

**TAKE
ONE!**

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

Scandinavian Heritage News

September 2014



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President's MESSAGE

Rain didn't dampen success of SHA's Midsummer Night

by Gail Peterson, president
Scandinavian Heritage Association

Summer is coming to an end and once again it has been a busy one. We had our annual Midsummer Night celebration on June 20 (see pages 4-5 for pix), and once again we had a rain interruption, but it cleared and the event went smoothly after that.

Thank you to Dan Hansen for lining up all of the entertainment for us once again. Music was provided throughout the evening by the City Band under the direction of Jerry Spitzer. The band was an integral part of the flag ceremony at 7 p.m.

Other performers included Adrian Brown, Denby Forest and Johnny Cole Murdock. In addition, there were demonstrations such as rosemaling, knitting, etc. The sauna was steaming, and in use during the evening.

A special thanks to Bruce Carlson for being in charge of the sauna and the bonfire—each year the bonfire is one of the highlights of the evening.

Sponsors for our food included Verendrye Electric, MDU, Xcel Energy, MidContinent and SRT. Thank you again to them also.

SHA Park scene of numerous events

Other events were "Get Out and

Play," and a movie sponsored by Visit Minot. Visit Minot will also sponsor an event at the park for the North Dakota League of Cities convention on Sept. 26. The Cal Ripken player tournament picnic was held at the SHA Park on July 31—about 300 were served at that event.

"Rock the Leaves" had its annual event the weekend of Aug. 16 and 17. There was a good crowd despite the rainy weather on Aug. 16.

We have several guided tours scheduled during Høstfest week.

It takes the cooperation and dedication of many volunteers to keep the park staffed and the buildings available throughout the season. Thank you to all of them.

Still looking for volunteers

We are always in need of more volunteers to have everything covered. The last day the park buildings will be open this season is Oct. 5.

Please support our advertisers—they help cover the cost of this publication. The park is dependent on donations and memberships as well as our advertisers.

Happy fall, happy Høstfest! We hope the coming winter will be better than last year. •



Gail Peterson

Scandinavian Heritage News

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CALENDAR • Fall 2014

- Sept. 30 - Oct. 4—Norsk Høstfest, State Fairgrounds, Minot
Stars include Doc Severinsen (with the Minot Symphony Orchestra), Daniel O'Donnell, Josh Turner, Daniel Bradbery, Gaither Vocal Band, Herman's Hermits, Bill Engvall, Merle Haggard, Jennifer Nettles, BJ Thomas
Plus free stages with Diamond Rio, Bjørø Haaland, Mollie B & much more!

Next newsletter deadline: Copy and pictures Nov. 15; printing, Dec. 1, 2014

Spotlight on Nordic costumes, heirlooms at Norsk Høstfest

Norwegian bunads, Nordic folk costumes and beautiful hand-knit sweaters take the spotlight at Norsk Høstfest via three fashion shows that combine visual presentation with oral story-telling skills.

STYLE SHOWS FEATURE NORDIC COSTUMES, HAND-KNIT SWEATERS

The hour-long style shows begin at 11 a.m. Oct. 2-4 on Høstfest's Skien Mezzanine. All three style shows will feature models ranging in age from infants to octogenarians wearing the finest in Nordic clothing. While bunads are strictly representative of Norway, the style show also features folk costumes indigenous to Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden.

This is a time to learn about Norwegian bunads, Nordic folk costumes and Nordic hand-knit sweaters and their history, as well as interesting trivia about the person, the bunad and the hand-knit sweater. Some of the bunads, folk costumes and hand-knit sweaters have been passed down through generations and are very valuable in dollars and sentiment.

NORDIC ANTIQUES ON DISPLAY

For the third year, a special program will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 11 a.m. on the Skien Mezzanine, featuring unique Nordic items such as antique family pieces or family heirlooms.

Owners or family members will share the heirloom's history with the audience in a Nordic "Show and Tell" session.

If you have a Nordic garment or special item you would like to have included in one of the programs, contact the Høstfest office at (701) 852-2368. •



Above: Jessica Rakness and baby Easton of Burlington model sweaters belonging to Jessica's aunt, Jill Aarseth of Minot. Right: Kari Files, Minot, wears a Hardanger bunad belonging to her mother.



