

**FREE!
TAKE
ONE**

*Published in the interest of
North Americans of Scandinavian descent*

Scandinavian Heritage News

Winter 2016



▲ Blue Ice Cave near Vatnajökull National Park, Iceland

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President's Message

The beautiful Christmas lights will be on display by the time this newsletter gets out and they will be on through January 6, 2017, which is Epiphany. Many thanks to John Sinn, Bob Whetter and Minot park employees for taking care of this. This project really adds to the beauty of the season and Minot.

The Hostfest bookstore was a success again. It is still "Elsa's" bookstore as Elsa remains popular and we have been told the story is going to be expanded. Thanks to those who worked so diligently on the bookstore—Eva Goodman, Doug & Dawn Freeman, Joan Varty, Sue Weston and Julianne Bonner and her crew of cashiers. The decorating once again was done by Daryce VanHoff and Richard Goodman.

We had an open house on November 19 in conjunction with Visit Minot and the Sons of Norway bazaar. It was well attended. Please be sure to stop at our Gift Shop and do some Christmas shopping. There are many items here and we are having a sale on some books, etc. We also have a good supply of Scandinavian (Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland) calendars for sale. There is a large variety of children's books as well as other books for sale. One of the latest crafts is that of coloring—we have several kits of different themes for



coloring—it isn't just for kids anymore.

More bricks have been added to the Heritage Path which leads to the Heritage House Museum. John Sinn & Bob Whetter did the installing of

the bricks. There is still a lot of room for more bricks. Ten more were just placed. It is a great way to memorialize someone or to just get your name and family names on one. The cost of the bricks is \$100 or \$225—stop or call the office about purchasing one.

The Annual Meeting of SHA is Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 10 am. All members are eligible to attend.

Another date for your calendar is April 22, 2017—the SHA Annual Banquet at the Sleep Inn.

Jarrod Olson has been added to our board—welcome Jarrod. He is on the Minot Park Board.

A special thank you to the office volunteers—Marilyn Wagner, Lois Matson, Joan Varty, Eva Goodman and Marilyn Fiedler are the regulars. Helene Anderson also assists when needed.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season

— **Gail Peterson, SHA President**

Scandinavian Heritage News

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Lois Matson, Chair; Al Larson

Please submit articles to scandha@srt.com

Scandinavian Heritage Association

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2016 OFFICERS

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Winter 2016 Calendar

- **December 4 — Swedish Society attend the Mouse River Players**
- **December 10 — 12 to 5 pm Finnish Society (Pikkujoulu) Little Christmas**
- **December 12 — 11:30 am, Danish Society (Homesteaders Restaurant)**
- **December 19 — SON Julefest (SON Thor Lodge Room)**
- **January 28 — 10 am SHA Annual Meeting, Visitor's Center, Lower Level**
- **April 22, 2017 — SHA Annual Banquet – 6 pm – Sleep Inn**



Catch us on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/ScandHeritPark/>



Photo by Amanda Punt

Join the Scandinavian Heritage Association today!



Join us in preserving the values and traditions of our proud heritage. Established 1988, the park is the only one in the world representing all five Scandinavian countries and hosts

thousands of visitors each year from around the world.

As a member of the Scandinavian Heritage Association, you help support:

- Interpretive Tours of the Park
- The Heritage House Museum
- Local School Field Trips
- "Midsommer Natt" Celebration
- The on-going preservation and promotion of the Scandinavian traditions, positive

values and ethics

- And much more!

Memberships start at \$35 and includes many benefits. Please call (701) 852-9161 or stop by our office to become a member!

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

SUSTAINING

\$35.00 per year will receive the SHA Membership Package, which includes:

- Membership Card good for 10% off Scandinavian Gift Shop items
- Membership Pin (initial membership)
- The Scandinavian Heritage News, official newsletter of Scandinavian Heritage Association

- Invitation to Annual Banquet and other SHA events

SPONSOR

\$100.00-\$499.00 per year will receive the SHA Membership Package, plus:

- Recognition in the Newsletter (1 issue)
- One Complimentary Ticket to the Annual Banquet

BENEFACTOR

\$500 and above per year will receive the SHA Membership Package, plus:

- Recognition in the Newsletter (1 issue)
- Two Complimentary Tickets to the Annual Banquet

SHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

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Minot, ND 58701
Phone: 701-852-1027
rhougehfh@srt.com

PLANNED GIVING BRIEF

ENDOWING OUR FUTURE

It's easier than you might think.

WHY GIVE TO OUR ENDOWMENT?

The purpose of an endowment fund is to financially sustain the mission and work of a charitable organization. The principal of an endowment is kept intact and only the annual earnings, typically income and a portion of the capital growth, are used to fund current needs. Our organization has established its endowment so that we can continue to carry on our important work in the years to come. You can make a significant contribution to further our mission...and it's easier than you might think. Here are a number of charitable gift and estate planning strategies that can benefit you and build our endowment.

