



20th Anniversary Celebration



Ladies of the Fjord play Norwegian music on Hardanger fiddles.

July 14, 2013, we celebrated with great entertainment, tasty food, and an impressive group of attendees. The room looked festive! What a fun, special evening!!!



Only living founding member, Ancil Norland, is seated by the Cheese Days Ambassador.



Charter members remember the beginning and pose for a photo.

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Thanks for all your planning, Maren.



Maren Nelson and Grace Robertson

Fra Presidentent



Jerry, Marsha, and Tom arrive for our 20th.



Fabulous Farm Babe Jr
Bobbie Jo and Jamie

Greetings Ostestaden Lodge members and friends.

Ostestaden lost a special lady, our Charter member Ruth Mueller" the lefsa lady". Without her we may not have the great bake sale we do. We use her recipe and she took time to walk Paul and I through the steps in order to be successful. Everyone has their own way of making lefsa, remember there is a book called 101 ways to make lefsa. She was in the purest sense of SON, teaching others and promoting our heritage. That's why we exist. She hadn't been around for awhile but all our pictures and memories will keep her with us.

We enjoyed the zone picnic in Stoughton at Arneson's home. About 60 people attended and the food table was piled high with many garden treats and desserts of all kind.

I know many of you were able to attend our 20th Anniversary banquet. It was fun talking about our "birth" 20 years ago and all from the district who helped us form a Lodge. They said it couldn't be done in a Swiss town but we succeeded!

Thank you to everyone who helped and attended. Here's to our 25th.

Maren Nelson
President



What a fun, special evening!



Helen wishes John, "Happy 90th birthday."



Bill & Elaine enjoy a speaker.

Honored guests included Bill Hendrickson, President of Nordland Lodge in Janesville, Jon Grinde, International Lodge Director, Greg Reagan, Financial Benefits Counselor, Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, District 5 Zone Director, and Duane Kittleson, Past District 5 Treasurer.

September 8 social

(Please use the main front door.)

Learn about rosemaking or rose painting from Elaine Bethke and Jean Busker. There are many different styles. Maybe you would like to paint a pattern.

October 13 social is an auction

Chet Johnson is our auctioneer. He makes the auction fun.

We are setting up in the basement this year. Look for the Norwegian flag on the door. Drop off your items Wednesday or Thursday from 4-6 pm. Thursday, lunch will be served at 6:30 and the auction will begin at 7pm.

Parade float

Cheese Days parade is September 18. Will you ride?



Exchange student, Manuel Jindra, (left) and his father, Andy, from Vienna, Austria joined us for our picnic.

Aug social report

Picnic potluck. After our delicious meal, we set up Kubb. Hope all read The Monroe Times front page article.

Our convention delegates gave us the scoop.

Sons of Norway is an insurance agency and the government wants to be sure qualified, law abiding leaders are on our boards.

President Owen Christianson is our District 5 president. "It is a privilege," says Jean, "to learn Norwegian history, sagas, and lifestyle from him. He facilitates the business meetings efficiently."

See Elaine's articles on Owen and Elspeth's saga telling and on the Masse Moro camp. Bill reported on a financially tight budget and on sights in Marshfield including kodiak bears.



Jean picked up a needlepoint canvas and learned a few Norwegian words.

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Sons of Norway

20 years in a Swiss town and going strong

By Bridget Cooke
brcook@themonroetimes.com

MONROE — Despite a tradition of Swiss-centric cheerleaders and descendants proclaiming Monroe is their own, a small group of people are keeping their allegiance to life and land.

Sons of Norway President Mona Nelson has been part of the Monroe chapter since it was founded two decades ago by Marjorie Boynton. The lodge, called "Ostestaden," which means "cheese farm" or "cheese place," has been a point of Norwegian pride for its roughly 80 members.

On July 14, the local chapter celebrated its 20th year by recognizing charter members during a social. Nelson and fellow member Elaine Bethke were among them.

"It was a very nice party," Bethke said. "It's amazing we survived in a Swiss town."

Nelson said, "No one thought we would do it."

Nelson said Wisconsin is ripe with residents who claim Swiss or Norwegian heritage, and the divide between the groups is rarely, rare-existent.

