



SONS of NORWAY

July 2019
Walworth County, WI

Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Greetings, fellow Norwegian Americans:

I hope you are all enjoying the warm weather we have finally been blessed with. Remember, it will be all too soon that the snow will be falling, and we'll be shoveling what is currently falling as rain.

I know you have heard about our wonderful outing to Heg Park last month. They had a great turnout, and we were able to build our treasury by \$459. Carol Anderson organized for us to be in the Delavan 4th of July parade. I rounded up a mother and 3 children who all waved flags and we handed out business cards to anyone interested in their Norwegian heritage.

262-949-9191 corlene121@gmail.com Corlene Bartels

Membership Committee News

We have another event coming up. On **July 13th**, we will have a table at the Saturdays on the Square in Elkhorn. It used to be called the farmers' market, but this year they have invited those who wants to sell or promote anything. So I've made up a nice poster fold-out and will try to interest people in our lodge. We will also have a bake sale. Please let me know if you can contribute, and what you want to make so we don't have everyone bring the same thing. Also, I would like to have company. So if you have some time, please drop by for an hour or so.

A membership drive breakfast is planned for **Oct. 5th** at Perkins in Delevan. Reservations have been made; Greg Regan will attend and pay for the breakfast. All we need to do is bring lots of prospective members. So put it on your calendar!!!

Oct. 19th is the Williams Bay Centennial, where we have reserved a table for recruiting. Please see if you can sit in this for a couple of hours as I will be attending the district workshop in Indiana.

Remember to keep visiting our Facebook page, if you have one. And keep sharing and liking things you see posted. This will keep spreading our profile around and reach more people.



Gratulare Med Dagen
Donald Henderson 15th

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CALENDAR

- July 13th Saturday on the Square bake sale. 9 to 1
- July 20th Kaffe Stue, Mt. Horeb Lodge
- Jul 27th Masse Moro 40th Anniversary Celebration
- Aug. 21st outing to Stoughton. Meet at 9 in Frank's parking lot.
- Sept. 10th meeting at Advia Credit Union, Elkhorn. Guest presenter : Olga Fast
- Oct. 8th special meeting: genealogy workshop at Elkhorn Area Middle School
- Nov. 12th Advia Credit Union, Elkhorn. Guest presenter: Cheryl Schlessler, The Norway Building Rises Again
- Dec. 10th Christmas Dinner TBD



Ole Goes To War

Men from Norway Who Fought in America's Civil War

Jerry Rosholt

Book Review: Ole Goes to War: Men from Norway Who Fought in America's Civil War

Many Norwegian immigrants came to the United States to form the Wisconsin 15th Regiment and fight in the Civil War. Through historical photographs and the soldiers' own words, this book vividly brings to life the human dimension of this pivotal moment in America's history and the important role Norwegians played in it.

Jerry Rosholt, a retired NBC News writer and field producer, dedicated years to the research of this chapter in American and Norwegian history. This book offers an opportunity to discover, discuss, and commemorate America's greatest national crisis, and explore its enduring relevance in the 21st century. Published by Vesterheim Museum.

I was lucky enough to stumble on this book during the Heg Park outing and snatched it up. It's a great recounting of the Wisconsin 15th Regiment under Col. Heg's command. It's only about 60 pages and a quick read. I'll keep it on hand in case anyone wants to read it to earn their Literature pin from Nat'l Headquarters.

The American Dream of Norway

Karina Snare Daily's grandfather built the house she now lives in with her husband and two children in Edmonds, north of Seattle. He came from Svelvik, the grandmother from Odda, the other grandmother from Lofoten and last grandfather from a small village called Snare in Kongsvinger near the Swedish border.

"I took one of those DNA tests. It said: You are 100% Norwegian!" Karina laughs. Karina, 36, says that when her grandmother from Odda came to America, she was not at all interested in becoming American. "She did not like the English language and did not want to assimilate into society." Therefore, Karina experienced a lot of Norwegian in her childhood. "Grandma and Grandpa had a very Norwegian home. Food, decorations, everything was Norwegian. We went to Leif Eriksson Hall three times a week. So I grew up with a lot of Norwegian culture around me. We said 'god jul' and 'julenisse.' We sang 'Ja vi elsker' and Christmas songs."

"I wish I had kept in better contact with my Norwegian roots since then, and I'm still quite annoyed at my mother because she didn't teach me to speak Norwegian."