SCHEDULE

All four hour-long programs begin at 11 a.m. on Skien Mezzanine, Oct. 1-4, as follows:

- Wednesday, Oct. 1: Scandinavian Unique Antiques over 100 years old
- Thursday, Oct. 2: Nordic hand-knit sweater program
- Friday & Saturday, Oct. 3 & 4: Norwegian Bunad & Scandinavian Folk Costume Style Show

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PICTURE THIS! Midsummer in SHA Park

Here's what you missed if you weren't at SHA Park on June 20!



Lots of folks enjoyed a meal served under the Nordic Pavilion.

Grand finale of the evening: the traditional Midsummer Night bonfire, lit by Bruce Carlson.



Events included demos, flag display.



Three guys in a sauna...



“Come on in, the steam’s fine...” Bruce Carlson (black trunks), Velva, got the SHA Park’s sauna ready for anyone wishing to try it out. Assisting him was his dad, Howard, from Rock Lake. The “newbie” partaking in his first sauna (solid blue trunks) is Col. Jeff Neischel, vice commander of the 5th Bomb Wing at Minot Air Force Base. He came through the initiation in good shape.

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for providing park tours all season, including during Norsk Høstfest. Thanks for welcoming visitors, showing them around the park and making them feel at home!

GREAT HALL ACTS



Daniel O'Donnell



Gaither Vocal Band



Bill Engvall



Merle Haggard



BJ Thomas



Josh Turner w/special guest Danielle Bradbery



Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits



Jennifer Nettles



Norsk Høstfest: Top Nordic celebration

Norsk Høstfest is pleased to announce its main stage entertainment lineup for the 2014 edition of North America's largest Scandinavian festival, which runs Sept. 30 - Oct. 4.

The 37th annual Norsk Høstfest kicks off Tuesday evening, Sept. 30, with a 7 p.m. opening ceremony followed by the Høstfest Eve Concert, this year featuring Doc Severinsen with the Minot Symphony Orchestra.

Scheduled to appear in The Great Hall of the Vikings over the next four days and nights are Daniel O'Donnell, the Gaither Vocal Band, comedian Bill Engvall, country legend Merle Haggard, Josh Turner with special guest Danielle

Bradbery, singer BJ Thomas, '60s pop band Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone, and country music artist Jennifer Nettles.

David Reiten, Norsk Høstfest president, says: "We like to think we're offering something for everyone this



Doc Severinsen, former leader of the Johnny Carson Show band, will perform with the Minot Symphony the evening of Sept. 30.

year, from returning favorites to names new to the Great Hall stage—like the legendary Doc Severinsen, whose performance is made even more special with the involvement of Minot's own symphony."

In addition to the Great Hall entertainment, Norsk Høstfest offers free stage acts several times each day during the festival. Patrons will see a return of many of their favorites such as

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Bjørø Haaland and Williams & Ree. Diamond Rio performs for the first time at Høstfest. New talent includes the Nordic Tenors, Swedish magicians Brynolf & Ljung, and Finnish musicians Arto and Antti Järvelä. Former Secret Service agent Clint Hill and author Lisa McCubbin are back with a presentation and their most recent book, "Five Days in November."

Besides great entertainment, Norsk

Høstfest will spotlight Scandinavian culture, artisan crafts, Nordic shopping, nightly dances, and of course, great authentic Scandinavian cuisine.

Tickets include VIP seats priced at \$82 and regular seats at \$62. Høstfest Eve Concert tickets are \$36, as are general admission tickets. Fans may order tickets online at hostfest.com, by calling (701) 852-2368, or in person at 1020 S. Broadway, Minot ND 58701.



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The Scandinavian Heritage • 35



Where is Vinland?

by Pastor Arland Fiske

For many years, people were skeptical about the Leif Erikson story of discovering America. In recent years, new evidence has come to light which leaves little doubt that Norsemen not only arrived in America, but had settlements in what they called “Vinland the Good.”

People, however, are still curious about Vinland’s location. Do we have any idea where the Norse explorers touched the North American continent? Frederick J. Pohl has written an intriguing book entitled “The Viking

Settlements of North America.” The title may be misleading, since these Norsemen were “Christian colonists” rather than “pirates,” as the name “Viking” suggests. But it is an exciting commentary on the saga of Erik the Red written by Icelandic scholars in the Middle Ages. Pohl claims that this saga is highly reliable. It has 60 hand-drawn maps to show Norse locations.

