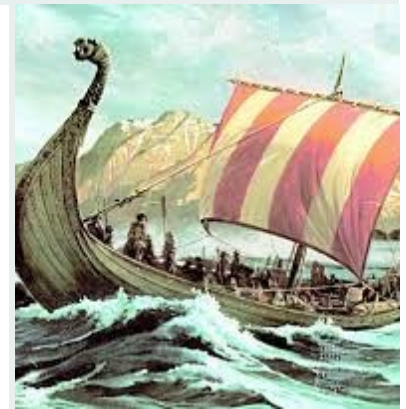




# SONS of NORWAY

October 2019  
Walworth County, WI



## Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Greetings, fellow Norwegian Americans:

Isn't Autumn the best. I love the sunshiny days and cool nights so perfect for sleeping.

Our next meeting is a special one at the **Elkhorn Area Middle School at 6 p.m.** There will be no smorgasbord, and we will have our business meeting after the presenters. The presenters will be helping us track our genealogy. One lady is from the Walworth County Genealogical Society. The other is from the LDS Church in Elkhorn and she will show us how to use a free program on the Internet called Family Search. You are encouraged to take a look at it before the meeting and then she can help you with specific questions, but there is no need. She can help you with your first look too.

As was mentioned in the last newsletter, Barb Ogne wanted someone to replace her as treasurer. Thank you Anne Hope for stepping up for that position. Also, Dennis Westgor has taken the position of Financial Secretary. A big thank you to those who stepped up to make Norsemen of the Lakes Lodge keep running smoothly.

Corlene Bartels, Pres.

### Gratulare Med Dagen

Ginny Andersen	3rd
Marjorie Christianson	8th
Grace Henderson	24th
Jane Roberts	27th

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Book Review .....	2
Illness Kills Dogs .....	2
Cell Phone Culture .....	3
Land Spirits .....	3
Alta's Cathedral .....	4
Mountain Collapses.....	4
Healthcare for Tourists .	5
Norge Airlines' Rescue .	6

### KALENDAR

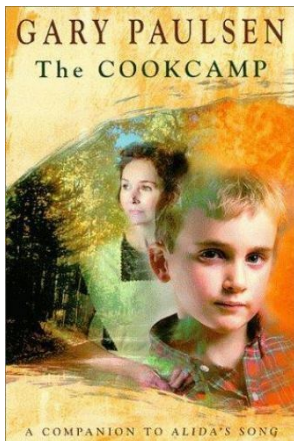
- **Oct. 5th, Membership Breakfast at Perkins, Delevan. Bring a prospective member.**
- Oct. 8th special meeting: genealogy workshop at Elkhorn Area Middle School 6 p.m. **No smorgasbord.**
- Nov. 12th The Atrium, Wms. Bay 6 p.m.. Guest presenter: Cheryl Schlessler, The Norway Building Rises Again
- Dec. 10th Christmas Dinner TBD

## Membership Committee News

**Remember** the membership drive breakfast is planned for **Oct. 5th at 9 a.m.** at Perkins in Delavan. Have you found one person to invite? Have you tried? I can't tell you how important this is. We desperately need more members if we are to stay alive. Please ask friends and acquaintances at church or any other places you frequent if they might be interested. It is imperative that we each bring at least one prospective member. So put it on your calendar and make an effort to find people who might be interested!!! **Please contact me by Oct. 1st** and let me know if you are bringing a guest as we need to know numbers.

**Oct. 19th** is the Williams Bay Centennial where we have reserved a table for recruiting. The following people have volunteered to help: Ginny Andersen, Carol Anderson & Dennis Westgor, Amy Techeny, Marra Andreas and possibly Kathleen Hendersen. We could still use some volunteers, so give me a call if you can spend an hour or two. It is a great place to meet people who many be interested in joining us.

**Posters:** Let me know if you can hang up posters in your community and I will start sending them to you.



Set during WWII, *Campcook*, by Gary Paulsen, is the story told from five-year-old-boy's perspective who is packed off to stay with his grandmother, who works in the cookcamp of road construction workers in the thick forests of northern Minnesota. He makes the sorts of little boy discoveries that a child does, listens to his grandmother Alida's stories and songs, and "manfully" puts in a day's work with the big men who drive tractors, chew tobacco and relish cups of coffee with their pie.

The book oozes Scandinavian, yet keeps the reader interested in a heartwarming way. Reading between the lines, it's clear that the boy was neglected by his mother while his father is off to war. But the story belongs to the boy, who doesn't really understand those kinds of things. For now, it's enough that he is his grandmother's "little thimble" and that he misses his mother.

