



SONS of NORWAY

Celebrating 125 Years

1895-2020

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SOLVANG LODGE 457 WESTBY, WISCONSIN

Sons of Norway Newsletter (Sandhetter)



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SOLVANG LODGE 457 CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 10, 2019

Our Solvang Lodge 5-457 held their Christmas Party at Borgen's Cafe in Westby Tuesday evening December 10th. A great meal was served and we were entertained by the "Dell Tones" from Dell Wisconsin. We had the installation of officers for 2020 led by Ron Iverson.



SOLVANG LODGE 457 JANUARY 28, 2020 MEETING

The Solvang Lodge 5-457 held their January meeting in the Community Room of the Bekkum Library with 49 members and visitors in attendance. The Sons of Norway had an amazing growth year in 2019 with a nationwide increase in membership of 5,985, our lodge received a certificate for passing our goal with 13 new members. We celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Sons of Norway. We continue to collect stamps for the handicapped children in Norway. We will again be sending many dozens of cookies to the annual Berkebinder in February. We voted to again sponsor a candidate for Syttende Mai in

2020. We also voted to donate to the Westby Norse Fund a Scholarship again this year. A thank you to Dennis Hagen for sharing some great photos he had taken of our Christmas Carolers. Dave Amundson gave us an update on the 100th anniversary plans for Westby. We thank Lori Dubczak from Norskedahlen for the presentation on the history and activities of the local history and cultural center. Mark Jelinek won the door prize for the night. Diane Pieper has already begun work on the Syttende Mai Frokost (Breakfast) which we serve each year. Craig and Vickie Dunnum, Mark and Lou Ann Jelinek served the lunch after we sang the Norwegian Table. Hazel Cornell - Reporter for Solvang Lodge.



Dennis Hagen Photo of Christmas Carolers



Dave Torgerson Photo of Presentor Lori Dubczak

SOLVANG LODGE 457 FEBRUARY 25, 2020 MEETING



Sons of Norway Lodge 5-457 met at the Bekkum Library Community Room on February 25th with 51 members and guests attending. Roger Hanson our President conducted our business meeting. Helge Vestnes reported on his recent trip to Norway to attend the funeral of his Brother. He thanked us for our condolences. We were provided with current information on Sons of

Norway investment opportunities and interest rates. Sandy Iverson reported that she collected 58 dozen cookies for the Barniberke and thanked the members for the generosity. The plans for upcoming events are progressing well. Ruth Amundson won the door prize. We will make a donation to the Westby Elementary School Reading Program. We have been challenged to recruit 14 new members in 2020. Our very entertaining program for the evening was given by Dave and Brenda Maxwell. Dave, Brenda along with their 2 daughters and Larry and Kristy Holmstad spent 10 days in Norway on an adventurous kayaking/hiking trip along the fjords with an expert guide. We sang the Norwegian Table Prayer and lunch was served by Annette Easterday, Mary Hass, Mary and Gary Daines. Karen Hankee encouraged us to continue to borrow books from our extensive supply of good reading material.

SPRING IN NORWAY

During the months of March, April, and May, the days get longer and the weather gets warmer all over the country. The melting snow creates natural waterfalls everywhere, and together with the blooming flowers – and people – they make spring in Norway quite remarkable. The Norwegian spring is probably the hardest season to define. Some years it comes early, other years late, sometimes it's hot, sometimes chilly well into what's supposed to be the summer months. And whilst many consider spring equinox around 20 March to be the first day of the season, spring may actually start in late February in parts of the country. Meteorologists keep insisting on spring starting on 1 March, but plenty of people flee to the mountains during Easter week for a final week of winter and skiing.

In May, though, the flowers are sure to be blooming, and so are the Norwegians. Nature is virtually exploding all around you – trees and flowers are waking to life, the melting snow in the mountains swells the waterfalls, rivers and lakes, and the blossoming fruit trees along the Hardangerfjord are an unforgettable sight. Thanks to the many public holidays in May – Norway's national day on 17 May being the most fun – Norwegians get to really appreciate the season.



A

German fisherman and his group were just about to give up after a slow and unproductive day of fishing off the Norwegian island of Soroya when a huge, world-record cod fish changed their plans.

NORWAY POLAR BEAR

The jurisdiction of the Barents Sea population of polar bears is shared between Russia and Norway. The Svalbard archipelago, with its 12-nautical mile (22 km) territorial waters and the shallow and seasonally ice-covered Barents Sea, represents the main Norwegian part of the population range.

NORWAYS MUSK OXEN



The musk oxen can be found in Norway's Dovrefjell National Park where the hardy Arctic animals have become an unusual tourist attraction. One of the oldest mammals to stomp our planet, musk oxen are a triumph of nature.

