

Published in the interest of North Americans
of Scandinavian descent

Scandinavian Heritage News

September 2007



Floral flags deck lawn of Heritage House

Flags of the five Scandinavian countries are represented in flowers on the front lawn of the Heritage House (pictured in background). Checking them out are two of the fellows who keep them weeded and watered: SHA board members John Sinn and Bob Whetter. (Photo courtesy of Arnie Braaten)

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President's MESSAGE

It's time to consider leaving a legacy of heritage

by Mark Anderson, president
Scandinavian Heritage Association

As we move forward into the Autumn of the year, we have much to look forward to. When I think of autumn, I think of cool mornings and warm afternoons, sunshine, football, and raking leaves. Autumn is a season of change, a passing of the old and an anticipation of the new. It won't be long and the land will be enveloped once again in a coat of white. There will be good times spent with friends over a cup of hot cider, holiday shopping and the eternal optimism that comes with the New Year.

As we age, we view autumn as a season of change. Like the seasons, our finances and spirit of philanthropy grow and change throughout our lives, until, in the end, we look to pass on those things that we have accumulated, as well as those ideals that have grown within us.

Philanthropy, or giving back a portion of what we have been blessed with, is always in season. As parents and grandparents, we want to make the road a bit smoother for our children and grandchildren than it was for us. We leave them our money, our possessions, and our shared experiences.

But what about the story of our heritage and those that came before us? Knowing where we came from is

as important to us today as it ever was and ever shall be. As human beings, we yearn to understand where we came from.

The Scandinavian Heritage Association is doing much to preserve the history of our forefathers for our children and our children's children. One example of this is the time capsule that will be dedicated in Scandinavian Heritage Park on Oct. 9, 2007. Children from area schools will be invited to participate in this dedication ceremony, in hopes that some of them will be present in 2057 when the capsule is opened once again.

There are many ways in which you can help to preserve your history and the history of this region. The easiest way is through your membership, support and donations for the good works of SHA. Whether your gift comes by way of life insurance, gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, donation of property or cash donation, you may rest easy in the knowledge that you have done your part to ensure the continuance of this important mission. And you just may save some taxes in the process!

As a Boy Scout, I was taught to always leave a campsite in better condition than I found it. The same ideal applies to preserving our heritage and the history of our region. Please, consider making a donation today.

To learn more about the various ways you can contribute to Scandinavian Heritage Association, call Bruce Christenson at (701) 837-9226, then, enjoy the season; you have much to look forward to. •



Mark Anderson

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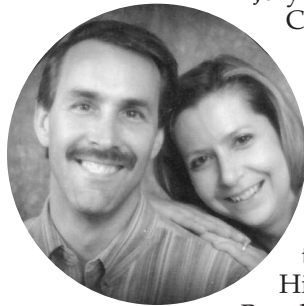
Happy
Thanksgiving!

From the OFFICE

100th marriage ceremony held in Gol Stave Church Museum

by Jeanne McNea
SHA office manager

Since May 17, 2002, The Gol Stave Church Museum has been a popular place to have a wedding, and on July 7, 2007,



Cora Corzette and Rick Douglas (pictured) were the 100th couple to be married there. Julie Hiatt and Billy Bonebrake were

first, on May 17, 2002.

Over the years, there have been formal weddings and casual weddings. Ministers and lay pastors from many denominations, and judges too, have performed the ceremonies. The weddings have ranged from very small, private ceremonies to a full church and overflowing crowds. We have had people from as far away as Texas come here to be married because they thought the church was so unique. Our hope is that all will have long and happy marriages.

Salute to SHA pioneer, Laurence Thompson

My last article gave a little history of when and how the park was started. Now I would like to acknowledge one of the early volunteers who did so much and gave so much to get things started.

Laurence Thompson, a retired farmer, joined the board of directors of the SHA organization early in its existence, on June 28, 1991. He worked on almost every project as well as acting as chairman for the Danish Mill, the Waterfall, Wall of Honor, Golden Book of Memory and other smaller projects.

I would call him a salesman, too, as he collected many cash donations for projects in the park: He was able



Jeanne McNea

to get materials and labor discounted or donated from businesses. He recruited volunteers to work on projects. When we had tickets to sell for a banquet, he sold four times as many as anyone else. He also vis-

ited friends and organizations to spread the word about SHA park.

On March 13, 1992, the Scandinavian Heritage Association was asked if it would like to have the Danish Windmill in SHA Park. The windmill had been in Roosevelt Park and was in need of restoring. Laurence made contact with the children of the original builder to make sure he would agree to the move. He arranged for rocks to be hauled in for the base, got volunteers to help build it before the top could be put in place, and then helped finish it.

The Danish Windmill was dedicated in October 1992, on the eve of that year's Norsk Høstfest. During the ceremony, the SHA board commended Laurence for all the work he personally did on this project.

The Waterfall, the other "big" project Laurence took on in August of 1993, required a lot of pre-planning. He was able to get the plastic lining for the ponds donated. The high school welding class made the railings for the bridges. After lining up volunteers, the real work began. The average age of the volunteers was 74.

Laurence worked on the Christmas light project by donating money for the electric outlet pedestals, getting many lights donated, and then putting them up. He has made donations for placing names on the Wall of Honor. He made a standing frame for a mirror which he gave to the Gift Shop in memory of his grandson, who died in a car crash.

CALENDAR

FALL 2007

Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. • Minot Symphony Orchestra performs Edvard Grieg's "Piano Concerto in A Minor," featuring accomplished Norwegian piano soloist Knut Erik Jensen. Ann Nicole Nelson Hall, MSU

Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. • Suoni Wind Orchestra concert (50-piece orchestra from Skien, Norway), Ann Nicole Nelson Hall, MSU. Also hear them at noon, Oct. 10, Great Hall of Vikings, Høstfest

Oct. 9 • SHA time capsule ceremony, afternoon, SHA Park.