"Today, Karina has dug out something quite special she got from her grandmother. Two Hardanger bunads: one for a woman and one for a little girl. Karina's daughter Kaia, 2, is really excited about trying on the dress. Karina does not have bunad shoes, but some strappy sandals work fine for her. Kaia first tries on some cowboy boots but ends up with a pair of small rosemailed clogs. Mother and daughter go outside in the street with their bunads to take some pictures.

Karina thinks she tends to idolize Norwegian society. She talks about how the American food industry makes people unhealthy and sick and thinks Norwegians seem to have healthier conditions both for nature and food production.

"Politically, I like to call myself neutral, but I'm worried about where our country is heading. We have a lot of insecurity about education, health care, and the social safety net. Large parts of the United States are worse than developing countries, where people live without very basic necessities like clean water."

"What about you," I ask. "Are you Norwegian or American?"

"I'm very American. Very. I feel American, both socially and culturally. But my family is only Norwegian history and culture. For example, we have quite a strong will. We can joke that someone is very Norwegian, meaning stubborn. And I see that there are some differences on how we have, for example, tackled adversity. My father died of illness several years ago. While he was ill, it was obviously tough for the whole family, but we all reacted very differently. His new family, who was American, was looking for ways to cure him, even though the doctors said he couldn't recover. The Norwegian part of the family accepted the illness. Perhaps I came across as a daughter who did not love my father, but this is probably just a more sober way of looking at life and death, perhaps a bit different from the American."

"I feel that I do not give my children 'enough' Norwegian American culture, only American. I have a little bad conscience for that. I enjoyed relating to my Norwegian culture as a child. I was fascinated about where my family came from and the story of their migration. I would like for my children to also have this connection with their heritage."



Norway's Armed Forces

The *Forsvaret*, "The Defense" is the military organization responsible for the defense of Norway. It consists of four branches: the Norwegian Army, the Royal Norwegian Navy, which includes the Coast Guard, the Royal Norwegian Air Force, and the Home Guard, as well as several joint departments.

The military force in peace time is around 16,048 personnel including military and civilian staff, and around 63,318 in total with the current military personnel, conscripts and the Norwegian Home Guard in full mobilization.

An organized military was first assembled in Norway in the 9th century and was early focused around naval warfare. The army was created in 1628 as part of Denmark–Norway, followed by two centuries of regular wars. A Norwegian military was established in 1814, but the military did not see combat until the German occupation of Norway in 1940. Norway abandoned its position as a neutral country in 1949 to become a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The Cold War saw a large build-up of air stations and military bases, especially in Northern Norway. Since the 2000s, the military has transformed from a focus on defense from an invasion to a mobile force for international missions. Among European NATO members, the military expenditure of US\$7.2 billion is the highest per capita.

The formal commander-in-chief is King Harald V; however, the *de facto* supreme decision-making is made by the Cabinet, led by the Prime Minister. The Chief of Defense (a four-star general or admiral) is the professional head of the armed forces, and is the principal military adviser to the Minister of Defense. The Chief of Defense and his staff are located at Akershus Fortress in Oslo, while



the Norwegian Joint Headquarters, responsible for commanding operations, is located in Bodø. The main naval base is Haakonsværn in Bergen, the main army camps are in Bardu, Målselv and Rena, and the main air station is Ørland.

As of March 2016, Norway employs a weak form of mandatory military service for men and women. While 63,841 men and women were called in for the examination of persons liable for military service in 2012 (mandatory for men), 9,265 were conscripted. In practice, recruits are not forced to serve. Instead, only those who are motivated are selected. In earlier times, up until at least the early 2000s, all men aged 19–44 were subject to mandatory service, with good reasons required to avoid becoming drafted.

Since 1985, women have been able to enlist for voluntary service as regular recruits. On 14 June 2013, the Norwegian Parliament voted to extend conscription to women. In 2015, conscription was extended to women, making Norway the first NATO member and first European country to make national service compulsory for both men and women. There is a right of conscientious objection.



Huldra (or called Tallemaja in Swedish) is a troll-like woman living in the woods. She is fair and beautiful, but wild and has a long cow-tail which she hides behind her back upon meeting a human. It is said that Adam and Eve had many children, and that one day, when Eve was giving her children a bath, God came to visit. Eve had not finished bathing all of her children, and so hid those who were still dirty. God asked: "Are there not more children?" and when Eve said no, God said: "Then let all that is hidden, remain hidden," and the hidden children became De Underjordiske (the ones living underground), lost souls who live under the surface of the earth, calling for someone to be with them, usually human passersby. Huldra was one of them, but she somehow remained above the ground. She is a flirtatious, young girl who is neither good nor evil.