Roughly 260 of these ancient Arctic mammals graze here year-round, sweeping the mountains with a scraggy mass of unkempt hair and mopping up lichen, moss and grass in the process. Contemporaries of the woolly mammoth, their resilience is remarkable; occupying this planet three times as long as Homo sapiens, they've weathered ice ages, human hunting and disease.

The most comments I ever got on a face book post was this combination photo group I posted.



On November 6th 2019 Norwegian air chief Major General Tonje Skinnarland declared Norway's F-35As operational, after completing a deployment in November meant to validate that they are able to operate the jets away from Norway's home base, Ørland Main Air Station.



Norway becomes the third European country to declare IOC, after the United Kingdom and Italy.

– I would like to congratulate the Norwegian Armed Forces on declaring IOC with the F-35. This is a big day for the entire Armed Forces, says Norway's Defence Minister Frank Bakke-Jensen.



Norway declared F-35A IOC on November 6th 2019. Here from Rygge Air Force Base close to Oslo. Credit: Torbjørn Kjosvold, Armed Forces Norway With more than 455 aircraft operating from 20 bases around the globe, the F-35 is playing a critical role in today's global security environment. More than 955 pilots and 8,485 maintainers have been trained, and the F-35 fleet has surpassed more than 230,000 cumulative flight hours. Nine nations have F-35s operating from a base on their home soil and eight Services have declared Initial Operating Capability.

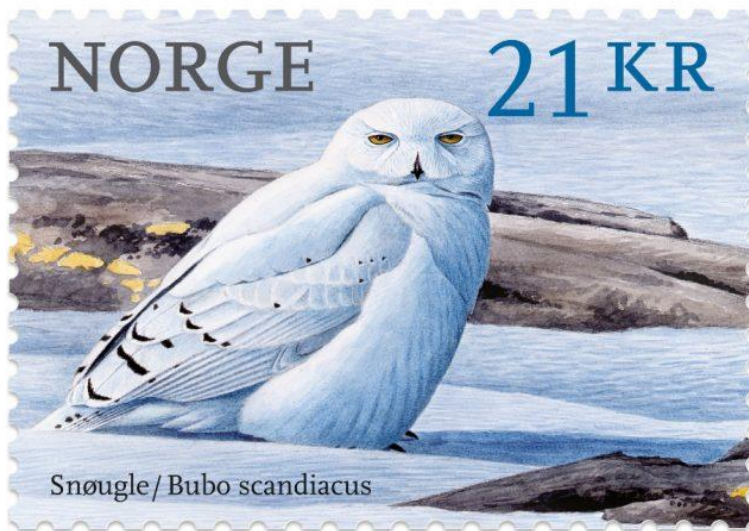
Over the last two years, the Norwegian Air Force has conducted intensive operational testing and evaluation (OT&E) of special Norwegian conditions such as winter operations, operations in the northern areas and cooperation with Norwegian Army, Navy and Special Forces.

To conclude the test period, the Norwegian Armed Forces spent several days transferring aircraft and equipment from Ørland Air Station to Rygge Air Station (close to the capital Oslo). Deployment of Rygge's fighter aircraft system includes technicians and other important personnel as well as necessary equipment in order to train and practice operations from there. This was the first time the fighter aircraft were operated from a base other than Ørland Air Station.



Next year Norway's F-35s will deploy to Iceland to conduct air-policing efforts on behalf of NATO. Finally, by 2022, the Norwegian Air Force will have built up enough F-35s, pilots and maintainers in the country to let the F-35 take over the "quick reaction alert" mission, which calls for operators to stand on a 24/7 alert and scramble, if needed, to intercept aircraft flying near Norwegian airspace. These F-35s will be ready for air-policing in Evenes, Northern Norway.

NORWAYS SNOWY OWL STAMP



This Norwegian stamp is voted the most beautiful in the world. The motif on it was painted by visual artist Viggo Ree (69).

A Norwegian postage stamp depicting a snowy owl has been named the world's most beautiful design. Designed by artist Viggo Ree, the stamp was awarded the honour in Madrid last month.

A jury consisting of around 40 internationally qualified philatelists evaluated stamps from all over the world in different classes. The Norwegian snowy owl stamp by Ree was selected the best in the Nexofil competition, organized by the stamp magazine El Eco in Spain last month.

-It was a surprising prize to receive. This is the first time Norway has won a prize in the main category in this competition, says Viggo Ree to VG.

