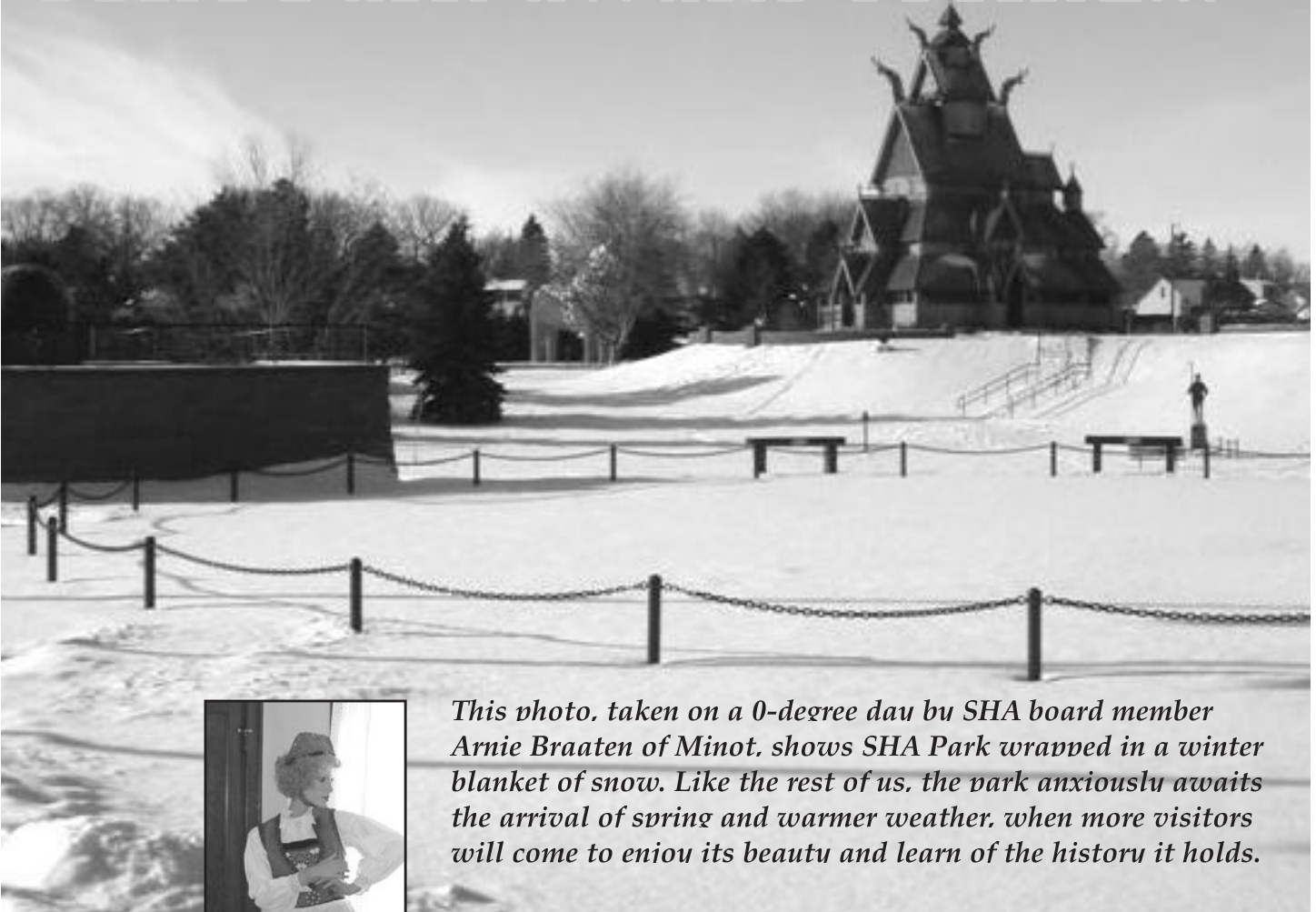


The Scandinavian Heritage NEWS



Published in the interest of North Americans of Scandinavian descent • P.O. Box 862 • Minot, ND 58702 • March 2007

SHA Park awaits spring...



This photo, taken on a 0-degree day by SHA board member Arnie Braaten of Minot, shows SHA Park wrapped in a winter blanket of snow. Like the rest of us, the park anxiously awaits the arrival of spring and warmer weather, when more visitors will come to enjoy its beauty and learn of the history it holds.

WHAT'S INSIDE...

President's report	2	Heritage House collection grows	9
From the office	3	Choice Hotels gives grant	10
Annual meeting/new directors/ 2007 committees	4	What's new on SHA Website?	10
Keeping the torch soot-free	5	Vikings in the Turtle Mountains?	11
Banquet invitation	5	Scandinavian Society reports	13
From playful proposal to lasting legacy	6	Tracing Your Dakota Roots	16

President's MESSAGE

SHA: Looking backward, looking forward

*by Mark Anderson, president
Scandinavian Heritage Association*

Last year was a very exciting year for Scandinavian Heritage Association. We began the year with several projects planned or in process.

On May 18, a capacity audience filled the Gol Stave Church Museum to witness the dedication of "The Last Supper" wood-carved artwork. This beautiful, eight-foot wide, monumental masterpiece by Phil Odden of Barronett, Wis., had previously been displayed at Norsk Høstfest for two days, before being installed in its permanent location in the church.

Later that morning, we dedicated the Plaza Scandinavia, a 75-foot round map of the five Nordic countries. Beautifully crafted in colored granite, the Plaza features an observation and viewing stand, complete with an interactive display featuring a 7,500-pound granite globe, which effortlessly spins on a fountain of water.

We also completed a new restroom facility this past summer. The building is located on the west end of the park, close to the Stave Church. It will provide a modern facility for those enjoying the park.

