



**SONS OF
NORWAY**

**SOLVANG LODGE 457
WESTBY, WISCONSIN**

Sons of Norway Newsletter (Sandhetter)



Editor: David Torgerson



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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

**I NOT ONLY REMBER 2018, BUT THE 1950S
1950S CHRISTMAS CARD FROM YOUR EDITOR**

TAKE THE...
"Older than Dirt" Quiz
 Do you remember?

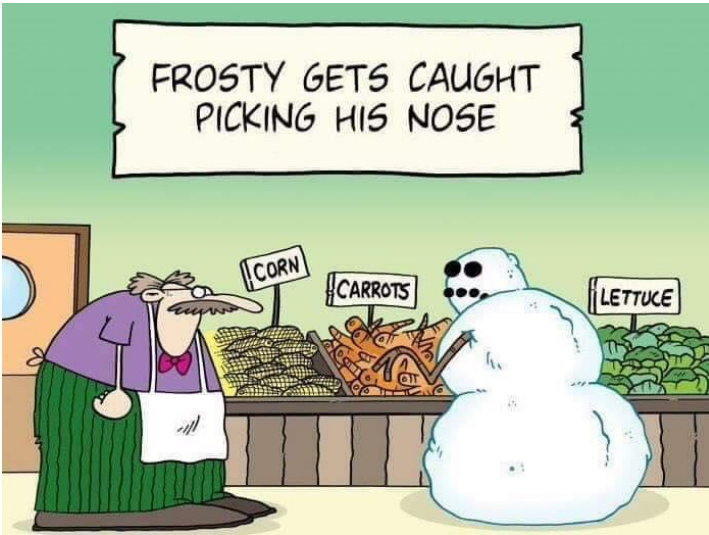
1. Drive in Movie Theaters
2. Candy Cigarettes
3. 45 RPM Records
4. Party Telephone Lines
5. Soda Pop Machines with Glass Bottles
6. Butch Wax
7. Studebakers
8. Blackjack Gum
9. Home Economics Class in School
10. 5 and Dime
11. Metal Lunchboxes
12. Books with records
13. Boone's Farm
14. Metal Ice Cube Trays
15. Roller Skate Keys
16. Home Milk Delivery in Glass Bottles
17. Wax Coke Bottle Candy

If you remember 0 to 5 - You're a Whippersnapper
 If you remember 6 to 10 - You're Gettin' There
 If you remember 10 to 17 - You're **Older than Dirt!**

KitchenCraftyFun.com



SOLVANG LODGE SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 MEETING



Solvang Lodge 5-457 met at the Bekkum Library Community room on September 25, 2018 with 53 people in attendance. Corky Olson reported on the recent District 5 Convention held in La Crosse. There are funds available for flood damaged suffered by SON members with a 1- page application and at least a 1- year membership. Our lodge made a donation to The Bethel Butikk to be used for area flood victims. Karen Hankee is collecting family stories of the early Norwegian Settlers as they interacted with the Native Americans living in this area at that time, she will share these with people in Norway preparing a program on this subject. If you have a family story you would like to share, contact Karen. We acknowledged the passing of a longtime SON member Trygve Ostrem. Dennis Hagen won the Pot 'O gold. Our program for the evening was presented by a very knowledgeable and talented wood carver Judy Gates. She had samples of the many different styles of carving and the varieties of wood used. We were told that "if you can peel a

potato you can carve in wood." A "whittler" uses a knife, a "carver" uses many different tools, of which she had samples. There will be a "Carve In" to be held on April 27, 2019 in the Bekkum Library Community Room. Judy has attended many classes offered by outstanding carvers. She has traveled extensively and has samples of carving from around the world. Lunch was served by Linda Sherpe, Janet Johnson and Cindy Langhus.

Photos from our Sept 25, 2018 meeting,



SOLVANG LODGE OCTOBER 30, 2018 MEETING

Sons of Norway Lodge 5-457 met October 30th 2018. We had 50 people in attendance. Victor Bekkum and Lois (Bekkum) Sandvik were visiting our Lodge and gave us information on their activities as members of Dovre Lodge in Cumberland WI.



