was born in Copenhagen, and this is the case with the majority of the first members of Dania. It was Johan Foster who announced the peremptory and important meeting in Kinzie inn on the 23rd of November 1862. He selected the men, who together with him signed the "resolution": that we today are founding a Danish society in Chicago, and that the name of said society shall be: the society DANA.

It is to be regretted that there are only very few insignificant accounts of that great moment. It was committed to writing to provide for a mailbox, some decks of cards and spittoons. These quite indifferent passages must apparently have been very valuable to the secretary, as it is nearly all that occurs in his records. This commemorative writing would have been a precious work, if the deceased first secretary, P. C. Petersen, could have put down in writing the thoughts and sentiments, which came to life on this memor-



Dania - Harmonien in Washington

able evening in the little room on Kinzie street—and we would have understood to express them in this history.

The first members of Dania were, besides Johan Foster and P. C. Petersen, E. Salling, Peter Allen (mentioned as the first Dane in Chicago), Brodthagen, Hoffman, Peder Møller, Christoffer Johnsen (Dania's first treasurer), Bendixen, Mikkelsen, Skov, T. Møller, J. S. Petersen, H. V. Hansen and consul N. P. Petersen. Salling, Brodthagen and Hoffman were charged with the task to write Dana's constitution. The entrance fee should be \$2.00 and the monthly contingent 50 cents. Meetings should be held every Sunday and general meeting and election of officers every three months. And lastly it was decided that the meeting the following Sunday should be held in the later so famous Wilken's basement on La Salle street.

* * *

This rendezvous of Danish emigrants took place at a time when this country was struck with a great disturbance. Nobody knew what might result from the Civil war. Great political changes took place, property value and business capital

were in jeopardy at any time, and the prospects of work for the coming winter were very uncertain. These considerations must certainly have mingled with yearning for the old home in Danish hearts on the cold November day, when these men shook hands on fraternizing here in foreign parts. And perhaps this was the very reason that Dana or Dania took roots strong enough to overcome all the difficult periods, it should meet during the 75 years, which have now passed.

* * *

Dana received its first and perhaps most severe shock a few years after its foundation. Dr. N. P. Petersen, George Hoffman and Emil Dreyer had been the leaders, and already during its first years Dana felt the bad results of contention within. Half of the members desired to preserve the original name, Dana, while others, with Dreyer in the lead, wanted to change the name to Dania. Johan Foster had moved to Naperville, and he was seldom present at the meetings, and by-and-by several of the original members left the society. Dana moved month after month to new localities, until the meetings at last were held in private homes. It



n, D. C., 1933, en route to Denmark

was George Hoffman who saved the honor of the day in Dana's first skirmish. He gathered in his home all of Dana's people that it was possible to gather. Everybody had to contribute according to his means for the purpose of again renting a meeting place and continue the propaganda for unison. And it succeeded. At the same meeting it was decided to incorporate the society under the name: Dania.

After this meeting in 1865 it seems as if the society is again making progress. A number of the city's prominent Danes join Dania, but several of the grave Copenhagen-sailors among the originators are lost. Even Johan Foster cannot recognize his own society. The change of name he never approved, and not even when Dania in 1869 made him the first honorary member of the society did he find real consolation. The old giant, Dania's chief lived his last years in Milwaukee, where he died on the 9th of October 1877. On his grave we can write today:

Dania owes him everything.

Rest in peace, Johan Foster.

* * *

During the progressive period in 1865 it was proposed to organize a sick-benefit

department, most likely the first Danish sick-benefit club in America. It took effect the following year, and it became of great importance to Dania. At the same time several committees were busy to arrange for their own burial grounds, but that did not meet with any success. In the midst of all these activities Dania started its library, the first steward, Niels Uhrenholdt, was elected, and in the summer the first outing "by land and by water" took place, a trip by boat to Winnetka. In previous years Dania had held its summer-picknick in "the sand-banks" (probably the Indiana sand dunes) and in the woods along the Des Plaines river.