June saw another successful Mid-summer Night celebration in Scandinavian Heritage Park. With over 420 people served a picnic supper, total attendance at the event was estimated at



Mark Anderson

over 600. With many entertainers performing, including the Minot City Band, it was truly a wonderful community event enjoyed by all.

In 2005, we purchased and refurbished a home on the west end of the park and spent 2006 planning and gathering artifacts for the Heritage House Museum. The Museum will feature various authentic artifacts of Scandinavian heritage and culture. It will tell the story of the settlers to this region and the challenges they encountered. The Heritage House Museum will be open to the public beginning summer 2007.

October featured the 29th annual Norsk Høstfest celebration. With SHA volunteers and others serving throughout the entire venue, the 2006 Høstfest hosted the largest crowd in recent history. We are grateful for the close relationship with have with our friends from Norsk Høstfest, Minot Convention and Visitors Bureau and Sons of Norway.

On Dec. 1, we hosted a thank-you event at Heritage House Museum to honor all of the volunteers who served in the park and SHA office during the year. There was plenty of holiday spirit and song. We could not do all of the good works of SHA without our wonderful volunteers.

Interpretive Center planned for SHA Park

Looking forward, plans are already being made for a state-of-the-art interpretive center to better tell the story of our forefathers and their settlement in this region.

The future certainly looks bright for SHA, and I would like to personally thank all of you who visited, volunteered or supported Scandinavian Heritage Park and the SHA in 2006.

We couldn't have done it without you! •

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Minot, North Dakota 58702
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Luther Hanson *Vice President*
Marion Anderson *Secretary*
Jerome Iorgensen *Treasurer*

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Helen Haaland *Luther Hanson*
Ron Bieri *Jerry Iorgensen*
Gail Peterson

Three-year terms ending January 2009

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Robert Whetter *Eva Goodman*
Doris Slaaten *John Sinn*
Io Ann Winistorfer

Three-year terms ending January 2008

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Ernie Selland *Ioan Varty*
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Lois Matson

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Verla Rostad *Erv Johnson*
Bob Sando

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Bruce Christenson, Past President
Arnie Braaten, Past President
Allen O. Larson, Past President
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George Officer, Past President
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From the OFFICE

SHA annual meeting held Jan. 26

*by Jeanne McNea
SHA office manager*

The New Year has begun with the usual duties of closing out the old year. The annual meeting of the SHA was held Jan. 26, at which time annual reports were given and directors and officers were elected. Now it is time to reorganize and carry on.

We find it hard to believe that we are starting the 10th year in this beautiful building. It is a wonderful place to work and to be on top of things that go on in the park. One of the most interesting parts of our volunteer work is meeting people who come to tour the park or just happen to notice the outstanding design of the building and stop to inquire about it.

For a quick review, there are 26 directors that make up the Scandinavian Heritage board. Seven are elected or re-elected each year for a three-year term. The president has the option to appoint up to five directors to serve a one-year term. Meetings are held in the lower level of the Visitor's Center the fourth Friday of every month unless it



Jeanne McNea

falls on a holiday weekend, in which case we meet a week early. Dues-paying members are welcome to attend any time.

SHA Auction Sale set for May 5

Plans are being made to have an auction sale in the spring, and we are seeking donations of items that can be auctioned. The date has been set for Saturday, May 5, with further details yet to be announced. The SHA has a couple of old desks and an old popcorn machine to start a list.

Anyone who might have something they would like to donate should call the office—(701) 852-9161. If a receipt is needed for tax purposes we can issue one. Remember "One man's junk can be another man's treasure." •

CALENDAR



2007

March 19 • Sons of Norway Thor Lodge annual Potet Klub Dinner, 6:30 p.m., First Lutheran Church, Minot

March 23-24 • 4th District Sons of Norway Folk Dance Workshop, Holiday Inn, Minot; banquet on evening of March 24

March 31 • Sons of Norway Thor Lodge Pre-Easter Bake Sale & Luncheon, Grandma's Attic, Minot

April 13 • SHA Annual Banquet, Holiday Inn Riverside, Minot

April 21 • Swedish Society meeting, 2 p.m., SHA Center, Minot

May 5 • SHA Auction Sale; for details call (701) 852-9161

May 17 • Svttende Mai Thor Lodge Sons of Norway parade, 12 noon, SHA Park; SofN dinner, program, dance, 6:30 p.m., Holiday Inn

June 6 • Svenska Flaggans Dag (Swedish Flag Day), 5:30 p.m., picnic in SHA Park, Minot

June 24 • Thor Lodge 100th anniversary celebration/picnic, SHA Park

June 28 • Midsummer Night Celebration, Scandinavian Heritage Park, Minot

Oct. 10-13 • Norsk Høstfest celebrates its 30th year!

Oct 9, 7 p.m.—Opening night concert starring Tony Orlando and Ann-Margret

Oct. 10-13, 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Entertainment:

- Oct. 10—Bill Cosby, 1 & 7 p.m.
 - Oct. 11—Charley Pride 1 p.m., Lorrie Morgan & Ronnie Milsap, 7 p.m.
 - Oct. 12—Ronnie Milsap & Lorrie Morgan, 1 p.m.; Charley Pride, 7 p.m.
 - Oct. 13—Norwegian singing sensation Sissel, 1 & 7 p.m.
- Call (701) 852-2368 for information

*Next newsletter deadline:
Copy and pictures—May 15, 2007
Printing date—June 1, 2007*

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Annual meeting/officers

The annual meeting of the Scandinavian Heritage Association took place on Friday, Jan. 26, at the SHA headquarters building in Minot. Topping the agenda were electing officers for 2007 and appointing directors. Following are the officers who will represent SHA again this year:

- PresidentMark Anderson
- Vice presidentLuther Hanson
- SecretaryMarion Anderson
- TreasurerJerry Iorgenson

Elected to three-year terms on the board were Ron Bieri, Helen Haaland, Virgil Rude, Gail Peterson and Jerry Iorgenson. Ioan Vartv was elected to fill the board vacancy left by retiring board member Dennis Jacobson. Four more board members also retired from the board this year. They included Bob Knudson, Christina Campbell, Ann Krause and Terry Peterson. We thank all five for their support and service over the past years.

