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Vennligfolk Lodge

meets the second

Sunday evening, 7:00 pm

September thru May

at Saint Paul's

United Methodist Church

600 Wilshire Blvd

Stevens Point Wisconsin

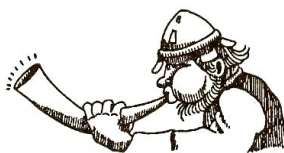
Vennligblad

Friendly pages for the 'friendly people' of Vennligfolk and their friends
Sons of Norway Lodge #5-627 for Central Wisconsin,
Stevens Point, Whiting and Plover, Wisconsin

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 4

JULI OG AUGUST 2016

Fra
presidenten:



SONS OF
NORWAY



Let me begin my letter with some *great* news. I recently received an email from Esther Charlton, the District 5 Cultural Director, informing me that our **Vennligfolk Lodge** had the most members receiving pins for Cultural Skills during January 1st through May 31st. No other lodges even came close! We received an award and a \$40 check for this achievement at our District Convention held recently in June. Congratulations to all of you who earned these pins, and a *very special thanks* to Karen Trzebiatowski who is our lodge leader for Cultural Skills.

Here's some more good news . . . our lodge continues to grow. A big "Welcome Back" to Wayne & Nancy Schroeder as they recently rejoined **Vennligfolk**. Many of you already know Wayne & Nancy, as they are charter members of our lodge. Did I mention that out of fifty-six lodges in our district, **Vennligfolk** is second in growth? Our growth percentage for 2015 was 21.7%. And . . . at the District 5 Convention **Vennligfolk Lodge** received an award and a \$100 check from the Foundation for this achievement. I think that is amazing!

Although it is summer, and our lodge does

not formally meet, we are still quite active during our break. On June 5th, fourteen of us ventured north to the Palmquist Farm where we enjoyed an afternoon of Finnish food, fellowship, music, and fun. A few weeks later, we had our Midtsommer Fest at the South New Hope Church. What a picturesque setting for our picnic! "Mange takk" to Ron & Charlotte Hensler for coordinating this event, Gary & Elaine Anderson for opening up the church for our use, and to Arno Morton & Bea Berg who grilled the brats and hot dogs.

June 23rd – 25th found many of us in Marshfield. Delegates, presenters, volunteers, and spectators from **Vennligfolk** represented our lodge at our Sons of Norway District 5 Convention. At the convention, our outgoing president, Owen Christianson, gave out three "President's Awards" for people who inspired him during his term as president. Our own Marv Lang was one of those recipients! Owen said he has admired Marv for the Norwegian research he has done throughout the years. Congratulations, Marv!

Just in case you are looking for something to do in August, we have another "Road Trip" coming up. On Thursday, August 11th, we are planning on taking a road trip to Madison, WI. Our tentative plans include a tour of the Capitol,

Continued on page 2

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Gratulerer

med

dagen

Jan Flatoff - 27

July

Marv Lang - 1

Arno Morton - 1

Wayne LeVasseur - 17

Kathy Rueb - 18

August

Rosie Paulson - 4

Jen Haas - 8

Lois Alfsen - 9

Terry Anderson - 14

Ron Hensler - 15

Karen Trzebiatowski-18



What's Happening at Vennligfolk???

REMEMBER: Vennligfolk Lodge meets the second Sunday evening, 7:00 pm September through May at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, 600 Wilshire Blvd, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

August 11, 2016 (Thursday): *"Road Trip to Madison"*

Plans are being made to make a trip to Madison that would include a tour of the Capitol, a visit to the State Historical Museum and/or the Veteran's Museum, have lunch at a restaurant on State Street, and cap of the tour with a visit to the Executive Residence. Contact Susan Morton (skaymorton@hotmail.com) expressing your interest in going along. More information will be available later in July.

Sep 11, 2016 (Sunday): *"The Sons of Norway-The Organization"*

Marv Lang is tentatively scheduled to give an overview of the Sons of Norway

Oct 9, 2016 (Sunday): *"The Belmont Massacre in 1862"*

Gary Klofstad will speak on the topic of Norwegians & Indians and the Dakota War of 1862, also known as the Sioux Uprising of 1862,

Nov 14, 2016 (Sunday): *"Sentimental Journey"*

Carl Rasmussen will reflect on the 1937 Honeymoon Trip of Earl and Ethel Rasmussen

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

At our meeting in May, a sign-up sheet entitled "Opportunities to Serve" was passed around soliciting names of those willing to serve refreshments at the 2016-2017 meetings and those willing to decorate the Scandinavian Table. There are a few openings yet to be filled in. Please let Susan Morton know of your willingness to help

