



**SONS OF
NORWAY**

**SOLVANG LODGE 457
WESTBY, WISCONSIN**
Sons of Norway Newsletter (Sandhetter)



Editors: David Torgerson & Hazel Cornell

Volume 49

Issue #4

Westby, WI

December 27, 2016



PRESIDENTS LETTER

It is very pretty outside this snowy Sunday morning. Living in Wisconsin we appreciate the season changes. We have been getting pictures from our Norwegian relatives for some time showing big snowbanks and beautiful scenery. They had a big snow in Lillehammer early in November.

As my term as president of Solvang Lodge comes to an end I want to say a big **THANK YOU** to the other officers and members for a great 2 years. Being president this past year during our 100th anniversary was very special. I really learned what good committees and committee members can accomplish. It was an honor to be part of this group. Being president has some perks that are not always known. We have been invited to many interesting events and met so many interesting people, several becoming good friends. I hope many of you will consider serving in this position in the future. (With my apologies for never learning Roberts Rules of Order) With the 2018 District Convention being hosted by our neighboring Wergelund lodge in LaCrosse, I encourage you to attend as delegates or guests. It is an interesting and fun way to learn about the workings of Sons of Norway and getting to know other folks who are excited about Sons of Norway over many states. It also works to get a person charged up about getting more involved. I know it has worked that way for Ron & me.

I wish a very good year to all the returning and the new officers for 2017.
Also Ron and I wish for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year for you all.

Tusen Tak for Alt
Sandy



Solvang Lodge 457 – September 27, 2016 meeting

We gathered at the Bekkum Library Community Room at 7:00 P.M. with 54 people in attendance. Visitors were Bob and Hildure Devine and Wayne and Elsie (Knutson) Olson and our newest member Roger Melby. We held the usual business meeting with President Sandy Iverson presiding. She announced that our Viking ship float took 1st place in the Cashton Fall Festival Parade. Cedric Veum our Sports/Recreational Director explained the process for achieving recognition for participating in this program, it is based on distance and time. Our District 5 representative Ron Iverson gave us an update on District activities. The next District 5 Convention in 2017 will be held in La Crosse, we can send 3 delegates. Our “Pot ‘O Gold” was won by Diane Hanson. She donated it to S.O.N Foundation.



An interesting program was presented by Elsie Olson. Elsie’s Great Great Great Grandfather was a signer of Norway’s Constitution on May 17, 1814. The Eidsvollsmen who framed and signed this document came from many walks of life and were chosen by their communities to do this important work. Each of their homes has a large engraved stone marker. In 2014 a large celebration was held to celebrate the 200 year anniversary. Elsie and Wayne traveled to Norway with 30 descendants of these Eidsvollmen for a tour of Norway and to attend the many celebrations with parades music and of course food. The name, Eidsvollmen, was given because of the location of this conclave. The King and Queens of Norway, Denmark and Sweden were all in attendance. She had pictures and a good story to tell. Servers for the evening were Lou Ann and Mark Jelinek along with Diane and Roger Hanson.

Photos from Lief Erickson Day at VFW Post



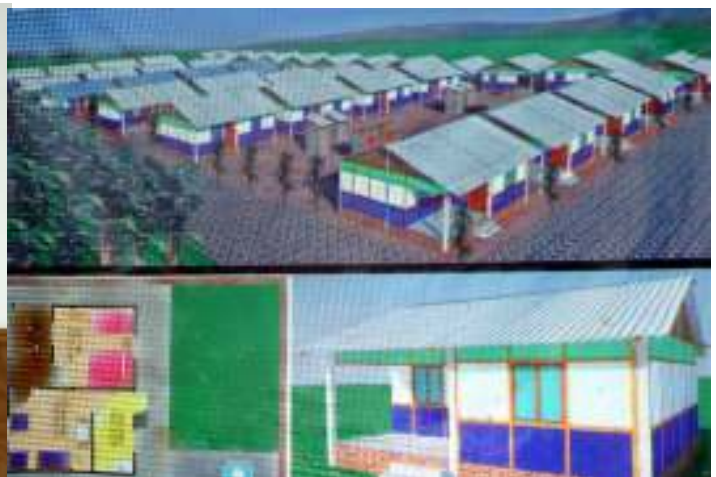
Solvang Lodge 457 – October 29, 2016 meeting

Solvang Lodge 457 held their October 29th meeting at the Bekkum Library with 42 people in attendance. The business of the lodge was conducted with President Sandy Iverson leading the meeting. We had a challenge made by Marilyn Sharping and



Vicky Brueggan to match their donation to the Sons of Norway Foundation. The "Pink Pig" was passed and our members met the challenge and then some! One of the functions of the Foundation is providing scholarships, another is to assist families who have suffered a disaster. Our participation in Leif Erikson Days went well. A thank you to the members who worked and Peter Leum for his work in preparing the Rommegrout which was sold. Plans for the Christmas party were started, LouAnn Jelinek, Diane Hanson and Margaret Veum make up that committee.