President Anderson chose Peder Rice, Bruce Nelson, Verla Rostad, Erv Johnson and Bob Sando as his one-year appointments to the board.

See box at lower left (repeat of page 2 masthead) for directors and terms. •



New board members, left to right: Verla Rostad, Peder Rice and Ioan Vartv.

2007 OFFICERS

- Mark Anderson *President*
- Luther Hanson *Vice President*
- Marion Anderson *Secretary*
- Jerome Iorgenson *Treasurer*

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- Ron Bieri Jerry Iorgensen
- Gail Peterson

Three-year terms ending January 2009

- Duane Aase Doralvn Brown
- Robert Whetter Eva Goodman
- Doris Slaaten John Sinn
- Io Ann Winistorfer

Three-year terms ending January 2008

- Mark Anderson Marian Bergan
- Ernie Selland Ioan Vartv
- Lorna Van de Streek James Maragos
- Lois Matson

One-year appointees to January 2008

- Peder Rice Bruce Nelson
- Verla Rostad Erv Johnson
- Bob Sando

Ex-Officio Members

- Carroll Erickson, *Past President*
- Bruce Christenson, *Past President*
- Arnie Braaten, *Past President*
- Allen O. Larson, *Past President*
- Roald Mattson, *Past President*
- George Officer, *Past President*
- Jeanne McNea, *Office Manager*

SHA committees for 2007

Following are the 2007 committee assignments for SHA board members:

Annual banquet

- Lorna Van de Streek

Book store

- Lois Matson

Building and grounds

- Ernie Selland
- Carroll Erickson
- John Sinn

Executive committee

- Mark Anderson
- Luther Hanson
- Marion Anderson
- Jerome Iorgenson

Finance committee

- Jerry Iorgenson

Flag committee

- To be announced

Foundation committee

- Doris Slaaten
- Bruce Christenson

Heritage House

- Ron Bieri
- Jeanice Officer
- Arnie Braaten

- Lois Matson
- John Sinn
- Carroll Erickson

Historian

- Al Larson

Holiday lights

- Ernie Selland
- Gail Peterson
- George Officer
- House Committee
- Ernie Selland
- Jim Maragos

Long-range planning

- Ernie Selland
- Carroll Erickson
- Roald Mattson
- George Officer
- Arnie Braaten
- Bruce Christenson
- Al Larson

Map Plaza

- Jim Maragos
- Arnie Braaten
- John Sinn

Membership

- Luther Hanson
- Lois Matson

Mid-Summer Night

- Martha Elliott
- Lois Matson

Newsletter

- Lois Matson
- Al Larson
- Carroll Erickson
- Io Ann Winistorfer

Nominating committee

- Carroll Erickson
- Ioan Vartv
- Tim Burchill
- Bob Whetter

Tours committee

- Verla Rostad

Parliamentarian

- Doris Slaaten

Retail sales

- Jeanne McNea

Sondre Norheim

- To be announced

Stave Church Museum

- Ernie Selland
- Martha Elliott
- Gail Peterson
- Doris Slaaten
- George Officer
- Jeanice Officer
- Al Larson
- Arnie Braaten

Keeping the Olympic torch soot-free

Keeping the globe surrounding SHA Park's Sondre Norheim Eternal Flame clean often takes extraordinary effort. That was the case again this year, when Minot's Xcel Energy volunteered to clean soot from the glass globe representing the earth.

The monument, completed in 1993, was designed by Minot artist Sheldon Larson. The globe is supported by a tower of five aluminum skis, symbolizing the five Scandinavian countries. It honors Norwegian-born Sondre Norheim for his many contributions to the sport of skiing. Norheim later immigrated to North Dakota and is buried at Denbigh, N.D.

The original flame was lit from the fireplace of Norheim's birthplace in Norway and transported to Minot. Nearby in the park, a bronze statue of Norheim stands at attention, skis in hand.

In appreciation for Xcel's excellent work in cleaning the globe, Scandinavian Heritage Association presented the firm with a certificate of appreciation. SHA President Mark Anderson, accompanied by director Arnie Braaten, went to the Xcel Energy office to give the certificate to Dan Olson, operations manager of Xcel. Tom Kraft and Mike Bickel. Tom and Mike worked from a boom truck to clean away the soot, which accumulates from the burning Olympic flame. Thanks to Xcel, the flame is now clearly visible.

Photographs of the presentation were lost in Arnie Braaten's digital camera when he placed the camera on the roof of his van to go and get the mail, then drove off later to the grocery store. Camera and pictures went with the ride and disappeared along the way. •



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Banquet

Friday, April 13, 2007 • Holiday Inn
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Social - 6:30 p.m. • Dinner - 7 p.m.

Tickets for banquet and raffle
will be available at the SHA office

The Scandinavian Heritage Association will hold its annual Banquet and Raffle on Friday, April 13, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Riverside in Minot. Come and enjoy a delicious meal and entertainment with social hour at 6 and dinner at 7 p.m. For details and/or to order tickets, call the SHA Office at (701) 852-9161. •

Scandinavian Heritage Park/Gol Stave Church Museum:

From playful proposal to lasting legacy

The following article was written for *North Dakota Living* magazine's May 2007 issue, in which three museums will be featured. The author is **To Ann Winistorfer**, editor of the *Scandinavian Heritage News*.

In earlier years, the area just west of Highway 83 in south Minot was a dumpground. Today, it's one of Minot's most visited spots, a hub of heritage in the heart of the city.

Back then, no one could have envisioned that Scandinavian Heritage Park, let alone its magnificent Gol Stave Church Museum, would ever exist—especially in that spot!

