



SONS of NORWAY



Oct. 2020
Walworth County, WI

Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Our lodge will not be able to have in-person elections this year. However, all of our current officers are willing to stand for another term, so we don't need to hold elections. Thank you to all of you who volunteered.

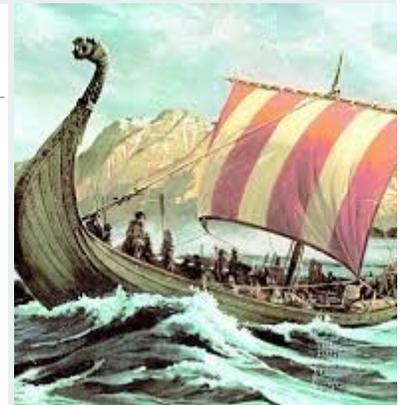
District 5 is looking for an Assistant Camp Administrator for Masse Moro. After working with the Director for a year, this position will become director. Masse Moro (meaning "lots of fun" in Norwegian) will hopefully operate on July 18-31, 2021 at Beaver Creek Reserve in Eau Claire county, Wisconsin. If COVID restricts us from operating camp, the assistant camp administrator will be in charge of operating a virtual Masse Moro on Zoom. To learn more about Masse Moro, visit <https://www.massemoro.org/> For further information or to send a resume, contact: Tom Boudreau @ sjbergh4364@gmail.com Application deadline is December 4, 2020. If you want more information on requirements for the job, you can contact me and I'll forward the info.

The D5 Cultural committee's "Virtual Culture Classes" survey has been taken by 234 members. The results indicate that the Culture committee will soon be busy offering classes. Top choices are cooking/baking (94), Norwegian-American history (93), genealogy (69), rosmaling (61), hardanger embroidery (59), woodcarving (42). One of the benefits of being a Sons of Norway member is the cultural medals program. Most classes will be offered in the new year with one possibly starting in late fall. Class costs will vary. Some classes have an instruction fee plus the cost of materials.

Dates to put on your calendar:

- DISTRICT 5 BOARD MEETING- April 16-17, 2021, Nashville, TN
- DISTRICT FIVE LODGE MEETING Idun Lodge will host the meeting in 2022 in Madison, Wisconsin. Hotel and dates to be determined.
- INTERNATIONAL LODGE MEETING The International Lodge Meeting will be held in 2022 in Minneapolis, MN.

Sons of Norway, District 5 Merchandise for sale. Support your district and display your Norwegian pride by purchasing our extra special merchandise at http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/financial/district_5_merchandise.php. The sale of the playing cards has gone extremely well as all of the first printing has been sold. Another 1000 decks have been ordered, so don't miss out on this printing. If you can't order them online, please contact me and I will get them for you. There are also aprons, shirts, sweatshirts, books, and flags for sale.



Gratulare Med Dagen

October Birthdays

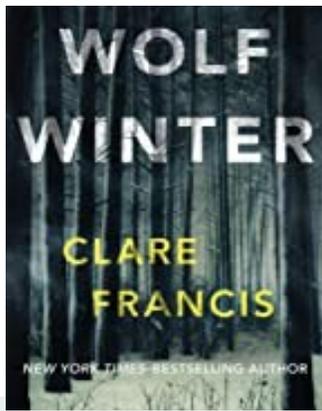
Nordeana Nimphius	3rd
Jim David	11th
Arline Kingwill	20th
Amy Finnes Tacheny	20th
Doris Wild	29th

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Local & District News	1
Book Review.....	2
15 Facts About Iceland ..	2
Free Vaccine.....	3
Northern Lights	4
History of Skiing	5
Alt for Norge	6

KALENDAR

Let's all hope and pray for extermination of the Covid 19 virus by spring so we can resume some semblance of normalcy.



Book Review

by Virginia Anderson

Title: Wolf Winter

Author: Clare Francis

Wolf Winter is a thriller set in northern Norway above the Arctic Circle, it's a story with great descriptions of Northern Norway and a believable plot. The opening pages occur in 1945 during the German occupation of Norway with German troopers on skis are pursuing two skiers up a mountain. What happens then and afterwards leads to consequences during the Cold War in 1960.

At that time there are problems among many nations of the far north. There are also problems with the Sami. The time is mostly set in the early 1960s during the long dark winter nights with blinding snow and howling winds. Winter and darkness are the rule there and a person does not know who to trust and who not to. The short summer is beautiful. I liked the description of traveling through the snow and those who are able to handle that kind of weather.

