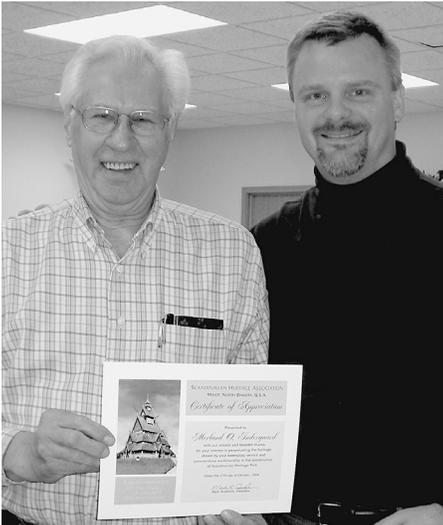


The Scandinavian Heritage NEWS



Published in the interest of North Americans of Scandinavian descent • P.O. Box 862 • Minot, ND 58702 • December, 2006



Mark Anderson, SHA president, presents certificates of appreciation to Merland Indegaard (left) and Verla Rostad (right) during the December meeting.



Two volunteers receive certificates

Two certificate presentations took place at the December board meeting of the Scandinavian Heritage Association.

Receiving the awards were Merland Indegaard and Verla Rostad, both SHA members from Minot whose volunteer services on behalf of the park were recognized at the meeting.

Among their duties were acting as hosts for the numerous bus tours. The tours are especially popular during Norsk Høstfest, when busloads of visitors from across the U.S. and Canada make a stop at the park! •

Membership invited to SHA annual meeting

The Scandinavian Heritage Association annual meeting is set for Friday, Jan. 27, at 10:00 a.m. at the SHA headquarters building at the intersection of 11th Ave. S.W. and Broadway in Minot. All members are welcome to attend.

On the agenda is the election of officers for 2007. The following were nominated at the December meeting:

- Mark Anderson, president
- Luther Hanson, vice president
- Marion Anderson, secretary
- Jerry Jorgenson, treasurer

Nominated to serve on the Board of Directors with three-year terms ending in January 2010 include:

- Marion Anderson
- Ron Bieri
- Helen Haaland
- Luther Hanson
- Jerry Jorgenson
- Gail Peterson
- Virgil Rude

Also, a nomination for the remaining one-year of Dennis Jacobsen's three-year term ending in January 2008.

In addition, the president may make five one-year-term board appointments.

Retiring board members are Dennis Jacobsen, Bob Knudson, Christina Campbell, Ann Krause and Terry Peterson. Carroll Erickson's term on the board expires in January 2007 and he will, as a past president, continue to serve as an ex-officio member of the board. We thank them for their support and service over the past years. •



SHA Website now online!

Here's some great news for those of you with access to the Internet: The SHA Website is now online. What's more, we have added a link to MapQuest. By clicking on this link, visitors to our site can view virtual and aerial maps and obtain driving instructions on how to get to Scandinavian Heritage Park.

We also have listed some upcoming events sponsored by SHA and SHA Societies.

For your convenience, there will be a shopping cart, which will enable you to send credit-card information for donations, memorials, and new and renewed memberships.

Please give us your feedback on what you like and what you'd like to see improved. We'll take all suggestions and try to make this a better Website. Check it out at:

www.scandinavianheritage.org

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!*

President's MESSAGE

To remember is to honor

by Mark Anderson, president
Scandinavian Heritage Association

Last month, I went "home" to spend Thanksgiving with my relatives. During our time together, we shared memories of family members now deceased. My brothers and I went on a pilgrimage to several cemeteries to pay our respects to loved ones gone and to reconstruct the story of where we came from. The trip was rewarding for many reasons, but it got me thinking about the ways that we honor others.

American culture is replete with examples of how we honor people who have touched our lives. We honor our presidents and those who were killed for their beliefs. People like John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were killed because of who they were and what they believed, and they are still honored today around the world.

We honor our veterans and war heroes with memorials and ceremonies of every sort. When President Franklin Roosevelt uttered his famous words, "December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy," even he couldn't have imagined how, 65 years later, we would still honor, in solemn ceremonies and on film, the men and women who died that terrible day.