CHARITABLE LIFE ESTATES

Do you own a home, vacation property or farm? A gift of your property is one way you can help build our endowment. With a charitable life estate, you can make your gift to us today and continue to use and enjoy the property during your lifetime. This gift is as simple as deeding your property to us with a provision in the deed that permits your continued use. You are entitled to a charitable income tax deduction, and the property is removed from your estate. In the future, our organization can sell or make use of the property for our mission.

BEQUESTS

A **bequest** is one of the easiest gifts you can make to sustain our endowment. To most people, the most familiar type of bequests are gifts made through a provision in a will or trust. You can make a bequest of a dollar amount, a specific asset, or a percentage of or the residue from your estate. Our supporters like the fact that bequests are gifts that are made through an estate plan and are revocable, meaning you still have the opportunity to change your mind.

CHARITABLE LIFE INCOME PLANS

Charitable life income plans such as the charitable gift annuity and charitable remainder trust enable you to make a future gift to endow our work while protecting or enhancing your current financial security. In exchange for your charitable gift, you reap multiple benefits:

- Receive lifetime payments (for you and your spouse).
- Generate a current income tax deduction.
- Bypass all or a portion of the capital gains on appreciated assets.
- Make a future gift upon your passing to endow our work.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

In addition to "traditional" bequests made through your will or trust, you can use **beneficiary designations** to endow our work. It is typically easier to make a gift by completing a beneficiary designation form provided by your account administrator than it is to visit your attorney and update your will. The benefits of making a gift to our endowment through a beneficiary designation are numerous:

AVOID PROBATE—The assets you give away will not go through the costly and time-consuming probate process.

TAX SAVINGS—If you have a taxable estate, your estate will receive a charitable deduction, saving estate taxes, and will avoid income taxes on certain assets such as retirement plans and annuities.

REVOCABLE—Beneficiary designations are revocable and can be modified at any time during your lifetime.

EASY TO DO—Simply fill out a brief form provided by your account administrator.

NOTICE

The Scandinavian Heritage Office will be CLOSED from December 19, 2016, through January 2, 2017.

Marion Anderson phone is (701) 721-8677 if need to make contact during that time.

HHF & SHA Qualified Endowments

The Høstfest-Heritage Foundation has established the following endowments in support of the Scandinavian Heritage Association.

Scandinavian Heritage Association Endowment Fund – The fund establishes a permanent financial base to provide income and revenue to annually support the programs, projects and activities of the Scandinavian Heritage Association.

John and Olive Sinn Endowment for Park Maintenance and Buildings - The fund establishes a permanent

financial base to provide income and revenue to support general Scandinavian Park maintenance and grounds keeping. It is named in Honor of John and Olive Sinn whose dedication and work in building and maintaining the Park will serve generations of visitors.

Please contact Ritch Houge, 701-852-1027 or by email rhougehfh@srt.com to learn more and find out how you can bring the Scandinavian Heritage Park alive for generations to come!

