



# Valhall Nyheter

Sons of Norway Lodge # 5-168 August, September 2021



## Kalender



*Whoo hooo!!!!*

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Gary Melby  
Bill Brod

Librarian / Historian  
Rev. Dr. Richard Wang

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[Sons of Norway District 5 \(sonsofnorway5.com\)](http://www.sofn.com/)

<http://www.sofn.com/>

### Sunday, September 19, 2021 - Valhall Lodge Picnic PORTER PARK CABIN

6545 Windflower Lane, Roscoe, IL 61073

This will be a catered event. Reservations are required. We will need the final count turned in by Sept.10. More information to follow. Watch Facebook, your email and mail.

Contact Lee Ann Harp email: [leeannharp@yahoo.com](mailto:leeannharp@yahoo.com) or  
Phone 909-806-0825 or 815-282-2374

The cabin has a handicap accessible ramp at the front entrance of the building.

Several interesting Nordic News Radio audio/visual presentations can be accessed under Programs on the D5 Sof N website or by clicking on the link under Programs on the D5 SofN website or on the link: [Nordic News Radio | Sons of Norway District 5 \(sonsofnorway5.com\)](http://NordicNewsRadio.com)

The programs can be viewed at your convenience by just clicking on a topic OR they can be watched live every Tuesday 6:20 p.m. (Central) or 7:20 p.m. (Eastern) by computer at [gotomeet.me/SofN-D5](https://gotomeet.me/SofN-D5)  
By cell phone: 646-749-3112.  
Access code: 509-077-557

## **CULTURAL CORNER:**

Now is a good time to work on our Cultural Skills. Be sure to check out your D5 Sons of Norway website under the Programs tab for some of the many virtual skills classes. [Cultural Classes | Sons of Norway District 5 \(sonsofnorway5.com\)](http://sonsofnorway5.com)

### **RECIPES NEEDED:**

We are beginning to compile the recipes that were gathered over the past year. There is still time for you to submit your favorite recipe. Attached is a sample template you may use. Print a copy , email or mail your recipe to your cultural director Wendy Higgins – 5855 Old Millstone Rd. Rockford 61114 or email: [5855.higgins@gmail.com](mailto:5855.higgins@gmail.com).



## **Norwegian Coffee Bread**

Recipe from: Norma Stang Linderoth

One pint milk  
One cup sugar  
One cup butter  
Seven cups flour  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  tsp. ground cinnamon or 1 tsp cardamon  
2 cakes yeast  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup seedless raisins

Heat milk, sugar and butter to scalding. Cool to lukewarm.  
Add flour with cinnamon and the yeast cake which has been dissolved in a little extra warm milk.  
Work this very good. Cover and let stand in a warm place. Let rise until double in bulk.  
Work raisins into dough. Form into loaves. Let rise until double in bulk.  
Bake in 350 degree oven  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 hour.

# RECIPE

FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM THE KITCHEN OF: \_\_\_\_\_

PREP TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ COOK TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ SERVES: \_\_\_\_\_

## INGREDIENTS:

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## DIRECTIONS:

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*Velkommen*

### Share the Spirit of VELKOMMEN

Please reach out this month to someone in our community who might enjoy the fun times and friendly folks at our Sons of Norway lodge. Remember, daughters, sons and anyone with an interest in Nordic culture and heritage are welcome to join Sons of Norway. Let's make our community welcoming to all!

### TUBFRIM

Save used stamps and expired or used phone cards for Tubfrim to help disabled children and youth in Norway.