It is a great Christmas present to introduce grandchildren to your heritage. In addition, there are two sequels to this book: *The Quilt* and *Alida's Song* that follow him as he grows. They are available on Amazon for about \$7 each, or you can get them at your local bookstore. I will be happy to order them off the Internet for you if you need assistance. These books also qualify for your SON literature pin.

## Mysterious Sickness Kills 20 Dogs In Norway

by David Nikel

**Dog owners across Norway are nervously monitoring the health of their pets following an outbreak of a deadly mystery illness.**

At least 20 dogs have died across Norway in mysterious circumstances in recent weeks. Symptoms have included bloody diarrhea and bloody vomiting. Authorities and dog owners alike are concerned.

Reports of the sickness first broke in Oslo but have since spread. Cases have now been reported in most of Norway's counties, although the most serious cases have been recorded in the Oslo region. Dogs of several different breeds and all ages have been hit.

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority initially said it was impossible to say if these cases are related. However, following the results of autopsies that now seems likely.

**Bacteria found, but the cause remains unknown**

Autopsies of the first three dogs to have died show clear signs of severe bowel disease. The pathologists observed a very bloody gut. Common causes such as a salmonella infection have been eliminated. Further autopsies at a different location show similar pathological findings.

Hannah Jørgensen is responsible for small animal health at the Veterinary Institute. She says the four autopsies performed so far have not provided any definitive answers. "No salmonella or campylobacter has been detected in the dogs, but two other bacteria have been found that can cause diarrhea, individually or in combination," explained Jørgensen to NRK. She also pointed out that it's not yet known if these bacteria are the cause of the outbreak.

The Food Safety Authority say they continue to look widely for possible causes, such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites. "So far, there are no signs that the animals have been poisoned by known substances," read a statement.

The very latest information from the Veterinary Institute and the Norwegian Food Safety Authority is that animal feed, water and bacteria are among the "tracks" being investigated for a possible cause.

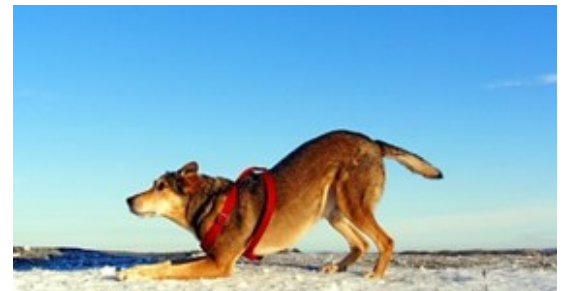
**Dog owners: Be on your guard**

Authorities are recommending that dog owners keep a close eye on their pets. Many of the dogs impacted so far have deteriorated very quickly. It's recommended that dogs be kept under control and on a leash. Avoiding areas with lots of other dogs is also a good idea until the cause has been identified.

"Yes, of course it worries us," said Annsofie Evensen, spokesperson for the Norwegian Blind Association to NRK. She added that the current advice is limiting the dogs' freedom of movement: "We can't release them in parks and walk in the woods and fields today. Dogs need the freedom to run a bit loose."

**Other animals and humans seem safe**

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority hasn't received any reports of similar symptoms in other species. So far, there is also no indication that humans can be infected.



## At Norway's Oya Festival, a Sea of Hands but Few People Filming With Cell Phones

by Heidi Taksdal Skjeseth

Festival-goers accustomed to the ubiquitous smartphone-filming of shows in the U.S. and many other parts of the world saw something markedly different at Norway's Øya Festival last week: a sea of hands in the air that were not clutching a cell phone.

It turns out that the practice of filming artists is not a thing in Norway. In fact, it's generally frowned upon. "A lot of Norwegians take pride in not always being on our phones," said Rebekka Nilsson, a 30-year-old resident of Drammen, Norway, who attended the last day of the four-day festival.

Nilsson said she never films herself, and that she feels "sorry for people who are constantly using their phones during concerts, because it takes something away from the live experience."

It's certainly not a lack of smart phones that explains the lack of filming. In Norway, one of the world's most prosperous countries, 95 percent of adults are smart phone users, and internet penetration is at 98 percent, according to Norwegian government statistics. Norwegians are also avid social media users.

Yet shockingly few people put their phones in the air while watching their favorite artists play. That was the case, at least, at Øya in Oslo last week, where filming seemed almost non-existent, despite a number of big performances.

Seen from an American perspective, the scene at the Øya festival felt more like the years before 2007, when Apple created the iPhone. In the U.S., filming at concerts has increased as cameras on the phones have improved, with attendees posting videos and photos on social media — or using the practice to escape having to socialize at the events. At Øya, the few people who did film seemed to do it for a few seconds and then put their phones away.

The reasons why come down to cultural differences. Norwegian culture prides itself on being an egalitarian one, where people try not to stand out too much. And Norwegians are generally quite introverted, so breaking unwritten rules can often bring some unwanted attention and shame.