Our program was presented by Dick Iverson (Photo below Left). He had an interesting story to tell about his work as a volunteer with the International Habitat for Humanity organization (Homes built below Right), having traveled to several poverty stricken parts of the world. Pot 'O Gold was won by Cathy Anderson. Servers for the lunch were, Peter Leum, Dennis Hagen, Sam Bakkestuen and Hazel Cornell.



Ole, Lena, and Sven were lost in the woods and were becoming desperate, having run out of food several days ago. It was winter, the snow was deep, and their situation was looking very bleak. When Ole dug down into the snow to look for nuts, he found an old lamp and upon rubbing it to get the snow off, a genie came out. The genie says, "I am da great genie of the North and I can grant each of you vun vish." Ole says, "I vish I vas back on my farm." Poof! And Ole was gone Lena quickly says, "I vish I vas back on da farm with Ole." Poof! And Lena's gone. Sven just sat there in the snow and looked very sad. "Sven, vat is it dat you vish for?" asked the genie. Sven says, "Gee, I'm so lonely, I vish Ole and Lena vere back here wid me."

Solvang Lodge 457 – November 29, 2016 meeting

Solvang Lodge 457 Westby WI. met at the Bekkum Library Tuesday November 29th with the meeting called to order by President Sandy Iverson with 45 people in attendance. Visitors were Jim and Deb Jarvis. We made decisions to donate funds to the Bethel Boutique, The Lion's Club "Ski for Light" program, and to the Fine Arts Foundation for a "chair" in the Sons of Norway Lodge 457 name. A committee was formed to begin work on creating a scholarship fund. Corky Olson was awarded a Bronze and Silver fitness pin, Cedric Veum was awarded a Silver pin for fitness. John Evenstad received an award and certificate for outstanding recruitment of new members. Kay Burke won our Pot "O Gold" she is donating it to the Foundation. Plans for our Christmas party were announced and sign up was conducted.



Tom and Corky Olson presented our program for the evening taking us along on their 9 day trip to Norway where they visited a church where Tom's Great Grandfather was a Minister for 30 years and places of employment, several churches and farms of ancestors. One was the Moustad factory where their world known fish hooks are made and Tom's relative was an original employee as a Design Engineer instrumental in building the machine that made the fish hooks, they showed pictures of it and many scenes of Norway. A great story was told. Lunch was served by Alice and Thor Thorson and Corky and Tom Olson.

Oppskrift (Recipe)

DATE NUT LOAF (Great for the holidays)

- 4 Eggs
- 1 Cup Sugar
- 1/2 Cup oil
- 1 Teaspoon salt
- 1 Cup sifted flour
- 1 Pound pitted dates (about 3 cups)
- 4 Cups pecan halves

COMBINE: Eggs, Sugar & Oil, beat well.

ADD: Flour & salt, mix well.

FOLD IN: Dates and Pecans

PLACE: In greased and floured 9X5X3" pan.

BAKE: In a slow oven 300* 2 Hrs. & 15 Min.

Must start in cold oven. Makes one 3 Lb. Loaf.

This freezes well.



St. Lucia Day

St. Lucia Day Celebrated across Scandinavia, St. Lucia Day marks the start of the Christmas season and a time to embrace lighter days to come. The national feast day, part of the Christian Calendar of Saints, is celebrated throughout Norway on December 13. Though the holiday was first introduced with the spread of Christianity, many of the traditions truly took root when the holiday was readopted during the 20th century in Norway. Reclaiming its derivations from the Latin word for light, St. "Lucia" is honored with parades of light during the darkest time of year. In schools across Norway, children celebrate with holiday programs and processions. Throughout hospitals, school buildings and city centers one can find parades of children clad in white, handing out Lussekatte (Lucia cats), saffron-flavored buns, to those passing by. As a way to enjoy the start of the holiday season, families can celebrate this holiday of hope and light by baking the traditional Lussekatte – a recipe for the buns can be found online at <https://food52.com/recipes/8318-saffron-buns-lussekatte>. Or, in honor of the Norwegian tradition families can join together in singing the St. Lucia Song as follows:

Saint Lucia (English) Black night is falling in stables and homes. The Sun has gone away, the shadows are threatening. Into our dark house enters with lit candles, Saint Lucia, Saint Lucia! The night is dark and silent; suddenly a rush in all quiet rooms, like the waving of wings. See, at our threshold stands, dressed in white with lights in her hair, Saint Lucia, Saint Lucia!

