



SONS OF NORWAY

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



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PRESIDENTS LETTER

Colors are already changing and the fall festivals are all around us. Sons of Norway have been represented by Westby's Viking Ship and Dregne's willingness to put it together and pull it. Ron and I have learned this is no small feat. Fortunately Dave has become quite the expert. We went to Decorah's Nordic Fest and Cashton's Fall Festival parades. We will also be in the Octoberfest parade. Anyone willing to be in the float or walk along with it, please let us know. It is a fun time and the more the merrier. It is time for next year's officer slate to be introduced, hopefully very soon. Please be willing to serve in an officer position if asked or even better, volunteer. There are many opportunities for officers. It is also one way of learning what a great organization we are involved in.

Enjoy a wonderful fall - Sandy



SOLVANG LODGE 457 June 28, 2016 Meeting



(Above) Margaret Veum

(Left is) Glen Borreson our program presenter who is holding a Ron Iverson's owned depiction of tobacco crafted by Larry Leum.

To the left is a photo of members who were recognized for obtaining new members for our lodge. Below right is Editor David Torgerson with his Certificate of Recognition for his part in producing our newsletter.



Our June meeting was held at the Bekkum Library Community Room with 42 people in attendance. We had 3 visitors La Vern Pittman, Garland Mc Garvey, and Roger Melby. Our Lodge received the District 5 Founders Award and an award for our outstanding Newsletter. Our 4 events in May, the Centennial Celebration, the Frokhost, the Syttende Mai Parade and the Grieg Singers Concert were all very successful. There was a great write up about our Centennial Celebration in the publication; The Norwegianamerican. Glen Borreson from Trempealeau presented our program. He spoke and had a power point program with some interesting historical pictures and statistics about the history of raising tobacco in Wisconsin. The first commercial tobacco was raised in 1854 in Koshkonong. Most of the people in the room had experience working in tobacco in Vernon County. Glen has written a book: "The Norwegian Crop, Tobacco Raising in Wisconsin" and had it for sale for lunch we had ice cream sundaes provided by Pat Stafslie, Sharon and Loren Olson and Berger and Phyllis Eklov. Our Pot O' Gold was won by Jeanne Fredrick.

Solvang Lodge July 26, 2016 picnic with Spring Grove

We sure had a nice crowd for the picnic with 53 members from Westby and 12 from Spring Grove. A wonderful meal was served by Spring Grove, and our Westby members shared many wonderful salads and desserts. Thanks to Karen Hanke "always the artist" for the beautiful Viking ship fruit assortment. The Picnic was hosted by Valheim Lodge 1-364 Spring Grove MN who invited our Solvang Lodge 457 to join them at Myrick Park in La Crosse WI. for an enjoyable evening of good food and entertainment.

The program was provided by David Amdahl from Decorah Iowa, and the program was the St.Olav/Nidaros program, and consisted of an oral narration of a slide show of Nidaros Cathedral (located in Trondheim Norway). The cathedral was built beginning in 1070 to memorialize the burial place of Olav II of Norway, the king who was killed in 1030 in the Battle of



Stiklestad. He was canonized as Saint Olav a year later by the bishop of Nidaros (which was later confirmed by the pope). It was designated the cathedral of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Nidaros from its establishment in 1152 until its abolition in 1537 under the Reformation. Since the Reformation, it has served as the cathedral of the Lutheran bishops of Trondheim (or Nidaros) in the Diocese of Nidaros. The architectural style of the cathedral is Romanesque and Gothic. Historically it has been an important destination for pilgrims coming from all of Northern Europe. The cathedral construction began in 1070, it suffered many tragic incidences and in 1869 restoration was done, and a century later was again restored to its original grandeur and that was not completed until 2001. The site receives approximately 400,000 visitors a year from around the world. It is used for the consecration of the King of Norway. It is a beautiful inspiring cathedral. There is a museum to the West of the cathedral and holds many of the great treasures of Norway.

The pictures below are of our joint picnic.

The photos of the picnic are those of your editor David Torgerson except below left which was contributed by Lee Grippen Social/Cultural Director of Spring Grove's Lodge (features our President Sandy Iverson, and Spring Grove's President Karen Fried). The photo below right is of Spring Grove's President Karen Fried, and Lee Grippen. Also thanks to Karen Hankee for her artistic talents in creating the Viking fruit ship center piece.



Great food was enjoyed by all, and if you did not over eat it was your fault. Thanks to all for making the picnic a great success, and a great experience.

SOLVANG LODGE 457 AUGUST 30, 2016 Meeting



Upper left Lee Grippen, Dennis Barnaal, and Don Berg the program presenters.