The following year, 1866, was organized the famous emigrant committee, which worked far beyond the limits of the membership. The committee should assist the emigrants in different ways. It acted as employment bureau, adviser and guide, and it conducted an evening school, where the emigrant was instructed in English. The first teacher in this evening school was John Anderson, the deceased publisher of "Skandinaven," and numerous well known Danish-Americans from this period praised his name to his dying

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day. In the records from 1865 to 1866 it can further be read that Dania established a permanent stage, where the best known Danish farces and comedies, with Eva Salling, Johan Foster and Niels Jensen as the main forces, were played. And after these festive nights the women's auxilliary treated the people to "Æbleskiver" and coffee. There is nothing at all to inform us, when this "ladies' society" was established, but the old, dusty minutes tell us, that Dania's first ladies took part in the pioneering work in a most beautiful way.

When Dania had reached the first summit of its career, the first celebration in commemoration of the Danish constitution was held, with an enthusiastic response from our countrymen in as well as outside of Chicago.—But then the sun, for a time, went beyond the horizon of the four year old society.

It was a matter entirely foreign to the work of the society, which caused the dissension. The Danish consul, Dr. N. P. Petersen, had come to a close of his earthly career, and it became a concern of some importance among the Danes, who should fill his shoes. Emil Dreyer was a candidate, and eventually he was appointed Danish consul in Chicago. But he complained that the society had not given him sufficient support, and he withdrew from its ranks together with many of his adherents. The membership went down below fifty, and even the strong sick-benefit association tottered. But among the faithful few the meetings were continued. The chorus was founded in 1870, and its voice was heard as late as 1894, when the singing society "Harmonien" had established itself on a solid basis. Many of the original members of Harmonien were old members of Dania, which may have been the reason that the two societies were always united with the strongest ties of friendship and sympathy. "Dania's Shooting Club" is first mentioned in 1871, and it terminated its existence in 1891, when

its zealous champions left to found the present "Danish Sharpshooters."

In 1872 Henry L. Hertz arrived from Copenhagen. He immediately joined Dania, and in course of time he became very popular to everybody he came in contact with. And his first activity was to ease the dissension within the society. In 1874 he brought consul Dreyer triumphantly back to the old fold. From this time on Dreyer worked with renewed and stronger determination, and his sudden death on his way back from Denmark in 1892 was a source of grief and regret to Dania. Henry L. Hertz himself became the soul in many movements in Dania, and thus it was him, who first sounded the gong for Dania's own building, and he was a powerful support to the committee that acquired the building on Chicago Ave. Old Hertz had a beautiful career that culminated at the great moment, when the citizens of Illinois elected him for the office of state treasurer. For a number of years he was Dania's beloved honorable member, until also he departed to the old guard beyond.

The mighty conflagration in 1871 also delivered a great blow to Dania. All furniture, the bookcases with a very considerable library, the greatest part of the records and accounts became a victim to the greedy flames. All that was saved was Dania's banner and a picture of Frederik the VII., which still today adorns the walls of Dania. The rescuer was Niels Uhrenholdt. A newly elected board with Fritz Frantzen as president, George Hoffman as vice president, C. Hansen as treasurer and C. Larsen as secretary, all esteemed citizens, immediately commenced to write the new chapter in the history of Dania, and under their guidance the society enters a new period of triumph. In 1864 Dania carried into effect an extensive collection for the benefit of Danish veterans, and a donation in money was sent to France after the war in 1870. And now there was started a collection

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to help our unfortunate countrymen, who after the terrible gale in 1872 had lost all they owned, and from Denmark Dania received the most hearty thanks for its faithfulness.

* * *

In 1875, four years after the great conflagration, Dania is quite prosperous. It has 150 members, of which 100 belong to the sick-benefit association, the treasurer reports 1,200 dollars in the bank, and one great affair after another is taking place. All Danes in town must participate, when Dania has some kind of celebration, and all the Danish ladies strut and carry their heads high, when they relate that their respective men folks now have become members of Dania. And, thanks to Niels Uhrenholdt, business is now flourishing. Many offers of consolidation with other societies are refused with thanks.—Dania was alone in its field.

The meetings on the corner of Kinzie and Des Plaines streets and at 17, 312 and 345 Milwaukee Avenue are a common matter of conversation, and there is competition for the offices. And many people come to the society for the sake of the library, which is now again quite extensive.

The laws of the sick-benefit association are printed, but what there is more important to us today is that the original manuscript is preserved. It is dated July 5th, 1876, and the signature of Niels Uhrenholdt is followed by the names of Henry L. Hertz, Ludvig Hoffenblad and many other great names in Dania.

