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TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Nov. 18, 1935.

The Minnesota Chapter of the American Guild of Organists celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on Monday evening, November eighteenth, at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, St. Paul, where this chapter was organized. In spite of inclement weather, forty-one members and guests were present at a turkey dinner served in the parish-house by the ladies of the church and arranged by Mrs. G. H. Fairclough.

Peter Johnson, A.A.G.O., the new dean, opened the meeting which followed and then turned it over to George H. Fairclough, F.A.G.O., organizer of the chapter and its first dean. He recounted how a visit to Warden Frank Wright in New York in 1910 led to plans for forming a chapter in Minnesota. The meeting for organization was held in the chapel of St. John's Church, Nov. 23, 1910. Mr. Fairclough read a clipping from a St. Paul paper describing the event. He then called upon the rector of St. John's Church, the Rev. Conrad H. Gesner, who expressed his pleasure in welcoming the Guild members for this occasion. Of the group which met for organization, only Mr. Fairclough and G. A. Thornton were present. In honor of J. Victor Bergquist, A.A.G.O., a charter member who passed away last February, Mrs. Bergquist was present as a special guest. Mr. Thornton was called upon for a greeting, and made an interesting comparison between America and Great Britain as to the manner of selecting an organist when a vacancy occurs. He also told of some of his experiences in his career both here and abroad.

Mr. Fairclough spoke of the academic progress made in this chapter, seventeen members having passed examinations, four holding the F.A.G.O. and thirteen the A.A.G.O. certificate. Of the fourteen deans during the twenty-five years seven were present at this meeting. Before adjourning for the recital in the sanctuary, Mr. Fairclough called upon a visiting guest, Richmond Skinner, the son of Ernest M. Skinner, who responded with a brief greeting.

The program in the church sanctuary was given by George H. Fairclough, F.A.G.O., organist and choirmaster of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, assisted by his pupil, Henry Brooks, organist of the First Baptist Church, St. Paul, and Charles Johnson, boy soloist of St. John's choir.

LIST OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT.

G. H. Fairclough, F.A.G.O. (Dean 1910-12, 1914-15)
G. A. Thornton. (Dean 1917-18)
Hugo Goodwin, F.A.G.O. (Dean 1925-27)
Marion Austin Dunn, A.A.G.O. (Dean 1927-29)
Frank K. Owen. (Dean 1929-31)
Mrs. S. N. Reep. (Dean 1931-32)
Marion Hutchinson, F.A.G.O. (Dean 1932-33)
Laurinda Rast. (Dean 1933-35)
Peter Johnson, A.A.G.O. (Dean 1935-)
Mrs. G. H. Fairclough.
Mrs. J. Victor Bergquist.
Richmond Skinner and escort.
Rev. Conrad H. Gesner.
Assistant Rector.
Henry Brooks.
Samuel N. Reep.
Francis Richter, F.A.G.O.
Mrs. F. Richter.
Carey M. Jensen, A.A.G.O.
Henry Engen, Secretary.
Mrs. H. Engen.
Leah May Reeves, Treasurer.
Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Sircom.
Aldean Todd French.
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Fellows.
J. G. Lundholm.
Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Thompson.
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Joseph.
Charlotte E. Bolles.
Myrtle Weed.
George F. Lindsay.
Mary Anderson.
Mrs. Harriet M. Blake.
Verna Bohanon.
Edwina Wainman.
Margaret P. Waldron.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry Engen,
Chapter Secretary.