Bethke noted how similar Switzerland and Norway used to be, but that Americans should realize, "there's a good natural reality," Bethke said. "Everyone is proud of their heritage."

Nelson said there is a lot of actual Norwegian descent so become a member of the Sons of Norway. Anyone with an interest in Norwegian culture is invited to become involved.

Bethke said the group not only encourages interest in Norway, but also focuses on genealogy and the everyday life of typical Norwegians. To that end, the group invited a local foreign exchange student to share some insight into the country and compile a newsletter in their events in Norway.

The Sons of Norway Monroe chapter began with Boynton, a member of another lodge in Mount Horeb who did not like making the long-long drive to the park. She instead sent a postcard to the Sons of Norway International Headquarters, based in Minneapolis, and requested the chance to begin a lodge in Monroe.

Originally, there were five members. The group met with the district president and a member of the district board to discuss developing a new chapter and a temporary date of officers was named. The Ostestaden Lodge was formed on June 14, 1996, with a picnic and guests to witness the installation.

Nelson said the interest in Norwegian culture and history is the whole reason for being a part of the group. Throughout the year, the group meets every



LEFT: Gary With plays the Norse game of Kubb at Northern Wisconsin has been the Sons of Norway about 14 years, was his first time playing Kubb. (LEFT) Jack Bost throws a stick to knock down his opponent's piece playing Kubb. (RIGHT) Owen Christianson, Sons of Norway picnic a grand mother Elspeth. (BELOW) Paul Nelson was Norway hat.



second of all in the time. (RIGHT) Owen Christianson, Monroe. (BELOW) Elaine Bethke has her eye on the museum about the Norway. (BELOW) Paul Nelson was Norway hat.



Time: photo: Marjorie Nelson.

The Monroe Times reporter interviews Sons of Norway members on the kubb field.

Book club met June 30

By Elaine Bethke

THE LIGHTKEEPER'S LEGACY

Ostestaden's book club was again engulfed in the world of mystery as they read *The Lightkeeper's Legacy* by Kathleen Ernst. The group had read other exciting novels by Ernst and were excited to find out what researcher Chloe Ellefson and her police officer boyfriend Roelke were up to.

This book takes Chloe to Washington Island in Wisconsin, a small isolated island whose main feature is a historic lighthouse. Chloe is ready for a change of scene and happy to take an assignment where she will spend a week advising the group restoring the lighthouse. Once she arrives she is soon in the midst of a series of murders revolving around the historic fishing industry and controversies on how the island should be developed.

It seems to our group that Chloe is rather foolish to stay on the island all by herself for days even after the unsolved murders and the intrigues she discovers between some of the people she meets. Chloe is there to advise on decor and focus for the restoration; but she cannot help but follow up on the clues to find out the secrets of the former inhabitants of the lighthouse and the abandoned fishing village. By partnering the current story of Chloe's adventures with a retelling of the past through a former fisherman's wife we see how the problems in the area today are built on the earlier history of the island. Is there a tie to the current murders in the stories from the past?

We are in suspense the whole book as Chloe shows no fear as she is spied on, explores the forbidden basement and is threatened by someone or something time and time again. We all felt we would be long gone if we were in her shoes. We found it a little hard to believe that she would not even confer with her boyfriend Roelke, who is a cop in Eagle, until the very end of the story. The end of the book is a whirlwind of adventure as there is a thrilling attack and rescue and we find out who did it and why. A thriller though not as tied together as the other two mysteries we had read by Ms. Ernst. We decided this was one of the first using this technique of tying together the past and the present to solve a mystery.



After lively discussion Maren served a delicious lunch which gave us a further chance to enjoy each other's company.

Wiota Parade

Eight of our members rode our float in the Wiota Parade on July 3. Thanks for prepping our float and representing us!



Golden Leutfisk at Twining Park



Children go fishing on the 4th before fireworks.



Sheri invited us to celebrate Syttende Mai at her home. Let's make this a tradition.

June Convention

The bi-annual District 5 convention was June 22-26, 2016, in Marshfield, WI, for nine states. The theme was: "Building bridges across time and space, between local, district, and international lodges, between people young and old."