September (11) Karen Trzebiatowski & Elaine Anderson: Table _____

October (09) O & L Hagen and W & N Schroeder: Table _____

November (13) M & R Harpstead and Bea Berg & J. Gjevre: Table - K Trzebiatowski

January (08) R & C Hensler and A & S Morton: Table - Bea Berg

February (12) D & L Johnson and M & L Lang: Table - Lois Hagen

March (12) F & J Polson and _____ Table - Marv Lang

April (09) Jen Haas and _____ Table - Susan Morton

May (14) Servers and Table Host needed

Note: Only seven slots need to be filled; please consider volunteering now and letting Susan know of your willingness. Remember, too, that December will be a *Julefest*

Continued from page 1 ... visiting the State Historical Museum and/or the Veteran's Museum, lunch at a restaurant on State Street, and a tour of the Executive Residence. When I was teaching 4th grade for over thirty years, we always took our students on this same tour every spring. I never tired of this trip, and I always learned something new each year. To be honest, I *really miss* going to our capital city and seeing these beautiful and historic buildings. Please consider joining us for a fun, interesting day trip. If you didn't get a chance to sign up for the Madison trip at our Mid-tsummer Festival, please call me or send me an email if you plan on going.

I can't end this letter without expressing my appreciation to all of our **Vennligfolk** members who participated in the Portage County Cultural Festival on May 7th. Our participation in this annual event (which is also our main fundraiser) could not happen if we didn't have so many of you who willingly give of your time baking, flipping lefse, setting up and later taking down our tables & signs, working at the tables, collecting and counting the money, and other tasks that I haven't mentioned. We had another successful day, and it because of *all of you*. *Tusen takk!!*

Vennlig hilsen, Susan Morton

Norway Becoming a Cashless Society

Norway's largest bank, **Den Norges Bank (DNB)**, has proposed that the country transition into a cashless society and depart from the gold standard of currency. In most modern forms of currency - the *Euro* being one exception - each unit of money (e.g., kroner or dollar) is equivalent to a definite weight of gold or silver.

From **DNB's** perspective, it means that there will be more accountability and less money laundering and black market sales. At present, **DNB** (the central bank of Norway) can only trace 40% of cash in use, leaving 60% unaccounted for. On any given day, just 5% of Norwegians use cash for purchases, with the elderly being the most typical users. **Finans Norge**, an organization which represents hundreds of banks and financial institutions, says that regardless of whether Norway phases out cash now, the society is gradually heading toward being cashless in 2020.

Both **DNB** and **Nordea** have already eliminated the use of cash in their branches and **DNB** is proposing that the 1,000 kroner bill be discontinued to concentrate on improvements in the banking system. Other countries are also making similar moves. Sweden often uses less cash than Norway and Denmark and is making moves toward a cashless system by 2030.

Datatilsynet, The Norwegian Data Protection Authority, thinks that people should be able to buy things without leaving electronic tracks. "From a policy perspective, it is primarily a concern that you cannot pay anything anonymously," says Bjørn Erik Thon from **Datatilsynet**.

What are the pros and cons of a cash-less society?

- Pros:**
- Bank robberies fell from 110 in 2008 to 5 in 2012 when Swedish banks transitioned to more cashless branches.
 - White collar crime and under-the-table activities would be reduced.
 - Money wouldn't be lost by "falling out of pocket."
 - Transaction fees are lower for electronic payments than cash handling transactions.
- Cons:**
- Norway's Ministry of Finance is concerned about how tourism would be affected.
 - The change to a cashless system would also mean that every purchase a person made would be traceable, which is seen by some as a violation of the right to privacy.
 - The removal of cash won't eliminate financial crime; there will still be fraud and stealing even on an electronic platform.
 - The poor and elderly may not have access to the necessary technology or credit.

For the moment, the Finance Ministry does not plan to change any laws, but this may change in the future.



Draken Harald Hårfagre Sails to North America



Photo credit: www.instagram.com/drakenharaldharfagre

In April, the *Draken Harald Hårfagre*, the modern world's largest Viking ship, set sail on a new mission: to reach North America following the route traveled by Leif Erikson in 1000 A.D. Titled *Expedition*

America 2016, the ship's voyage to North America is timed to coincide with summer festivals, including the *Tall Ship Challenge Great Lakes 2016* in August, where it will participate as the only Viking ship. In September and October, it will make stops in New York City and Mystic, Connecticut.