* * *

In the same year "The Danish Veterans' Society" was founded, which for a while hampered the growth of Dania. The old comrades of war, which originally were veterans from 1848 and 1864, understood to surround their society with a certain nimbus, and many from Dania joined them. There was a great festivity in the streets, when the Danish veterans marched in full uniform, with marshal on

horseback and a thundering orchestra. But Dania stood, however, its ground, and many old veterans returned to Dania to pass a quiet hour in the library or to associate with old friends at Uhrenholdt's bar.

* * *

With tranquility and soundness Dania continues into the great years of emigration in the eighties and the nineties, and in this period it receives a reinforcement, which should prove itself to be of the greatest importance. Among the still living members we find under date of August 6th, 1867, Lauritz Olesen, coachmaker, 20 years, 220 No. Green street; and under date of February 16th, 1888, Peder Kristensen, cabinet maker, 22 years, 15 Keith street. Lauritz Olesen left the society for a few years, but Peder Kristensen did not yield. He is perhaps the only now living, who participated in the festivities on the 25th birthday of Dania, and next year, the 16th day of February, he can celebrate his fifty years jubilee as a member of the oldest Danish society of America. Other weighty names are: Charles Wilde, initiated March 2nd, 1889; Herman Hansen, initiated January 16th, 1890; Mike Mickelson, initiated February 19th, 1891; Martin Houlberg, initiated May 6th, 1893; Peter Bjerrehus, initiated July 1st, 1893; Emil Jørgensen, initiated February 7th, 1900; Fred C. Jensen, initiated March 2nd, 1902; Joseph Jensen, initiated October 15th, 1902, and Sophus Mathiesen, initiated December 17th the same year. Peder Kristensen, Charles Wilde, Joseph Jensen and Martin Houlberg stand today as ex-presidents of the society, and they are all honorary members. And all four of them have deserved this distinction in the fullest measure.

At the close of the eighties the membership mounts again to nearly 200, and in the beginning of the nineties a membership of nearly 250 has been reached. And at the same time the trustees have invested

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three to four thousand dollars at good security. The desire for their own building becomes more and more pronounced, and finally, on December 17th, 1891, the secretary, Peder Kristensen, reads the decisive resolution, in which a separate committee is given authority to purchase the property at 249-51 West Chicago Avenue, designated as: lots 12, 13 and 14 in block 42 in Ogdens addition to Chicago and the buildings thereon. The price was \$23,000 with a down payment of \$5,000. The rest was covered by guarantee by members and the support of well situated men in the colony. The society took possession May 1st, 1892. The first meeting took place July 2nd. The inauguration took place July 23rd the same year with a mighty response.

Other men who inscribed their names in the history of Dania in this period are: Henry Ockenholt, Louis Hansen, Dr. Niels Johnson, Adolph Christensen, Chas. Ryberg, James Heyn, R. Egeberg, Robert Petersen, Rasmus Jensen and Rasmus Fensholdt.

* * *

Well situated and under the best possible leadership Dania went through the period of depression, which followed the first Chicago world's fair, and the society made its impression on all greater events, whether they concerned the colony, or it was Denmark and Danish movements that begged for attendance.

At the beginning of the new century the Danish population started its second great migration to the western parts of the city. Groups of Danes settled in the vicinity of Wicker Park and Humboldt Park, and already in 1910 Dania's building stood lonely and deserted in the old neighborhood. The wise men in the society comprehended at once that also Dania had to move, and March 5th, 1910, they were successful in selling the old building for a sum of \$20,500. The cash money of the society amounted at that time to \$8,000, but in spite of all efforts

it was not possible to find a suitable building in the new vicinity. For a while Dania rented in Steensland's, at that time, quite elegant villa on Evergreen Avenue, and they were forced to have their greater affairs at other places. The 49th birthday of the society was thus celebrated in "Old Style Inn" on the corner of Division Street and California Avenue, a celebration that will be remembered by many of Dania's now living members, and where all speakers agreed to celebrate next year under their own roof.

* * *

With Peder Kristensen as president and assisted by C. H. C. Nielsen, Fritz Frantzen, Herskind Petersen, M. Houlberg and others Dania went to work to find a suitable place for a building, and on November 19th, 1911, the committee reported, that Dania was the owner of lots numbering 1651-53 on North Kedzie Avenue, for a sum of \$3,500. Under the superintendence of architect Carl Nielsen the building went up, and on November 24th, 1912, it was officially dedicated, and that event was followed by the gorgeous and unforgettable 50-years commemoration on Sunday, December 29th.