We also honor the memory of innocents who have died senselessly and needlessly. The Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City has been replaced with a national memorial featuring 168 empty chairs, honoring those who died on April 19, 1995. And who doesn't remember where they were on Sept. 11, 2001? Much debate has ensued about the best way to honor those who died in the terrorist attacks that day, and plans for a lasting memorial are under way.

It is certainly right and appropriate that we honor our dead and those of national significance, but what about

us "ordinary folk"? For me, personally, I need look no further than my own family for lessons on how to honor others.

As a former teacher and childcare administrator, my wife understands the importance of honoring others, especially children. No matter where we are in the community, we are routinely approached by children with outstretched arms, open smiles, and little voices, calling, "Jodi!"

Instinctively, my wife drops down on one knee so that she can look these little cherubs in the eye, smiles back with the same enthusiasm just extended to her, gives them a loving hug and exclaims, "Hi! I'm so glad to see you!"

And for that moment, that child is the most important person in the world. My wife understands that, by honoring children, she is also honoring their parents, who stand behind, witnessing all of this with overflowing smiles of their own.

Honor isn't reserved for those of national significance; it is for all of us. During my recent trip, I found that my genuine interest in my ancestors was infectious; it got others talking about our loved ones, and it honored their memory. And so it is with our heritage. It isn't just about honoring a country; it's about honoring our family.

As we enter this Christmas season, it is important that we remember to honor each other. When we teach our children and grandchildren to honor others, we are teaching them not just to be good stewards of their heritage, but to be shining examples of all that we, as human beings, can be.

By planting and nurturing these seeds today, it is very likely that one day your descendants will be honoring you. May you be so blessed.

God Jul! •



Mark Anderson

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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!

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

SPONSOR MEMBER

\$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

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The Scandinavian Heritage • 5

'Primstav' served as Norse calendar

by Arland Fiske

In Old Norway, people kept track of the days and years with the aid of a "Primstav," normally made of wood and hung in the entrance of a home. There was a notch for each day.

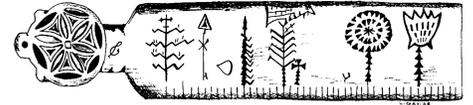
The Primstav was laid out horizontally to show the two seasons, summer (which began on April 14) along one edge of the board and winter (beginning Oct. 14) on the other. There was midsummer and midwinter day, but no spring and autumn as we celebrate. When you finished one season, you flipped the board over.

Originally, the Primstav gave weather forecasts, planting and harvesting dates, pasturing dates for cattle, moving dates, forecasting when fish will bite—such things as are found in the Farmer's Almanac of today. Community life was organized around these dates.

When Christianity came to Norway in the early 11th century, 37 new holidays were added to the calendar. Religious emphasis was given to the dates from nature. The Christian holy days usually remembered martyrs, the Virgin Mary, Christ or the Apostles.

Each holy day is marked by a symbol. April 14 (Summer Day) is a tree filled with leaves, telling people to get ready for planting. It was also moving day for hired help. If it snowed on this day, it would snow nine times before full summer came. Oct. 14 (Winter Day) has a mitten, showing that winter clothes should be taken out and put in order.

The most celebrated of the summer holidays is John the Baptist's birthday, June 24. Fires are lit everywhere on hillsides on the eve of this holiday. This was to protect people and animals against witches and evil spirits. The cows were taken to the seters ("out-



farms" in the mountains). If it rained, then it would be wet during harvest. The calendar symbol is a church building.

Aug. 10 was the last day for putting up hay, or it would be worthless as winter fodder.

By Sept. 14 (Holy Cross Day), all crops were to be in barns for a blessing, and cattle were turned loose to graze. Anyone who did not keep holy days was fined.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year—whether or not you use a Primstav! •

Editor's note: This column is the fifth 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."

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Swedish Heritage Society NEWS

Sweden is a nation of inventors

by Loren Anderson, president
Swedish Heritage Society-NWND



Happy holidays to all. The Swedish Heritage Society of Northwest North Dakota once again held the Sankta Lucia Pageant at the Scandinavian

Heritage Center. This year's event, which took place on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 11:30 a.m., was directed by Sandy Starr, with performances by the Western Plains Children's Choir and the Solid Oak Gospel Choir of Velva.