Loved the book and was sorry when it came to an end. The plot was good and I enjoyed the content regarding Lapps and the setting of the book - refreshing. Suspense, spy elements and love story all interwoven brilliantly.

Available at the library,

15 Fun Facts About Iceland

by David Nickel — October 18, 2020



Learn something new about Norway's Nordic sibling Iceland, the land of fire and ice.

The volcanic island in the north Atlantic is known around the world for its hot springs and dramatic scenery. If you've never been to Iceland, I highly recommend a trip. I have only been once and just for a few days, but that was enough to see that the

natural landscapes certainly rival Norway for beauty!

Here are some fun facts you may or may not know about this fascinating Nordic country. Enjoy.

1. Iceland's population is smaller than Arlington, Texas

Statistics Iceland releases population data once per year. According to the latest data released on 1 January 2020, the population of Iceland is 364,134. Yes, that's all!

As of January 2020, there were 55,354 immigrants living in Iceland, amounting to 15.2% of the population. People born in Poland made up the largest single immigrant group.

2. More than 60% of Iceland's residents live in Reykjavík

More specifically, 233,000 people live in Iceland's "capital region". This comprises the city itself together with the six neighboring municipalities, which make up by far the biggest urban area in the country.

After Reykjavík, the most populous cities in Iceland are Kópavogur and Hafnarfjörður, both of which are included in the capital region.

3. People have lived on Iceland for about 1,200 years

Iceland was settled by Viking explorers sometime in the 9th century. Archaeological evidence suggests earlier temporary settlement, perhaps from Gaelic monks.

4. Iceland still uses a patronymic naming system

There are no family names in Iceland. A patronymic naming system used to be the norm throughout the Nordic region, but now just Iceland adopts it. Patronymic means that a person's name is based on the name of their parents. This is why an Icelander's name will almost always end in -son (son of) or -dóttir (daughter of). Additionally, Iceland has a naming committee that maintains a list of approved given names (first names) along with a list of banned names. If you want to name your child with a name that's not on the approved list, you must get permission from this committee.

5. The country has more than 100 volcanoes!

Most people know of Iceland's volcanic activity thanks to the 2010 eruption of Eyjafjallajökull that grounded much of Europe's air traffic for several days. But the country actually has more than 100 volcanoes, several of which are active. Because of this constant volcanic activity, much of Iceland is covered in lava fields.

6. 11% of Iceland consists of



glaciers

So with all the volcanic activity, how can the country be called the land of fire and ice? It's simple! Around 11% of the country is covered by glaciers. The glaciers of Iceland are stunning on their own. But combined with the lava fields and waterfalls, they make up truly stunning landscapes that you won't find anywhere else.

9. Iceland has its own fjords

The fjords aren't just for Norway! More than 100 fjords pierce Iceland's coastline. They are clustered into two main groups. One is in the northwest and the other along the east coast. Both are clearly visible on maps!



10. Europe's first parliament

The country's Þingvellir National Park is home to the first parliament grounds in Europe. Around the year 930, the first parliament met in an area that is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Over two weeks each year, the Althing open-air assembly set laws and settled disputes. It continued to meet until 1798.

10. Iceland marks a physical boundary between America and Europe

The country is one of the world's only places where the effects of two major tectonic plates drifting apart can easily be seen on land. Welcome to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge! At Thingvellir National Park, the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates meet. Or in actual fact, they move away from each other by a couple of centimeters each year.

11. Iceland isn't an EU member, but...

...as with Norway, it is closely linked to the EU through the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and European Economic Area (EEA) agreement. Iceland is also a member of the Schengen Area. Iceland's participation in these mechanisms allows free movement of people between Iceland and the rest of the Schengen Area. Thousands of Icelandic citizens travel to, work or study in the EU each year. Of the foreigners in Iceland, a large majority come from the EU.

12. Iceland has its own currency

Iceland does not use the Euro. It has the Icelandic króna. This makes it the second smallest country (by population) after the Seychelles to have its own currency and monetary policy.

13. Iceland has no standing army

Despite the popularity of Nordic noir, violent crime in Iceland is famously low. Iceland is the only NATO country not to have a standing army, air force or navy. There is a national coastguard, air defense system and crisis response unit (ICRU). The ICRU is a peacekeeping force made up of about 200 staff. However, these employees don't carry arms.

14. The country celebrates beer day

Thanks to a 1908 referendum, beer was banned in Iceland from 1915 to 1989. Now it's the most popular alcoholic drink in the country! So much so that on the first of March every year, the country celebrates Beer Day. Craft beer is crazy popular in Iceland. One brewery uses purely geothermal energy to power its brewing process, while another uses bilberries in a refreshing summer ale. Cheers!