Since the Vikings made few records about ship-building and sailing techniques, the *Draken Harald Hårfagre* is a replica longship based on details gleaned from Norse sagas and modeled after ships uncovered in archaeological digs. Outfitted with a sail of red silk, the craft can reach top sailing speeds of 14 knots, or 16 mph. When winds are low, 25 pairs of oars propel the ship. Although there are a few modern additions such as safety and navigation equipment and communication gear, the ship itself was hand-built, solely using traditional boat-building methods. To honor tradition, the ornate dragon's head prow of the ship was revealed in a ceremony prior to the ship's launch from Haugesund, Norway in April. The colorful carved adornment was traditionally mounted right before departure to protect the crew from bad weather, pirate raids and evil, and removed while in port.

A task not for the faint of heart, the 32-person crew for the expedition was selected from 4,000 applicants hailing from the U.S. and Europe. Captain Bjørn Ahlander praised his crew, stating that they have to withstand rain, cold, harsh mental physical demands and get by on little sleep and no privacy. The owner of the ship, Norwegian entrepreneur Sigurd Aase says that the project's "aim is to explore the world, embrace the Viking spirit to look beyond the horizon and seek adventure, to inspire people to take on challenges."

To see footage of the *Draken Harald Hårfagre* in action, visit drakenexpeditionamerica.com or follow on facebook.com/drakenharaldharfagre

[See the tentative ship's schedule on page 8]

Little Ole was sitting at the kitchen table doing his school homework. He had a puzzled look on his face as he considered the assignment that was due ... writing an essay about his origin. He turned to question his mother. "Mama, vere did Grandma come from?" he asked. "Da stork brought her," answered mama Lena. "And vere did yew come from?" asked Little Ole. "Da stork brought me," his mother answered. "And vere did I come from?" Little Ole inquired. "Vell, son, da stork brought yew, tew," mama Lena replied. With a scowl on his face, Little Ole picked up his pencil, turned to his school tablet, and began writing his essay: "Dere have been no natural births in our family for three yenerations."

St. Olav's Day

Celebrated across Norway on July 29, Saint Olav's Day is an official Flag Day and Norwegian feast day commemorating the accomplishments, contributions and memory of Olav II Haraldsson, otherwise known as the Patron Saint of Norway, Norway's Eternal King or Saint Olav.

Olav was the first king to hold effective control over all of Norway, and was also responsible for establishing and spreading Christianity in Norway. After spending time as a Viking warrior in the Baltic region during his teenage years, and later discovering Christianity during his time in England, Olav returned home to Norway in 1015 where he fought for control of a country ruled by petty kings. At just 22 years old, Olav was accepted as the first king to reign over the entire nation Norway.

Upon receiving military pressure from the king of Denmark and resistance from some citizens because of his enforcement of Christianity, Olav was forced to flee the country in 1028. After two years of hiding in Russia, Olav returned to Norway to reclaim his throne. It was at the Battle of Stiklestad near Trondheim in 1030 where he was ultimately killed. The Icelandic tales from historian Snorre Sturlason speak of miracles that occurred during the battle as well as at the king's grave in Trondheim. In the year following his death, Olav was declared both a martyr and a saint.

Each year in celebration of Olav, the Saint Olav's Festival or Olavsfestdagene is held in Trondheim. Taking place from July 28 – August 6, festival activities include concerts, lectures, pilgrimage and free events along with celebrations and services at the famous pilgrimage destination Nidaros Cathedral.

As an additional way to celebrate St. Olav's Day this year, take a walk along the pilgrimage routes known as St. Olav Ways. Whether you're able to start the actual pilgrimage to the Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, or want to make the journey at home by independently tracking your walking mileage through the Sons of Norway Virtual Pilgrimage and Sports Medals program, beginning the pilgrimage route can be a great way to celebrate Saint Olav this July.

"Frozen Ever After" Attraction Takes Design Cues from Norway

In June, Disney World officially opened *Frozen Ever After*, an addition to the Norway Pavilion at the World Showcase in Epcot. Set amongst the pavilion's replica stave church, Restaurant Akershus and the Kringla Bakeri Og Kafe, the *Frozen Ever After* attraction is inspired by hugely successful 2013 animated film, "**Frozen**." The attraction, as well as the original film, include several Norwegian and Scandinavian references and design elements.