Strangely, festival-goers *Billboard* spoke to said there is almost a counter-intuitive generational difference in the attitude about cell phone filming. Younger festival goers expressed deep disdain for people who film for longer periods of time.

Milla Osland, 16, and Mathias Wiik Rafoss, 17, both agreed that more than a few seconds of filming is annoying. Rafoss said he has even told a concert-goer who was filming to put his phone away.

But Oslo resident Joakim Borgen, 30, said his father films a lot during concerts, which he doesn't agree with. Rune Larsen, 52, admitted he often films during concerts, mostly to "show my friends what they are missing."

Still, for Norwegians who are keeping the phone in their pocket or purse it boils down to making a conscious choice to enjoy the moment. "When you're on your phone it's impossible to enjoy the full concert," Rafoss said. "It's a complete experience, and much more than what a screen can encompass."



**Land Spirits (*landvættir*)** are, as the name implies, the spirits who dwell within particular places or features of the land. They wield considerable influence over the well-being of the land and all who depend on it.

They can bless or curse those who live or travel within their land and be blessed or cursed by them in turn. They're fierce protectors of their native lands, seldom tolerant of mistreatment and dishonor, and seem to have a very passionate disposition in general.

The pre-Christian Scandinavian peoples seem to have taken great care to maintain the land spirits' favor. For example, the first law code of Iceland (930 CE) instructed those entering the country by ship to remove the dragon-heads from their boats when they sighted land, lest they frighten the land spirits.

Just as there's no absolutely distinct line between the land spirits and the gods, the lines that separate the land spirits from the elves, dwarves, and giants are blurry as well. As with the elves, the worship of the land spirits continued long after the Germanic peoples were officially converted to Christianity and the veneration of the gods had ceased.

The book *The Viking Spirit*, by Daniel McCoy provides the ultimate introduction to Norse mythology and religion.



# Inside Alta's Northern Lights Cathedral

By David Nikel

**The striking architecture of Alta's incredible Northern Lights Cathedral splits opinion, but everyone loves the interior.**

It might look like a factory (some say crematorium) from the outside, but step inside this northern-lights inspired church in northern Norway and it really leaves an impression.

The cathedral (which is actually the primary Parish church for Alta) is in the modern city Centre at the end of the main shopping street. Consecrated in 2013, the building is made of concrete with an external cladding of shimmering titanium sheets. That, together with the circular shape, helps to create something reminiscent of nature's greatest light show. Entrance costs 50kr (\$5.50).



I'd been told the interior was sparse and while that's true, it's far from dull. The floor, chairs and moldings are all made of oak. The vertical molding strips with LED lights behind them create an impressive visual effect, a warm atmosphere, and help with the acoustics. The impressive organ has 29 stops and 1,800 pipes. There are two church bells, both cast in Tønsberg here in Norway.

The light tower pictured above mimics the design of the exterior, and was made locally in Alta. The lights are only lit during church services, but the structure is always in place to take a look at.

The alter wall is treated with a blue glaze meant to highlight the 4.3-metre-tall bronze sculpture of Christ.

And it does – my eyes were immediately drawn to it as soon as I entered the room. The marble baptismal font also uses blue, with a clear glass basin featuring an inlaid Star of Bethlehem and golden fish.

## **The northern lights exhibition**

An additional 50kr gets you entrance to an interactive exhibition about the northern lights called Borealis Alta.

For someone new to Norway and/or who hasn't seen the aurora borealis before, this exhibition would be a worthwhile visit. That said, there's a couple of fun exhibits, one involving singing to the lights and watching the result.

In addition to the Sunday services, the church also hosts regular piano concerts and even a monthly "language café" aimed at students and other new arrivals to Alta, so it has quickly become an important building for the community.



# Local Residents Celebrate Mountain's Collapse

By David Nikel

You might expect the dramatic collapse of a mountain in a popular hiking area of western Norway to create fear among the handful of local residents. Instead, they are breathing a sigh of relief.

## Captured on live TV

Known as *Veslemannen* (Little Man), the most vulnerable section of the highly unstable mountain *Mannen* finally collapsed on the evening of September 5. Despite darkness descending upon the Rauma valley, national broadcaster NRK managed to capture much of the rockfall on camera. Such was the impact of the collapse, seismic activity was recorded hundreds of miles away from Rauma in major cities including Trondheim and Bergen.

When daylight returned the following morning, the scale of the collapse soon became clear. Sections of the mountain measuring more than 150 feet were gone, including a spire-shaped formation that had been of particular concern.

The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate has now allowed residents to return, declaring the mountain and the valley floor safe, at least for now. Geologists are now examining the site to discover precisely how much rock fell, and the stability of the remainder.