Did you know?

Sweden is well known as a nation of inventors. It is remarkable how many ingenious, life-improving products, appliances, machines, systems, medicines and gadgets originated in our little Scandinavian country. Here are a few:

- Anders Celsius (1701-44), the Celsius (Centigrade) thermometer

- Carl von Linné (1707-78), a systematic classification of plants, animals and minerals

- Carl William Scheele (1742-86), chlorine and other chemical elements

- John Ericsson (1803-89), the maritime screw propeller

- Alfred Nobel (1833-96), dynamite

- Gustav de Laval (1845-1913), cream separator
- Fredrik Ljungström (1875-1964), steam turbine
- Hasselblad (1906-78), single-lens reflex camera
- Rune Elmquist (1906-96), the pacemaker
- Håkan Lans, computer mouse (and others items too numerous to mention)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, everyone! •

Souris Valley Danish Society NEWS

Tivoli booth at Høstfest features Danish delicacies

by Pamela Orth,
Souris Valley Danish Society



Norsk Høstfest 2006 is now history. Danes were well represented at the event, with members of the Souris Valley Danish Society helping to man the booth, along with Danes from Minneapolis.

All of us at the Danish Society wish all of you a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous 2007. •

Icelandic Heritage Society NEWS

Icelandic booth wins 'taste' award

by Jim Goodman, editor
Icelandic Heritage Society
Newsletter

We had a booth at the Norsk Høstfest and met a lot of great people.

We were pleased to have Asta Sol Kristjansdattir here representing the Snorri Program from Iceland. Asta is the director of the Snorri program and does a wonderful job representing Iceland.

Another visitor during Høstfest time was Almar Grimmson from Iceland. Almar is the president of the Icelandic National League in Iceland. He is also a great promoter of Iceland.



Speaking of Høstfest, the Icelandic booth was a great success this year, even winning an award! The booth won the Excellence of Taste Award for food items sold there. Our thanks go out to all the workers who helped out.

At our Coffee Samkoma, held Oct. 14 at the Holiday Inn in Minot, we presented two students with our scholarships.

Winners were Erin Anderson of Moorhead, Minn., and Mark Lund of Marshall, Minn. Both recipients have Icelandic roots. Neither was able to accept the scholarship in person because of school. •

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Thor Lodge Sons of Norway NEWS

Members study cultural crafts

by Joan Varty, president
Thor Lodge 4-067 Sons of Norway

Christmas was celebrated on Dec. 11 at the Grand International Inn. A large number of members dined on a meal of cordon bleu and lemon pepper cod. We were entertained by the Thor Lodge Singers singing songs in Norwegian and English under the direction of Sonja Hernes.

The Bishop Ryan High School Concert Choir presented a program of songs. It was a festive evening that put us in the mood for the coming Christmas holidays.

Cooking up culture

A group has been enjoying a cooking class taught by Kari Mahle. Kari has been introducing several recipes that had been a part of her life in Norway.

The Norwegians believe that a beautiful presentation is as important as the taste of food served. Kari makes cooking enjoyable and fun.

As the members learn this skill, they are encouraged to complete the steps required to earn the pin and bars offered by the Sons of Norway Cultural Skills Program.

A program of mini cooking classes will be offered if enough interest is shown.

Other cultural skills classes are also being offered to members. In January, classes in rosemary, knitting and dancing will be in session. Classes in Norwegian language, chip carving and Hardanger are also being organized.

Mary Zurcher is the cultural director of Thor Lodge. Call her if you are interested in any of the cultural skills classes. Mary's telephone number is (701) 362-7468.



Officers to be installed

The 2007 slate of officers has been elected and will be installed at the January business meeting. Martha Elliott is the newly elected president. Her telephone number is (701) 838-8554.

Thor Lodge Sons of Norway is a group that keeps busy learning about and remembering our Norwegian heritage. To become a member of this lodge, it is not necessary to be of Norwegian heritage. Simply having an interest in heritage is all that is required.