The “spark” began in 1987, with a suggestion in a “Thor’s Hammer” Sons of Norway newsletter column written by then-Sons of Norway president (Bethany Lutheran Church pastor) Arland Fiske. Fiske (now author of numerous books on Scandinavian heritage) jokingly suggested building a Norwegian-style stave church in Minot, since so many Scandinavians had settled there.

One Minoter—Al Larson (today the owner of Minot’s Creative Printing)—took the remark to heart.

“Why not create a park to honor all

Scandinavian countries?” he asked.

And so was born the Scandinavian Heritage Association, with Al Larson as an original founder and its first secretary.

The first organizers soon chose a Minot doctor, Myron D. “Doc” Peterson, M.D., to chair a committee to erect a replica of a Norwegian stave church in Minot. “Doc” poured his soul into the project, becoming its major donor.

After intensive research, the committee picked the Gol Stave Church for its model. The original church, built circa 1250 A.D., served parishioners in Gol, Hallingdal, Norway, until the late 1800s, when it was restored and moved to Bygdov Park near Oslo, where it is now a major tourist attraction.

Stave churches were once sprinkled across Norway. It's estimated that between 800 and 1,200 such buildings once existed. Today, only 28 of the original stave churches remain—the world's oldest surviving

wooden structures.

Stave churches were built around a framework of corner posts called “staves,” set atop a stone foundation. The staves supported the walls and roof. The finished churches, complete with scale-like shingles and dragonheads on their gables, were masterpieces of the woodworker's art, a testimony to the post-Viking artisans who created them.

The five acres on which the park perches, originally donated to the Minot Park District by the Shirlev family, was first called the Shirlev Bicentennial Park. Today, the rolling terrain of Scandinavian Heritage Park serves as a scenic backdrop for its many attractions.

The northwest corner, site of the church, is the high point of the park—in more ways than one! The Gol Stave Church Museum, completed and dedicated in October 2001, is the park's crown jewel. Its lofty spire guarded by four dragonheads, the church is flanked



by a rustic Gate House and a circular courtyard dedicated to "Doc" Peterson, who died on Dec. 18, 2002. Pines and firs of all sorts play about the church's feet and wind their way through the park.

From its stance on the heights, the church is easily viewed from nearly any point in the park—as well as by motorists driving by on Broadway.

A turn off that busy thoroughfare west onto 11th Avenue brings visitors face to face with the peaceful park.

The rustic wood visitor's center is the first stop: major funds for the center were donated by Minoters Edward T. and Leona B. Larson. The Scandinavian Heritage Association office is housed there, as is the Minot Convention & Visitor's Bureau. Norsk Høstfest offices are located a level below: local Scandinavian heritage societies hold their meetings on the lowest of the three levels.

Inside the visitor's center there's plenty of information about the park, and a gift shop that includes books and other items, many with a Scandinavian touch.

Just outside, a 65-foot-diameter disk—Plaza Scandinavia—features stone inserts of each Scandinavian



Opposite page, left: A globe atop a pedestal overlooking the Plaza Scandinavia rotates atop a film of water. Opposite page, center: SHA Visitor's Center. Right: Majestic Gol Stave Church Museum, crown jewel of Scandinavian Heritage Park.

Many visitors viewed SHA's Gol Stave Church in 2006!

by George Officer, chairman, Gol Stave Church Museum committee

The Gol Stave Church Museum continues to be one of the greatest attractions in our Scandinavian Heritage Park and in this area of our state and nation. It is visited by people from other parts of the world, during the tourism season and around Norsk Høstfest in mid-October. Many people from the 50 states are represented as well.

Last year, more than 40 people from Norway, 60-plus from Canada, four from Belgium, two from Finland and two from Sweden signed the guest register during Høstfest. In all, approximately 1,000 people visited the church at that time.

Comments included: "fabulous, very beautiful, awesome, remarkable work, carvings, what a piece of art, so happy to see the inside, an unexpected pleasure, gorgeous, super and tusen takk!"

There were 18 weddings held this past year in the church, and three baptisms. This brings the total number to 90 weddings and 13 baptisms. When people visit the church, an informational narrative on DVD—a gift from Arnie and Fran Braaten—plays as tourists visit the area.

In 2006, a new bell was installed in the Gate House to replace the former one, which was broken by vandals. In 2007, we plan to place a time capsule near the church.

We hope you'll be among those visiting our park and church this summer!•

country, surrounded by an ocean of blue pearl granite. Flags from these countries, as well as the U.S. and Canada, flutter nearby. An observation point near the visitor's center contains a 7,500-pound rotatable globe.

A walk through the park is like a journey to the Old Country. Winding walkways take tourists past a Danish windmill, a Finnish sauna, a grass-topped Norwegian stabbur (storehouse), North Dakota's oldest house (a log cabin from Sigdal, Norway, built 230-some years ago and moved to Minot), and a 30-foot-high red Swedish Dala horse.

Along the way, visitors will be greeted by some illustrious characters, cast in bronze: A whimsical Hans Christian Andersen, famed Danish author, perches on a bench, the Ugly Duckling (a character in one of his most popular stories) in his hand. Looking more serious, two famed skiers with roots in both Norway and the Minot area—Sondre Norheim (known in Norway as the father of modern skiing) and Casper Oimoen (Olympic ski-jump champion

in the 1930s)—stand guard just off the path. From a distance, an axe-toting Leif Eiriksson, dressed in Viking-era armor, keeps them company.

Nearby, a playful waterfall dances into a pond—site of the annual Midsummer Night bonfire at the park. It's just one of the many events that take place in the park each year, including Arts in the Parks activities and concerts.

In the heart of the park stands the triangular-shaped Nordic Pavilion for the Arts, offering shade and shelter to picnickers and other visitors.

As if all this isn't enough, the Scandinavian Heritage Association invites you to visit the Heritage House. It's the white house on the southwest corner of the block, right next to the park. Serving as a museum, the Heritage House is the place to view artifacts from the Scandinavian countries—or just to relax and "set a spell."