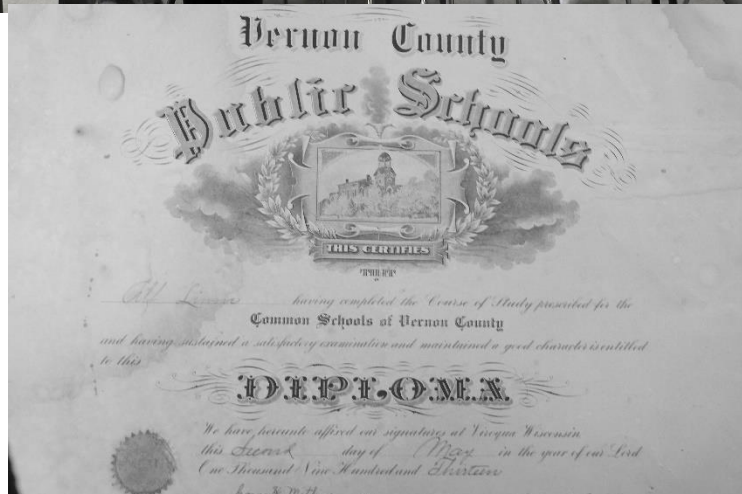
We had a moment silence in memory of Verda Lund. Dick Iverson invited us to come along on a Sugar Creek trip to Norway August 26 – September 5, 2018. Karen Hankee won the Pot O'Gold. Our program for the evening was presented by John Steffes from La Crescent Mn. He gave us a very interesting talk, pictures and history of the "Armistice Day Storm" which happened on November 11, 1940. A hundred and fifty people lost their lives in the 80-100 mile per hour winds, a 60-degree temperature change, with a wind chill of -11 degrees and 24 inches of snow. He has written several books, one "Wings in the Wind" is about this historic event. We sang the Norwegian Table Prayer and were served a great lunch. Our Christmas Party will be December 18th at The Old Towne Inn.

SOLVANG LODGE NOVEMBER 27, 2018 MEETING

The Sons of Norway Lodge 5-457 Westby WI. met at the Community Center on November 27th for their monthly meeting



with 51 people in attendance. We elected officers for 2019 and it was decided to again sponsor a scholarship for a 2019 graduate of Westby High School and make a \$300 donation to the Bethel Boutique. After our Business meeting we had a program presented by David and Ruth Amundson from the "History Alive" organization which was all about one room school houses. Most of the people at the gathering stated that they had attended a one room school and many memories were revived and shared. There were also many interesting photos for us to view. We sang the Norwegian Table Prayer and lunch was served by Corky and Tom Olson, Mary and Gary Daines. A special treat was the Rommegrot with the brown sugar, cinnamon and melted butter! The Pot 'O Gold was won by a guest, Jenna Langhus. We will be singing Christmas Carols again this year on December 27th. We will begin at 6:00 P.M. at the Norseland Nursing Home.



OLE JOKES FROM HAZEL CORNELL (By the way does anyone know if Ole and Lena have a last name?) (MY PICK WOULD BE OLSON)

A collector of rare books heard that Ole had an old family Bible that had been in his family for generations. Upon visiting Ole, the collector learned that Ole had thrown the Bible away. Ole explained it was very old and was printed by someone named "Guten-something or other". "Not Gutenberg?" gasped the collector. "Yah, dat vas da name," said Ole. "You idiot! You threw away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for \$500,000." "Vell," said Ole, "mine wouldn't haff been worth a nickel. Some guy by da name of Martin Luther had scribbled all over it."

During a Christmas program the Norwegian kept singing the words LEON... LEON...LEON. The person standing next to him whispered in his ear "that he was holding the song book upside down."

Why did the Norwegian wear two jackets while painting? Because the directions on the can said, "Put on two coats."

A SAMI CHRISTMAS (The other Norwegians)

Turns out, though, most Sami in Norway nowadays celebrate Christmas the Norwegian way - however, there are some old traditions that are worth learning more about!



In the days before TV and mobile phones however, Christmas in Traditionally, Sami parents raised their kids in a more liberal manner than what is the norm today. Kids were free to roam out in the wilderness but they were told ghost stories to scare them off going to certain areas that might be dangerous, a lake for instance.

This is also the reason why many kids in Norway were afraid of the Northern Lights back then, as parents told them that the lights were coming to get them. In reality, they, of course, just wanted their kids to come home after dark. The Sami community looked quite differently. Back then, the evening before Christmas was known as *ruohhta* – which translates to "the night", and it was the most dangerous evening in the calendar of the Sami. Kids were being told that if they make too much noise they will encounter ghosts, or, if they are

out and about, they can be taken by *Stallo*, also known as *Juovlagállát*, (a human-looking troll and the Sami version of an evil Santa).



Ruohtta, the night before Christmas, traditionally was a day the Sami used to get everything ready for Christmas: they slaughtered reindeer to have enough meat, they chopped up all the wood they needed for heating and cooking and stacked it in a nice big pile, and they also cleaned up the area around their home so that the sled of Stallo wouldn't get caught.