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 & 7p.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

NOTE: TOURS OF SHA PARK
SHA Park will be open for tours all the days of Høstfest, as well as the weekend before and after Høstfest. Check for times.

FUTURE HØSTFEST DATES

2008—Oct. 1-4

Opening night concert Sept. 30

2009—Sept. 30-Oct. 3

Opening night concert Sept. 29

2010—Sept. 29-Oct. 2

Opening night concert Sept. 28

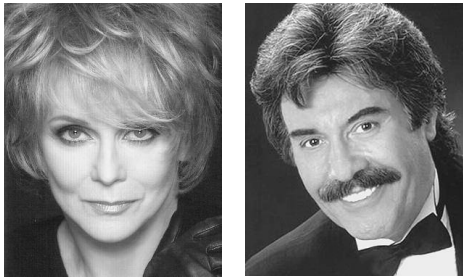
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We don't see Laurence as much anymore, but we are always glad to see him when he comes around. His wife, Opal, must be given credit, too, for furnishing many cookies when the men were working. •

VELKOMMEN to the 30th annual... Norsk Høstfest



Ann-Margret and Tony Orlando will entertain you on the Great Hall of the Vikings Stage on Oct. 9, Høstfest Eve.

Norsk Høstfest 2007 celebrates 30 years of fun, festivities, food, arts and crafts, education and entertainment, Scandinavian style. The gala ethnic extravaganza takes place in Minot's All Seasons Arena—a 265,000-square-foot, seven-building complex, all under one roof. This year's dates are Wednesday, Oct. 10, through Saturday, Oct. 13, with an opening night concert set for Tuesday, Oct. 9.

From humble beginnings three decades ago, Norsk Høstfest has grown

to become North America's largest Scandinavian festival, which regularly appears on the American Bus Association's "Top 100 Destinations" list.

Yet despite its phenomenal growth, Høstfest still retains a down-home, friendly atmosphere that makes folks feel "velkommen." According to Chester Reiten, president of Norsk Høstfest, "It's like a small town on a Saturday night, where neighbors can get together over a cup of coffee and some warm-hearted camaraderie."

Wholesome entertainment

Each year, Høstfest brings internationally acclaimed performers to Minot, providing wholesome, family-friendly entertainment for show-goers of all ages.

This year the festival has booked seven superstars for the Great Hall of the Vikings arena and numerous entertainers on the side stages. Opening night (Tuesday, Oct. 9) acts feature versatile Swedish-American actress Ann-Margret and singer/entertainer extraor-



Stars of Høstfest '07 include, from top, left to right: Bill Cosby, Charley Pride, Lorrie Morgan, Ronnie Milsap, Sissel, Bjørn Haaland, The Oak Ridge Boys, and Willams & Ree.

dinaire Tony Orlando. Performers Wednesday, Oct. 10, through Friday, Oct. 12, include popular comedian Bill Cosby, and country music favorites Charley Pride, Lorrie Morgan and Ronnie Milsap. On Saturday, Oct. 13, international singing sensation "Sissel" of Norway entertains. All but the Tuesday night show will be staged twice. (See calendar, page 3, for details.)

Daily acts on multiple stages include Norwegian country singer Bjørn Haaland, the comedy duo of Williams & Ree, and musical tributes to Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline and the Beatles.

Visit Høstfest's many halls (named for Scandinavia's great cities) for stage acts ranging from bluegrass, country and gospel bands to bunads (ethnic costumes from Scandinavia) and Norwegian folk dancers. Be on the lookout for roving musicians, interactive characters, and a stray troll or two.

Disguised in the crowd are a handful of Mystery Vikings, each with a \$100 bill to give away to anyone who asks them, "Hi, where are you from?"

Distinguished visitors, guests

A royal visitor will be among Høstfest's honored guests this year. Her Highness Princess Astrid of Norway (sister of King Harald V) will visit Minot to join in celebrating the event's 30th year of preserving Scandinavian

Sissel's so HOT she sizzles!

She's sung for queens and princes and shared stages with superstars of every musical genre ranging from opera tenors to pop idols and rappers. She's performed at the Winter Olympics, sung at Carnegie Hall and appeared on the Dave Letterman talk show. And she's on the biggest-selling film soundtrack of all time.

This 30th anniversary year of Høstfest, internationally acclaimed vocalist Sissel brings her unique voice to Høstfest audiences—appearing on the Great Hall of the Vikings Stage on Saturday, Oct. 13, at 1 and 7 p.m.

Born in 1969 in Bergen, Norway, Sissel has been a child star since age 11, making her television debut at 14. At 17, she released her first album, which catapulted her into stardom. Today, Sissel is a national institution in Norway and has sung all over the world, selling six million solo albums and featured on the 30-million-selling soundtrack of the 1996 movie, *Titanic*.

Sissel's new album "Into Paradise," recorded in Norway, has appeal for classical, pop and "crossover" fans alike.

Yet despite her success, Sissel hasn't forgotten her roots. "The Norwegian countryside is my inspiration," she says, noting, "I am very proud of Norway and its fantastic nature." •



PHOTOS OF GIRL WITH DOLL AND DANCING COUPLE BY BASIN ELECTRIC TOUCHSTONE ENERGY®; REST BY JO ANN WINISTORFER



heritage and culture. The Princess will receive a special honor during the Scandinavian-American Hall of Fame Banquet, taking place at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10, at Minot's Grand International Inn. She will be presented with the International Scandinavian Cultural Award, commending her for her contribution to international goodwill between Norway and America and for promoting cultural ties between the two countries. North Dakota First Lady Mikey Hoeven will present the award.