Draugen, from Norse "draugr" meaning ghost. Yet another water creature, and this one is something you really wouldn't want to meet when you're out in your boat. Draugen is the ghost of a man who died at sea. He is huge and monster-like, and covered in seaweed, rowing in half a boat. He erupts a terrible scream when he appears, and legend has it he can be seen during stormy nights at sea, drowning sailors and fishermen, and sinking their boats and ships. There is a story of a man who once ran from Draugen and into a churchyard, where he shouted for the spirits of the dead to protect him. The day after, all the graves were open, and the churchyard was covered in seaweed. In these days, Draugen is commonly associated with anything dark and mystical about the sea.

First-class seafood

Around the world, millions of people are regularly enjoying seafood originating from the Norwegian coast. But nothing beats the taste and texture of a fish that has just been caught from the cold and clear waters.

Imagine what they would think, the first Norwegian fish exporters of the 12th century, if they were told how the industry would grow in the years to come. The fishermen of yore started modestly by selling a few dried cod and herring to the English and had no idea that they had just begun a business adventure that would eventually transform the whole country.

The seafood nation

Today, Norway is the second largest seafood exporter in the world, and the equivalent of 37 million meals fetched from Norwegian waters are consumed worldwide each day. So you might have tasted Norwegian seafood already, without knowing it.

However, to experience our seafood at its finest and freshest, you should visit a Norwegian fish market or a restaurant in one of the coastal



towns. At the larger fish markets, you'll find mussels and scallops, crayfish and crabs in addition to different types of fish.

Further north, you can taste local specialties such as king crab or smoked Arctic char. Or even better – catch your own meal. The “skrei” (spawning cod), for instance, tastes best during winter, when many travelers go to the north to experience the northern lights. Travel to Lofoten in March, and you can experience the World Championship in cod fishing. A massively

popular event that is open to all, despite its formal-sounding name.

Ninety percent of all Norwegians live along the coastline, which, if you could stretch it out, would be longer than the equator. The clear and cold waters allow fish, mussels and shellfish to grow more slowly, and the cold air preserves the freshness of the catch.

Served your way

Traditional seafood meals include the famous smoked salmon, smoked trout, and gravlax. “Tørrfisk” (stockfish) was Norway’s largest export for many years, and is still a source of pride in the northern areas, especially Lofoten.

“Rakfisk” (fermented trout) is another traditional dish for the brave, as is “mølje” – cod served with liver and roe – in Northern Norway. Other kinds of seafood are more closely associated with the south of Norway, such as shrimp, crab, and mussels.

The seasonal king of Norwegian cod

The “skrei” (spawning cod) is a unique type of seasonal Norwegian cod that migrates from the Barents Sea to its spawning grounds off Norway’s northern coast.

Only the very best specimens meet the strict criteria to be graded skrei. They must be fully grown (about five years old) and can only be line-caught by small local fishing boats.

The skrei can be landed between January and April, when the seas are ferocious and temperatures freezing. This is an incredibly exciting time for fishermen and fish lovers alike. The skrei’s meaty flesh is bright white, lean, flaky and tender, and like all of Norway’s cod, skrei is sustainably managed and MSC certified. The Norwegian fishing authorities are intent on protecting the species, so regulation is particularly tight.

Fishy feasts at the seafood markets

There are many different ways to buy fresh fish in Norway. Throughout the country there are specialized fish stores, offering good service and a wide selection of seafood.



In addition, many supermarkets and stores have an excellent offering of fish and seafood, and the last few years Norwegians have consumed more fresh than frozen fish and semi-finished products.

The absolute best and freshest seafood, however, can be found in the fish markets. At Ravnkloa Fish market in Trondheim you can buy fresh, marinated or smoked fish and eat a hearty lunch at Kroa. In Bergen, fish has been traded since 1276. Today, fresh shellfish and local farm produce is available in abundance at the Bergen fish market. At the fish market in Stavanger, you can get breakfast and dinner made with fresh local ingredients based on the catch of the day.

The gift that keeps on giving

The seafood industry is the backbone of coastal Norway and is absolutely vital to a lot of local communities.

Norway has, through many decades, tried to be on the forefront when it comes to developing a good fisheries and aquaculture management, and are working continuously to preserve a sustainable sea life through regulations and incentives in cooperation with the scientific communities.

In the eighties, Norway faced rapidly diminishing fish stocks in the Barents Sea, and had to take action to ensure future generations could enjoy seafood from the cold, clear waters of Norway. Norwegian authorities decided to ban discards, and, as a result, the stocks recovered.

