

# Scandinavian American

Serving the Scandinavian-American Population of the Great Northwest

PUBLISHED TWICE A MONTH AT 2228 FIRST AVENUE

Seattle 1, Washington

Subscription Rate.....\$2.00 Per Year

K. EINAR CARLSON, Publisher

EDITORIAL STAFF

THORSTEN NYMAN, Editor

Harry F. Fabbe

Andrew Bjerkeseth

A publication dedicated to the interests of the Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Finnish and Icelandic population of the Great Northwest.

## The Epic of Norway Center

Our most profound appraisal could hardly sum up the situation so well and so briefly as did E. B. Hauge, Minneapolis, head of the Sons of Norway in America.

"Norway Center is the biggest thing of its kind that has ever" happened in the long history of Norwegian-Americans."

Nor could an editorial comment epitomize the long history, the laborious struggle, the ripe fulfillment of that aspiration which now makes Norway Center one of the truly great accomplishments in the Pacific Northwest.

The task of portraying the colorful chapters of this epic in the language of the adopted land has been rightly and adequately done by a number of those who played an important part in its making. The story is outlined in articles in this issue, and for the cooperation provided us in this presentation we extend our sincere thanks.

But as Norway Center can claim a place in posterity, and we are speaking for the American generations which will help preserve it, we might add a little footnote.

This is one of the most gratifying and heartening accomplishments a Scandinavian people has ever passed on to succeeding generations in America.—T. N.

## "Yellow" Journalism

Aiding and abetting a lone criminal, fleeing from the long arm of justice in a police man hunt, is easily if not always punishable. But on higher levels the same sort of thing can be very different, particularly if the long arm has been directed by many who aid and abet.

If the law enforcement agencies and government itself are not fully capable of checking the hoary inter-marriage of gambling and corruption, then who is? Senator Kefauver and FBI Chief Edgar J. Hoover point to the general public, saying it should organize resistance against it on local levels.

We feel that is only part of the solution. Much depends on the press, too. Without the press, people only think with their noses.

The days of the so-called yellow press, the scandal-mongers of newspaperdom, are disappearing. There's more sensible and honest journalism today, it is said. We sometimes wonder. The crusading "scandal-mongering" of the old public-spirited Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer did some mighty good things. Nowadays, you have to be a Westbrook Pegler or a Drew Pearson to risk all-out persecution. Libel suits are getting to be too expensive for the common man. Most papers nowadays prefer to sit on the fence and wait for the government, some law enforcement agency or some top public official to explode a scandal. That, in effect, is how the latest wave of crime news reached us.

While assuming an air of respectability, more papers are becoming "yellow" without resorting to scandal-mongering.

The conspiracy of silence and complacency maintained for so long by papers in New York (not to say Chicago) against what amounts to legalized crime and corruption is but an indication of a growing virus in the press, even in our small towns. The virus is commercialism, more and more of it. In some cases, the papers feel more obligated to protect their business than to report the truth as they see it. This has never been uncommon in newspaperdom, of course, but it can be alleviated greatly by competition among newspapers. On the other hand, some very fine newspapers do report the truth as they see it and profit by it.

The Atlantic Monthly writes that the tendency toward bigness and consolidation is dominant in the press.

"Forty percent of the American newspapers in existence in 1929 have either closed up shop or have been consolidat-

## Sweden's Part in the Defense of the West

Lieutenant-General H. G. Martin, London *Daily Telegraph* military correspondent, recently spent a fortnight with Sweden's armed forces, and in an article for his paper entitled "How Sweden Re-arms Against the Threat from the East," he reported in part:

"At Karlskrona I went aboard the Uppland, one of the Navy's two 1,900-ton postwar destroyers. These destroyers and the two 8,000-ton cruisers, the Tre Kronor and the Gota Lejon, are the Navy's most modern ships. . . . In addition, the Navy has three old 'pocket battleships,' still useful for coastal defense, two smaller cruisers, 13 fleet destroyers, 15 M. T. Bs and 24 submarines. In view of the conditions likely to prevail in the narrow waters of the Baltic in another war, no more cruisers are planned. Two 2,400-ton International Class destroyers are building, as are also 11 M. T. Bs and three submarines. . . .

"In the Swedish Navy the feeling of comradeship with the British Navy is strong. Everywhere I heard acknowledgements of the debt the Swedish Navy owes to our Navy for radar and other technical equipment. Today, of course, radar is indispensable to all three Services, for early warning, or navigation, or gun control. Sweden, however, lacks a developed electronic industry. . . .

"Swedish Air Force Object Lesson In Manpower Saving"

"General Nordenskiöld is the creator of the Swedish Air Force, of which he has been Commander-in-Chief for eight years. He has made it the second in Western Europe, with a peacetime strength of about 800 first-line aircraft. . . . He has made the Swedish Air Force an object lesson in manpower saving. Sweden is a country of 7 million people, where everyone is employed. Swedish manpower is precious. The Russian Air Force employs nearly three times as many men per first-line aircraft as does the Swedish; the Canadian Air Force employs nearly three-and-a-half times as many; the United States Air Force five times as many; the French and British more than six times. True, Swedish Service aircraft are mostly single-engined. Nonetheless it is an astonishing comparison; and the R. A. F., I understand, is to send over a party to find out how the Swedes do it. . . .