As steward in the new building Victor Andersen was selected, and he was in every way abreast of the responsibilities. He was succeeded by able and intelligent hosts, who all have done their share towards success for Dania, both financially and otherwise.

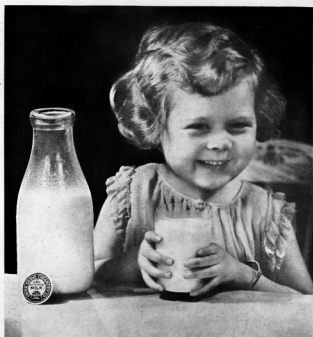
Dania's elegant hall and the comfortable rooms for social affairs were admired, and the hall was used for gatherings by most of Chicago's Danish societies. Great festivities and important events took place where Dania has shown its ability to solve problems of a Danish-American nature. As Dania at times had honored H. C. Andersen, Holger Drachmann and other great Danish names, it now paid homage to Georg Brandes, the student singers, Dr. Fenger and many others. The Dania

(Continued on page 55)

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Danskhed herude i fremmede Havn.
Sønner og Døtre af Udvandrerfolket
: Fletter en Krans om dit herlige Navn :

Funklende Stjerner faldt paa din Bane,
prægtige Navne, danske og fri'.
Tre kvart Aarhundred' vajed' din Fane
: over en dansk og en stolt Koloni. :

Ældgamle Dania, ældste og første,
atter i Blomstring's Dage du staar.
Ældgamle Dania, sidste og største,
: rust dig til Kæmp og dit hundrede Aar! :

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Vi stevned bort fra Hjemmet i Livets Foraarsgry,
da Udfærdslængslen hvisket til os paany, paany:
Alt er saa smaat herhjemme og Himlen graa af Sky'r;
Skøn er den vide Verden og fuld af Eventyr.

Saa snøred vi vor Randsel og drog med Sol mod Vest,
Vi fandt vor lille Gerning, alt hvor vi kunde bedst.
Vi stod i Dagens Virke som oftest hver for sig;
Vi savned Ven og Frænde langs Ensomhedens Vej.

Men gennem Arbejdsduren der tit og ofte brød
en stille, sagte Stemme, hvis Raad og Budskab lød:
Virk kun i Hverdagslivet til Nylands Gavn og Tarv;
men glem ej Moder Danmark og hendes rige Arv.

Dyrk Sproget som I lærte af Moders egen Mund,
og lad det til Jer tale fra Sjælens dybe Grund.
Og sammen maa I holde; Uenighed gør svag;
Om dansk Kultur skal leve, det bli'r de manges Sag.

Thi slutted vi vor Kæde. Det var vort Maal, vor Agt:
at værne i *Forening* hvad hid vi havde bragt
af Minders klare Perler og Tankens rene Guld.
Det skulde blandt os leve og trives grødefuld.

Og Aarene er rundne, syv Gange ti og fem;
endnu staar *Dania* livsfrisk med eget Hus og Hjem,
hvor Sang og Tale lyder paa Fædres gæve Maal,
naar Danmarks Navn vi fejrer ved festligt Blus og Baal.

Her staar vi, Moder Danmark, saa fjernt bag bredden Hav.
Vi takker Dig af Sjæl og Sind for alt, hvad Du os gav.
Ej Sted, ej Tid kan mindske vor dybe Trofasthed.

Vi hilser Dig!

Vi hylder Dig!

Vi knæler for Dig ned!

CARL JACOBSEN.