According to Larson, development of the park has been "almost miraculous. It far exceeded our vision for it."

The park's phenomenal growth and success, Larson says, is "due to the

many volunteers and generous contributors who have made it all possible."

Indeed, the Scandinavian Heritage Park is operated and lovingly tended by volunteers—from the tour guides to the office staff to members of the Scandinavian Heritage Association.

The park receives no government or other funding; all money comes from private donations, gifts, memorials and memberships in the Scandinavian Heritage Association.

And while the park's theme focuses on Scandinavia, it's really a tribute to pioneers of every nationality.

Perhaps the park's motto says it best: "A remembrance of the past, a legacy for the future." •

For further information on the park or membership in the association, visit www.scandinavianheritage.org (or e-mail scandha@srt.com). Or, call or write: Scandinavian Heritage Association, 1020 S. Broadway (P.O. Box 863), Minot, ND 58702; (701) 852-9161.



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The Scandinavian Heritage Assn.

Heritage House collection grows

by *To Ann Winistorfer, editor;*
photos by Arnie Braaten

The collection of artifacts displayed in the Heritage House, adjacent to the Scandinavian Heritage Center, just keeps growing and growing...

A tour through the home is like stepping backward in time. SHA board member Christina Campbell, who often conducts these tours, says the goal of the museum is to "tell the story," from immigration to settlement.

"We look at why they left, the process of coming to North America by sailboat or steamship, plus settlement in the Midwest," Christina says.

The main room of the Heritage House features items that help tell this story. "It includes items from different aspects of their life—education, foreign-language newspapers, family life, their work, cooking, craftwork and the books they read—such as hymnals and dictionaries."

The Heritage House committee is now busy writing labels for each artifact. Some especially interesting items include two mother-of-pearl inlaid Hardanger fiddles; copies of the Norwegian-language newspaper *Normanden*, printed in Fargo and then in Grand Forks; a replica of a Viking ship; a large model of the Gol Stave Church; and mannequins clad in bunads (Scandinavian regional costumes). The next project involves putting a 200-year-old Swedish Army uniform on a male mannequin!

Thanks to all those (including Christina) whose donations and hard work have helped turn what was once a "house" into a "home for heritage." That includes the many volunteers and committee members who have wielded paintbrushes, wallpapered, built shelves, served as tour guides, cleaned the facilities—the list goes on.

Another thank you goes to those who have made donations to honor their departed loved ones. What finer way to keep their memory alive than with a gift of heritage—whether it be in the form of money, artifacts or even display cases!

Check the next issue of *Scandinavian Heritage News* for information on the upcoming Heritage House dedication. •



Wearing their bunads (traditional Scandinavian costumes), a pair of mannequins stand ready to greet visitors to the Heritage House. Charlotte Borud of Minot donated the Hardanger bunad pictured on the mannequin on the right. In picture at far right, a Scroll of Remembrance reminds visitors of memorial contributions that have made the Heritage House come alive.



Dishes in the Heritage House cupboard were donated by Charlotte Borud of Minot. Each of the plate-cup-saucer combinations represent different regions of Norway. The wall cabinet that holds the dishes was donated by John Sinn in memory of his wife, Olive.

Tea, anyone? SHA board member Marion Bergan donated the table and chairs; the antique teapot on the table was a gift from Ruth Lane from Sawyer.



SHA receives grant from Choice Hotels International Foundation

The Scandinavian Heritage Association announced in mid-February that it had received a grant of \$5,000 from the Choice Hotels International Foundation, a tax-exempt entity established by Choice Hotels International, Inc., one of the world's largest lodging franchisors.

"The grant given by the Choice Hotels International Foundation will enable Scandinavian Heritage Association to complete its Plaza Scandinavia project in Scandinavian Heritage Park," said Mark Anderson, president of Scandinavian Heritage Association. "This granite map representation of the Scandinavian countries, with its position at the entrance to the park, is a reception and disembarkation area for

visitors and also serves as an educational tool for visitors to the park."

According to Chuck Ledsinger, president and chief executive officer of Choice Hotels, "This grant will provide Scandinavian Heritage Association with much-needed support and enable the organization to carry out its philanthropic goals. We hope by our example to encourage other organizations and individuals to follow suit."

The Choice Hotels International Foundation, a tax-exempt entity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, was established in November 1999 by Choice Hotels International to aid non-for-profit charitable and educational organizations. The foundation targets and coordinates Choice's finan-

cial support for groups that:

- Provide shelter and food to those in need
- Promote the growth and development of tourism
- Support the educational efforts of schools, workforce entry organizations and the hospitality industry
- Enhance the quality of life in local communities where Choice Hotels International has a presence

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A Choice Hotels call center is located in Minot.

For more information, visit the following website: www.choicehotels.com

What's new on SHA Website

Anyone considering a visit to Scandinavian Heritage Park this summer can get a great preview—thanks to our SHA Website!

The home page introduces the Scandinavian Heritage Association to those visiting the site. In the upper left corner, just "click" on items ranging from [About Us](#) and [President's Corner](#) to [Become a Member](#), [Make a Donation](#), and [Contact Us](#).

Two of the most interesting to visitors are sure to be the following:

Tour the Park—Open this page and you'll see 15 thumbnail photos, each representing one of the attractions in the park. A mouse click on the name of the attraction (for example, [Sigdal House](#)) takes you to a large photo and a brief story (right) which includes the history and details of the project.

Other choices range from the Danish Windmill and Plaza Scandinavia to the Dala Horse and the Gol Stave Church Museum.

Mapquest—A click on Mapquest takes you to a map with a big red star highlighting the location of the park within Minot. How handy this has to be for visitors to the city who are planning to tour the park in person!

Another feature of the Website is access to issues of *Scandinavian Heritage News*! While they can't be viewed online, you can download them onto your computer and then open them.