Wild Dalas

Submitted by Mavis Larson

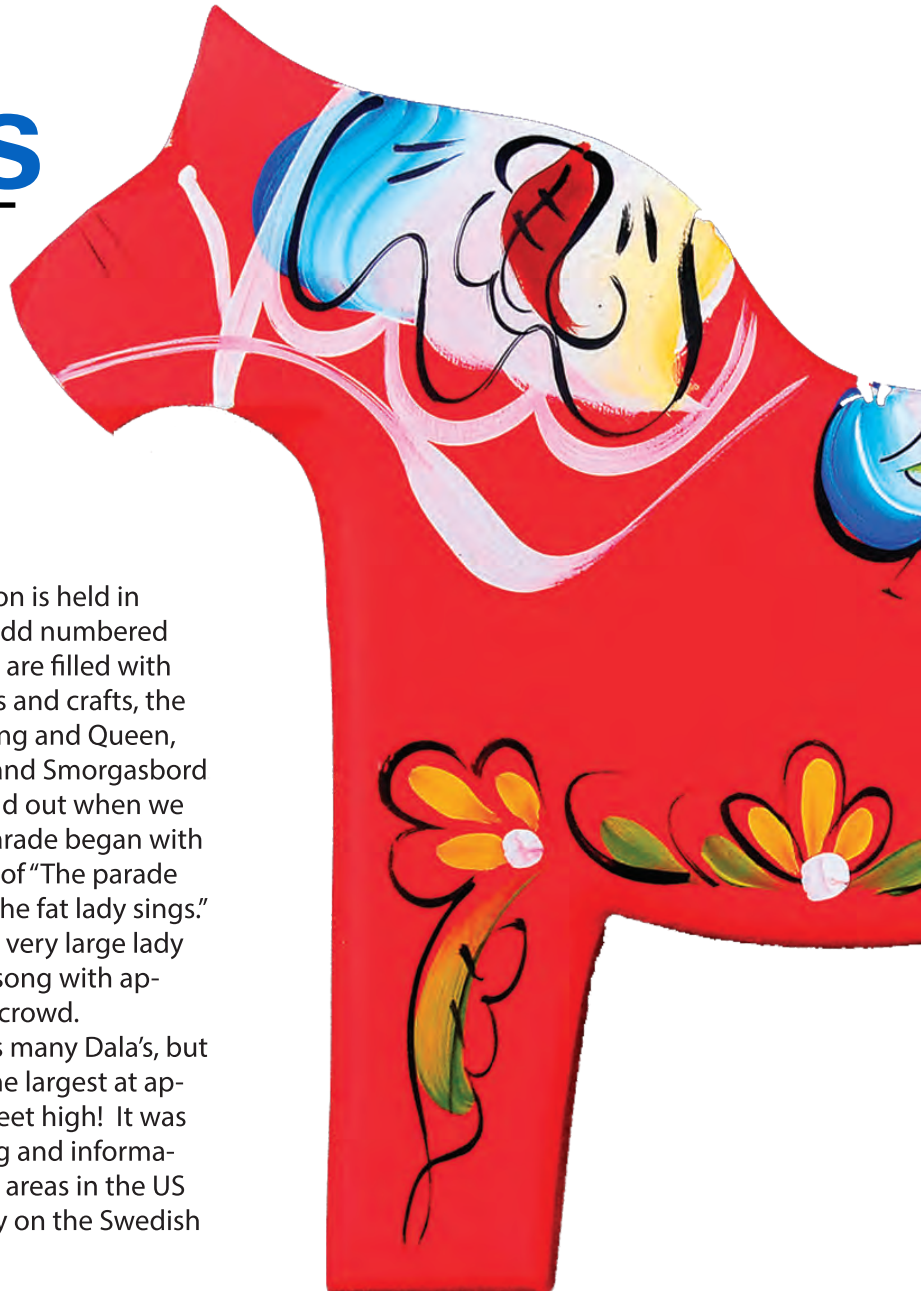
On a trip through Kansas several years ago we came upon a “herd” of Wild Dala Horses in Lindsburg, a small city of about 3,500. It is located in central Kansas in the Smoky Valley, along the Prairie Trail Scenic Road. It is known as Little Sweden, USA. Lindsburg was founded by Swedish immigrants in 1868. Their Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in 1869 and Bethany College was founded in 1881.

As we drove through the town we saw Dala horses on street corners, on lawns and on the side of police cruisers. The horses were painted with many colors, by the local people. They range in size from 1” to many feet and are known as Sweden’s best known icon. They are tail free and were originally carved by hand from wood, for toys. Since 2006, when a new one is “born” in the factory they are made of fiberglass and a public unveiling party is held with singing and entertainment

by crowds of people. The celebration tells the history of Swedish-American arts, work life, music, sense of humor and family values.

This celebration is held in October, every odd numbered year. The streets are filled with food booths, arts and crafts, the crowning of a King and Queen, dancing, music and Smorgasbord which was all sold out when we were there. A parade began with the announcing of “The parade won’t end until the fat lady sings.” When it ended a very large lady sang a Swedish song with applause from the crowd.

Lindsburg has many Dala’s, but Minot, ND has the largest at approximately 30 feet high! It was a very interesting and informational day, many areas in the US continue to carry on the Swedish tradition.



Wedding gifts that no longer exist

The ancient Norwegian tradition survived until the mid-1800s before it became illegal.

Herleik Baklid has investigated sagas, kings' letters, wills, court records, legal documents and old laws to find traces of a certain Norwegian wedding tradition, namely bridal gifts. Baklid has found evidence that this practice dates back to the 1100s. Folk traditions survived the church's marriage traditions and were kept alive until the mid-1800s, when a new Norwegian law abolished the rights the bride had to these gifts.

Widow's Insurance

When we think of wedding gifts today, we tend to think of kitchenware, silverware and gorgeous designer items that the happy couple receives from friends and family on the big day. But in the Middle Ages the gifts had an entirely different purpose. To understand the idea behind these gifts, it is important to understand why people got married in the past. Economic reasons stood behind the couple's union, for the most part. Throughout history, it turns out that the groom often gave one or more traditional gifts to the bride.

"The bride could take out these gifts if she became a widow. The basic principle behind these gifts was that she would be secure if her husband died," Baklid tells forskning.no. "This was a society without government aid. Therefore the groom and his future in-laws were



▲ In Norway, the traditional wedding outfit is called a Bunad - it can be worn for other formal occasions, including christening parties.

Photo by Getty Images

responsible for providing the bride with economic security," he continued. Throughout history there have been three different categories of gifts that the bride got from her husband-to-be. Probably only a few people have heard of festegaven (the engagement gift) and benkegaven (the bunk gift), while morgengaven (the morning gift) lives on. Baklid has found all three of these extending far back into Norwegian history.