DANIA JUBILEE FESTIVAL, HOTEL STEVENS

NOV. 21, 1937

PROGRAM

PART I

MR. P. MARINUS PAULSEN, Conductor

Overture: "Elverhøj"	Kuhlau
Orchestra	
Tenor Aria: "The Trumpeter".....	J. Airlie Dix
Mr. Aage Werner	
Danish Fantasia.....	P. Marinus Paulsen
Orchestra	
Soprano Aria: "Goodbye"	Tosti
Mrs. Agnethe Mundt	
"Farvel til Danmark"	Nielsen
"Drømmebilleder"	Lumbye
Orchestra	
Basso Aria: "Il lacerato spirito Bocca Negra".....	Verdi
Mr. Kai de Vermond	
Blue Danube	Strauss
Orchestra	
Contralto Aria: "My heart at thy sweet voice," of: "Samson and Delilah"	St. Saens
Miss Olga Dane	
"Champagne Galop"	Lumbye



PART II

Welcome.....	Mr. Hans Chr. Ericksen, President of Dania Society
Toastmaster—Hon. Peter B. Nelson, K. D.	
Invocation.....	Rev. A. W. Andersen, K. D.
Prolog	Mr. Carl Jacobsen
Mr. Dines Miller	
Dania.....	Mr. Geo. P. Jensen, Vice-President of Dania Society
Song: "Ældgamle Dania"	Mr. Paul Hoff Kunst
Assembly	
"America"	Mr. Jørgen Berthelsen
Song: "America"	Assembly

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty;
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the Pilgrim's pride,
From ev'ry mountain side
Let freedom ring.



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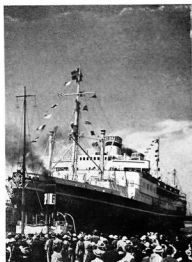
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PROGRAM

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Song Mads Hansen

"Vi har sagt det saa tidt, og Du ved det saa godt,
Du er mægtig Du Kvinde i Nord
Du kan fængsle vort Sind, Du kan trylle os blot
med et Blik med et eneste Ord" . . .



Dania-Sangen Mr. Paul Hoff Kunst
Mr. Laurids Christensen



HIS EXCELLENCY, OTTO WADSTED, K. C. D., C. H. D., p. p.
Minister from the Kingdom of Denmark to the United States of America



"Kong Kristian" Johannes Ewald
Assembly

"Kong Kristian stod ved højen Mast
i Røg og Damp
Hans Værge hamrede saa fast
At Gotens Hjælm og Hjørne brast
Da sank hvert fjendtligt Spejl og Mast
i Røg og Damp
Fly skreg de hver som flygte kan
:||: Hvo kan bestaa mod Kristian :||:
I Kamp . . ."

FINALE: "Star Spangled Banner" Assembly

Oh! say, can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
Oh! say, does that star-spangled banner still wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

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(Continueud from page 43)

people demanded that one of the parks in the city should be named after a good and great Dane, and when the park on 64th Street and Fullerton Avenue was called Jacob A. Riis park, it must be admitted that Dania was greatly responsible for such an honor.

* * *

During the world's war Dania made itself pleasantly conspicuous by doing certain work, which was really outside its scope. An extensive campaign for the sale of liberty bonds turned out to be a beautiful success. And during the war Dania was all the time in connection with the many Danish-Americans in overseas service. In this fine work Charles Wilde and P. C. Bjerrehus should be especially mentioned, and the Danish-American veterans, who returned from the world's war, will never forget Dania and those conspicuous names.

In connection with the war it is with justifiable pride mingled with a sad regret that we call attention to the fact, that 88 Dania boys fought for democracy and the ending of all wars on the shell-torn battle fields of France, and that two of these boys never returned to their homeland and the tender bosom of their families but are now resting in foreign soil among many, many thousands of others, who met a similar fate.—Would that this tremendous sacrifice had brought better results. The two young men, who fought for that, which appeared to them to be a great and beautiful cause, were William Bjerrehus and Harold Michelsen, whose pictures with the golden star attached are now adorning the walls of Dania among the 86, who came back.

A sensational change was made in the constitution of the society in 1921, when a council consisting of twelve men was elected to take care of the business, and which should supplant the regular monthly meetings. This was entirely contrary to the old traditions of Dania, and next

year this addition to the constitution was erased, and the twelve "apostles," as they were nicknamed, disappeared.

During our year in the world's war "Dania's Young People's Society" was founded. It never succeeded in doing its work within Dania in such a way, as it was expected, and it again ceased to exist in the middle of the twenties. But it is now resurrected within a different scope and, as we hope, with many years of activity.

Many great events took place in the twenties and the decennium, in which we now live. Dania arranged evenings of homage to Oda Nielsen, Johannes Herskind, Saxtorph Mikkelsen, Niels Juul, Henry L. Hertz, Dr. Max Henius and others. And in a most worthy way Dania labored together with the fair committee and other Danish societies during the world's fair in 1933.