Ostestaden delegates Bill Bethke, Jean Busker, and Elaine Bethke sit on the bridge in Fairy Tale Norway.



Delegates were offered Norwegian cookies at every break.



A parade of Norwegians sported their bunads.

CONVENTION VIKING EXPERIENCE Elaine Bethke

One of the highlights of the convention in Marshfield was the Friday night "Viking" experience. The evening started with a modern dinner patterned loosely after what the Vikings might have eaten in their day. It included a pork roast with a berry sauce, assorted roasted root vegetables, and a honey cake which tended more towards a coffee cake. The hall was packed to overflowing with some guests having to sit in the hallway near the dining room. A little chaotic, but the program that followed put delegates much more in the spirit of Viking life.

Owen Christianson and his wife, Elspeth, spoke with slides on the building of the longhaus on his property. They emphasized all the research necessary and how they sometimes had to adapt to what was available today. They answered questions about dress, what the Vikings ate, how they settled disputes, what they did for fun and the place of women in their society. Viking women had rights long before women elsewhere in the world at the time. They could even inherit property and manage their farms themselves. The Christiansons will be moving out east soon so they reassured guests that their treasured longhaus will be in good hands since they have left it to the University at Green Bay who has been using it in the (cont. next page)



International President Jon Tehven with our delegates

past for historical events. Making a place for it on campus and getting approvals is underway now.

Then, after the formal presentation, anyone interested was invited to join Owen and Elspeth in their Viking costumes for a session of storytelling around the fire pit in the courtyard by the pool. The hosts would act out sagas from the Viking history. Through lively playacting and banter back and forth



between them they brought the ancient sagas to life with tales of Eric the Red, Leif Erickson, Greenland, Iceland. The Viking system of honor was vengeance which affected the growth of their society as they pretty much killed anyone who insulted them or their families. If they survived they might be abolished from the country or area only to come back later and get even. Not a friendly society. The strong definitely ruled. But, their strength and fear of nothing also made them brave adventures who had the best boats of anyone at the time so they were able to explore far lands. Through this they were able to spread Norwegian culture far and wide through trading and intermarriage and exploring.

History truly came alive as Owen and Elspeth performed different aspects of the same story, disagreeing sometimes to show how there were always different versions of every saga. Often no one knows which is "right".

It was a lively and entertaining presentation on a part of our Norwegian heritage which we are sometimes not proud of, but which helped to forge the Norwegian character-independent, adventurous, nature loving and proud. Many of the sagas involved the transition from the pagan to the Christian religion and all the steps in between.

RESCUE MOSSE MORO

Elaine Bethke

Our own Isaac Wild enthusiastically reports on his experiences at Mosse Moro camp. Our lodge values this heritage camp and may be able to help meet future expenses.

Mosse Moro was once funded by tuitions paid by children attending. In the past the camp supported itself because there were enough children and grandchildren of members attending to balance the expenditures with income from tuitions. Today the camp is often not at maximum participation and the fees do not cover expenses like salaries for staff, rent for the facility, food, supplies for activities.



The camp is located near Eau Claire, WI, and draws children from other states. Its focus is on sharing the history, arts, and rich culture of Norway with youth ages nine to 15. It features games, language, food and an intensive learning experience.

**Kathan
pledges
\$1,000**

During the District 5 convention, Ann Kathan, secretary at the LaCrosse lodge and a prominent attorney in the area, gave a moving testimonial on her experiences at Mosse Moro and how much she felt she gained from her experiences there. She attended 3 times during the 80s and feels that what she learned there has influenced her whole life. Team building, communications, interest in other languages, confidence in new situations, and an appreciation for and understanding of other cultures were skills that helped her when she was applying for colleges, for scholarships, and later for law school. She still holds Mosse Moro close to her heart. She feels that the kinds of things learned there are the key to the future of Sons of Norway if we are to keep future generations knowledgeable and enthusiastic about all things Norwegian. To show her sincerity she pledged \$1,000 to help pay the day to day operating expenses of Mosse Moro. She challenged other members and lodges to join her in helping Mosse Moro.

Ostestaden offers a scholarship to attend Mosse Moro. If no one applies this year, we could consider giving the amount to Mosse Moro. Perhaps part of a membership campaign could include the Mosse Moro benefits of SON membership as the camp provides tuition assistance to members.