Others being honored that night for their achievements in business, sports, entertainment or other accomplishments include Sister Thomas Welder, University of Mary president, Bismarck; Johann Olav Koss, Norwegian champion skater; and North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.

This will be the Princess's second visit to North Dakota. Reiten credits her first visit, in 1983, with boosting Høstfest's reputation from that of a small but growing annual fall gathering into a festival with global appeal.

Other international visitors will include a delegation from Minot's sister

city of Skien (pronounced "Shee-en") in Telemark, Norway—led by Skien city council member Knut Einar Aas. Aas and his party are among a large number of Scandinavian visitors, authors and artisans you'll meet at Høstfest 2007. Members of the Suoni Wind Orchestra, a 50-piece Norwegian brass band, are among the guests from Skien who will double as entertainers. (See calendar, page 3, for details.)

Lots to see, lots to do, lots to eat

When you visit Høstfest, you'll find music ranging from accordion tunes to vocalists singing everything from country to gospel. You'll see people dressed in colorful costumes called bunads. You'll find exhibitors from two continents promoting hardanger, rosemaling, sølje jewelry, sweaters, and many other Scandinavian items in Høstfest's many shops. Check out the artisans demonstrating their crafts. Browse through the Book Store, where SHA will be among the vendors.

You won't go hungry at Høstfest! Diners will find foods prepared at multiple booths, at the Swedish bakery, and

at the Scandinavian kitchen located in assorted Høstfest halls. Taste fare with a Nordic flair! Eat at the long rows of picnic-style tables, or choose a cafe-side table in Touchstone Energy® Heritage Center's Copenhagen Hall. Or, dine first-class at En To Tre, a sit-down restaurant serving gourmet cuisine from "land, air and sea"—your choice. An elegant Smørgåsbord is also part of En To Tre this year.

Don't miss the party!

Among the reasons for Norsk Høstfest's long-running success are its friendly volunteers. More than 7,000 people offer their time and talents at Norsk Høstfest. That number includes many SHA members!

Don't miss Høstfest's 30th anniversary. Join in the world-class entertainment, traditional Scandinavian foods, shopping, demonstrations, displays, camaraderie and fun. Come early, stay for the duration—and enjoy the party! •

— — —
For further information or to purchase tickets, contact the following Website: www.hostfest.com, or call (701) 852-2368.

Heading for Høstfest? Then stop by the SHA Book Store!

While you're strolling the halls of Høstfest, wander over to the Book Store in Trondheim Hall. The store is operated by the Scandinavian Heritage Association and staffed by volunteer-members of SHA.

You'll find books on all five Scandinavian countries, as well as cookbooks, children's books, history and how-to books, novels, genealogy books, books written by and about North Dakotans, and many more. There are books for all ages and interests. You'll also find colorful calendars with scenes from Scandinavia.

Stock up on books for Christmas giving. Visit with the friendly volunteers; considering signing up for a membership to SHA, or giving a gift membership to a friend or family member.

Proceeds earned from book sales go to Scandinavian Heritage Park, an oasis of heritage and beauty in Minot's heart. While you're in town for Høstfest, drop by the park. The park will be open for guided tours the weekends before and after Høstfest, as well as during the event. For hours, call the office. •

Right: SHA board member Doralyn Brown holds up a book titled "Iceland," one of the many books on sale at the SHA Book Store in Høstfest's Trondheim Hall. Doralyn, who's a member of the Icelandic Heritage Society in Minot, wears an Icelandic costume.



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Shop and save at SHA Gift Shop

The holiday season is just around the corner. That means it's time to think about Christmas shopping!

For any of those Scandinavians on your "Santa" list, may we recommend a gift from the Scandinavian Heritage Association Gift Shop. Jeanne McNea, who runs the SHA office and orders items for the Gift Shop, invites you to stop in to browse around. You'll find books, calendars, ceramic items, plates, tiles, aprons, jewelry, figurines and more—all with a touch of Scandinavia.

Another ideal gift for folks with Scandinavian roots: Give them a membership to the Scandinavian Heritage Association. It's a gift that keeps giving all year—to the recipient, and to preserving the heritage of the early pioneers. Members receive a 10-percent discount on SHA items purchased in the Gift Shop, four issues of the *Scandinavian Heritage News*, and a gift packet containing a membership pin and a window sticker. For details, see page 12.

Don't forget—as a member, you, too, get that 10 percent SHA Gift Shop discount! •



Jeanne McNea displays a few of the many SHA Gift Shop items!



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The Scandinavian Heritage Assn.



SHA time capsule

Burial ceremony set for Tuesday, Oct. 9

On Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 9, SHA board members and friends will gather outside the Gol Stave Church Museum for a special “burial service” designed to preserve the history of the organization. During the ceremony, a two-foot-long, stainless-steel time capsule containing memorabilia about SHA will be committed to the ground alongside the church. The capsule will remain buried for 50 years, at which time it will be unearthed for posterity.

A number of items have already been collected for placement in the capsule. It’s not too late, however, to add to the collection. Clippings, photos or other small items that represent our heritage and our association and its accomplishments would be welcome.

Students from area schools are being invited to attend the ceremony, as it’s hoped some of them will return to the site in the year 2057, when the capsule will be unearthed and its contents revealed.

Young people in attendance at the burial service will receive a gold-colored paper clip along with a card designating them as members of the CLIP (Concerned Leaders In Preservation) Club and bearing the motto: “Holding our heritage together.” The paper clip idea is especially appropriate, as Johan Vaaler (1866-1910), a Norwegian patent clerk and inventor, is credited with inventing the first paper clip.