Strengthening Agreement

Marriage during the Norwegian medieval period

silver jugs and jewelry, to land. The bride was entitled to cash in all of this should she become a widow.

Entertainment and humor

Before the actual ceremony, the groom had to promise gifts that would convince the bride to leave her parents. This was often negotiated between the various parties on the bride's and groom's behalf, how the bride would "be released from the bunk", i.e. stop sleeping in a bed at her parents. Hence the name of the second traditional gift: benkegave or bunk gift. A bunk gift can most likely be connected to bride purchasing, an even older tradition. Simply put: the gift says what the groom is willing to pay for his future wife. This gift could consist of anything from a horse and saddle to jewelry and property.

One last gift at dawn

The morning after her wedding night, the bride received a final gift from the groom. This is what we know today as morgengaven, the morning gift, which is the oldest of the three gift practices. "The morning gift can be traced through the Germans all the way back to the Roman Empire," says Baklid. This gift could consist of so many things. For example Knud Nielsen from Tinn in Telemark gave Helge Torgrimsdatter among other things a horse, a saddle, three animal pelts and 120 thalers as a bunk gift and morning gift. In higher classes, such as among the royals, the morning gift could be

Tradition: Cont. On Page 7

until the end of the 17- and 1800s was primarily an economic affair. The marriage was generally agreed upon between the bride and groom's family. When this agreement or betrothal was settled, the future married couple was referred to as betrothed, better known today as engaged. Immediately the flow of gifts started from the future groom. "The betrothal gift was given at the engagement. This was a gift that would strengthen the marriage arrangement," explains Baklid. The gift could be anything from silver spoons,

Danish paper cutting has interesting history

By Pamela Orth

Souris Valley Danish Society

The Danes call it “paper clip”. In German is it scherenschnitte. The president of the Danish Society mentioned she would be interested in an article on paper clip. It turns out “scissor cuts”, the art of paper cutting a design, was founded in Switzerland and Germany in the 16th century. Those of us of Danish heritage prefer to think Hans Christian Andersen as the one who was best at it.

In 1867, Hans Christian Andersen wrote in a letter to



a friend that “cutting is the fledgling beginning of poetry”. The activity of papercutting freed Andersen’s creative

mind in a way similarly described by writers who run, or by knitters who consider knitting a form of meditation.” During a horse-drawn carriage ride across the Danish island of Funen Hans Christian Andersen stabbed himself in the buttock with his own scissors. He was never without a pair of scissors and enthralled audiences of children and adults alike by cutting into folded paper as he told a story, unfolding the paper at the end of the telling to reveal an elaborate scene.

Peter Callesen who was born in Copenhagen and is a Danish artist, sculptor and author. He says “The paper sculptures explore the probable and magical transformation of the flat sheet of paper into figures that expand into the space surrounding them.”

In all fairness, the first known papercuts were made in China before spreading along the Silk Road to the rest of the world in the 1300s.

The first picture you see is by Rick Marzullo, an artist I met at the Høstfest a few years ago.

Tradition: Continued From Page 7

property.

Removed by law

But after the 1800s, the traditions began to eventually die out. There were several reasons for this. What may surprise most is that Baklid has not found evidence that the church opposed these traditions. “These were gifts that had a clear practical-economic function that didn’t actually come into conflict with church teachings about marriage,”

he explains. But the Norwegian laws that gave the widow legal claim to the gifts were removed in 1854. Part of the reason may have been because they could cause problems in litigation. Extended inheritance would instead compensate for the valuables she lost. Something else that might explain the tradition’s demise is the notion that you married one another out of love, and not for economic considerations. But before they disappeared completely, the gifts took a slightly different turn. “The bunk gift continued as a form of entertainment for a few decades, before going away. Betrothal gifts changed style, into more personal gifts, such as a hymnal or a watch,” says Baklid. Finally the face of marriage had changed so much that there was no longer room for

the old customs. “Marriage was seen as an economic matter until the end of the 1700s, but after that, the romantic ideal came into play,” said Baklid.

Traces in today’s society Old Norwegian traditions still have a tendency to creep into our modern society. It does not take much to see that we still partially practice our ancestors’ ancient customs. “The bunk gift disappeared, but the morning gift on the other hand, has sprouted up again. Although betrothal gifts disappeared around 1870, engagement rings came into practice,” says Baklid. “The symbolism is perhaps a little different now; the gifts are supposed to express love and aren’t supposed to provide financial security in the event of widowhood,” he added.

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- Given by Jerry & Cheryl Sinn
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How 'The Day The Music Died' launched Bobby Vee into music stardom



By John Lamb
Fargo Forum

The Day the Music Died—Feb. 3, 1959, when Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and The Big Bopper perished in a plane crash en route to a show at the Moorhead Armory—was a dark day for rock 'n' roll.