Christmas celebration in Norway

In Norway, Christmas is known as "Jul" and celebrated annually on December 25, like in many other places. The Norwegian Christmas celebrations begin with the Saint Lucia ceremony on December 13. At daybreak, the youngest daughter from each family puts on a white robe with a sash, a crown with evergreens and tall-lighted candles. The boys dress up as star boys in long white shirts and pointed hats. Then the youngest daughter and the other children wake their parents, and serve them coffee and Lucia buns, lussekatte. This is said to commence the Christmas festivities in the country.

In the days counting to Christmas Day, individual homes are decorated beautifully by their inhabitants.

Christmas trees - generally juletre, spruce or pine tree - are set up in each house and traditionally embellished with candles or white lights, Norwegian flags, apples, red harts, cornets, straw ornaments, balls of glass, tinsels and even colourful paper baskets made by the children in the family. The indoors are decked up with lovely flowers such as hyacinths and red tulips. For most Norwegians, the main celebration of Christmas is on 24 December (Christmas Eve). Traditionally, this is a day to be spent in the company of family members. During noon, "lillejulaften" (rice porridge) is usually served. An almond is often hidden in the porridge, and the person who finds it wins a treat or small gift– usually a marzipan pig. In some regions of the country, the porridge dish is usually placed outside (in a barn, outhouse or even in the forest) to please "Julenissen" ("Santa Claus" - as called in Norway). In the afternoon, church bells ring to beckon people to the church services. Many people attend these religious services. At five p.m., church bells toll to announce the beginning of Christmas. In some families, there is a custom of reading a Christmas story from Luke 2 from an old family Bible. The main Christmas meal is served in the evening. The main dishes commonly include pork rib, "pinnekjott" (pieces of lamb rib steamed over birch branches). In some western areas, a burned sheep's head form the main dish. Many people also eat "lutefisk" or fresh, poached cod. Traditional drinks are beer and aquavit for adults and "julebrus" (a sweet red fizzy drink made specially during Christmastime) for children. A favorite Christmas dessert is rice blended with whipped cream served with a red sauce.

On Christmas Day, most families have a big brunch at noon or dinner in the afternoon. People invite their friends and loved ones to have meal with them. Cakes and cookies are relished together and everyone is wished God Jul! (Merry Christmas). Different nuts, fruits, figs, dates and sweets also belong to the celebration.

For children, Christmas is a time for gifts and goodies from "Julenissen" (Santa Claus), who is said to reward all good kids for their nice actions and behavior all through the year. But presents are not to be expected only during this time as in "Romjulen", the days between Christmas and New Years Eve, Norwegian children often go from house to house in the afternoon asking for sweets. This tradition is known as "Julebukke" or "Christmas buck" and was very popular in the Viking era when pagans worshipped Thor and his goat. By the end of the Middle Ages, the custom was forbidden by the Church and the state. Though the tradition has made a comeback in recent decades, just a few children keep up the tradition today.

Halloween in Norway turned out to be just as much about the tricks as the treats.

Across the country, police were kept busy responding to everything from egg-throwing to candy thieves.

While one serious Halloween-related incident was reported near Trondheim, where a teenage boy attacked a woman with a knife and axe, the majority of Monday night incidents were more in line with typical teenaged pranks.

In Buskerud, Hurum, Trøndelag and Gjøvik, reports came in of houses being egged and vandalized, while Drammen youngsters targeted a kiosk with fireworks and kids in Hokksund threw a smoke bomb at their school.

And in Sortland, Halloween took a sad turn for two nine-year-old boys who had been out trick-or-treating.

“Two older boys found them at Lamark School, pushed them and stole their candy. One boy was pushed and fell into a ditch, resulting in an injured knee and wrist. We are not impressed by the older boys' behavior. They should be ashamed of themselves,” police in Midtre Hålogaland wrote on Twitter.

Other ‘tricks’ went even farther. In Porsgrunn, it was reported that youths were jumping out in front of cars while South Trøndelag police said that a twelve-year-old child was frightened by someone dressed up like a clown and armed with a baseball bat.

Agder police said it was also a busy evening there.

“Halloween-related reports have been ticking in to police. Mask-clad people who shot with paintballs and threw stones at buses. Setting things on fire and aiming an air gun at police. It is, to put it mildly, not particularly good,” Agder police tweeted.