Although he patented his invention (in 1899 in Germany and 1901 in the U.S.), it was never manufactured, as by that time a more practical paper clip called the “Gem” was already being produced in England. During the Nazi occupation of Norway during World War II, pins or badges bearing national symbols were outlawed. The Norwegians adopted paper clips as their symbol of resistance, wearing them in their lapels. The clips signified solidarity and unity against the Nazis.

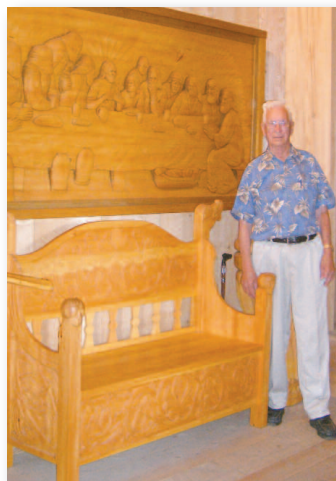
We invite you to join us at SHA Park for the Oct. 9 ceremony, which will take place on the afternoon of Norsk Høstfest’s opening night. Mark the date on your calendar; it’s an important milestone for the future. And, oh, yes ... if you’re around in 2057, you’re invited to attend the festivities when the capsule is dug up 50 years from now! •

George Officer (above) displays the time capsule scheduled for burial Oct. 9. At right: Some of the items that will be tucked into the capsule and unearthed in the year 2057. (Photos on this and opposite page by Jo Ann Winistorfer)



Artist to attend capsule ceremony

Among those attending the SHA time capsule ceremony Oct. 9 will be Phillip Odden, the Baronet, Wis., artist who carved the bas-relief Last Supper panel for the interior of SHA’s Gol Stave Church Museum. George Officer (right), chairman of the Gol Stave Church committee, invites you to visit the church to view Odden’s art work, which includes the church portals. •



SHA Park delights visitors to Minot

Ask visitors to Scandinavian Heritage Park “Hi, where are you from?” and chances are you’ll learn they’re not from North Dakota. In fact, many are not from the United States! Some come from Canada, while others come from overseas, especially around Norsk Høstfest time when Scandinavians descend on Minot for the annual festival of heritage, which turns 30 this year.

The park, a beautiful oasis located in Minot’s heart, is a magnet for tourists, who visited it in droves this summer, assisted by friendly greeters and guides who were on hand to answer their questions. Some of the visitors came alone, some in family groups, some in tour buses, and some with school classmates.

We’d like you to meet two families who drove quite a distance and were delighted to discover the park. At right, Phil and Tracy Easton from Macoun, Saskatchewan, and their youngsters, Brenden and Renai, enjoyed their tour of the park grounds in mid-August. The favorable Canadian-U.S. exchange rate makes the trip to Minot more affordable for Canadians these days.

Below, two sisters from Kansas inspect the revolving globe atop the park’s observatory. Under construction during their visit, the wood frame surrounding the globe has since been replaced with black marble. •



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The Scandinavian Heritage • 8

EDVARD GRIEG: Norway's greatest musician

by Arland Fiske

No one has done more to popularize the folk music of Norway than Edvard Hagerup Grieg (1843-1907). No one has written a better book on Grieg than Finn Benestad and Dag Schjelderup-Ebbe. It was translated by William H. Halverson and Leland B. Sateren, and published by the University of Nebraska Press in 1988.

The book itself is a work of art, with 441 large pages on high-quality paper. There are 404 illustrations and many interesting notes printed on the outside columns. Also included are many musical scores.

For anyone who would take music history seriously, or would like to know all there is to know about the composer and his times, this is the book: *Edvard Grieg: The Man and the Artist*.

The name *Grieg* comes from the MacGregor clan in Scotland. Originally *Grig* (from MacGregor), it was changed to *Grieg*. Edvard's great-grandfather, Alexander Grieg, immigrated with his wife to Bergen, where some of the family had settled as early as 1600. There are some claims that Alexander was a fugitive from the gallows.

Edvard's paternal grandmother was Danish, the daughter of a violinist from Aalborg. Edvard's maternal grandfather, Edvard Hagerup, was deeply involved in Norwegian politics and was one of the 112 representatives who signed the Constitution at Eidsvoll on May 17, 1814.

Edvard Grieg was also a relative of Ole Bull, the great Norwegian violinist. Edvard's mother was a highly talented singer and considered to be the best piano teacher in Bergen.

If you've ever been to Bergen on a clear day and seen the city from the adjoining mountains, you can't help but be impressed with its beauty. It was the home of the Hanseatic League, German merchants who dominated Norway's west coast fishing industry for hundreds of years during the Middle Ages. Grieg loved the old houses, narrow streets, the harbor and the surrounding mountains, but he vigorously disliked its middle-class business mentality. He was hungering for more of the artistic and spiritual values.

A new dawn of change and creativity

The 19th century saw the awakening of Norway to become a part of the modern world. The change of government from the ruling class in Denmark to Sweden and the new Constitution called forth an unusual amount of energy and

talent in such persons as Henrik Ibsen and Bjørstjerne Bjørnson in literature, Iver Aasen in the revival of the Norwegian language (Nynorsk), M.B. Landstad and Ludvig Lindeman in music, Jorgen Moe and P.C. Asbjørnsen in folklore, the Sverdrups in politics and theology, and many more.

Edvard—small of stature—was not known as an especially good student. The rote-learning method of education did not take with his creativity. He used a special trick to get out of school. Getting to class late brought punishment whereby the student had to stand outside until the end of the period.

One day Edvard stood under a rain-spout (it rains often in Bergen) and got soaked. When the teacher saw him all wet, he sent him home for dry clothes. Since it was a long walk, he had the dry off. This trick worked well for a time, but one day he tried it when it was hardly raining at all. The suspicious teacher had someone spy on him, and that was the end of that. He also repeated the third grade.