Most of the proposed sites for the Norse settlements in North America suggest the Maritime Provinces of Canada. Pohl, however, claims that they followed 3,000 miles of coastline

down to Florida.

The first known Norseman to see the New World was Bjarni Herjulfsson, who discovered it by accident when sailing from Iceland to Greenland. Leif the Lucky, son of Erik the Red, picked up on his story and spent a winter somewhere in the new land. He made three landings with a crew of 35.

Departing from Brattahlid in the Eastern Settlement of Greenland (actually the southwest tip of the island), Leif sailed past “Helluland” (“Flat Rock Land”) and “Markland” (“Forestland”) until coming to “Vinland,” which Pohl identifies with Cape Cod. There he built a campsite near a plentiful source of good drinking water, timber and defensive positions, in case there should be hostile natives. It was called “Leif’s Shelters” and was 18 feet wide and 52 feet long, large enough to house 36 men. It had sod walls, like houses in Greenland. Nearby was a shelter for his ship.

The name of Leif’s place has come to be called Vinland because there were many grapes there. One of his sailors was from Germany and knew how to make wine. No doubt this made the winter seem shorter.

The next summer, Leif returned to Greenland. He never made a second trip to the New World, since his father died (possibly from pneumonia) and the leadership of Greenland fell to him.

The task of further exploration was picked up by Leif’s brother Thorvald. He took a crew of 30 men and found “Leif’s Shelters.” Their first job was to gather up food and fuel for the winter.

In the spring of 1007, they began the coastal exploration, which required two seasons. Leaving the majority of his men behind to plant crops and cut timber, Thorvald started to explore the new land. An accident broke the keel of the boat, and they were stranded until they could cut a new one from the forest.

Then came a historic meeting. The Norsemen encountered Native Americans, whom they called “Skraelings,” meaning “Shriekers” or “War Whoopers.” It was the first time that Europeans coming from the east met Asians coming from the west. It was also a tragedy. Finding nine natives asleep under their boats, they captured eight. Prisoners, however, can be in-



Leif Erikson's Vinland voyage





L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS, NEWFOUNDLAND

convenient, so they killed them. But one escaped and returned with a war party. Thorvald did not seem to have thought about retaliation and took a nap. Getting to their ships in the nick of time, they ably defended themselves—except for Thorvald, who died from an arrow wound. He was the first European to be buried in America, with a cross planted at both his head and his feet.

A year later, the Norsemen returned to Greenland. It had been Leif's intention to establish a Christian colony in Vinland. The family's immediate concern was to bring back Thorvald's body so it could be buried in consecrated ground, since it was impractical for a priest to travel to Cape Cod. This task fell to the other brother, Thorstein. His journey was also tragic. Becoming lost at sea, he became ill and died the following year in Greenland.

This did not end the Norse journeys to the New World, though only a few of these explorations have been recorded. In addition to the sagas, letters sent to the Vatican confirm this evidence. Bishop Gnuvsson of Greenland visited Vinland in 1117. Otto of Bremen, a well-known historian, wrote in 1076 about "Wineland," based on information he had received from the Danes.

In addition to Pohl, Gwyn Jones, a noted Celtic scholar from the University of Cardiff in Wales, has written "The Norse Atlantic Saga." He contends for a smaller area of Norse exploration. James Robert Enterline's "Viking America: The Norse Crossings and Their Legacy" has an epilogue by Thor Heyerdahl which attests to extensive knowledge of the New World in 11th- and 12th-century Europe. Heyerdahl also researched the information in the Vatican Library.

The most publicized place for Norsemen in America is L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland, which the Canadian government has set aside as a national historical site. It was likely occupied for just a short time, but archaeological evidence points to a Norse settlement. It probably should not be identified with Leif Erikson's "Vinland," the location of which may never be known. That there was such a place, however, should not be doubted. Back in Europe, all of the New World was called "Vinland."

(See article on page 12 for more information on Leif Erikson and L'Anse aux Meadows.)