But on Feb. 4, a new light emerged.

Fifteen-year-old Fargoan Bobby Vee and his new band The Shadows stepped up to fill the bill at the Moorhead Armory show. With that, the singer/guitarist took his first step into rock history.

Vee died October 24, 2016, from complications related to Alzheimer's disease in the Rogers, Minn., memory care facility where he lived for the past year.

Robert Thomas Velline was born April 30, 1943, to Sydney and Saima Velline of Fargo. Raised in a musical household, young Bobby followed suit and started playing saxophone at Central High School.

"I wanted to rock out. We were playing all the standard band pieces, but I wanted to play 'Yakety Yak,'" Vee recalled on his website biography.

When his older brother,

guitarist Bill Velline, started playing with bassist Jim Stillman and drummer Bob Korum, Bobby begged to join, but they thought he was too young. He won them over with a velvety smooth voice. The group hadn't played together much and didn't have a name until just before taking the stage at the Moorhead Armory that fateful night.

"I remember being petrified when the curtains opened," Vee told The Forum 19 years later. "I was blinded by the spotlight and just numb all over."

The nerves didn't last. That

June he and The Shadows recorded "Suzie Baby" and the song was on the radio later that summer. Hits like "Devil or Angel" and "Rubber Ball" kept coming. In 1961 he would release his only No. 1 song, "Take Good Care of My Baby," written by Carole King and Gerry Coffin. The follow-up, "Run to Him," peaked at No. 2 and in 1962 he would reach No. 3 with "The Night Has a Thousand Eyes."

Vee's future was so bright that while he was still a student, Don Bredell, dean of boys at Central High School,

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Finns lose a great friend as Bobby Vee passes away

By Marion Anderson

Bobby Vee and the Vees performed the first night of the 1997 "Finns on the Prairie" FinnFest celebration here in Minot at the All Seasons Arena. Being he is of Finnish heritage he was asked and consented to perform here. He has relatives in the Rolla-Rock Lake area and spent much time there in his earlier

years. He also performed several times at the ND State Fair.

He would also come to Perth, ND on several occasions and perform. There is not much left of Perth, ND, but there is a hall there or else they performed outside on a flatbed trailer. We went to hear him each time he performed in Perth. In June 1999 he was awarded the Roughrider Award for the State of North Dakota. On Labor Day weekend of 1999

they performed a concert at Medora at the outdoor venue there. Joan Varty and I drove to Medora and we took in that concert.

He was inducted into the Scandinavian American Hall of Fame in 2014 but was unable to attend due to health reasons. Two of his three sons come to Høstfest each year and perform with the Nelsons.

Vee: Continued From Page 8

suggested that Vee drop out to take advantage of his opportunity.

Vee's clean-cut good looks made him a teen idol, but he only had eyes for his sweetheart Karen Bergen of Detroit Lakes, Minn. Their 1963 wedding was a front-page story in *The Forum*. The couple stayed together until she died in August 2015.

The couple had four children, Jeff, Tommy, Robby and Jennifer and in the early 1980s, moved from Los Angeles to St. Cloud.

"He was very humble," said Tommy Velline. "He was just a member of the community. He would go into Mills Fleet Farm and chat with people. He was just a regular guy. I don't think he had the ability to let his ego get out of control."

Vee certainly had things to brag about.

He released more than 25 albums, six of which went gold. He made it to the Top 100 38 times. He played concerts with legends such as Ray Charles, Dion and the Belmonts, Del Shannon, Gene Pitney and others.

In 1999 he received the Rough Rider Award, the highest honor given to North Dakotans.

"That's the nicest award that I've ever gotten, to be recognized in my home state," he said.

His music inspired the likes of Keith Richards and Paul McCartney, who covered Vee's tunes in the early years of The Beatles.

Vee's most legendary rock relationship was with Robert Zimmerman, now



known as Nobel Prize-winning singer/songwriter Bob Dylan. At the time, Zimmerman was passing himself off as a piano player and Vee brought him on the road for a short period. They parted ways, but remained friendly, reconnecting when Dylan played the Fargo Civic Center.

During a 2013 show in St. Paul, the normally mum Dylan praised Vee, calling him "the most meaningful person I'd ever been on the stage with," then played, "Suzie Baby."

In his memoir, "Chronicles: Volume One," Dylan said of his former boss, "I'd always thought of him as a brother."

"My dad was taken aback by all of that," Tommy Velline said Monday afternoon. "I don't think he realized the extent of influence that he had, but he always appreciated and loved the relationships."

His strongest relationships remained with his family. In late 2014, Vee's children started digitizing and archiving his music.

Vee retired from performing in 2012 when he announced he had Alzheimer's. Jeff Velline said that although his father quit making music, he would

react when listening to his old songs.