## Why locals are celebrating

Living in a lush Norwegian valley surrounded by towering mountains might be many people's idea of paradise, but for residents of a section of the Rauma valley it's been a five-year-long nightmare.

Back in 2014, *Mannen* began to show signs of instability. This has led to frequent evacuations, with some local residents having to leave their homes 16 times in the past five years. The Rauma Line railway and only road through the valley were also frequently closed, disrupting local business and tourism.

It's no wonder then that local Mayor Lars Olav Hustad was brought to tears on live television when the mountain finally fell. As it became clear a collapse was imminent, he traveled to the site to see it for himself. "It was special to stand there as the mountain roared. This will mean a lot to our community," he said.

He reflected on the time local and national politicians have used discussing the situation: "I dare not think about how many hours we have spent on this. But the most important thing is that people can move back."

It's a sentiment shared by many of the locals. Gunn Walstad Sogge lives in the small settlement Horgheim, and told NRK of her delight: "We are completely, incredibly happy. We have danced a victory dance tonight."

## The danger persists elsewhere

Much of Norway has enjoyed record temperatures this summer, but western Norway has also experienced periods of intense rainfall. In July, a series of landslides in and around Jølster killed one person and caused significant damage to infrastructure in the remote region.

It was heavy rainfall that triggered the *Veslemannen* collapse, and politicians are warning that such incidents could soon become the new normal.

"Had *Veslemannen* fallen in one piece, it could have taken railways, critical infrastructure and homes along with it," said Kjell-Borge Freiberg, Norway's minister for oil and energy.



The dramatic mountains of Norway's Rauma valley. GETTY

He told the *New York Times* that the changing climate will likely cause more landslips in the country: "We know this might happen again, even in places that used to be safe."



A landslide in July 2019 completely covered a rural road in Jølster, Norway.  
HRS SØR-NORGE

### Healthcare for Tourists

**Tourists are entitled to urgent healthcare in Norway, but it's vital to understand the rules and who pays.**

It's a sad fact of life that we all fall ill from time to time. It's a stressful experience at the best of times, but falling ill on vacation can be truly traumatic. Make sure you understand the healthcare rules for tourists and buy comprehensive travel insurance before you visit.

*In an emergency situation, call for an ambulance by dialing 113 from any telephone.*

### Non-European visitors

Tourists from non-European countries are not entitled to reimbursement for medical treatment given in Norway nor any subsidy of travel costs home.

However, anyone staying in Norway is entitled to medical care as long as it is an urgent medical necessity.

Citizens of certain countries may have specific entitlements by agreement. This should be checked with your home country's public health authority before you travel. For example, some Australian citizens are entitled to urgent necessary medical treatment and can be reimbursed for necessary expenses on giving birth and for oxygen therapy and dialysis.

**Top Tip:** Although entitled to urgent medical care, non-European visitors will need to pay the full cost with no prospect of reimbursement. Private travel insurance that covers medical costs and repatriation is an absolute must.



## Norwegian Airlines Given Time as Bondholders Accept Rescue Plan

Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA's bondholders have overwhelmingly accepted a plan for delayed repayment in a meeting today. The move gives Norwegian's management extra time to turn around the fortunes of the troubled airline.

"We are pleased with the bondholders' choice to postpone the payment deadline as it will give us further financial leeway in the future. We believe it demonstrates faith in our strategy and supports the important steps Norwegian is taking to become profitable again," said Norwegian's interim CEO Geir Karlsen in a statement. Karlsen took over the role earlier this year following the decision by Bjørn Kjos, one of the airline's founders, to step aside.

The news sent the airline into a turbulent spell on the markets, crashing down 10% before almost fully recovering within the hour.

### Two extra years to repay bondholders

Currently in the midst of a debt crisis, Norwegian asked for two extra years in which to repay bondholders a total amount of approximately \$380 million. The carrier pledged its lucrative departure and landing slots at London's Gatwick airport as part of a comprehensive security package.

### A Growing Catalog of problems for Norwegian

There is a long list of casualties among airlines following the low-cost model in Europe in recent years. Once the poster-child of a new approach to aviation, Norwegian has been hanging on for years now.

Its decision to push into the transatlantic market with an order for 222 new aircraft, the biggest ever single order in European aviation, ultimately overstretched the company. While their low-price transatlantic fares grew revenue fast, it quickly led to high debt and big losses.

Earlier this year, the airline raised approximately \$335 million from shareholders, yet announced that its working capital had decreased in 2019. Among other factors, the company blamed the tighter industry rules over advance ticket payments. The dramatic shift in strategy from growth to profitability led to a widespread cancellation of flights from its winter 2019/20 schedule.

There have also been issues out of the company's control, most notably the grounding of its 18 Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft following the accidents in Ethiopia and Indonesia, which still remains unresolved.