Norway to Provide COVID-19 Vaccine Free of Charge

By Reuters Staff

OCTOBER 13, 2020

OSLO (Reuters) - Norway will provide a vaccine against COVID-19 free of charge to its inhabitants when one becomes available, the government said on Tuesday, and this would become part of the country's national vaccination program.

Norway, which is part of the European single market but is not a member of the European Union, said in August it would get access to the vaccines that the EU obtains via deals negotiated with pharmaceutical companies.

"We want as many people as possible to get the offer of receiving a safe and effective vaccine. This is why vaccination will be free of charge," Prime Minister Erna Solberg said in a statement.

Sweden, an EU member and Norway's neighbor, will buy more of the vaccines than it needs and then sell them on to Norway.

"The EU has so far entered into agreements with three different vaccine manufacturers and is negotiating agreements with several other manufacturers. Norway is covered by these agreements through resale agreements with Sweden," the government said in Tuesday's statement.

The Nordic country has currently the lowest level of new infections in Europe. Its 14-day cumulative number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 inhabitants was 34.3 as of Oct. 13, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

There are wide disparities within the country though. Authorities are most concerned with the situation in Oslo, where current restrictions, such as compulsory wearing of face masks in public transport when social distancing cannot be maintained, were extended on Tuesday for an indefinite period.

Norway is also part of COVAX, the global scheme for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines backed by the World Health Organization, joined by 171 nations including China, but shunned by the United States and Russia.

The program aims to offer equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for rich and poor countries alike.



The History of Skiing in Norway

by [David Nikel](#) — March 1, 2020

It's known that the act of skiing dates back at least 8,000 years. Here's the full story of Norway's love affair with skiing.

It's no surprise to hear that Norwegians love skiing. Their love for the sport is responsible for the country's stunning performances at the Winter Olympics. On winter weekends, city centers are deserted as the locals disappear onto the cross-country skiing trails.

When did skiing begin?

Skiing has taken place in the world for such a long time that we have to rely on archaeological evidence to figure out when the pastime began.

Paintings more than 5,000 years old suggest use of skis in the Altaic region of China. In Russia's White Sea region, rock carvings dated to 2,000-2,500 BC show people on equal length skis hunting game. They appear to show that the hunters use their bow and spear as ski poles.

This rock carving shows a skier holding a bow and arrow. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Alta, Norway.

Within Scandinavia, the earliest known reference to skiing dates back to around 3,000-4,000 BC. Primitive carvings depict human figures walking on skis.

The best known is the carving at Rødøy in Norway's Nordland. Here, a skier holding a single pole wears skis of equal length. Elsewhere, one of the famous Alta rock carvings depicts a hunter on skis. This image is dated to around 1,000 BC.

Physical evidence

There's more archaeological evidence when it comes to the skis themselves. In northern Russia, fragments of objects believed to be skis were dated to around 6,300-5,000 BC. The first primitive ski found in Scandinavia was uncovered in a peat bog in Sweden's Jämtland County. It dates back to 4,500-2,500 BC. Other notable finds include a Finnish discovery dated to 3,245 BC, Sweden's Kalvträskskidan ski dated to 3,300 BC, and Norway's Vefsn Nordland ski, dated to 3,200 BC. More than 20 well-preserved skis or ski



fragments have been found in drained bogs in Norway.

These discoveries in particular indicate skis have been used in Norway—especially in the north—since prehistoric times. Early written evidence includes Procopius' description of Sami people as (translated) as “ski-running sami’s”. In fact, the very old Sami word for skiing – čuoigat – suggests Sami people have skied for several thousands of years.

Early uses of skis as transport and a hunting aid

According to mythology, several Norse gods were described as hunting on skis. In fact, Ullr and Skaði



Explorer Fridtjof Nansen

have later been regarded as the god and goddess of skiing and

hunting.

Even just a few hundred years ago, there was a lot more snow and ice in Norway than today. Skis, therefore, were of critical importance to get around quickly on land, whether to move from place to place or to aid with hunting wild animals.

The saga of Egil Skallagrimsson describes King Haakon the Good's practice of sending out his tax collection men on skis.

The number of people skiing must have been significant. Among other references, the Gulating law of 1274 states that “no moose shall be disturbed by skiers on private land.”

According to a saga, Haakon IV of Norway was transported as a baby in 1206 by soldiers on skis. He was taken to safety through the hills between the Gudbrandsdalen and Østerdalen valleys. The event has a strong legacy to this day in the form of the Birkebeinerrennet ski marathon.