Author Arland Fiske

Editor's note: This column is the 35th in a series by former Minot pastor, Arland Fiske (now living in Texas), retired from Evangelical Lutheran Church ministry. Fiske has written nine books on Scandinavian heritage. The chapter reprinted here is from "The Scandinavian World."

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PHOTO BY MARY PAT FINN-HOAG

Your gift to SHA keeps Nordic heritage alive, well

When a friend or loved one has just passed away, it's often a struggle to come up with a fitting tribute to that person's memory.

Making a gift donation in that person's honor to the Scandinavian Heritage Association is one way to acknowledge how much the deceased meant to you. It's also a way to keep the heritage of our immigrant ancestors alive and well through our beautiful park in Minot's heart.

There are many ways to give a memorial to Scandinavian Heritage Park in a loved one's memory. For example, you can choose to support a specific project, such as our Heritage House museum. Or, you can choose an ethnic group's project within the park (such as the Danish windmill, Swedish Dala horse, Gol Stave Church, etc.). Or, consider a memorial brick in the path leading to the Heritage House. You can also give a donation directly to the

association to be used where needed.

Contributions of \$1,000 or more are acknowledged with a plaque on the Scandinavian Heritage Association Wall of Honor. Lesser amounts of \$25 or more are recognized in the Golden Book of Memory in the SHA headquarters building.

It's a good idea, too, for each of us to sit down with our families to discuss where we would like our own memorials to go someday. We should write down our wishes so that other family members have the information and can follow through with our wishes. Remember, too, that placing a notice in an obituary indicating where memorials are to be sent helps others who wish to honor the deceased.

And finally, the ultimate gift is to become a benefactor of SHA through your estate. It's a way for you to leave a lasting legacy to your Scandinavian heritage as well as a memorial to you

or a family member.

We hope you will consider the Scandinavian Heritage Association when you discuss memorial donations or estate gifting. For information, contact the SHA office at (701) 852-9161.

Legacy Tax Credit benefits giver, charity

Anticipating next year's taxes, it's not too early to consider giving a gift donation to the Scandinavian Heritage Association than right now.

Making it more advantageous is a law passed by the North Dakota Legislature to improve the quality of life in our state. Senate Bill 2160 (SB2160) establishes a Legacy Tax Credit that allows individuals, businesses, trusts and estates to take advantage of a 40 percent state tax credit for contributions of over \$5,000 to qualified charitable endowment funds.

Even better, the unused portion of the state tax credit can be carried forward for three years.

Depending on your tax bracket, your contribution to the Scandinavian Heritage Association can make an even greater impact on the community and cost you less.

The table on page 11 was prepared by the Minot Area Community Foundation. It shows the tax benefits for givers in different tax brackets.

Check with your accountant or tax preparer for details, or contact the SHA office. • • •

Thank you, Carroll and Noreen Erickson!

A special note of thanks to longtime SHA Newsletter ad solicitor/volunteers **Carroll and Noreen Erickson**. Their efforts, along with that of our advertisers, have enabled us to continue producing a high-quality magazine on your behalf! Beginning with the last issue, our new ad collector is **Duane Brekke**. His contact numbers are 701-852-2453 and (cell) 701-833-9278.

2014 MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

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marginal tax rate
on individual
return

Gift Amount	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Federal Estimated Tax Savings*	(\$1,750)	(\$3,500)	(\$7,000)	(\$8,750)	(\$17,500)
ND Income Tax Credit**	(\$2,000)	(\$4,000)	(\$8,000)	(\$10,000)	(\$20,000)
Net Cost of Contribution	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$6,250	\$12,500

*Assuming the marginal tax rate on an individual return is as listed and the donor can benefit from itemizing deductions on Federal Schedule A.
**Assuming ND income taxes would be high enough over a 4-year period to use up the credit. (Current year, plus three years carry forward.)

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L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS



L'Anse aux Meadows... **LEIF ERIKSON'S** Viking settlement?

Oct. 9 is Leif Erikson Day. Its honoree discovered North America around the year 1000 — five centuries before Columbus.

Leif Erikson (circa 970-1020) was the son of Erik the Red. Of Norwegian heritage, Leif was born and raised in Iceland. His father was a Viking explorer credited with founding the first settlements in Greenland—after being banished from Iceland for murder.

