

Sept. 1, 1973
Toronto

The 42nd annual Welsh National Gvmanfa Ganu (assembly for song) is being held this weekend at the Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel.

The organization was founded in 1929 on Goat Island, near Niagara Falls, N.Y. Its purpose is to preserve and promote Welsh religious and cultural heritage. There are some 800 life members and of these about ~~250~~⁷⁰ are Canadian.

The president of the national organization is Owen C. Roberts of Lachine, Que. and the other seven on the board are all Americans.

Among the Canadian trustees are H. Wynne Price of Oshawa, Miss Eluned M. Thomas of Toronto and John M. Williams of Vancouver.

W. F. Blanch of Vineland is president of the Ontario branch and on his executive are John Martin of St. Catharines, Lewis Edwards of Niagara Falls, and J. B. K. Jenkins of Kitchener.

Anyone can register for \$1 and this will take in all events today and tomorrow, except the banquet. So far, 3,000 have registered.

At 2 p.m. today there will be the children's hour (two hours long) when children will display their talents. Chairman will be Mrs. Gwen Lundy of Oshawa.

At 7 o'clock tonight there will be a banquet followed by a grand ball and, for this, 2,000 have bought tickets at \$9 each.

Tomorrow is the big day. At 10.30 a.m., there will be a Welsh-English devotion service in the grand ballroom. At 2.30 p.m., the afternoon session of the Gvmanfa will be led by Helen Evans, organist at the Dewi Sant Welsh United Church in Toronto until her return to Wales last year. Guest soloist will be Mrs. Gaynor Jones Low of Toronto. As well there will be an evening session beginning at 7 p.m.

Yesterday Mr. Lewis Edwards of Niagara Falls, secretary of the Ontario branch, told me that part-sing the blending of four voices in harmony had its origin in Wales. The historian Giraldus in his writings of 1188 speaks

of this Welsh skill and says it was not accepted at that time anywhere else.

I asked Mr. Edwards who he considers the most famous Welshmen today. He gave a Welsh sigh. "Well I guess there's Tom Jones, I don't know what happened to him at his performance at the CNE. Then another one who is having some trouble is Richard Burton. Of course if you count our honorary citizen it's Charles, the Prince of Wales."