"Our imagineers have traveled to Norway and recreated many of the buildings and facilities and facades modeled after famous buildings and some summer cabins that they found in Norway," said Melissa Valiquette, Vice President of Epcot at Disney. One such cabin is the Detlistua, a charming two-story cottage constructed in 1817 by Ole Halvorsen in Oppdal, which was later rebuilt in 1924 as part of Trondheim's Sverresborg Open Air Museum of Cultural History. Disney designers were inspired by its iconic and beautiful architecture and replicated the cottage's design to create the Royal Sommerhus, a meet and greet location for park attendees to meet film characters, Anna and Elsa.

In addition to the Royal Sommerhus, Disney also debuted the *Frozen Ever After* theme ride, which replaced Maelstrom, a boat ride which opened in the park in 1988. The new ride takes visitors through many of the iconic scenes of '**Frozen**' as they pass along in a boat. In a nod to the history of the pavilion, runestones from the original Maelstrom ride are placed near the Royal Sommerhus.

Did you hear about Ole's cousin Sven who won the gold medal at the Olympics? Yeah, he had it bronzed.

Have You Joined the Race to 100?

Help Sons of Norway by showing your support for all the good work we do with our members, their lodges and their communities by visiting www.racetoto100.org and participating in this important grassroots initiative.

♪ ♪ *The Nidelven Story* ♪ ♪

(This article was translated from Norwegian by Lee Paulson of Granite Falls, Minnesota and appeared in the April 1978 issue of Sons of Norway's *Viking* magazine.)

As related in the last issue of Vennligblad (23.3), Oskar Hoddø, a Norwegian underground worker during the Nazi's occupation of Norway had learned that his identity had just been revealed to Nazi headquarters and that he must flee to Sweden without a moment's delay. However, he was determined to see his wife and two year old daughter Eva once more. He arrived in Trondheim late in the evening and spent time with his wife, Inger, and, Eva. As they lay in bed, Inger was unable to sleep ... and we now conclude the story ...

* * * * *

"Sing my song!" said Inger.

In 1940, Oskar and Inger had become engaged. As sometimes happens, they had a little lovers' spat. One summer night during the lovers' spat, Oskar stood on the "Old City Bridge" and wrote the words to "Nid River" on the back side of an envelope. It goes like this:

Langt i det fjerne bak fjellene blå
Ligger et sted jeg har kjær.
Dit mine tanker og drømmer vil gå,
Alltid du er meg så nær.
Nidelven stille og vakker du er
Her hvor jeg går og drømmer.
Drømmer om deg som jeg hadde så kjær,
Nu er det bare minner.
Den gamle bybro er lykkens portal
Sammen vi seiler i stjernekorall.
Nidelven, stille og vakker du er
Her hvor jeg går og drømmer.

Before Oskar went to sleep that summer morning, he began composing melody for his poem. (Eventually Christian Christiansen and Kjell Rian would collaborate with Oskar on the music to which his poem was set.) He didn't know that the song he had composed would make him immortal and that his own composition of "*Nidelven*" would become known the world over.

"It was your voice I fell for," said Inger, when he had finished singing *Nidelven* to her. "Didn't I have anything else you could fall for?" laughed Oskar.

"I didn't mean it that way. You should have been an opera singer."

"I will have to satisfy myself to be a funeral singer."

"Don't talk about deaths and burials," pleaded Inger. "Let's be nice tonight."

Oskar and Inger were awakened by a loud noise from the entry door. It sounded as though the door were being broken to pieces. Before they were completely awakened, there sud-

denly were three German military soldiers around the bed with machine guns pointed at them.

"Are you Oskar Hoddø?" said one of the Germans. "We have orders for your arrest."

Oskar continued sitting and rubbing his eyes, and pretended he didn't understand. The German hit him on the head with his pistol and told him to hurry.

Inger jumped up and took Eva, who had begun to cry. One of the German soldiers stood the whole time with his pistol aimed at them.

"Isn't it better for you to put on your sports clothes," said Inger to Oskar. "It is cold out and you don't know where they will take you."

So, he put on the same clothes he had used on his recent trip to Leksvika. The Germans put handcuffs on him and hurried to get away from the place. He turned his head at the door and said, "Take Eva with you up to Strinda and stay there. I will try and come in a few days."

There was a long hallway down the center of their apartment building on Nidaros Street. But the Germans made an error and came down to the kitchen entry on Kloster Street. They were unable to open the door and so had to go back up the stairs and along the long hallway again. Inger stood in the doorway holding Eva in her arms as they went by with Oskar between and then out the door of the main entrance.

Two older women who lived in one of the apartments stuck their heads out of the door. They were both very frightened. Inger consoled them and herself that Oskar had said he would soon get out again. He had been arrested once the previous spring and released after only a couple of days.