"He never lost that love for music," Jeff Velline said Monday. "Even when he couldn't play it anymore and couldn't sing, he would hum. The music was a powerful piece that remained, right on until the end."

BOBBY VEE'S ONLY #1 SONG

Take Good Care of My Baby

My tears are fallin' cause you've taken
her away

And through it really hurts me so
There's something that I gotta say

Take good care of my baby
Please don't ever make her blue

Just tell her that you love her
Make sure you're thinking of her

In everything you say and do
Take good care of my baby

Now don't you ever make her cry
Just let your love surround her

Don't let her see a cloudy sky
Once upon a time that little girl was
mine

If I'd been true I know she'd never be
with you, so

Take good care of my baby
Be just as kind as you can be

And if you should discover
That you don't really love her
Just send my baby back home to me

Take good care of my baby
Please don't ever make her blue

Just tell her that you love her
Make sure you're thinking of her
In everything...



A Special 'Thank You'

By John Sinn

Another busy year is about gone. I would like to take time to express a personal thank you to Bob Whetter for all his time and effort this past year.

Bob works for the Minot Park Service five days per week; however, he spends much more time in our Park than he is allocated by the Park Board. He donates that extra time to our Park in many ways. Bob arrives at 7 am (or earlier, some days) and finishes the day by returning to close the rest rooms around 9:30 pm. That is a long day!

He does it all

He opens and closes all the buildings, comes on weekends and does the same along with extra work requirements such as setting up parking barriers for weddings and reserved group meetings. Each day

Bob ensures the waterfall and the globe are both operating; he cleans the rest rooms, empties garbage containers, makes certain the picnic tables and areas are clean and ready; he mows with push mowers, sprays the dandelions and pea vines; and, he waters all flower beds, trees and the lawn.

He ensures that all electrical systems are on and ready for use, including changing out light bulbs. He paints the parking stripes. He trims and cleans around our bushes and trees; he removes weeds from the curbs, gutters and sidewalks. Besides doing this work list, he helps us a lot on all Park projects.

A good ambassador

Bob is a good ambassador in the Park, helping visitors feel welcome – providing directions and answering questions. Besides all this he runs errands for our office personnel and

others – even 'taxi' people to the depot and airport. And, if you can spare a minute, he will happily tell you a tale or two about his granddaughter!

And a good friend

A good friend to all volunteers is this character! He keeps tabs on coming birthdays and often bakes a cake for their event. What can we say? Wow! What a Guy!

Bob has been with us since 2005. I suggest everyone give him a big pat on the back! Tell him "Well Done!" and that his effort is truly appreciated. We certainly enjoy his humor at our coffee breaks. We would find it hard to do should the day come when he decides to quit. So, Bob, thank you for all you do — your work is deeply appreciated!

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For more information,
contact Ritch Houge,
Høstfest-Heritage Foundation
at (701) 852-1027

Calling all Scandinavian Recipes!

Norsk Høstfest is looking to create a special cookbook in honor of the 40th Anniversary and needs your help! Please consider submitting your family recipe for publication in this special book. We would need the full recipe, any background on the recipe (how far back in family history, region of Scandinavia, etc) and if possible, a photo of the finished dish. Recipes can be mailed to: Leann Mellum/Norsk Høstfest/ PO Box 1347 / Minot ND 58702, emailed to leannmellum@hostfest.com, or visit www.hostfest.com/cookbook

NORSK HØSTFEST

40 Years of Pure Scandimonium!

September 27-30, 2017

COME CELEBRATE WITH US NEXT YEAR!

— HOSTFEST.COM —

Dakota Finnish Society News: Pikkujoulu approaches!

Our food booth at the Høstfest this fall did very well. It is always a fun time even if it is a lot of work. Thanks to all who volunteered in the booth and helped make it a successful event for us once again.

We will be having our Pikkujoulu (Little Christmas) celebration on Saturday December 10, 2016, from noon to 5 pm

in the lower level of the Visitors Center of Scandinavian Heritage Park. There will be a catered dinner beginning at 12:30. There will be entertainment, socializing and distribution of donations to several charities. Bruce Carlson will have the sauna hot and ready for a relaxing hot time. Bring your swimsuit and a towel and be prepared for the sauna treat of a sweating good time. All

Finns and friends are welcome to the afternoon activities.

Finnish Independence Day is on December 6—this year is the 99th year. Many have asked why we don't put up the Finnish flags in the park that day—well the weather is not conducive like it is in the summer time. Next year would be a great time to travel to Finland as it will be the year of their 100th.

Finnish Cookbook Author Inducted Into Scandinavian-American Hall of Fame

It was such a treat to have Beatrice Ojakangas and her husband, Richard, at this year's Norsk Høstfest. Beatrice was inducted into the Scandinavian Heritage Hall of Fame. She is a master cook and book writer and she and her husband are both 100 percent Finnish. Beatrice and her husband come from northern Minnesota home territory claimed by our own Marion Anderson.