According to the Groenlendinga saga, Leif heard of a land to the west from an Icelandic trader who was blown off course, and set out to find it.

Sailing westward from Greenland with a crew of 35, he probably landed first on the southern part of Baffin Is-

land, then sailed to the coast of Labrador on the Canadian mainland.

From a land they called Markland (“Woodland”), which is possibly Belle Isle, an island between Labrador and Newfoundland, the Vikings arrived at a place they called “Vinland,” or “land of the vine.”

Boasting wheat fields and grape vines, the place was probably a spot on Newfoundland’s northeastern tip.

There, Erikson and his crew built a small settlement they called Leifrsbudir, or “Leif’s booths” (or “Leif’s shelters”).

In the 1960s, remains of a Norse settlement were found at L'Anse aux Meadows in northern Newfoundland. It is widely accepted as evidence of pre-Columbian trans-oceanic contact.

The Norse settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows has been dated to approximately 1,000 years ago (carbon dating estimate 990-1050 CE), an assessment that tallies with the relative dating of artifact and structure types.

Today, the area mostly consists of open, grassy lands, but 1,000 years ago there were forests useful in boat-building, house-building and for iron extraction.

The remains of eight buildings were located. They are believed to have been constructed of sod placed over a wooden frame. Based on associated artifacts, the buildings were variously identified as dwellings or workshops.

It was named a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1978.

—From *Scandinavian Press*,
Fall 2014

(See page 8-9 for more information on Leif Erikson’s voyage)



Icelandic Heritage Society NEWS

Bardarbunga Volcano erupts

Iceland’s Bardarbunga volcano has been erupting since Aug. 29, with lava shooting out of the ground on the Holuhraun lava field about halfway between that volcano and a neighboring volcano called Askja. The lava has flown out of Bardarbunga’s collapsed crater, known as a caldera, in a nearly 30-mile-long dike.

The flow of molten rock, or magma, out from underneath the volcano, through the dike and out of the ground has been so significant that the caldera itself—which sits underneath



SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY NEWS...

Thor Lodge Sons of Norway NEWS

HØSTFEST: Right time to join us!



by Rob Odden, president
Thor Lodge 4-067 Sons of Norway



Dakota, I think it's because they might not know about them, haven't looked for them, or haven't been invited.

I'm interested in seeing that the people living in our community benefit as much as possible from what it has to offer.

SONs 200 agrees! In honor of the Bicentenary of Norway's Constitution, Norsk Høstfest, Sons of Norway International and Thor Lodge #4-067 are inviting new members to be a part of SONs 200. Our goal is for you to be an active part of our community.

SONS 200 benefits

Have you seen the first-class entertainment the Norsk Høstfest offers at the Great Hall of Vikings? Have you been to the SHA Park for a summer stroll? Would you like to know more about traditional Norwegian culture?

Anyone who is not already a Sons of Norway member is eligible to be a SONs 200. In 2014, unique benefits include:

- An exclusive commemorative pin
- A discount at the En To Tre lunch buffet.



Those who join *before* Høstfest also receive:

- An invitation to Gov. Dalrymple's Reception, Tuesday, Sept. 30, 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Riverside
- An invitation to H.E. Norwegian Ambassador Kare Aas's Reception, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m., at the VIP Room, Norsk Høstfest
- Free Høstfest General Admission with any Høstfest University enrollment.

Those who join *during* Høstfest also receive:

- An invitation to attend Meet-and-Greet with SON International President Eivind Heiberg, Saturday, 10 a.m.
- A limited edition rosemaled Christmas ornament.

I look forward to seeing you at Norsk Høstfest. Now is a good time for those interested in heritage and community involvement to join us at Sons of Norway and Høstfest, celebrating Norway's Constitution Bicentenary.

Check out SON-sponsored Oslo Hall at Høstfest. You'll find lefse-making demonstrations and an opportunity to sign up as a new member.

Also, Thor Lodge is offering Lap-skaus, sandwiches and Vestland's Lefse at their Stabbur booth.

See you at Høstfest. For more information call 852-2368 or 720-2755.

the Dyngjajokull glacier—has sunk by more than 61 feet, the largest amount of subsidence observed in any volcano in Iceland since such observations began around 1950.