Norwegians had been skiing for many hundreds of years before others began to take notice. In 1799, French traveler Jacques de la Tournay wrote of a visit to Norway in his travel diary:

In winter, the mail is transported through Filefjell mountain pass by a man on a kind of snow skates moving very quickly without being obstructed by snow drifts that would engulf both people and horses. People in this region move around like this. I've seen it repeatedly. It requires no more effort than what is needed to keep warm. The day will surely come when even those of other European nations are learning to take advantage of this convenient and cheap mode of transport.

Ski warfare

For many years, soldiers on skis have been used for both offensive and defensive purposes. Another saga describes how King Sverre sent out troops on skis to patrol the Aker area near Oslo. The first use of troops on skis in warfare was recorded in the 13th century by Danish historian Saxo Grammaticus.

The speed and distance that ski troops are able to cover is comparable to that of light cavalry. The Trondheim garrison used skis from the 17th century, when specialized skiing battalions were a common sight in the Danish-Norwegian army.

Skis were also a vital element in the famous Heroes of Telemark story from World War II. In February 1943, a team of Norwegian commandos destroyed the facility, but only after several days of cross-country skiing.

Skiing as recreation and sport

It seems likely the development of skiing from purely function into a competitive sport occurred within the military. The first known races occurred within Norwegian and Swedish infantries. Military races such as cross-country skiing with a full backpack turned into races. In fact, the military exercise of target practice following a period of skiing eventually became the biathlon Olympic winter sport.

Telemark skiing

Sometimes in the 19th century, skiers in the Telemark region challenged each other on wilder slopes that included steep mountains, steep jumps and sharp turns. While it has a long history, Telemark skiing is popular today thanks to its renaissance in the United States in the 1970s. Those using the technique use flexible Alpine skis with bindings that fix just the toe of the boot to the ski.

Ski jumping

Ski jumping was first contested in Norway in the late 19th century, although there is evidence of the practice taking place in the 18th century. The first records suggest that Sondre Norheim won the first ever competition with prizes in 1866.



The Great Norwegian Adventure

by David Nickel — October 12, 2014

by David Nickel — October 12, 2014

The must-watch reality TV show for anyone considering a move to Norway.

Named *The Great Norwegian Adventure* in the USA, *Alt for Norge* features a bunch of Norwegian-Americans competing for the chance to meet their Norwegian relatives. It may seem a strange concept to many, and indeed it did to me at first. But after spending a week discovering Minnesota's Norwegian-American community last year, all is clear! Americans with Norwegian heritage (and there are allegedly over 5 million of them, more than the population of Norway itself) really do seem to love the "idea" of Norway, so to see a select few get to experience what Norway is really like makes for great entertainment.



Great entertainment for me at least – and I suspect all foreigners living in Norway – as the tasks they have to go through mirror my time in Norway so far. Being rubbish at cross-country skiing, attempting to navigate forest trails, learning Norwegian, trying brown cheese, fiskeboller and akevitt, and a whole lot more.

However, unlike the Norwegian-Americans, I've never had to sing a Norwegian song on stage at Rockheim or dress up as Kaptein Sabeltann at Kristiansand Zoo!

It has provided one of the most entertaining moments so far. The contestants had to dash around a town in northern Norway asking the natives how to swear in Norwegian. Anyone who's ever been to northern Norway will know they can swear, boy can they swear! So some real classic lines were delivered, which of course, I'm not going to repeat here!

Each contestant had to memorize the swear words and deliver them at the Norwegian swearing champions while downing a beer. Brilliant.

One of the nicer elements of the show is when each contestant is presented with a letter from their relatives, typically while they are visiting the area. This normally results in tears as the contestant understands the tough conditions that drove their forefathers to America in search of a better life.

Alt for Norge is one of the few original shows on Norwegian TV with international appeal, making a pleasant change from endless reruns of *Friends*, *The Simpsons* et al. Even so, it's not an entirely original concept. It's modelled on another TV Norge hit, *71 grader nord* (71 Degrees North), which sees Norwegians attempt challenges a hundred times harder than on *Alt for Norge*. The show has run on Norwegian TV every year since 1999 and been sold to countries around the world including the UK, Sweden, Poland, and the USA and Canada, where the concept was called *No Boundaries*.

All reality shows tend to get better as they progress, and you get to know the participants a bit better, so I hold out hope for a great finish to series 5! All together now... *Alt for Norge!*