They also stack a pole in the ground behind the firewood, so that Stallo could tie his sled and then enter the turf hut. They would put out a cup of water so that Stallo could quench his thirst and not drink the blood of the people living inside the house. You see, when I said "the evil version of a bad Santa", I really meant it! The Sami would play nice with Stallo by giving him a place to tie his sled and giving him water, whereas in reality, they hoped that he wouldn't kill them. Makes sense, doesn't it?!

With Norwegianization and the efforts of the Norwegian state to assimilate Sami into Norwegian culture in the late 19th and early 20th century, many of these old superstitions got lost, of course.

JOACHIM RONNEBERG: NORWEGIAN WHO THWARTED NAZI NUCLEAR PLAN DIES



Joachim Ronneberg, the Norwegian resistance fighter who sabotaged Nazi Germany's nuclear weapons ambitions during World War Two, died on October 22, 2018 at the age of 99.

In 1943, he led a top-secret raid on a heavily-guarded plant in Norway's southern region of Telemark. The operation was immortalised in the 1965 Hollywood film *Heroes of Telemark*, starring Kirk Douglas.

Ronneberg later worked as a radio journalist and helped raise awareness of the dangers of war among the young.

Ronneberg remembered his friends and fellow fighters at a memorial of their operation in London in 2013

He told the BBC in 2013 that he only realized the importance of the mission after atomic bombs were dropped on Japan's Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

"He is one of our great heroes," Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg told NTB news agency. "Ronneberg is probably the last of the best known resistance fighters to pass away."

Born in 1919 in the town of Aalesund, Joachim Ronneberg fled Norway after the Nazis invaded in 1940. The then 21-year-old escaped with eight friends by boat to Scotland, but was determined to return and fight.

Germany at the time needed so-called heavy water - with an extra atomic particle in its hydrogen nucleus - in its race against the Allies to produce an atomic bomb. Large amounts of heavy water, or deuterium oxide, at that time was only made at the Norsk Hydro facility in Rjukan, Telemark. This made the largest hydroelectric plant of its type a target for the resistance. But a small team tasked with destroying it in 1942 failed.

The following year, Ronneberg chose a team of five other commandos in an Allied operation codenamed Gunnerside. "We were a gang of friends doing a job together," he told the BBC during the 70th anniversary of the mission. The men parachuted on to a plateau, skied across the country, descended into a ravine and crossed an icy river before using the railway line to get into the plant and set their explosives.

"We very often thought that this was a one-way trip," he said.

After the explosion, the men escaped into neighbouring Sweden by skiing 320km (200 miles) across Telemark - despite being chased by some 3,000 German soldiers.

With a wry smile, Ronneberg described it as "the best skiing weekend I ever had".

The operation, coupled with US air raids the following year, led the Germans to abandon their plans and was later described as the most successful act of sabotage of World War Two.



Ronneberg was reluctant to talk about his experience despite numerous books, documentaries and TV series retelling the story.

He broke his silence in the 1970s, when he began raising awareness of the dangers of war among young people. "Those growing up today need to understand that we must always be ready to fight for peace and freedom," he said.

CHRISTMAS JOKES BECAUSE IT IS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa? A rebel without a Claus.

What do you call an elf who sings? A wrapper!

Why is Christmas just like your job? You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.

Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve? Because it soot's him.

Why are Christmas trees so fond of the past? Because the presents beneath them.

What do you call a broke Santa? Give up yet? It's Saint-NICKEL-LESS.

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinselitis!

Why is Santa so jolly? Because he knows where all the naughty girls live.

What do you call a cat on the beach at Christmas time? Sandy Claws!

What has 34 legs, 9 heads and 2 arms? Santa Claus and his reindeer.

Why was Santa's little helper depressed? Because he had low elf esteem.

HO HO HO

Carolyn McAllan Poetry
7.12.2016



What's that I hear
Up on the roof
Could it be the sound
Of a reindeer hoof
Are they footsteps
Up there too
Could it be Santa
And his reindeer crew

Hold my breath
With excitement and fear
Will he think
I've been good all year
Head under covers
I should be asleep
But can't resist
The urge to peep
Sneak downstairs
Quiet as can be
There's the big fella
Plain to see
Trying so hard
To make no noise
I watch as Santa
Unpacks some toys
Trying to stifle
An urge to scream
Is this true
Or just a dream?
I close my eyes
Squeeze them tight
Open them again
I was right