The meeting was held at the Bekkum Library at 7:00 P.M. with 48 people in attendance. President Sandy Iverson called our meeting to order, Peter Leum and Dennis Hagen presented the USA and Norway flags. We sang the anthems. Cindy Brown and Mark Jelenik talked about the new sound system for the library. It was decided the Lodge would donate \$150 toward the cost of the system. We had our business meeting. We were represented in the parade at Nordic Fest in Decorah with our Centennial banner. We will also be represented in the Cashton Fall Festival Parade. Recruitment awards were given out. Happy Birthday was sung for everyone having July and August birthdays. At our upcoming meetings we will have 3 members who have traveled to Norway recently tell about the most interesting part of their trip. Our next meeting will be September 27th with Elsie Olson speaking about her ancestor who was a signer of Norway's declaration of independence. Our "Pot 'O Gold" was won by Verda Lund. Our program for the evening was presented by Dennis Barnaal, Don Berg, and Lee Grippen members of the "Lauren Singers" from Decorah Iowa. We were taken on a "trip" with a map and beautiful slides and narrative of their wonderful 2015 Friendship Concert Tour of Norway. The Lauren Singers have been active for 148 years! The Daines and Mosher families served a great lunch.

Solvang means what?

Editor's Note: The name Solvang is a combination of two words. "Sol" which is another word for the sun., and "Vang" Which is identical with the word vangr which means "field" or "meadow". So Solvang means sun field or sun meadow, or more likely sunny field or sunny meadow. One meaning of lodge "is a local group or an organization" such as the our Sons of Norway organization, and as a result we are Solvang Lodge 457. I assume 457 was assigned as part of our charter.

Scandinavian Petroglyphs were used as billboards

The first interpretations of the petroglyphs at Kirkenes in Finnmark suggest that the place may have been an important hub for northern people of the Stone Age. The site is strategically located halfway into the fjord at Kirkenes in Finnmark. 6-7000 years ago, waterways were the most efficient way to travel. This was the highway for Stone Age people moving around, including hunting for prey. And right here at Gamnes, between the outlet of a river and the mouth of a fjord which opens up to the Barents Sea, there are a lot of rock drawings. Of reindeer and moose, in herds and alone, with and without their young. Generally the animals in the rock carvings face in different directions. But here most of the reindeer are depicted with their muzzles facing the same way.

"The reindeer are heading into the fjord. That may indicate that the rock art depicts a migration route," says Anja Roth Niemi. She is the project manager for the archaeological excavations under the auspices of the University Museum in Tromsø, UiT - The Arctic University of Norway. Niemi believes drawings showed where the animals lived and how they moved in the area. They were vital messages from one hunter to another.

Messages in stone

At this time, people in the north became more sedentary. This is shown in excavations of settlements. Smaller groups probably went out to hunt, and they followed the animals that changed pastures with the seasons. The central location made the carvings visible from several directions. Sea levels were higher then, and when hunters came to the fjord by boat they could hardly miss the drawings on the coast. "The rock art was very visible to people who traveled past. We imagine that this was an important landmark on the route," says Niemi. She thinks precisely the lack of variety in the artwork says something about the importance the place had for the people who used it. "Maybe the drawings were a kind of databank. This may have been a place where hunters exchanged information on animal behavior."

Hoping to find more

Niemi hopes this rare find may inspire walkers to look a little longer at the stone as they pass. Because even the untrained eye can detect petroglyphs. "Look for lines that seem a bit misplaced. We think there may be several drawings in the area, and it would be wonderful to find them."

DNA hunters Open Viking Tomb in Normandy

Norwegian researchers have finally gotten to open the tomb of Viking leader Rollo's descendants. They want to find out whether Rollo was the same as Gange-Rolv from Møre. If so, the British royal family originated in Norway. A Norwegian-led delegation was in Normandy [in February] and opened the sarcophagus of two of Rollo's descendants. The aim is to put an end to a centuries-long debate: Was Rollo Danish or Norwegian? "We have been working to get this researched for about seven years, so to finally get collected material to test the DNA—it was big," historian and project initiator Sturla Ellingvåg from Foundation Explico said to NTB [Norwegian News Agency].

Rollo was the founder of Normandy, Count of Rouen and the greatgreat-great-grandfather of William the Conqueror, who is an ancestor of the English royal house. While Norwegian-Icelandic history via Snorre's sagas argues that Rollo and Gange-Rolv are one and the same person, Danish historians believe that he came from Denmark. Gange-Rolv, son of Ragnvald Mørejarl was exiled from Norway and supposedly settled in France.

Pulling Teeth

In January French authorities and the French church granted the Norwegian application to open the tomb of Rollo's grandson and great-grandson, Duke Richard the Fearless and son Duke Richard the Good. When they opened the grave [in February], researchers found among other things a lower jaw with eight teeth in the tomb of Richard the Good. "The key is to find teeth, because the DNA can be good, even after so many years. Two forensic experts from Norway and Denmark snatched five teeth that are now being sent to the Institute of Forensic Medicine in both countries for analysis, says the Chairman of Samlerhuset (a Norwegian coin company) and The Norwegian Mint, Ole Bjørn Fausa. A result of the analysis will probably be available this fall and will be presented in cooperation with the French authorities. So it remains to be seen whether the answer indicates Denmark or Norway.