Have a Happy New Year! •

Dakota Finnish Society NEWS

Finns host 'Pikkujoulu'

by Marion Anderson, Finnish Society president

We had another successful and busy booth at the Norsk Høstfest. We were also the recipients of \$100 from the Høstfest for one of their awards.

Thanks to all who volunteered and helped out with this project.

On Dec. 2, we held our annual Pikkujoulu (Little Christmas) celebration. The weather did not cooperate very well (icy roads and very cold temperatures), but it was a successful day nonetheless. Participants came from as far as Rolla, Rock Lake, Wing, Washburn and Stanley. Others came from Velva, Makoti, Ruso and Minot. Erik Olson was the entertainment for the day, along with Myron Dammen and Rod Renaud, who accompany him on guitar and bass. Erik is a very accomplished fiddle and violin player from Minot and has won many fiddle competitions.

Tommi Parmakoski from Finland also shared thoughts on the different customs in Finland relating to Independence Day in Finland which is on Dec. 6. Tommi has attended Minot State University for the past four years and will

be returning to Finland to finish his schooling on Dec. 9.

We also had a silent auction at this celebration (the first endeavor of this type), and all proceeds were designated to the Salvation Army. We took in over \$400!!! Santa Claus (Terry Lantto from Stanley) made an appearance. Bruce Carlson had the sauna heated and three Finns partook of this nice, hot Finnish bath.



Katie Jo Carlson

Finnish Society scholarship winner receives \$500 award

Recipient of a \$500 college scholarship was Katie Jo Carlson of Velva, daughter of Bruce and Cindy Carlson. A graduate of Velva High School, she attends the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks and is majoring in occupational therapy. Katie was not able to attend this festivity, so the scholarship was accepted by her parents.

Scholarship applicants have to have completed two years of college and maintained a B average. Applications are being taken again with a deadline of April 30, 2007, for applying. Any child or grandchild of a Dakota Finnish Society member is eligible to apply.

We also encourage applying for scholarships for young people to Salolampi, the Finnish language camp at the Concordia Language Villages. More information about these sessions for young people and adults can be found on the Salolampi website. •



Tracing your Scandinavian ROOTS • 15

Christmas gifts for genealogy nuts

by Jo Ann Winistorfer

Folks who love family history are easy to buy gifts for. Add to that Scandinavian roots, and your shopping problems are over for years to come! Here are some ideas:

- Buy your favorite Scandinavian a membership in the Scandinavian Heritage Association. For your money, your gift recipients will receive four issues of "Scandinavian Heritage News," and discounts on Scandinavian-related merchandise sold in the gift store. They'll also get the latest news on the park, and the satisfaction of knowing that their gift is helping to keep the park (along with their Scandinavian heritage) alive and well.

- For gifts with a Nordic flair, check out the SHA Gift Shop. Calendars for the new year come in "flavors" that include Norwegian, Swedish and Icelandic. Ole and Lena fortune cookies feature jokes and witty predictions. And, they taste good! There's lots of great items to choose from—and remember that discount!

- Genealogists with roots stretching into Nordic lands will love finding a book under their tree that features their ancestral country. For ideas, try the SHA Gift Shop first. Next, try the Web. Just type the words "Scandinavian history books" (or more specifically, books on Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Finland or Denmark). You'll be amazed at the choices available by mail order.

- If you've already done some family history research, make copies (paper or CD) of your genealogy and wrap them up as Christmas gifts for relatives. (It's a great way to back up your records.)

- Family pictures make treasured gifts—especially prints of old family photos. Be sure to identify folks in your pictures. Don't write on the pictures themselves. And don't write on the backs of the photos, as the pressure from the pen or pencil could imprint onto the face of the picture. Use only nonacidic albums and related items.

- Using today's technology, interview family members (especially elderly ones with their storehouse of memories) on a CD. You can then make duplicates to give as gifts to relatives.

- Make the holiday season a time for family togetherness. Share your stories with one another, revisit those old pictures, and take steps to preserve the memories.

Merry Christmas! •



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