But Edvard did have an unmistakable musical talent. So did several of the other children in the family. His mother recognized his special giftedness at the piano. While hating lifeless scales and exercises, he loved to daydream at the keyboard to create new melodies. He began piano lessons from his mother at age 6. It was Ole Bull who took hold of him and said: "You are going to Leipzig to become an artist!" And so began the career of Norway's greatest musician.

Ole Bull became famous in America, but Grieg said he wouldn't cross the ocean for a million dollars. He got seasick too easily.

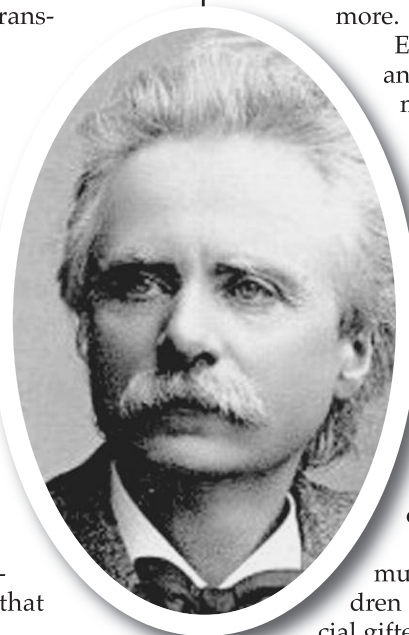
A maverick in music, politics and religion

In the course of his career and travels, Grieg met most of the great musicians of his time. He loved French and Russian music most of all, although he refused to perform in Russia because he detested the Czar's government. He said, "They are the worst criminals of our time."

He had a special love affair with Copenhagen. It became his "artistic and spiritual home" rather than Oslo or Bergen.

While the piano was the center of his musical studies, he also conducted symphony orchestras. In 1880 he became director of the Bergen Symphony. He saw his task as turning the symphony into a first-class organization. When several members failed to show up for a dress rehearsal, choosing instead to attend a large public dance, he dismissed them.

Grieg was a very private person. He couldn't tolerate hav-



It was Ole Bull who took hold of him and said, "You are going to Leipzig to become an artist!" And so began the career of Norway's greatest musician.

ing anyone near when he composed, so he built a private hut away from his house for his work. His famous summer home in "Troidhaugen," just outside of Bergen, has become a major tourist attraction. While there, you can peak in at the hut near the water's edge where he worked, as well as walk through the house where he and his wife, Nina, lived. The Bergen residence, however, was too hard on his health, and the couple lived in it only during the summer months.

While Grieg was famous for his music, he was equally serious about politics and religion. He held radical political views, even favoring a republic over a monarchy. However, he soundly approved the new monarchy of 1905 with a Danish prince and an English princess for the new royalty.

He reacted strongly against social injustice, lust for power, and the snobbery that he saw in the ruling classes. Meeting royalty was a painful ordeal for Grieg. He felt the required protocol was too full of vanity.

In religion, Grieg was also a maverick. Though brought up under the influence of "orthodox" Lutheranism, he found that it was too confusing for his doubts. On a trip to England, he became a Unitarian, which he remained for the rest of his life. His creed was summed up in "love" and the Sermon on the Mount. Yet he kept on good terms with a cousin who was a state church pastor. When buried, his ashes were put in a grotto where visitors may view the site today.

Grieg's North Dakota connection

Norwegian singer Marta Sandal Rortvedt (1878-1930) sang solos under Grieg's direction. Unlike Grieg, she crossed the ocean 13 times. She appeared as a soloist with Grieg in his last concert, Oct. 17, 1906, in Oslo, before the new royal family.

Grieg wrote a unique introduction for her singing in America. She introduced his music at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Grieg wrote: "I have no doubt that she will succeed in winning the hearts of the New World as she did in her own country."

She was the only authorized "Grieg singer" before the public, receiving high praise in London, Berlin and Chicago. She was also presented at the royal court in Russia, but did not sing there.

In her last years, during the 1920s, she lived with her husband, Gudmund Rortvedt, in Heimdal, North Dakota. While

her husband farmed, she organized young talent from surrounding communities into a choir.

Her daughter, Sylvia, writing of her mother, said: "She was always a 'lady.' I might say she was not the kind of a woman [who] was expected to 'help with the dishes,' though, if necessary, she could do menial tasks with her usual aplomb."

So Grieg did get to America (through Marta), and I get excited every time I hear one of his piano or orchestral compositions. The additional story of Marta brings it a little closer to home.

If you visit Troidhaugen in Bergen, look for Marta's picture on a table in Grieg's home. And if your curiosity leads you to explore the full story of Norway's musical genius, read the book: *Edvard Grieg: The Man and the Artist*. •

Editor's note: This column is the eighth 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 Norwegian Heritage: Vol. II."

Piano virtuoso Knut Erik Jensen, Minot Symphony Orchestra to present music of Edvard Grieg

On this, the 100th anniversary of his death, the world celebrates the life and the musical legacy of Norwegian composer and pianist Edvard Grieg. Born in Bergen, Norway, Grieg is renowned as a nationalist composer, drawing inspiration from Norwegian folk music.

To honor the composer and his works, the Minot Symphony Orchestra will perform Grieg's "Piano Concerto in A Minor," one of his most popular pieces. Norway's most exciting rising young star, pianist Knut Erik Jensen, will be featured as the soloist. Jensen will appear in Minot after an extensive solo tour of America and Canada.

The concert takes place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at Minot State University's Ann Nicole Nelson Hall. •



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Mojakka, lefse or vinarterta, anyone?