"In brief, the air plan is to maintain in readiness four 'air base areas' — Lapland, North, East, South — to enable the Air Force to concentrate against attack from any direction and with the utmost speed. No more hangars will be built above ground; the Air Force will rest secure in the heart of Swedish granite.

"Relations between the Swedish Air Force and the R. A. F. are just as cordial as those between the Swedish and British Navies. Here again radar is Sweden's main requirement. General Nordenskiöld told me that if he could get all the equipment now on order from Britain his worst anxieties would be set at rest."

Field Army of 400,000 Men, 350,000 More for Local Defense

"Lastly, I met the Army. . . . The individual conscript is well trained. Conscripts from North and Central Sweden have an advantage in that 100 per cent of them have learned to ski before they join. I watched both artillery and infantry exercises in deep, soft snow. . . . The rapid and noiseless passing of these white-clad ski-troops was most impressive. Everything else—guns, machine guns, wireless sets, mortars, casualties—went across country on sleds. . . .

"On mobilization, conscripts under training (about 30,000 in Army and 10,000 in Air Force and Navy) would not take the field. Instead, about 400,000 reservists would be called up to form the 'Troops of the Line' or Field Army; about 350,000 more could be called up for Local Defense Forces and Reserve. Every one of these reservists is already earmarked for his precise job. In order that they may learn these jobs, 180,000 . . . are now being called up annually. Every man has to do three such monthly periods of repetition. In this manner the Army is tackling with great thoroughness the very difficult problem of combining extremely short conscript service with rapid mobilization."

"Armaments of Very High Quality But Limited Quantity"

"With her annual production of 1,450,000 tons of steel, Sweden makes armaments of very high quality but limited quantity. From foreign sources the Army's main needs are threefold: more artillery generally; in particular long-

ed into a newspaper chain, and the end of the process is not yet in sight. Ten years from now, one can predict with regretful certainty there will be still fewer newspapers, still less competition among newspapers, and those which survive will have even bigger circulation. . . . The more newspapers are consolidated the more uniformity you are bound to have in point of view, in content, and in appearance."

The magazine also notes the loss of power of the editorial page; the wide use of syndicated material; the increasing power of wire services, resulting in less individual newsgathering; the general acceptance of the news hand-out, and the carefully controlled mass press interview as a prime basis of newsgathering.

Obviously, these trends reduce the possibilities of many papers to cover and reflect wider ranges of opinion, previously afforded by so many independent newspapers. The dissemination of news and the controlling ownership of newspapers is being concentrated on fewer hands, which explains why the press is becoming increasingly conservative. Conservatism comes mainly of wealth and security. The effects of this were clearly discernible in the last presidential election, when almost the entire press predicted what may be called a conservative result, while actually the liberals scored a decisive victory. Clearly, the press failed to sound out the true majority opinion of the people, or else it did not feel obligated to do so.

However, this tendency toward unprecedented bigness and consolidation can be a definite asset in the struggle to check crime and corruption. The big metropolitan newspapers with their increased influence and prestige could more effectively aid, if not direct, the public in this effort. Why not? It wouldn't be "yellow," but a logical extension of "sensible and honest journalism."—T. N.

range anti-tank weapons—that is to say, effective medium tanks or self-propelled guns; anti-aircraft radar.

"In regard to training, I got the impression that the Army is perhaps less closely in touch with its British counterpart than are the Navy and the Air Force. More than one officer spoke to me of their wish to go on attachment to the British or United States Army. A policy of extended attachments or exchanges would be all to the good of both parties. Our own officers would have plenty to learn—about winter techniques in Lapland, for instance—and they would be sure of the warmest of welcomes."

## Scandinavians Discuss Korea, United Nations

The Foreign Minister of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, at a recent meeting in Oslo, discussed the continued support of the Scandinavian countries of the United Nations action in Korea and their contributions to humanitarian work and reconstruction. They agreed that the Scandinavian countries should offer all possible support to the efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The Foreign Ministers also called for the highest possible degree of economy in the activities of the United Nations and its special organizations. They decided to assign budget specialists to prepare concrete proposals for cutting U. N. operation costs. At an earlier meeting, in Reykjavik, Iceland, from August 31 to September 1 last year, the Foreign Ministers discussed the question of joint Scandinavian action in the General Assembly for the purpose of speeding up the efforts to coordinate and streamline the work of the United Nations. This would mean the avoidance of overlapping work and a more effective use of the means available for international collaboration in various fields. It was decided that the delegations should together try to further this matter in the General Assembly.

## Swedish School Leader Is Dead

Joseph Weijne, who rose from public school teacher to Minister of Education and Church Affairs, died in Stockholm recently at the age of fifty-eight. It was primarily thanks to his efforts that a sweeping school reform was unanimously passed by the Riksdag in June of last year. The new plan calls for an increase of the compulsory education period in Sweden from eight years to nine as well as for a unified elementary and early secondary school system. Because of its great scope and its many ramifications, the new system is not expected to be in operation for at least a decade.

He was also one of the leaders of the Swedish temperance movement.

## Scandinavians Exchange Senate Seat In Oregon

PENDLETON, Oregon (Special)—A Pendleton wheat and pea grower, Arthur Lindberg, 59, was appointed successor last week to the late State Senator Carl Engdahl, who died last week in Pendleton.

Lindberg previously served in 1944 as appointee state representative. At that time he also succeeded Engdahl to fill a house vacancy when Engdahl was appointed senator.