The award-winning stamp with snow owl motif was released last year, in a series of three stamps with bird motifs. According to the Norwegian Ornithological Association, Viggo Ree has drawn animals since he was a year and a half. He is a so-called wildlife artist, who only paints fauna motifs.

GAS STATION NOW ONLY RECHARGING STATION FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

Circle K at Aleksander Kielland's place in Oslo changes all gas pumps with electric chargers and becomes the first gas station in the world going full electric, according to Vårt Oslo.

Circle K is part of a network of 16,000 petrol stations internationally, but Circle K at Aleksander Kielland's place in Oslo is the only one where electric car speed chargers have now taken the place of gas pumps.

-We have never done this before. There are fierce battles over the square meters at gas stations, and the gas pumps still deliver the core products and drive most of the traffic to our stations, says Circle Ks Sverre Rosén in a company press release.

-But now there is a development in Norway. Fast charging is in high demand and there is a growing customer segment. It is nice to be a pioneer for the whole world in this way, says Rosén.

Historical event

The Electric Car Association (Elbilforeningen) is happy with the transformation and Secretary General Christina Bu thinks it is extra significant to highlight this at the same time when world leaders are gathered at the UN Climate Summit in New York.

-We're in a new era. It is a historic milestone that the gas station chains replace fossil fuel pumps with electric chargers. We congratulate Circle K for investing in electric cars, says Christina Bu.

THE SAGAS OF ICELANDERS AS A HISTORICAL SOURCE

The *Öslingasögur* (Sagas of Icelanders, sometimes called the Icelandic family sagas) are a valuable resource in the study of society and culture in the Viking age. However, for a variety of reasons, one cannot depend upon the sagas as historical fact.



The Sagas of Icelanders are comprised of about two score longer narratives and a larger number of tales. The stories are unique among medieval literature in that they, the stories are unique because they were written in the vernacular, old Icelandic, rather than in Latin. In the main, the stories are set in Iceland in the 9th through 11th century. This is the period in which Iceland was settled, primarily by Norwegians, and the time in which the Icelanders set up their commonwealth form of government. Some of the stories focus on a single individual, while others cover a family for generations. The action is dominated by conflict and feud, and ultimately, its resolution. The narrative tends to be complex, with interwoven plot strands that are taken up and dropped until they all come together at the end of the story. The facts are reported clearly and succinctly by a third person narrator, who never speaks to the reader. The stories were written down in the 13th and 14th century,

during and after Iceland's turbulent Sturlunga era. During this time, Iceland's centuries old commonwealth government broke down, leading to Iceland's loss of independence, and submission to the crown of Norway.

What triggered the Icelanders to write down these stories during this period in their history? It's highly likely that these stories had circulated orally for centuries. Perhaps the Icelanders in the time following the tumultuous Sturlunga era wanted to record these stories as a way to look back wistfully to the golden age when their ancestors first settled the land. Additionally, as the political climate shifted, powerful families may have wanted to justify their ruling status and solidify their land claims by creating a permanent written record of the heroic exploits of the earlier patriarchs of the family.

Let us begin with a question: which is the best-read country in the world? Recent research revealed that in Iceland more books are written, published and sold per person per year than anywhere else on the planet. On a recent trip there I discovered the average Icelander reads four books per year, while one in ten will publish something in their lifetime.

The reasons for this are multifold: long, dark winter nights, a geographical expansiveness that makes trips to, say, the cinema more difficult, a great selection of well-stocked bookshops and a small population, but perhaps more than anything, it is down to Iceland's most famous literary export, The Sagas.

The Sagas remain an intrinsic part of Icelanders' identity to this day, their presence around the country unavoidable. Here is a physical document which traces the lives of its indigenous people during a most tumultuous time, an era when the Vikings were changing the shape of society across Northern Europe and Christianity, Catholicism and Paganism were all fighting it out to be the prevailing belief system.

The Sagas contains some monumental events, not least Norse explorer Leif Ericsson's discovery of a large island he called Vinland and which was later divided into two and renamed Canada and America.

Perhaps more importantly, The Sagas still influence the way we tell and read stories today. Though trolls and ghosts feature, much of The Sagas remains grounded in reality. They tell stories of farmers, families and fighters, lovers, warriors and kings, of betrayal and dilemmas, and which are, for the most part, believable and credible. Women play a strong role too: few characters are as memorable as Gudrid Thorbjarnardottir, believed to be the first person of European ancestry to be born in America. And seemingly hard as nails.

The style in which The Sagas are written is, like some of today's best fiction, unpretentious and unadorned. Characters move from A to B to C (often by long-boat), and the narrators remain unemotional and impartial; people live and die without sentimentality or judgment. It is up to the reader to provide that.