Before Beatrice "Peaches" Ojakangas concocted one, there was no cookbook in the United States devoted to Finnish cuisine. Today The Finnish Cookbook, the author's first published work, is in its 38th printing and is recognized in both the US and Finland as the definitive source on Finnish cooking.

In the 52 years since that first release, Ojakangas has added 28 books to her bibliography, on food topics both Scandinavian and otherwise. Fold in writing for such titles as Bon Appetit, Gourmet, and Cooking Light; television work including her own series and guest appearances; consulting; and teaching cooking classes across the country, and



Ojakangas could rightly be described as the Julia Child of Scandinavian cuisine.

Ojakangas' love of cooking began during her childhood on a Minnesota farm in a region rich with Finnish culture. She earned a degree in Home Economics at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, but it was time later spent

in Finland that proved to be the catalyst for her career. While living in Helsinki with her Fulbright-scholar husband, the young wife and mother traveled around the country sharing American ways of cooking with her temporary countrymen. But the teacher was also the student; Ojakangas soaked up Finnish techniques and tastes as she toured. Eventually those observations made their way to the pages of her first manuscript, and an author was born.

Since those early years Ojakangas' career has not only flourished, but been rewarded. In 2005, The Great Scandinavian Baking Book earned the prestigious James Beard Foundation's Cookbook Hall of Fame Award — the culinary equivalent of an Oscar.

And why the nickname, "Peaches"? The explanation is as warm as a fresh-baked cinnamon bun: her Finnish-born grandfather struggled to pronounce the name Beatrice in English, saying "peat-sis" instead. His pronunciation quickly became Peaches. (Peach for short.)

She and her husband, Dick, live in Duluth, Minnesota.

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Weird Danish Christmas traditions

Your crash course to odd Danish behavior during the festive season

By Ida Blinkenberg Lidell

University Post

Decades and centuries of repetition have turned Danish Christmas and New Year into pure logic – to the Danes.

But don't be a stranger! This crash course in the oddest Christmas traditions might open the doors to understanding a real hyggelig ('cosy', ed.) Danish Christmas.

A Danish Christmas is comprised of blinking lights, heavy presents, excessive drinking, plenty of challenges for vegetarians and some cultural paradoxes.

Advent Calendar

December 1-24, it's not hard to get children out of their beds in the morning.

Each day, most of them receive a small present, neatly wrapped and placed in a Christmas stocking or hung on the wall. These 'prezies' are usually useless, unless parents spend a fair amount of time and money finding the IT gadgets and other miniature niceties that are in vogue at their children's school.

Supported by the constant intake of sugary products, this excitement peaks when children dive into the pile of presents on Christmas Eve.

Because the calendar follows days in December, instead of the Christian Advent, Danes call them 'Christmas Calendars'.

The Christmas 'Lunch'

Feared and hyped; as the social event, the Christmas Lunch is definitely a runner-up to Christmas Eve. This traditional lunch can be held for larger parts of the family (usually on Christmas Day and 'Second Christmas Day', aka. December 25 and 26). Most notably, workplaces always host an annual Christmas Lunch (meaning; party), and here's the recipe: Main ingredients are

meat and snaps (Danish for akvavit, ed.). The latter is a foul tasting transparent Danish liquor made of potatoes and seasoned with dill or caraway.

'Little' Christmas Eve

The not-so-flashy forerunner of Christmas Eve, 23 December night, is an evening of eating rice pudding and drinking sweet, non-alcoholic beer (to be ready for wine on Christmas Eve, of course). The leftovers from the rice pudding will be used the following day for preparing ris á l'amande, which is rice pudding with whipped cream, cherry sauce and cut almonds. However, there is a single almond completely uncut. The person who discovers this almond, wins (wait for it)... a present! This means that most Christmas dinners end with a very slow and concentrated devouring of the ris á l'amande. And it goes on to the bitter end when the almond is found, even though everyone is stuffed from the recently eaten piles of meat.

Little Christmas Eve is also the time for charity as many households bring a portion of rice pudding to the roof and leave it there so the Christmas elves (Danish 'nisser', mythical small human-like creature) don't go hungry. And sure thing; the next day the bowl is empty. Thus, children get hard evidence of the existence of Christmas elves.

Fun fact: Ris á l'amande is a French name even though the invention is Danish, and the dessert is only eaten in Denmark.

Slow motion around the Christmas tree

Family members standing in a circle around a coniferous tree on a wooden platform, clasping each other's hands awkwardly as they shuffle back and forwards in circles. At the same time trying not to get burned by the small candles on the tree while still getting enough light to be able to read the text of some hymn – and singing or muttering the

hymn. The intimacy and Christian touch of this tradition render some people uncomfortable, but it's probably the most christmasy part of Christmas and hence hard to drop.