As you probably suspected, lots of Minot-area members of the heritage societies affiliated with the Scandinavian Heritage Association will again be volunteering their time at Norsk Høstfest.

What you may not know is that they're also busy preparing food, which they'll be serving at booths in different areas of the All Seasons Arena complex.

Here's what's cooking at the booth in Oslo Hall, sponsored by **Sons of Norway's Thor Lodge**:

- Betasuppe (a sweet soup)
- Open-face ham and Jarlsberg cheese sandwiches served on hard rolls
- Lefse filled with almond butter

Icelandic Heritage Society members will be serving the following goodies in



You'll find a variety of ethnic foods at Norsk Høstfest, including the ones listed below.

Reykjavik Hall:

- Pönnukökur (a pancake served with strawberries and whipped cream or filled with jam)
- Vinarterta (a seven-layer Icelandic wedding cake with prune filling)

The Dakota Finnish Society menu,

also served in Reykjavik Hall, includes:

- Mojakka (a Finnish clear-broth stew made with beef, potatoes, carrots, rutabaga, onion and celery)
- Finnish flatbread
- Finnish bread pudding

Volunteers from the **Souris Valley Danish Society** will be assisting members of the Danish American Fellowship of Minneapolis in the Tivoli Cafe in Copenhagen Hall. They'll be serving breakfast and lunch plates, and the following assortment of foods:

- Æbleskiver (a round Danish pastry served with strawberry preserves)
- Danish sausage
- Pastries, cheeses, etc.

Don't let the fact that you can't pronounce some of the words on the menu fool you; come to Høstfest prepared to eat the cultural cuisine served by our societies. Arrive hungry, eat hearty, leave happy! •

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

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\$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

SPONSOR MEMBER

\$100.00 - \$499.00 per year

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- 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...

Thor Lodge Sons of Norway NEWS

Time for Høstfest, cultural classes

*by Martha Elliott, president
Thor Lodge 4-067 Sons of Norway*

Greetings to all! Thor Lodge has had a quiet summer. Then again, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Lodge wasn't quiet. We had a wonderful celebration on June 24.

We had a unit in the North Dakota State Fair Parade, which was held on a Saturday when temperatures were in the 90s. Many warm days

followed. We also had a couple of picnics, one at the Elliott cabin at Rice Lake, and another at the Mahle farm. Both were very good potluck socials.

Now we prepare for the fall. Our big event, of course, is Høstfest. Be sure to stop by the Thor Lodge food booth while you attend the festival.



Our cultural classes will begin in September. Are you interested in taking a rosemaling class?

Contact us. Interested in learning how to knit or do hardanger? Contact us. Folk dance classes will start also, along with our choir. We always welcome new people to any of these classes. We offer other cultural classes as well, so contact Thor Lodge members.

We have had a good year with all the activities Thor Lodge has offered to

its members. These classes and meetings and socials continue. We meet for a business session the first Monday of each month, and we have our social on the third Monday of each month. The other Mondays we have choir and folk dancing. See you at any of our meetings, socials and at the Høstfest. Have a great autumn. •

Scholarship awarded to young Thor Lodge member

Allison Krause, a 19-year-old from Minot, recently received an academic scholarship from Sons of Norway, District Four. The award is to encourage participation in the study of Norwegian language, culture or literature at a college or university in the U.S. or Canada, or at a Norwegian university or folk school.

Krause, a sophomore at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, will be spending spring semester at the American College of Norway in Moss, Norway, as a part of the Integrated Studies Program's study abroad. She is a member of Sons of Norway Thor Lodge in Minot. In the past, Krause has taken classes in Norwegian language and rosemaling, and participated in Young Vikings, a culture program for youth.

Her parents are Skip and Ann Krause, also from Minot. •

Souris Valley Danish Society NEWS

Farewell to President Tim Burchill



Tim Burchill

*by Pamela Orth,
secretary
Souris Valley
Danish Society*

It has been said that you don't know what you have until it is gone. That was most decidedly *not* true when we were told that Tim Burchill, president of the Souris Valley Danish Society, was moving away. It

was quite a blow. We have come to depend so very much on Tim's leadership, friendship, genuineness, and the knowledge and enthusiasm he has passed on to us about our Danish Heritage.

As a Society, we had a farewell lunch with many Danish delicacies, not to mention a special song in his honor penned by Marion Johnson. We will carry on, and he isn't moving across the nation or the world for that matter, but it does feel that way. We thank him for all his efforts, all the lovely door prizes and the hugs.

Tim will be living in Jamestown, where he will take on his new adminis-



trative position. We wish him only the best and want him to be happy in his new position. He will be on the lookout at all times for more people of Danish ancestry.

Neil Zimmerman, our vice president, will now complete the year as president. He has his own agenda, and his passion is to work on getting new members. We will certainly be supporting him in that endeavor. •

Swedish Heritage Society NEWS

Society planning trip to Carbury's Stone Church

by Loren Anderson, president
Swedish Heritage Society-NWND

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 15. We have an event planned that promises to be interesting, educational, exciting and fun for everyone.

We will leave from the Scandinavian Heritage Park at 9:30 a.m. and drive to the Swedish Zion Lutheran Church (the Old Stone Church), three miles west and one mile south of the Carbury Port of Entry. We have planned a potluck lunch after viewing the church, cemetery and Mystic Horizons, the mini Stonehenge that was dedicated a year ago last fall. We will then proceed to Tornos' cabin at Lake Metigoshe, where we will enjoy our potluck and also go boating if the weather permits. The Swedish Heritage Society of Northwest North Dakota will provide hamburger and hotdogs, and everyone can bring a dish to pass.