If you want your friends to see what a great park we have, send them to our Website, which keeps improving every month.

The Website's creator is Bruce Nelson of Minot. He works on Websites via his family-owned business, ComOptions—now in its 10th year. He and his wife, Paula, are both involved in the business of designing and hosting Websites. You can visit Bruce's Website at www.cvberspace-promotions.com.

What's more, Bruce has just been appointed to serve on the Scandinavian Heritage Association board!

Congratulations, Bruce! •



Sigdal House

The Sigdal House is the oldest in North Dakota. A 230-year-old house from the Vatnas area of Sigdal, Norway, was selected to be representative of a typical house from old-time Norway.

It was purchased by the Scandinavian Heritage Association from Thorvald Vatnas and restored with museum standards by Arne Svarstad and crew. The house was then dismantled with each log being carefully numbered for accurate reassembly.

Even the old moss which was used to seal in between the logs was saved along with the rocks that formed the fireplace. The entire house was carefully packed in an overseas container and shipped to Minot, and Svarstad and his helpers reassembled the house in the park.

The decorations on the doors inside the house as they were painted about 1800 by the famous painter from Sigdal, Guldbrand Larsen Foss and were restored by artist Hans Wold prior to the house coming to America.

The completed house was dedicated on October 15, 1991, as a tangible reminder of the important part our forebears have played in the lives of all of us.

A sample of one of the 15 attractions on our Website's virtual tours page. Check out these pages for yourself—go to www.scandinavianheritage.org

The Scandinavian Heritage • 6

Vikings in North Dakota's Turtle Mountains?

by Arland Fiske

If anyone should seriously suggest that Norsemen once set up camp in North Dakota's Turtle Mountains, the anticipated response would be, "You got to be kidding!" But before you draw your final conclusions, you should read what John Molberg has written in his little book, "Vikings!"

I'd heard about his discoveries a few years ago and had wanted to learn more about them. Molberg sent me a copy of his book and I found it interesting. I'm not an authority on geology and archaeology, but I've read too much about the Norsemen to hastily doubt their abilities.

What is it that Molberg claimed? Simply this, that 14th-century Norsemen may have brought their boats to the Turtle Mountains on the North Dakota/Manitoba border. What evidence did he offer? Some granite boulders. Not ordinary rocks, but rocks with holes cut into them.

He concluded the holes were not made by nature but by man. He also believed that the boulders, which weighed several tons, were not hauled in from some other place, nor did an early settler drill the holes with the idea of blasting them with dynamite. Since the slopes were too steep for farming, he doesn't think the rocks were dug up to clear land.

Molberg suggested the rocks might have been mooring stones into which the Norsemen put a pin to anchor their boats. Altogether, five such stones were found in the area. That would have required the water level from Glacial Lake Souris to have covered the present site of Bottineau and lapped right up into the foothills of the Turtle Mountains. The boulders were at approximately the same elevation, about 2,000 feet. The book has photographs of the boulders.

Equally fascinating are photos of a stone arched cave in the western foothills of the Turtle Mountains. No mortar had been used to hold the stones in place. Near the cave was the stone foundation of a building that had once stood there. The cave is 8 feet wide, 13 feet long and 4½ feet high. Since the rear of the cave had fallen in, it must have been much larger at one time. Could this have been a Viking shelter?

Besides the rocks, a Roman sword had been found at the eastern edge of the Turtle Mountains at St. John, N.D., in the late 1960s. An axe head was found a couple of miles across the border into Canada. It bears the shape of a Viking battle axe. A chisel was also found. Molberg notes that some grave sites were found in the area, originally thought to be Indian graves. Prof. Edward Milligan, an authority on Native American culture, found them different from any he had seen.

Mooring stones like those believed to have been used by Norsemen for anchoring their ships have been found in many places. Molberg made some serious attempts to check out his theory on these boulders. He consulted the faculty at the North Dakota State University in Bottineau to offer their critique. He's done his homework on Norse history, too.

Molberg's findings and theories are by no means an open-

and-shut case. Few things are in these matters. One of the problems is the 500-foot differential in elevation between the Glacial Lake Souris level and the level of the spillway into the Shevonne River.

Molberg has an explanation for this, too. Based on Charles Harwood's theory of a shift in the earth's crust, is it possible that this has caused a change in the elevation of the Turtle Mountains in the last 600 years? We know that the earth is not a solid mass, as was supposed a few hundred years ago. It's a turbulent planet, full of life. The ocean floors are constantly shifting and earthquakes occurring.

How might the Norsemen have traveled to the Turtle Mountains? Molberg suggested they came across the Atlantic (perhaps from Iceland) into the St.

Lawrence River to the Great Lakes, the Chicago River, the Mississippi River, the Minnesota River, Lake Traverse, Lake Agassiz, the Shevonne River and into Lake Souris. Or might they have traveled from Hudson Bay via the Souris River to these mooring points?

Molberg asked what happened to Vikings who may have come to the Turtle Mountains before Columbus's time. He wondered if they were the reason some Mandan Indians had "blue eyes and a fair complexion." While perhaps an overworked theory, it sounds as good as some of the other ideas I've heard.

What can we say about these discoveries? Tempting as it might be to declare these theories are facts, we cannot—and Molberg didn't. But together with the vast amount of data popping up all over the New World, it certainly suggests that many feet have stepped across this land before we arrived.

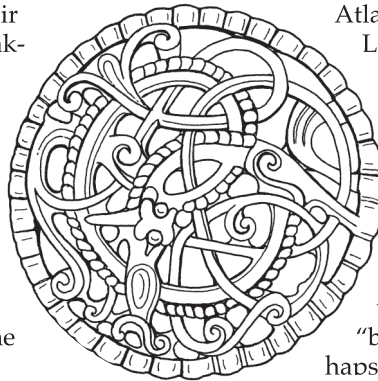
Perhaps someday we'll have more evidence. But there's a problem with archaeological and geological finds. How should we interpret them? There is no printed manuscript accompanying them. And if there was, it surely would evoke disagreement—like the Kensington Rune Stone.