Brad Goplen shot this picture of a small ship at the Tall Ship festival in Green Bay.

Draken Harald Hårfagre

The Draken Harald Hårfagre sailed to the Green Bay festival from Norway. Last April, this largest modern Viking replica ship sailed across the North Atlantic Ocean to replicate Viking Leif Erickson's journey made a thousand years ago.

Sons of Norway collaborated to promote Norwegian seafaring heritage and culture.

Calendar 2016

- Sep 8 5:30 Board meeting
- Sep 8 6:30 Social meeting, Rosemaling by Elaine Bethke & Jean Busker
- Sep 18 Ostestaden float in Cheese Days parade
- Oct 6 5:30 Board meeting
- Oct 12 4-6 pm Deliver auction items
- Oct 13 6:30 Auction at UPC with Chet Johnson
- Oct 27 5:00 Highway pick up
- Nov 6 5:30 Board meeting
- Nov 10 Jim Reese of the WOODEN TROOPER
- Nov 12 Bake lefse
- Dec 1 5:30 Board meeting
- Dec 8 Christmas Party (at World Buffet) with Norwegian dancers
- Dec 9 Bake sale
- Mar 18, 2017 District Training in Mauston

Treat schedule

SEP	Cathy Smith 325-2697 (clynnrd@yahoo.com) Jan Johnson 329-5925 (janetjohnson@charter.net)
OCT	Marsha for treats and beverages
NOV	Helen Miller 325-4777 (hlmiller@wekz.net) Pat Johnson 329-6392 (quiltjohnson@tds.net)
DEC	Christmas Celebration committee

Member, Ruth M. Mueller obituary

Ruth M. Mueller, 79 of Monroe, passed away, Sunday, August 7, 2016 in her home, surrounded by her family after battling Alzheimer's disease for many years.

She was born January 23, 1937 in Darlington to Louis and Edna (Alm) Larson of Rural Argyle. She was confirmed at Apple Grove Lutheran Church where she was the organist for many years and was an accomplished musician.



Ruth attended Reed School and graduated from Argyle High School in 1955. After high school she attended Luther College in Iowa for one year until returning to Argyle to help on the family farm.

She married Philip A. Mueller in May of 1959 at Apple Grove Lutheran Church.

Ruth worked many jobs in her life including McLellan's Swiss Colony, and One Hour Martinizing. But the most important job she had was being a great wife, mom, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. Family was so important to her, and she cherished holidays, reunions, and picnics. Her faith in God and being an active member of Grace Lutheran Church was also important. She spent years with her "Circle Ladies" serving on various fundraising committees, president of the Women's Group, and attended annual conventions.

Ruth's other passion was her Norwegian heritage. She was a charter member of The Sons of Norway Ostestaden Lodge of Monroe and visited Norway twice. She was exceptional in the kitchen and was a skilled lefse maker, which led to the nickname of "Ruth the Lefse Lady." It was so important for her to show others how to make lefse and pass on the tradition to future generations.

Ruth was also a past member of the Monroe Moose Lodge, had a passion for playing and teaching piano, bowling sewing, jigsaw and crossword puzzles.

The Monroe Times, Tuesday, August 9, 2016

ENTER which door?

Please be considerate of another group meeting at UPC. They use our old entry door. Here's where we enter.

September main front door
October basement door

Look for the Norwegian flag! It will guide you.



SONS OF NORWAY

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Our Mission Statement:

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries, and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.

Newsletter

Jean Busker, Editor

Bradley Goplen, Photographer

Jamie Larson, Facebook

Sons of Norway Ostestaden Socials
the 2nd Thursday of each month

with a light lunch at 6:30 PM and program at 7:00 PM
 UPC, 2707 5th St., Monroe, WI 53566



Brad Goplen,
Photographer

Gratulerer med Dagen! *(Happy birthday)*

September	Eben Robertson
William Bethke	Royletta Santos
Dee Burstrom	
Bjorg Corneliusen	
Heath Huschitt	October
Nancy Larson	Jack Bochar
Claire McNulty	Paul Nelson