

Old-Timers Are Honored at West Side Turn Hall



AS a "remember way back when" night Thursday at the West Side Turn hall when old-timers were entertained. Left to right are George B. Vetter, 71, of 1505 N. 39th st.; Gustave A. Leverenz, 2624 N. 4th st., the oldest member; Emil Rom, 75, of 2917 N. Richards st., and Joseph Trost, 1809 W. Cherry st.

—Journal Staff

Oldest Turnverein Member Recalls the 'Good Old Days'

Memories of 76 years of membership in the Turnverein Milwaukee came flooding back to Gustav A. Leverenz as he sat Thursday night at the dinner at West Side Turn hall, 1034 N. 4th st., for those who have been members of the organization for more than 50 years. Leverenz is the oldest living member.

As the kindly looking, white haired man, his Van Dyke beard neatly clipped, sat there, he recalled the day when, as a 12 year old boy, he first entered the Turnverein as a juvenile member. Six years later he entered the adult group and soon began going to parties and dances.

It was at one of these dances at the Turners hall that he met his wife, who for almost 65 years has shared membership in the organization.

Ah, Concerts by Bach!

It was a different Turnverein then, Leverenz sighed. He recalled the German concerts led by the renowned Christopher Bach. There were dances, old-time gymnastics,

festivals that sometimes lasted for days and singing in "the good old German way."

The Turnverein is the only thing that reminds him of the days gone by. "Everything is completely changed," he said. "There is a different spirit, and everything seems to be going forward. I used to belong to so many organizations, but now most of them are all 'busted.' Most of my old friends are gone and only the Turnverein is still here."

Leverenz and his wife now divide their time between Milwaukee and Los Angeles, Calif., where they spend their winters with their daughter. They flew to Milwaukee for the Turnverein meeting.

Old Members Honored

Other 50 year members honored Thursday night were Edward Wild, Herman Weizenegger, William Wackler, Paul Arndt, Louis J. Gensler, Edward J. Gensler, Edward Gruendler, Carl Hartung, Emil Hunzel, Herman Kruecke, George Wittich, William Krueger, Frank J.

Meyer, Frank W. Ribbe, Emil Rom, Dr. Arthur Cohn, Arthur Gillmeister, William Heimke, Henry Muth, Joseph Trost and George Vetter.

In addition, 11 life members of the ladies' auxiliary were also cited.

Athletic awards were given to members of the Milwaukee Turnfest who won events in the national Turnfest tournament held in Springfield, Mass., in June.

Winners on the Milwaukee team were Fred Roethlisberger, Charles Hennecke, James Delaney, Kenneth Borman, Herbert Keller, Olga Dolge,