We are inviting the folks from Bottineau whose families were original members of the church and expect a great turnout. We can car-pool from the SHA; we will travel as a caravan, because not everyone knows how to find the church.

Stone Church history book

We still have the book "Stone Church; A Prairie Parable," written by Gene Wunderlich, for sale. Proceeds go to the restoration of the church, including repairs to the roof.

The church fund has received a \$5,000 donation from Ms. Clarice Titterud, formerly Clarice Swenson, of Des Moines, Wash., a suburb of Seattle. Clarice was Gene Wunderlich's sixth-grade teacher in Carbury. She visited the Scandinavian Heritage Park this past summer, saw the book for sale there, and was moved to make the donation.

If you haven't yet purchased your copy, please do so soon. It will make a wonderful Christmas gift for anyone connected with that church or anyone who knows someone of Swedish heritage who may have relatives who were members there or were interred in the church cemetery.

The following introduction to the book, by Nils Hasselmo, President Emeritus, University of Minnesota, gives a glimpse of the message of Gene's book and of the immigrants who built and nurtured the church:



"Through a story of an old stone church and the people who built it and worshiped in it, Gene Wunderlich gives us a glimpse of pioneer life in a small immigrant community. By so doing, he has been able to acquaint us with some of the real people who left familiar ground to strike out into the unknown ... and to tell us something about how they formed a new community.

"... The reader is given insight into how individuals viewed and coped with their new lives and ... how their lives were shaped by their participation in a new community.

"Wunderlich provides background concerning the broader patterns of Swedish emigration and settlement in America. ... In the homeland, the church had been the most important institution in their lives. The new settlers saw the church they organized and built as the foundation for their new community. ...

"The main strength of this book is to me the intimacy that we, the readers, experience with the men and women who shaped the new community. We get to know some of them and can develop a deeper understanding of what it was really like to emigrate and settle. We get a glimpse of their hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, and of what community meant to them as they sought a foothold in a new land."

I hope you all had a great summer.
Halsningar! •

Alfred Nobel: Swedish inventor, poet, philanthropist (1833-1896)

Soon we will be hearing the announcement of nominees for the Nobel Prizes. Alfred Nobel (Oct. 21, 1833-Dec. 10, 1896) was a Swedish chemist, engineer, innovator, armaments manufacturer and the inventor of dynamite. He was also a philanthropist, poet and inventor, holding 355 patents at the time of his death. In his will, he bequeathed part of his fortune to institute the Nobel Prizes.

Here are several Websites for you to explore to learn about the history of Alfred Nobel and his interesting life.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Nobel

http://nobelprize.org/alfred_nobel/

<http://nobelprize.org/nobel/foundation/index.html>

http://nobelprize.org/alfred_nobel/will/short_testamente.html

<http://nobelprize.org/nobelpeacecenter/index.html>

<http://nobelprize.org/nomination/>

http://nobelprize.org/prize_awards/

http://nobelprize.org/alfred_nobel/biographical/

<http://www.lucidcafe.com/library/95oct/alfnobel.html>

<http://www.chemheritage.org/classroom/chemach/gases/nobel.html>

http://inventors.about.com/od/dstartinventions/a/Alfred_Nobel.htm

<http://www.britannica.com/nobelprize>

<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0835779.html>

<http://www.hotchkiss.k12.co.us/HHS/nobelnov/nobel.htm>

Just paste the url's on your web browser and enjoy all the information about Alfred Nobel and the Nobel Prizes. •

Dakota Finnish Society NEWS

N.D. Finns celebrate their heritage

by Marion Anderson, president
Dakota Finnish Society

Belden had a 100-year celebration on Memorial Day weekend. Phyllis Gordon and Joyce Evans were organizers of the event. The Finnish Cemetery 100th anniversary was recognized on Memorial Day.

Belden was a settlement of many Finnish immigrants, and there are still several Finns in the area. Phyllis Gordon reported an excellent turnout from many different states. From all reports, this was an excellent and enjoyable celebration.

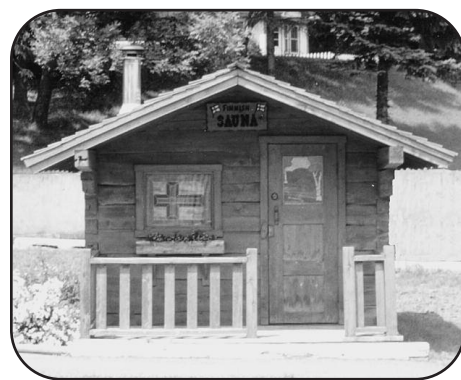
The Finns in the Wing area commemorated the 100th year anniversary of the Ahola Finnish Cemetery there. They had an excellent turnout (approximately 200 people). After the ceremonies at the cemetery, there was a steak fry and auction at the Finn Hall. Phyllis Gordon, Bruce Lorenz and Myron and I attended from the Minot

area. There were many in attendance from different states also. It was a very enjoyable day, and the Wing Finns did an excellent job of hosting this.

Bruce Carlson mastered the bonfire at Midsummer Night festivities again. He also had the sauna heated, but not very many bathers participated.

Visitor from Finland

Ilona Aalto of Turku, Finland, was a guest at the homes of Virgil and Geraldine Rude and Myron and Marion Anderson. She spent four days with Rudes and 10 days with the Andersons. Ilona was a Lions International Exchange Student and also attended a camp in Canada with other exchange students. She also spent another week in Minot with another host family. Myron and I took her to Medora, Tioga, International Peace Gardens, Bismarck and Perth. Robby Vee (Bobby Vee's son) entertained there the weekend of July 7. Perth, Rolla and



Rock Lake are also areas where many Finnish people settled.