Across a series of stand-alone stories these early authors deliver complex and multi-generational tales in a tone that, despite being born out of a very different philosophical age, makes them surprisingly digestible one millennia on. Most importantly The Sagas created an appetite for a certain type of literature that is evident today in biographies, saga sagas, the popularity of the works of Tolkien, Pratchett and much more besides.



THE PEASANT WOMAN WHO WAS CHANGED INTO A WOODPECKER

When our Lord walked the earth, he and St. Peter came to a cookhouse. A woman who baked for others was sitting there. Her name was Gjertrud.

"Oh, may I get a flatbread," said our Lord Jesus, for he had walked a long way without tasting food.

Well, Gjertrud made a little doughy mass and rolled it out, but the more she rolled it out the more it grew, and when she had baked it, the piece had become so large that she did not have the heart to give it away.

Then she took a smaller doughy mass and rolled it out, but the more she rolled it out, the more it grew, and when she had baked it, the piece was even bigger than the first one. No, she could not afford to give him that one either.

Then she took a tiny doughy mass and rolled it out; but the more she rolled it the more it grew, and when she had baked that piece it was so huge that she never had baked so large a piece earlier. So, it became impossible to give away that lefse too.

Then our Lord said: "Since you begrudged me the bread, you shall seek your food between bark and wood, and not drink until rainfall!" At that very moment Gjertrud was transformed to a bird that flew up through the chimney. It had to look for its food between the bark and the wood and drink rainwater. It was the woodpecker, as we also call it.

OLE AND LENA JOKES ETC.

Ole and Sven grabbed their poles and headed out to do some ice fishing. As they were auguring a hole in the ice, they heard a loud voice from above say, "There are no fish under the ice." Ole and 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."

A Norwegian, a Swede and a Dane made a bet about who could stay the longest in a stinky pig barn. They all went in at the same time. After only two minutes the Dane came running out. Five minutes later the Swede stumbled out the door. After ten minutes, all the pigs ran out.

Ole was in trouble. He forgot his wedding anniversary. His wife, Lena, was really angry. She told him, "Tomorrow morning, I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0 to 200 PRETTY DAMN FAST! The next morning Ole got up early and left for work. When Lena woke up, she looked out the window and sure enough there was a gift-wrapped box in the middle of the driveway. Confused, Lena put on her robe and ran out to the driveway and brought the box back in the house. She opened it and found a brand-new bathroom scale.

Ole called the airlines information desk and inquired, "How long does it take to fly from Minneapolis to Fargo?" "Just a minute," said the busy clerk. "Vell, said Ole, "if it has to go dat fast, I tink I'll yust take da bus."

Sven says to Ole "I found dis pen, is it yours?"

Ole replies - "Don't know, give it here"

He then tries it and says "Yes it is"

Sven asks "How do you know?"

Ole replies, "Dat's my handwriting!"

Ole, Sven and Lars die in a tragic Lutfisk accident. They are met by God on the stairway to heaven. God says, "There are 3,000 steps to heaven. It's very serious up there. I'll tell you a joke on each 1,000th step you reach. If you laugh you go to hell." So they start walking and reach to the first 1,000th step. God tells a joke, Lars laughs out loud and goes straight to hell. Ole and Sven look at each other nervously. On the 2,000th step God tells another joke, Sven tries his best but laughs and goes

to straight to hell. On the 3,000th step God tells the last and best joke. Ole doesn't laugh and proceeds to the gate. Suddenly, Ole bursts out laughing hysterically. God asks, "What are you laughing about?". Ole replies, "Oh dat's funny. I yust got da first yoke!"

Lars was staggering home after a night in the tavern. A Lutheran minister saw him and offered to help him get home safely. As they approached the house, Lars asked the minister to step inside for a moment. He explained, "I vant Lena to see who I have been out vith."

Ole died. So Lena went to the local paper to put a notice in the obituaries. The gentleman at the counter, after offering his condolences, asked Lena what she would like to say about Ole. Lena replied, "You yust put 'Ole died'." The gentleman, somewhat perplexed, said, "That's it? Just 'Ole died?' Surely, there must be something more you'd like to say about Ole. If its money you're concerned about, the first five words are free. We must say something more." So Lena pondered for a few minutes and finally said, "O.K. You put 'Ole died. Boat for sale.'"

Ole says to the doctor at the 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."

Ole walks into work, and both of his ears are all bandaged up. The boss says, "What happened to your ears?" Ole says, "Yesterday I vas ironing a shirt ven da phone rang and I accidentally answered da iron." The boss says, "Well, that explains one ear, but what happened to your other ear?" Ole says, "I tried ta call da doctor."



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