Scientists studying the volcano from the air and the ground have had to contend with hazardous plumes of sulfur dioxide gas streaming from the fissure in the ground.

The gases may pose a health hazard to populated areas downwind of the eruption, and have been detected as far away as Norway.



Far left: A person stands in front of the lava flow and massive smoke plumes of the Holuhraun Fissure, near the Bardarbunga Volcano, Iceland, on Sept. 2, 2014.

Near left: Aerial view of the lava fountains and massive plumes near the Bardarbunga Volcano, Iceland, on Sept. 1, 2014.

Swedish Heritage Society-NWND NEWS

Back to school in Sweden

by Ila Lovdahl,
Swedish Heritage Society, NWND

VÄLKOMMEN TILLBAKA TIL SKOLAN! Welcome back to school!

In schools in Scandinavia and America, many children ages 5 to 16 are required to go back to school this fall. The excitement of the first day of school happens only once each year!

How we remember our first days of school, walking to a rural school, catching a ride with the neighbor's mother, climbing on the bright, shiny yellow school bus which would transport us to another world. Little did we know how precious our education would become.

In Sweden, children from the age of 1 can be admitted to *forskola* (pre-school). Pre-schools help provide an environment that stimulates children's development and learning and enables parents to combine parenthood with work or studies.

Forskoleklass (pre-school class) is similar to our kindergarten, generally at age 6. *Grundskola* is compulsory school from ages 7 to 16. Many students will continue with *Gym-*

nasieskola (upper secondary school), ages 16 to 19. At this level, the students may focus on subject matters which are vocational or are footsteps to *Hogskola* (university school).

Many Americans find the cost of daycare and baby-sitting extremely expensive. In Sweden these costs are paid for by the higher tax system. No child gets left behind to be undernourished, unstimulated or ignored, because these programs are available for all.

About 20 years ago, I went to the first day of school with my husband's 7-year-old Swedish relative. Emilie was so excited! I do not speak Swedish, nor could she speak English.

When we had shopped at local stores in Malmo, Sweden, I kept trying to buy her pencils, crayons, markers, folders and erasers. She would just shake her head. I really did not know what to think; I thought maybe the theme she liked was not in that store (like the current movie



Swedish school children interact with the teacher during class. All required supplies, from pencils to backpacks, are furnished by the government.

"Frozen"). Was I ever surprised to find that when we went into her classroom, all of the class's supplies were there, and each student received what they needed.

How fair, I thought. No one would have a fancier folder than another student; nobody would be jealous of her backpack, because they all had similar ones provided by the school and the socialistic system.

I have not researched more advanced grades, but I feel I can say that everyone gets a fair, equal start. After all, who wants to be on the bottom of the class when you have only been in school for one day?

This way of a fair approach to all students stayed with me for years to come. I taught school for 32 years. I often had my own folders, notebooks, pencils and markers for the students who came to school empty-handed.

As I would quietly give those students their materials, I would think back on sweet Emilie who was happy as she could be to be considered on the same level as all of her first-grade friends.

Oh, by the way, in Sweden the students have the same teacher for grades one to three; then the same teacher for grades four through six. And what warms my heart is to remember her saying, "I can't wait for you to meet Pia, my teacher."

Yes, that is the tradition in Swedish elementary school, to call the teacher by her first name. Think of how we all waited until our first report card to see what the first name of our teacher was!!!! Good school memories for them and for us!

This fall, take some time and enjoy a child's excitement of beginning the road to his or her life!

• • •

The Swedish Heritage Society-NWND will be enjoying a fun day Sept. 20 with Delton and Vi Torno at their Lake Metigoshe home. They will supply meat and buns and encourage the members to bring potluck or picnic food and hope for great weather.

Bev Jensen will send a postcard with directions to their home in September. We had so much fun two years ago that it makes us want to go back for more!!! •

Souris Valley Danish Society NEWS

A Tivoli Halloween!

Submitted by Pamela Orth

Each mid-October, Copenhagen's famous Tivoli Gardens is transformed into an enchanted Halloween universe. Pumpkins, smiling scarecrows, funny witches and Tivoli's own "heroes" help to create a funny scare for children of all ages.

The event runs from Oct. 10-Nov. 2. During Halloween in Tivoli, ALL rides will be open. Inside the Main Entrance, Tivoli is setting up a Harvest Fair containing all manners of exciting things to do with the autumn season.