A short time following Oskar Hoddø's arrest, he was executed by a firing squad. Eventually his epitaph reads "*falt i kampen for Norges frihet i 1943.*"

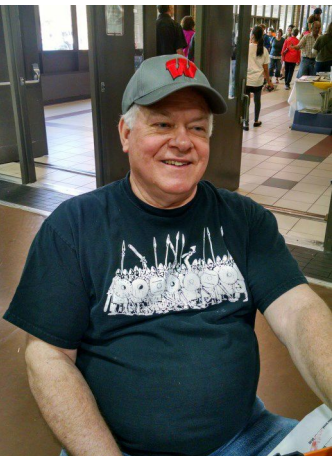
And now the rest of the Nidelven Story

The wives of those incarcerated that night received neither a notice of the death sentence nor that the sentence had been carried out. They were allowed to continue bringing packages without knowing their husbands had been executed. Inger came to Villan Prison in Trondheim to deliver the last package on Christmas Eve of 1943. At that time the young German prison guard began to cry. He didn't see how this could go on ... the taking of packages. He explained that Hoddø was no longer there.

In the first part of January 1944, the wives and other relatives finally received a notice in the mail to meet at the German headquarters office, and when they gathered there they heard for the first time of the death sentences and that the sentences had been carried out on the very night they had been arrested!



Then there's the story about the Swede who was building himself a house. One of his friends came by and asked why the heck he threw away every second nail? "They have the nail-head in the wrong end", the man replied. His friend became furious with him and shouted, "How stupid can you get? Don't you realize that those nails were made to be used on the other side of the house???"



Vennligfolk at Portage County Cultural Fest 2016:

Everyone had a great time making lefse, buttering and sugaring lefse, eating lefse and serving lefse to nearly 14,000 attendees. Now, your job is to put captions under each picture!



Vennligfolk celebrated Midtsommer 2016 at South New Hope Church

Thirty-five Vennligfolk members and friends had a glorious afternoon of eating, playing and conversation at the South New Hope Church outside of Amherst Junction. The weather was perfect, the brats were cooked to perfection (Bea Berg & Arno Morton), the history of the church explained (Gary Anderson) and lessons in playing **Kubb** were demonstrated by many (including Jerry Trzebiatowski).





Vennligfolk Lodge #5-627
Marv Lang, *Editor*
3015 Cherry Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481 U.S.A.



Gudbrand came home from the office and could hardly drag himself through the door. He slumped in the chair. "Hard day at the office, Gudbrand?" asked his friend Ola. "Awful," he sighed, "The computer broke down in the middle of the day and we all had to think!"

Tusen takk Brevet fra Norskeland

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.



Vennligblad, the official newsletter of **Sons of Norway's Vennligfolk Lodge (#5-627)**, is published at the beginning of the odd-numbered months of the year. If you have an item of interest to **Vennligfolk** members, please submit it to the Editor by the 15th of the even-numbered months. You may send it to Marv Lang at 3015 Cherry Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481 or by e-mail to cmlang@charter.net.

Mange Tusen Takk
Marv Lang, *Editor*

Ports of Call for Draken Harald Hårfagre

July 1-3 Toronto, Ontario, Canada
July 8 Fairport Harbor, Ohio, USA
July 14 Bay City, Michigan, USA
July 27 Chicago, Illinois, USA
August 5 Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA
August 18 Duluth, Minnesota, USA
September ? Oswego, New York Canals, NY, USA
September ? New York City, New York, USA
October ? Mystic Seaport, Connecticut, USA

Foil-Baked Norwegian Salmon with Roasted Asparagus

Adapted from salmonfromnorway.com
Serves 4

- 4 5-6 oz Norwegian salmon fillets
- 4 tbsp butter
- 4 sprig tarragon
- 1 lemon
- 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- ¾ lb asparagus
- salt
- pepper

Preheat oven to 375°F. Cut lemon into slices and set aside. Tear a 12" square section of foil. Lightly butter the center of the foil and place a single salmon fillet. Season with salt and pepper and top with a piece of butter, sprig of tarragon and slice of lemon. Fold sides of foil together to create a tightly sealed package. Repeat steps with the remaining fillets.

Wash asparagus and trim ends. Arrange in single layer in an oven-safe casserole dish and drizzle lightly with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. (For added flavor, substitute salt and pepper for garlic salt and lemon pepper.) Bake asparagus for 10-12 minutes and salmon fillets for 12-15 minutes or to desired temperature.