A Rare Event

Fausa describes the atmosphere at the tomb as an unbelievable experience: "As far as we know this is only the second time since the war that a king's tomb has been opened in France. Just to be part of it, and find the skeletons in there, it was exciting, solemn and unreal at the same time. If Rollo and Gange-Rolv prove to be the same person, here is the historical significance: "If the British royal family originates from the coast of Møre, it changes for example the notion that the Norwegian royal family is young, with origins from the British and Danish [royal families]," says Fausa.

Draken Harald Hårfagre Sails to North America



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 long ship 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 Björn 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."

SOME OF THOSE NORSK JOKES

The waitress at Borgens in Westby asked Ole, "Do ya know da difference between a Norwegian and a canoe?" "No, I don't," said Ole. "A canoe will sometimes tip," explained the waitress.

Ole and Sven grabbed their poles and headed out to do some ice fishing. As they were augering a hole in the ice they heard a loud voice from above say, "There are no fish under the ice." Ole an Sven moved about 25 feet over and started to make another hole. The voice said a little stronger, " There are no fish under the ice." They both looked around and then looked up. Ole said in a humble voice, "Are you God?" The voice spoke back, "No ya idiots! I'm the ice rink attendant."

Ole says to the doctor at Mayo Clinic: "I got a problem. I have a big bowel movement at 6 in da morning every day." Doctor: "That sounds perfectly normal. Why are you so worried about it?" Ole: "Yah, but I don't vake up until 7."

Sven and Ole bought a new car. They were so excited about it that when they got home they locked the keys in the car. Sven says to Ole, "I thought you had the keys." Ole says, "You ver driving, da driver always takes da keys." "Well," says Sven, "It doesn't much matter, da question is vat are ve going ta do about it." Ole says, "I don't know, but ve bedder come up vit someting fast because it looks like rain, and you had ta go and leave da top down."

Oppskrift (Recipe)

Old-Fashioned Sour Cream/Raisin Pie

- 1 16-ounce carton dairy sour cream
- 1 1/2 Cups white sugar
- 3 Tablespoons flour
- 3 Egg yolks
- 1 Cup raisins
- 3 Egg whites
- 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 3/4 Cup sugar
- 1 Baked 9 inch pie shell

1. In a heavy medium saucepan stir together the sour cream 1 1/2 cups sugar, flour, egg yolks and raisins . COOK, stirring constantly over medium heat until thickened and bubbly. Keep warm.

2. Make the meringue using the egg whites, cream of tartar and 3/4 cup sugar.

3. Pour warm filling into baked pie shell. Spread meringue over filling. BAKE in 350 degree oven for 15 minutes. Remove and COOL on rack for 1 Hr. CHILL 3-5 Hrs. before serving.



Reindeer Killed by Lightning in Norway

More than 300 wild reindeer have been killed by lightning in southern Norway, officials said Monday, in the largest such incident known to date. The 323 reindeer, including 70 young, were found on Friday by a gamekeeper on the Hardangervidda plateau, a national park where Europe's largest herd of some 10,000 wild reindeer roam freely.

"There were very strong storms in the area on Friday. The animals stay close together in bad weather and these ones were hit by lightning," an official from the Norwegian Environment Agency, Kjartan Knutsen, told AFP. Reindeer are social creatures and usually move in packs. "It's unusual. We've never seen anything like this on this scale," Knutsen said. Norwegian authorities have yet to decide what to do with the animals. "We're going to decide soon whether to let nature run its own course or whether we will do something," he said.

Of the 323 reindeer killed, five had to be put down due to their injuries.

There are some 25,000 wild tundra reindeer in Norway, located in the southern mountain ranges, according to experts.

Sites featuring Solvang Lodge 457 members

Just click on the sites below if your Newsletter is an E-mail letter, or if hard copy just type it in the search window. Good luck.

The first is U-Tube film of bunad parade at the District 5 Marsh Field WI convention, and includes our President Sandy Iverson strutting he stuff.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyMYSZxVVIk>

The second is of President Sandy Iverson, and Phyllis Exlov representing our Solvang Lodge 457 on the Ol' Bob Show.

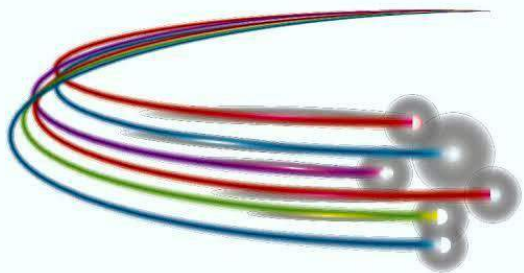
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2acbqs3ivE>

The third is of Karen Hankee giving rosemaling lesson on right in our back yard.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJTRmV11sOQ>



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