Unfortunately, Molberg died at the time I wrote my original story on his findings, so he never read my article. I had hoped to visit with him about it.

Lloyd Heusers, a science teacher at Central High School in Minot, read my article with interest and gave me maps of Glacial Lake Souris that I had not previously seen. They make Molberg's hypothesis even more interesting.

In a time when we have such excellent possibilities for sharing knowledge, I have hopes that we will get reasonable answers to many of our questions.

Molberg wrote: "Naturally one would like to get definite proof; we will keep looking for a 14th-century sign saying, 'Ole vas here.'" •



Editor's note: This column is the sixth in a series by former Minot pastor, Arland Fiske (now living in Moorhead, Minn.), retired from ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Fiske has written nine books on Scandinavian heritage. The excerpts reprinted here are from his book, "The Scandinavian World."

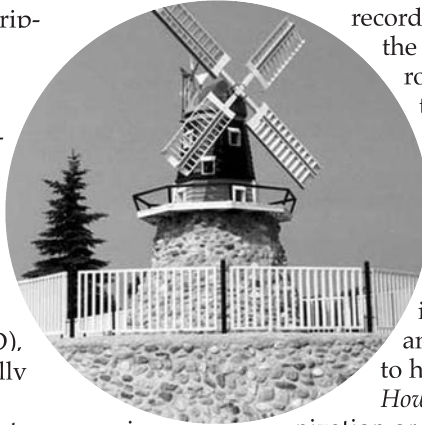
Coming soon: Audio tours of SHA Park!

Plans to have an audio tour system in place in Scandinavian Heritage Park by this summer are progressing nicely. The system will involve the use of around a half dozen MP3 players, each containing recorded descriptions of the park's features.

"Each system will look like a small Walkman, complete with headphones and neck band," says Mark Anderson, SHA president. "There will be five or six available, and people can rent them for a nominal charge to carry with them on a self-guided tour."

A joint project between the Scandinavian Heritage Association and the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD), the players are designed especially for visually impaired park visitors.

But anyone can use them to enhance their tour experience, according to President Mark, noting, "It's a positive thing on a number of different levels."



Already, the text for the soundtrack has been written and is in the editing process.

Still to be decided is whether the audio player's recording will be coordinated with a circle tour of the park, or whether different stations along the route would have numbers, enabling the user to simply push a number to synchronize the tract to describe that particular park highlight—or both!

The next step is to raise funds to offset the cost of the project, which is expected to run between \$2,000 and \$2,500.

President Mark is busy these days sending letters to friends, fraternal organizations and businesses to see whether they would like to help sponsor the project.

How about you? If you, your business, your organization or anyone you know would like to give a donation, please call the SHA Office at (701) 852-9161.

Thank you! •

Join Us In Preserving the Traditions of Our Proud Heritage

THE SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE PARK, the only park in the world representing all five Nordic countries, hosts thousands of visitors each year from around the world; as well as providing a picturesque setting for weddings and family gatherings.

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

- Interpretative Tours of the Park
- The Heritage House Museum
- Local School Field Trips
- The Annual "Midsommar Natt"
- "Arts in the Park"
- Seminars on Heritage and Culture
- The on-going preservation and promotion of Scandinavian traditions, positive values and ethics
- And much, much more!

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

SUSTAINING MEMBER

\$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 the Association
- Invitation to Annual Banquet and other SHA events
- Annual SHA Gift Packet
- Logo window Sticker

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\$100.00 - \$499.00 per year

Receives the SHA Membership Package, plus:

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

BENEFACTOR MEMBER

\$500.00 and above per year

Receives the SHA Membership Package, plus:

- Recognition in Newsletter (one issue)
- Two (2) Complimentary Tickets to the Annual Banquet

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Yes, I/We give permission to print our name in the SHA publications

Please contact us. I/We would like to become Volunteer(s) at SHA.

Check enclosed \$ Credit Card: MasterCard Visa Discover Am. Exp.

Card Number

Exp. Date

Name on Card
(please print)

Signature

Please mail to Scandinavian Heritage Assn., P.O. Box 862, Minot, ND 58702. Thank You!

SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY NEWS...

Dakota Finnish Society NEWS

Sauna, anyone?

by Marion Anderson, Finnish Society president

If you have Finnish ancestors on your family tree, odds are good your family's traditions included saunas.

Saunas (sweathouses or steambath facilities) are small rooms or houses in which bathers can experience dry or wet heat sessions. Some feature smoke instead of steam!

The word *sauna* is an ancient Finnish word, its meaning obscure. The oldest known Finnish saunas (dating back as early as the 5th century) were pits dug in a slope in the ground, providing heat during the winter. Later saunas featured a fireplace, where stones were heated in fire until they were hot. Water was thrown over the hot stones to produce steam and increase heat. The smoke from the fire filled the room as the air warmed.

Some of the earliest saunas were called *savusauna* (smoke saunas). In this type of sauna, the heated rocks served as the heat source. There was no smokestack in these saunas; the smoke would actually fill the room and stain the bathers. Although this tradition died out, it was revived in the 1980s.

More recent saunas contained a metal woodstove, or *kivas*, with a chimney. Air temperatures averaged around 160 to 180 degrees F—sometimes reaching 200 degrees.

Steam vapor, called *löyly*, was created by splashing water on heated rocks. The steam and high heat caused bathers to perspire, which was believed to flush away impurities and toxins from the body. A bundle of birch twigs, called *vihta*, was used to gently slap the skin and stimulate the pores.

Most Finnish residences had a sauna. Traditionally, whole



families would bathe together in the nude. The atmosphere was reverend and sacred—considered to be next to the church in holiness.