I rub my eyes
Did I just see
Santa putting presents
Under the tree
Was I dreaming
For as I feared
The guy in red
Had disappeared
Back in bed
But wide awake
Am so confused
By my mistake
I hear a sound
It's just outside
And there is Santa
And his ride
He looked at me
Laughed - Ho, ho, ho
Said "Merry Christmas,
Now I must go"
And just like that
He waved and smiled
To deliver gifts
For every child

Eielson, Carl Ben Norwegian – American pilot

Biography

BACK GROUND

Carl Ben Eielson was born in Hatton, North Dakota to Norwegian immigrant parents. His interest in aviation went back to his childhood. Following America's entry into World War I, Eielson found his chance to become an aviator. Eielson learned to fly in the U.S. Army Air Service in 1917. In January 1918 he enlisted in the newly formed aviation section of the U.S. Army Signal Corps. World War I ended while Eielson was in flight training. Eielson returned to North Dakota to help in his father's store and finish his degree at the University of North Dakota. During the winter of 1919-20, he and others founded the Hatton Aero Club, the first flying club in North Dakota. After graduating from the university in 1921, he enrolled at Georgetown Law School (now Georgetown University) in Washington, D.C.. Working part-time as a police officer at the Capitol, he met the Alaska Territory's delegate to the Congress, Daniel Sutherland, who persuaded Ben to go to Alaska to teach secondary school.



CAREER

Eielson soon became the sole pilot for the Farthest North Aviation Company which was formed in 1923. In 1924, he flew the first air mail in Alaska from Fairbanks to McGrath, Alaska in under 3 hours, a distance dog sleds took up to 30 days to cover. He also flew the first air mail from Atlanta to Jacksonville, Florida in 1926.

In March 1927, Australian polar explorer George Hubert Wilkins and Eielson explored the drift ice north of Alaska. They touched down in Eielson's airplane in the first land-plane descent onto drift ice. In April 1928, Eielson and Wilkins flew across the Arctic Ocean in the first flight from North America over the North Pole to Europe. The flight, from Point Barrow to Spitsbergen, covered 3,540 km (2,200 mi) and took 20 hours. When Eielson accompanied Wilkins on an Antarctic expedition later in 1928, they became the first men to fly over both polar regions of the world in the same year. During the Antarctic summer of 1928-1929, Eielson and Wilkins made air explorations of the Antarctic, charting several islands which were previously unknown.

After his return from the Arctic flight, Eielson was asked to establish Alaskan Airways, a subsidiary of the Aviation Corporation of America. In 1929, Eielson died alongside his mechanic Earl Borland in an air crash in Siberia while attempting to evacuate furs and personnel from the *Nanuk*, a cargo vessel trapped in the ice at North Cape (now Mys Shmidta).

LEGACY

Eielson Air Force Base and the Liberty ship *SS Carl B. Eielson* are named in his honor, as is the new visitor center at Denali National Park and Preserve. The Carl Ben Eielson Memorial Building on the Alaska Fairbanks campus is named in his honor. A peak in the West-Central Alaska Range is also named in his honor. An elementary school on Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota is named after him as well as Ben Eielson High School on Eielson Air Force Base outside of North Pole, Alaska, and Carl Ben Eielson Middle School in Fargo, North Dakota. The Carl Ben Eielson House in Hatton, North Dakota is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1929, he was awarded the Harmon Trophy. In 1984, Carl Ben Eielson was inducted into the Scandinavian-American Hall of Fame held each year during Norsk Høstfest Scandinavian festival in Minot, N.D. ¹ In 1985, he was enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio. In 1997, Carl Ben Eielson was a recipient of the state of North Dakota's Roughrider Award.

In 1929 he was killed in a tragic air crash while enroute to rescue passengers from an ice-bound ship in the Bering Sea. Throughout his life, he recognized the importance of bringing aviation to the sparsely populated regions of the world to better serve the needs of his fellow man.



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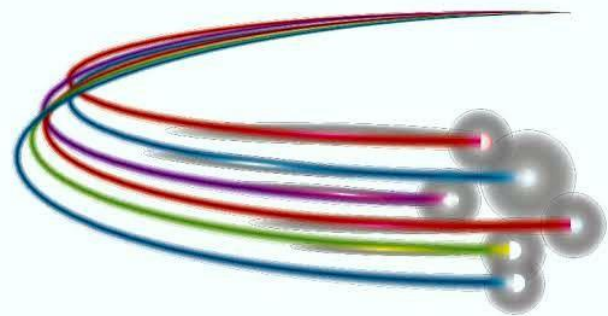
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