The Barents Sea, where Norway captures about 93 percent of all its cod, now has the largest growing cod stock in the world.

Norway's Drivers Rally Against Road Tolls

by David Nikel

As local elections draw near, an action group formed to fight increasing road tolls in Norway is gathering support, especially in and around Bergen.

Meet *Folkeaksjonen nei til mer bompenger (FNB)*, Norway's newest political party that is making quite a splash in the opinion polls. The group's English name, *People's Action – No To More Road Tolls*, should tell you most of what you need to know!

In case it's not clear: "FNB is a party working to abolish tolls as a method of financing. Infrastructure is a common societal need and it is, therefore, the state's responsibility to finance," states the group's website.

The campaign group was founded at the end of 2014 to fight road tolls in Stavanger. They took three seats in the municipal elections of 2015 and have since taken on the fight in other cities too.

FNB polling well

While this may sound like a simple protest party, the group is gathering support. So much so, that a poll in local newspaper Bergen's *Tidende* last month put FNB's support at 25.4%, more than any other party.

Newspaper VG polls party support monthly, and their latest numbers put FNB support on 6% nationwide. That might not sound like much, but it puts them as the fifth most popular party ahead of the Greens, Red, Christian Democrats and the Liberals. It's also a wake-up call for the established parties going into this autumn's local elections, to be held in every municipality across Norway.

This, despite the party only contesting elections in a handful of urban municipalities. "When we get such good polls, it suggests that we are gaining ever-increasing support in the general population," FNB leader In Bergen, Trym Aafløy, said.

Progress party worst hit

Norway's biggest opponents to road tolls have, to date, been the Progress Party (FrP). The right-leaning party, seen as extreme by many, have been part of a coalition government since 2013, but haven't been able to exert their influence on stopping road tolls.

"Every year FrP has been alone in fighting tolls. It is the city packages that are adopted locally, against FrP protests, which now trigger the rage. Now voters have had enough and show



their protest in many places by saying they will vote for a specific anti-toll party,” Deputy Director-General Sylvi Listhaug said.

“This is, of course, a poll we are not satisfied with, but polls are not election results. We will work every day towards the election, which for our part will be about fighting against property taxes and tolls, freedom of choice for elderly care and better integration of immigrants.”

Road tolls in Norway

Road tolls are used throughout Norway to fund new bridges and tunnels, a vital part of the nation’s infrastructure. Typically, they are in place for a period of time (say, 20 years) until the project is paid off, at which point they are reduced or removed.

But what FNB has a problem with is the “city ring” road tolls that every major city in Norway has implemented. In Trondheim, for example, there are three different toll charges as you get closer to the city, increasing in amount the closer you get.

The idea, of course, is to encourage people on to public transport. Campaigners highlight situations in which this just isn’t possible, and so the tolls become an ever-increasing tax on the driver.

“Many people have to get to work in the rush hour, and many have to reach kindergartens that are only open during this time. It is essentially a tax for car keeping in a part of Norway where public transport is too poorly developed, the bicycle routes are poor, few and dangerous, and where it is already very expensive to have a car,” states an FNB spokesperson.

The party believes there are three other options open to the state: A re-prioritization of existing budget, expanding the budget by using more of the ‘oil fund, or raising taxes.

The Norwegian Buhund



When Vikings died, precious possessions were buried with them to help them in the afterlife. Buhund-like skeletons have been found in Viking graves. Buhunds were used to hunt bear and wolf. They are herding dogs and can protect their farms and families. They are also used to aid the hearing handicapped, in police work and do well in obedience and agility trials.

The Norwegian Buhund is a happy-go-lucky dog who plays vigorously, yet is light on his feet and very agile. Because the Buhund was bred to work all day you must provide plenty of physical exercise and mental stimulation. Agility classes are a great outlet for his energy and enthusiasm. Also hiking, running at the dog park, and chasing balls and frisbees are great forms of exercise.

The Buhund is not a breed to leave alone all day. He likes to be at the center of his family, demanding, and offering, much companionship.

Most Buhunds are polite, even wary, with strangers. With their keen senses and watchful attitude, they make dependable alarm dogs – sometimes too dependable, i.e. barking can easily get out of control. To make matters worse, the Buhund has a rapid, high-pitched bark that can set your teeth on edge.

Norwegian Buhunds are usually fine with other family pets if raised with them.

This breed is less headstrong and more willing to work with you, compared with other spitz breeds. But he still has an independent mind of his own, and may use his intelligence in clever ways that suit his own purposes. Yet owners who know how to be a pack leader will find him eminently trainable.