Following the sauna, bathers would often jump into a pool or lake to cool down, then head back to the sauna to warm up again. In

winter, some hardy souls (including SHA member Bruce Carlson of Velva, and his family, descendants of Finns from the Rock Lake community in northeast North Dakota) chopped holes in the ice for a cold dip in the lake. *Brrrrrrr!!!*

In older times, women gave birth in the sauna because of the warm, sterile environment. Children were still occasionally born in saunas in the beginning of the 20th century—including in this country! That's because when the Finns migrated to areas of the U.S., such as Minnesota, Northern Wisconsin, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Western Ontario and the Dakotas, they brought their sauna traditions with them. Today, descendants of those Finns continue to enjoy their saunas.

The sauna in Scandinavian Heritage Park (pictured above) was built in 1997, in time for FinnFest USA's national celebration in Minot that year. If you'd like to experience the exhilaration of a sauna for yourself, visit Scandinavian Heritage Park on Midsummer Night (Thursday, June 28, beginning with a picnic at 5 p.m.). Bruce Carlson will have the fires lit, the rocks heated and the steam steaming. Be sure to wear your bathing suit under your clothing so you can do a "quick change" before and after your sauna. Bring a towel, too!

Then, stick around to watch the Midsummer Night bonfire, another Nordic tradition managed by Bruce. •

Icelandic Heritage Society NEWS

2006: Icelandic visitors, booth award, scholarships

by Ken Holand, president
Icelandic Heritage Society Newsletter

The year 2006 is now history, but here is a recap of your society's activities:

In April of 2006 we had five Icelanders from the Icelandic Rotary Study Exchange group of Reykjavik visit us for a day. They had been touring throughout the U.S. for five weeks. We enjoyed lunch with them at the SHA office.

We had several more Icelanders visit during Norsk Høstfest to help promote their country and their culture, including:

- Asta Sol Kristiansdottir, managing director of the Icelandic National League (director of the Snorri program)



- Almar Grimsson, president of the Icelandic National League, Reykjavik
- Magnus Gustafsson, Icelandic Council General in New York
- John Magnusson, Icelandic National League, Minneapolis

Our Icelandic booth at Høstfest won the Excellence of Taste Award for food items sold there. Our thanks go out to all the workers who helped out.

Our society awarded two \$500 scholarships to students of Icelandic heritage. Winners were Erin Anderson of Moorhead, Minn., and Mark Lund of Marshall, Minn. The awards were presented at our annual Kaffi Samkoma, held on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Holiday Inn. More than 60 attended, and we had a great time. •

Swedish Heritage Society NEWS

Meetings, new members and more!

by Loren Anderson, president
Swedish Heritage Society-NWND

Greetings, and isn't it nice to be on the down slope from that cold spell! It sure must help the winter clothing merchants! It even got cold in Arizona.

The Swedish Heritage Society of NWND hosted a Sankta Lucia Pageant produced by Sandy Starr and Lucia and her court from the Western Plains Girls Chorus. We were pleased to have an attendance of 65 at the pageant and luncheon that followed.

During lunch and prior to our meeting, the Solid Oak Gospel Singers from Velva provided easy listening music. What a talented group of singers. Thanks, Mavis, for arranging this. Ieri Larsen gave us an informative presentation on the history of Sankta Lucia and how it is celebrated today—not only in Sweden but also most Scandinavian countries as well as Germany. Thanks, Ieri.

If any of you have some specific interest in Sweden and Swedish culture, please let us know and we would love to have a presentation.

I think most of you have received the first chapter or the foreword of the Swedish Zion Lutheran Church project with a picture attached. This is a stone church located close to Carbury on the way to Lake Metigoshe. If you have not received it, please contact me at my office: (701) 858-3122, or email: loren.ander-

son@minotstateu.edu and I will forward it to you.

The annual meeting and election of officers was held Jan. 20. The nominating committee (Eldora Eliason and Bev Jensen) presented the new slate of officers (who were elected unanimously):
President Loren Anderson
Vice president Mavis Larson
Secretary Bev Jensen
Treasurer Lois Matson
Hospitality Edie Vandel and Eldora Eliason
Nominating Eldora Eliason and Bev Jensen

We also voted to support and endorse the Swedish Zion Lutheran Church project.

Our next meeting will be April 21 at 2 p.m. at the Scandinavian Heritage Center, Level 2. Our program will be presented by Phil Lowe from Lowe's Garden and Floral. Minot, Spring will soon be here, and Phil will give us information on growing flowers and gardens. We will have a short meeting and fellowship, coffee and goodies. Come and bring a friend with you.

We would like to welcome the following new members: George Fredrickson, Helen Moe, Marilvn Fiedler, Virginia Lindberg, Tim Burchill, Robert Soderstrom, Tessa Nesheim, Irene Solie and Gene Wunderlich. We look forward to getting to know them.

Also, mark your calendar for June 6th Svenska Flaggnas Dag. Would someone like to give a presentation on Svenska Flaggnas Dag? It is quite



interesting and would make a fine discussion for our gathering. We are thinking of getting

together in the SHA Park about 5:30 p.m. for a picnic and to take the flags down. We will need to meet in the park about 8:30 a.m. to put all the flags out. We will have all this on the agenda for our April meeting.

If you would like to learn about Sweden's economy, government, international trading partners and other information you would enjoy exploring this site: <http://fita.org/index.html>. Just copy this on your web browser, scroll down the left side to "country profiles," and then click on "Sweden." You will find enough information regarding Sweden to keep you interested for more than a day.

You will first see "Overview," but you can then click on various topics. After a day or two, you will be an expert on Sweden and you will know more about it than the Swedes—just like the Norwegians do!!

The Swedish Heritage Society meets quarterly, January, April, June and September, with a December Sankta Lucia Pageant. The meetings are held the third Saturday at 2 p.m. except for June 6, which is Swedish National Day (Svenska Flaggnas Dag).


Take care, keep warm, and we look forward to seeing you all April 21. •



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