Meanwhile, one Stavanger woman was left thinking that no good deed goes unpunished. While handing out candy to costumed children, she accidentally tossed her car keys into a kid’s candy bag. Police said she was hoping to get them again and urged the unlucky recipient to return them. After all, the kid would probably prefer swapping the keys out for candy.

Monday’s Halloween celebrations also marked the end of an era in Oslo. The ‘Halloween House’ in Nordberg decided that after 14 years of scary fun for neighbourhood kids, Monday would be the last celebration at what is likely the capital’s scariest house.

Ole and Sven are standing at the base of a flagpole in Westby, looking up.

A woman walks by and asks what they were doing.

“Ve are supposed to find da height of da flagpole,” says Sven, “but ve don't haf da ladder.”

The woman takes a wrench from her purse, loosens a few bolts, and lays the pole down. Then she takes a tape measure from her pocketbook, takes a measurement, announces, “Eighteen feet, six inches”, and walks away.

Ole shakes his head and laughs. “Ain't dat just like a voman! Ve ask for da height and she gives us da length!”

Uff da!

How Smart is Your Right Foot?

1. While sitting down, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.

2. Now while doing this, draw the number "6" with your right hand. Your foot will soon change direction.

Thanks to our sponsors for your support in 2016



VERNON
Communications COOP

*Building a Smart Rural Region
Through Fiber Technology.*



**World-Class Technology.
Unrivaled Local Service.**

214 N Main St. Viroqua
103 N Main St. Westby
(608) 634-3136 • www.vernoncom.coop



River Bank

	STODDARD	608-457-2100		
HOLMEN	608-781-9095	DE SOTO	608-648-2130	
SPARTA	608-269-1277	FERRYVILLE	608-734-3440	
WESTBY	608-634-2311	COON VALLEY	608-452-2828	
(S) LACROSSE	608-788-6300	(N) LACROSSE	608-784-8900	



FARMERS STATE BANK
Branches of River Bank

BANGOR 608-486-2356
BARRE MILLS 608-786-2999



www.riverbank.biz



DO NATIVE AMERICANS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS



There often arises the question among non-Native Americans as to whether or not Indians celebrate Christmas. Well, the simple answer is yes, many of us do celebrate Christmas. But, to understand the complete answer, one must look at the question through the lens of history.

For centuries before any European contact, Native Americans held in high regard the winter solstice, which occurs on December 21-22, and they held celebrations around that time of year.

After European contact, many Native American tribes blended Christian beliefs with their traditional cultures and began celebrating a hybrid of Christian and Native beliefs. In fact, about three quarters of the Indian population identifies with a secular faith, the most common being Native American Catholics. So, their celebration of Christmas should not be a surprise.

In addition, the holidays are a time of giving and this is not a foreign concept to Native cultures. All throughout the year, many Native American cultures celebrate special occasions and events with giveaways. Such generosity in



Native cultures is a sign of a giving heart, with spiritual as well as social value. So, the concept of holiday giving easily coincides with traditional Native American beliefs.

Both the Winter Solstice and Christmas are a time to look forward to what is coming in the New Year, a time when hope abounds. This is also a time when our organization is focusing on services for those that perhaps need a little boost of hope and cheer. In addition to providing services such as winter fuel for Elders to heat their homes, staple foods for senior centers and Thanksgiving meals for Elders and their families, each year we help brighten the holidays for tens of thousands of Native Americans through our Holiday gift and meal programs. Native children, teens, families and Elders alike enjoy the gifts and the opportunity to celebrate the holiday season in the same ways as other Americans.



The First Native American Christmas Carol

According to Huron tradition, a Jesuit missionary priest, Fr Jean de Brebeuf, wrote their first Christmas Carol around 1640-41. The Huron built a small chapel of fir trees and bark in honor of the manger at Bethlehem.

Aloki ekwatatennonten shekwachiendaen
 Iontonk ontatiande ndio sen tsatonnharonnion
 Ouarie onnawakueton ndio sen tsatonnharonnion
 Iesus ahatonnia!

Within a lodge of broken bark
 The tender Babe was found,
 A ragged robe of rabbit skin
 Wrapped His beauty 'round;
 But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
 The angel song rang loud and high:
 Jesus, your King is born,
 Jesus is born,
 In excelsis gloria.

The animals at the manger were the Fox, the Buffalo and the Bear. The Huron also made a traditional tent of skins and their nativity figures were all dressed as Native Americans. This Huron Carol, originally written in the Huron language and later translated to French, has become a loved Canadian carol today.