Among the more recent activities in Dania the tour to Denmark in 1930 will always occupy its own prominent place. The tour was proposed during the first golden and prosperous years and was carried into effect jointly with the singing society Harmonien, and the many, who took part, will never forget it. On this tour Denmark was visited both by land and by water, and unforgettable memories were brought back. George P. Jensen and Hans C. Ericksen did splendid work in the organizing of this tour and other matters pertaining to it.

Ericksen, the builder was at that time one of the younger members of Dania, and he was elected president in 1928. And already then he convinced his countrymen, that he possessed special ability as a leader, and later he served Dania as a very successful chairman of the building committee. When Dania, for that reason, at the last annual meeting agreed to tender to Hans C. Ericksen the office of president during the 75th years jubilee, his qualifications were already known. After a tremendous work of publicity for

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Dania's great celebration Hans C. Ericksen superintended an almost immediate restoration of all rooms within the walls of Dania. This extensive work was promptly done with the greatest admiration from both members and outsiders. And old Dania has never before presented itself with such an elegance and such a comfort as at this moment, when the star of its 75 years is just rising above its horizon.

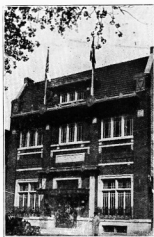
It was of course first planned to hold the celebration under Dania's own roof, but the response was so overwhelming that such would be an impossibility. Stevens Hotel in the loop was chosen for the occasion, and when our thoughts move back down the aisles of time, we will recognize that we will be quite close to these street corners, where Johan Foster and

the other Dania-giants lived and moved, when they conceived the idea of the now famous society.

Many hundreds will wind their way to this 75-years celebration and greet old Dania with a tremendous applause and a most hearty: long live. Many more here in Chicago and beyond our boundaries will in their thoughts be present. Yes, in our beloved homeland the hearts will beat warmly for Dania and the Danish emigrants on this festive day. And this throng of benevolent thoughts and heartfelt wishes will throw their halo around Sunday, November 21st, when Society Dania kindles its annual commemorative torch for the 75th time.

Paul Hoff Kunst.

Done in English by Kristian Baun.



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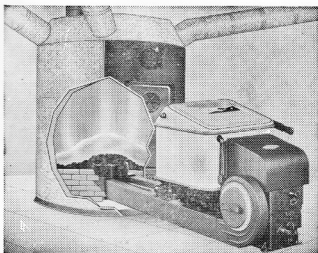
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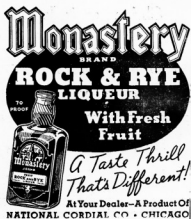
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Cordially

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Mrs. Johanne Nielsen, Sekretær.

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H U S K: At vi i ganske særlig Grad trænger til Støtte fra hver eneste af vore Landsmænd og Landsmandinder. Hver bør yde al den Hjælp, som man kan.

Vi appellerer til hver især blandt Danske om at sende os — selv nok saa lille en Pengegave. Husk, at hver eneste Cent givet til Formaalet, vil lette Byrden for dem, som uforskyldte er hensunkne i den dybeste Elendighed paa Grund af Nød, Sygdom eller Alderdom. Lad os tænke paa, at mange af os maaske selv kan komme til at trænge til en saadan venlig Haandsrækning, forinden vort Livs Sol gaar ned.

Vi beder indstændigt om Hjælp til Forøgelse af vort Mælkefond. Vi har ikke med vor bedste Vilje kunnet efterkomme de mange Ansøgninger om Hjælp paa denne Konto. Giv os en lille Skærv hertil hver Maaned, og De vil hjælpe til at redde mangt et lille, uskyldigt Barneliv, der maaske ellers vil staa forsvarsløs mod Livets Barskhed og dets Kulde.

Ikke heller paa vort Kulfonds Omraade er vi i Stand til at bringe nær den Hjælp der trænges — og som burde ydes. Vi beder Dem ogsaa her hjælpe os med maanedlige Bidrag, for at de af vore gamle Landsmandinder og Landsmænd, som virkelig trænge, men som Offentligheden har glemt, i den kommende Vinter ikke skal udsættes for Kulde og Sygdom paa deres Livs Aften.

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