Around the mill, there's a village containing many fun activities for the children. They will be able to make pumpkin heads, brew magic potions, catch spiders and buy trinkets.

For more information, visit www.tivoli.dk



Dakota Finnish Society NEWS

Land of Midnight Sun

by Marion Anderson, president
Dakota Finnish Society

Myron and Marion Anderson attended the FinnFest 2014 in Minneapolis Aug. 8-10. It was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. This hotel was recently renovated by Finnish American Interior Designer Michael Suomi in the Scandinavian Nordic style. There were other venues prior to Aug. 8, such as a genealogy forum, a business forum and a Finland education forum.

The opening ceremony on the evening of Aug. 7 was held at the beautiful Westminster Presbyterian Church, across the street from the hotel. If you are ever in the area, it is well worth visiting. The organist, Melanie Ohnstad, favored us with a mini-concert on the pipe organ prior to the ceremony officially beginning.

The master of ceremonies was K. Marianne Wargelin, who is an Hon-

orary Consul of Finland and the FinnFest USA board president.

Others with remarks were Ritva Koukku-Ronde, Ambassador of Finland to the United States, and Janna Palojarvi, director for International Relations, Finnish Education and Culture. Musical numbers were provided by various Finnish entertainers.

Throughout the three days there were various seminars and mini concerts by several performers in locations close by. The "Tori" marketplace had many vendors and a stage for performances throughout the day.

It was fun to meet old friends and relatives there—in other words, we had a good time visiting.

The disappointment was that there was no Finnish food available. The hotel has food contracts and cannot allow anyone else to prepare food there. On Sunday morning, we were



served coffee and pulla (Finnish cardamom coffee bread) in the courtyard of the Westminster Presbyterian Church—a popular spot that morning.

This is the 150th anniversary of the start of modern Finnish immigration to North America. Minnesota is the home of the largest percentage of Finnish-related persons in any single state in the USA.

Next year's FinnFest

FinnFest in 2015 will be in Buffalo, N.Y., Oct. 8-12. The year 2015 is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius and the 75th anniversary of the opening of Kleinhans Music Hall, designed by Finnish architects Eliel and Eero Saarinen and considered "one of the greatest concert halls in the U.S."

See you at Høstfest!

Hostfest will soon be here, so plans are under way for our booth there. Stop by and visit and have some mojakka (Finnish beef stew) and bread pudding.

Pikkujoulu will be in December—date to be announced later. •

Tracing your Scandinavian ROOTS • 46

What history lurks in a name?

by Jo Ann Winistorfer

When you're seeking your family history, it helps to have an unusual name.

Take Winistorfer, for example. The first date I had with my husband-to-be, he was so impressed that I was able to spell his last name correctly. (Evidently his other dates couldn't!)

What he didn't know—and doesn't to this day—is that I checked the phone book for the spelling before our date. Thus I had it committed to memory!

Even back then, I was interested in genealogy. It intrigued me to learn there was a little town in Solothurn, Switzerland, called Winistorf. The name linked back into history.

I pictured a quaint chalet with gingerbread trim as the ancestral home. Nick's ancestors would be wearing knee-length pants with



decorative suspenders, long socks and brimmed hats complete with feathers. They would be yodeling, their voices bouncing back between Alps.

In reality, the family was from a lush farming and cheese-making section of Switzerland, not anywhere near a mountain. The nearest large city was Bern.

When I began working on Nick's

family's history, I searched for a map with "Winistorf" on it. I finally located one with a scale enlarged enough that I could make out the town. Barely! (It's that small...)

Another genealogy "habit" of mine is checking phone books for familiar surnames when I travel. The Chicago telephone book had a listing for the name "Winistorfer."

I worked up my nerve and finally called the number. There had been a funeral in the family, and the woman who answered was from Florida, in town for the funeral. She herself was not a Winistorfer, but she had family connections. She recognized some of the first names I blurted out. She also told me she had learned that a number of Winistorfers in her family had changed their surname to "Winters."

What a shame! To me, they blockaded the biggest clue to their family history.

Yet another genealogy "habit" is checking for names on the Internet. One of my searches yielded the picture that accompanies this article.

Cool, eh? •