Workers needed for Finnish food booth at Høstfest

Next on the agenda is Norsk Hostfest. We will again have the food booth. If interested in working a shift on some of the days, please get in touch with Phyllis Gordon or me.

Pikkujoulu will be observed the first Saturday in December, so mark your calendars. More information will come out later.

Happy fall and happy Høstfesting!!! •

Icelandic Heritage Society NEWS

Icelandic choir opens heart to historic Upham church

by Ken Holand, president
Icelandic Heritage Society Newsletter

An Icelandic choir touring the Upper Midwest and Manitoba in mid-June made a special visit to North Dakota. After performing in Winnipeg on June 17, the choir of the Free Church of Hafnafjordur, Iceland, sang at the International Peace Gardens on the Canada-U.S. border. The choir's next stop was at the historic Melankton Icelandic Lutheran Church in Upham, where the choir of around 20 members performed five Icelandic numbers.

Jim Goodman, Icelandic Heritage Society member from Minot (and editor of the society's newsletter), attended the performance. "I met them along



with Kris Benson and Ted Christianson of Upham, who, along with one other former member of the Upham church, are the only Icelanders left in the area," Goodman says. "The acoustics in the old church are fantastic, and I got goosebumps listening to this beautiful music rendered by fellow Icelanders."

While the music of the choir impressed its listeners, choir members were equally impressed with the old church itself. When they got to their motel in Minot that evening, they took up a collection for the care and upkeep of the church, presenting the resulting \$600 to Goodman the following day.

"We were awestruck that this traveling choir took it upon themselves to

create a collection to give to the care of Melankton Icelandic Lutheran Church," Goodman says.

Scholarships to be awarded

Our last meeting was held Wednesday, Aug. 22, at the Heritage House in SHA Park. We discussed the upcoming scholarship program. So far we have had 12 applicants for the two scholarships to be given away by our society. The entries will be reviewed on Sept. 6; winners will be announced in the December 2007 issue of this newsletter.

This year, an additional \$500 memorial scholarship will be given as a tribute to Fred Goodman, Icelandic Heritage Society member who died this past spring. The scholarship is being donated by Fred's wife, Eva, along with friends and relatives.

Happy Thanksgiving! •

Tracing your Scandinavian ROOTS • 19

We all had Lutheran ancestors!

by Jo Ann Winistorfer

Something all of us with Scandinavian roots have in common is that, in the past, we had ancestors who were Lutherans. That's good news for genealogists, as the Lutheran Church kept close tabs on its parishioners through its parish registers.

For many centuries, Lutheranism has been the state religion, and the Lutheran Church has been the official recordkeeper for the governments of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland. In Sweden, the church even recorded censuses in its parish registers.

In 1539, the Lutheran Reformation (introduced into Norway by Danish King Christian III, ruler of Norway and Denmark), was officially adopted by a Norwegian church council. Property owned by the Catholic Church was confiscated, and former Catholic priests who wouldn't convert were deported.

Norwegian parish registers began in 1668. In 1685, the law required the priest or sexton (*klokker*) to record the church rites. However, some parishes began keeping records earlier than that. The oldest Norwegian register (for Andebu parish) dates back to 1623. Before 1700, only 127 parishes kept registers.

Unfortunately, some of these early registers were destroyed by fire, floods and other calamities. To prevent the loss of these records, an 1812 law decreed that duplicate registers be maintained and

stored in separate buildings. The rule applied only through 1820, but many *klokkers* continued to make duplicates.

Church registers before 1812 can be difficult to decipher, reading like a chronological log that lumped together funerals, baptisms and marriages. After 1812, a standardized format required that christenings, marriages, funerals, etc., be listed according to category.

Before 1812, the *klokker* recorded only the date of the church rite—the christening, not the birthdate; the funeral, not the death date. Earliest registers sometimes omitted the mother's name, but always recorded the father's name.

Until the mid-1700s, a woman who had just given birth to a child was considered unclean and was barred from the church. After about six weeks, the mother would be "reintroduced" into the church. This ceremony was listed as *introduceret* (or *inngang*) in the parish books.

Children born out of wedlock were indicated in the parish register as *uetke*. Starting in 1820, the priest listed in a separate column whether the child was legitimate or illegitimate. *Leiermaal* (fornication or adultery) was considered a sin and a crime. Any unwed folks who had a child had to confess their sin to the congregation; this confession was recorded in the parish register. The couple was also fined for their offense. In 1767, the confession requirement was abandoned.

The church documented data from the

beginning to the end of its members' lives, from christenings to funerals. In between were confirmations, betrothals (including *banns*, or announcement of the couple's intention to marry, usually read in church three separate Sundays) and marriages.

In Norway, the church kept track of those receiving smallpox vaccinations. The church also recorded information on incoming and outgoing parishioners. Called *innflyttede* and *utflyttede* in Norwegian church records, they provide former and future places of residence of anyone joining or leaving the parish.

The bad news is, sometimes the person maintaining the registers was careless, omitting names, writing down the wrong information (especially dates) or using sloppy penmanship. Therefore, check these records with others to determine accuracy.

The good news is, often multiple generations of one family can be tracked through these church registers, which are considered primary records for genealogists.

• • •

You don't have to go to Norway to access the church records. If you know the parish and clerical district of your ancestors, you can usually obtain the church records. Most of the Norwegian parish registers have been microfilmed by the LDS Church. They are accessible through the LDS Family History Centers. Go to the center nearest you (there's one in Minot), check the Family History Library Card catalog (on their computer) for the parish and the time spans covering your ancestors' lives in that locale. Then order the microfilms that apply. You'll be charged a small rental fee. When the film comes, you can view it at the Center. Or, visit the following Website: www.familysearch.org.

Scandinavian Heritage
Association