Slowly, slowly, present, unwrap

This compulsory séance paves the way for another tradition in slow motion: The ritual of unwrapping presents. Unlike other countries, presents are not unwrapped in a chaotic frenzy.

No. One package at a time is carefully chosen from underneath the Christmas tree, and the rightful receiver opens the present, while everyone stares in happy/tense anticipation. This is when it turns into a theatrical exercise as the person blessed with a certain gift is expected to show sincere gratitude. A difficult task if the present is, say, a pair of woolen socks, a sex toy from a 'funny' friend or a shirt that cannot be returned, because it is bought in Cuba.

Within seconds, the receiver must manage to express how this was the missing item of his/her life. And remember: Everyone is staring. This is repeated by the number of presents under the Christmas trees, so obviously, celebrating in a large family equals a long gift séance. Theatrical exercises aside, Danes are very fussy about returning gifts. Don't ever give a present that cannot be swooped to another item in shop where you bought it! Actually, the real shopping craze happens between December 27 and 30 where Danes get rid of their sex toys, shirts and woolen socks.

Fun fact: In some families, Christmas Eve ends with a competition, which – contrary to ris á l'amande – does not include food or a present. The challenge is choosing the candle on the Christmas tree which will burn out as the last one. By then, some family members may be asleep, and the winner merely receives some miserable 'honor'.

Thor Lodge Sons of Norway News

By Julianne Bonner

President Thor Lodge 4-067, Sons of Norway

Holiday Greetings to everyone, We've had a very nice fall, but as I'm writing this the winter weather is predicted to come our way soon. I do remember living in the cities and our 1st snow was on December 4th my oldest daughter's birthday. That too was a really great fall. I think we could take that every year. Thanksgiving will be here next week and Christmas not long after. Here's hoping everyone is planning time with family and friends near and far.

Sons of Norway has their usual plans for the Holidays. This Saturday is our bazaar, Christmas on the Prairie is in December and also our Yulefest which will be at our lodge home this year. I hope you were able to take in many of these events. If not hoping you can join us next year.

In January at our social we will be installing our new officers. Robert (Bob)

Bruhaug is our president elect. Many other people kept the position they already have. The complete list was be in the Thor Hammer in January. My term of office will then be over. I want to thank everyone for all your help these past two years, but it's time to turn the reins over to someone else. Many thanks to all the people who stepped up when they were asked to take a position as almost all of them are filled. Our nominating committee of Elaine Solheim and Lowell Latimer really did a great job!

Have a great Christmas Season and Happy 2017!

To join Thor Lodge, visit the lodge for a membership application or go online to www.sofn.com and click "Join". All ages welcome!



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4 Things Happening in Minot that you didn't know about

Minot is a unique and magical city where the community bond runs deep and the passion for giving back and getting involved is apparent. Behind the big events that Minot is known for, is a community that loves to give back. From service clubs to non-profits, there is a lot happening in this community. Here are four things happening in Minot that you probably didn't know about:



On the Water is a locally operated non-profit which works with wounded warriors in our community. The program is designed to re-pay those veterans for their service and provide support because not all wounds can be seen. The men and women who participate in the program are taken 'On the Water' to fish the surrounding waters around Minot. The founder, Chuck Betts, believes that a trip to the waters of North Dakota, catching fish, or just being a friend is the perfect way to express support and appreciation for those who have sacrificed for us for many years.



Prairie Sky Breads were a hit this summer at the Minot Farmers Market. The locally made bread was fresh and delicious, and just what the market needed. By the end of the summer, the line for fresh baked bread grew long, and sellouts were a regular occurrence. The owner, Travis Gerjets and his family started marking a variety of crusty or slicing loaf bread, and occasionally pizza dough or cinnamon twists. With the farmers market over for the season, you can still get Prairie Sky Breads fresh baked loafs in your home.

How you ask? They do a Holiday Bread delivery where your payment gets you fresh baked bread delivered right to your home. Sounds great, right? The Holiday Bread orders are limited, so contact prairieskybreads@gmail.com for more information or to subscribe.

The idea for the Donation Station, a mobile trailer for giving back, came from a volunteer group under The Minot Area Community Foundation. The Donation Station promotes giving back in a non-traditional way. The primary function of the Donation Station is to collect donated items – food, clothing, toys, etc. – and then deliver those items to where they will benefit people or organizations in need. The trailer is to be used by non-profits or groups holding an event that will benefit a non-profit or group of needy people within 30 miles of Minot. If you are hosting any type of community event in which you will be collecting items that are to benefit a needy population, then this trailer should be at your event! Please call the Minot Area Community Foundation for more information: 701.852.0646.



Minot Street Art Movement fills downtown with color. The goal and purpose of the Minot Street Art Movement is to promote walkability, urban vitality, and access to public art in the Minot downtown area. They have already completed a number of projects downtown and painted pieces at the Souris Valley Animal Shelter.



Scandinavian Heritage Association

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