**Trim stamps so that you have at least at least 1/4 inch but not more than 1/2 inch around the edge of stamp.**

**Visit**

<http://www.tubfrim.no>

## *Gratulere Med Dagen (Happy Birthday)*

### **July**

Kimbal Higgins 7/1  
Susan Brocker 7/6  
Grace Calhoun 7/11  
Sophia Martino 7/19  
Patty Klawitter 7/22

### **August**

Sally Knutson 8/2  
Margaret Van Dan 8/2  
Jacqueline Jewell 8/3  
Mike Lunde 8/3  
Rev. Richard Wang 8/3  
Robert Schober 8/4  
Adam Knutson 8/23

### **September**

Anders Dahlgren 9/3  
Evelyn Langsholt 9/5  
Natalia Martino 9/10  
Linda Petersen 9/20

## Stories During COVID

### **Long time Valhall member Melvin Haugen celebrates 100 years!**

*Melvin claims. His "longevity is attributed to his strong Norwegian heritage, good coffee and lefse!" He also thinks Mountain Dew helps too!*

From Melvin's 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration pamphlet:

**Melvin Theodore Haugen** was born at home on June 12, 1921 in Mt Horeb, Wisconsin to Norwegian immigrants Haakon "Henry" & Regina Haugen. Mel's father didn't make it into Madison to record his birth until June 13th, so county recorded it as the 13th forevermore! He has always been adamant that the date his mother recorded in the family Bible is his true birthday. This was never a major issue until he had to deal with Social Security Administration at age 65. Melvin grew up as a middle child with two sisters: Helen, born in 1919 and Florence born in 1924.

At the tender age of six Mel was diagnosed with osteomyelitis, an infection resulting from a fall from a tree—he was a wiry adventurer back then! In the 1920's osteomyelitis was believed to be very contagious (we now know it's not!) and there were no effective treatments yet, so he was isolated, away from his family at the Rockford

TB Sanitarium for children for three years. They attempted to eradicate the infection with a painful drug called mercurochrome. This was the first test of this young Norske's resilience.

When Sir Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928 Mel was one of the test patients at the TB Sanitarium. Mel's infection was cured and he was reunited with his family. During those long days and years of isolation Mel's main companion was a radio (snuck into his room by a kindhearted 2 nurse.), tuned to baseball game broadcasts. This is when he became a die hard Chicago Cubs Fan! He remains a loyal, avid Cubs fan to this day.

Those three years of isolation delayed Mel's entry to school, another test of his resilience, the silver lining to the late start was entering in the same grade as his younger sister Florence. Reunited, Florence and Mel were inseparable, and even now remain close. In the 7th grade Florence became good friends with a fun loving blonde named RayJean Westman, who would later play an important role in Mel's life. His school days at Lincoln Junior High and then brand new, East High in Rockford were fun filled days, unaware of the threat of war on the world's horizon. He used to hop the fences to watch the Rockford Peaches play ball. One of Mel's favorite memories of High School was when he and Florence were in the school play "Aunt Lettie's Niece." When asked if he was a "ladies man" in school he responded, "I was a skinny guy! Not a ladies man. I liked girls, but they didn't like me!" He and Florence graduated from East High in 1942—forever ERabs!

During High School Mel worked as a "Soda-Jerk" at Corey's Soda Shop on 8th & Broadway. Due to the health issues Mel suffered as a young boy, his attempts to enlist to serve in World War II were met with the frustrating judgment of "4-F" no matter how many times he tried. But he found another way to serve in war time, working on the Home Front in the Defense production at Barber-Colman in Rockford where he worked for many years during Rockford's Industrial Boom.

Mel began, in his words "seriously dating" his sister's pal RayJean Leona Bernice Westman in 1947, first date at the soda shop Mel had worked at in Rockford. RayJean had been a USO girl during the Camp Grant years in Rockford, but post-war worked at Carpet Line, a home interiors store, she specialized in draperies and interior decorating. Though not really needing new drapes, Mel would often drop in at CarpetLine to see her.

They were married September 18, 1948, an outdoor wedding on her parents' front lawn with her sister Myrtle standing up for her and Mel's best friend John Dietrich standing for him. Just 14 months later in November 1949 they gave birth to Donna Marie (Sam Creek), in March 1951 they welcomed their 2nd daughter, Diane Louise. In December 1953 they added a third daughter, Debra Sue (Richard Nelson) to their growing family. During this time Mel was active on BarberColman's bowling team and played a major role in Rockford's huge centennial celebration, even growing an inaugural beard for the year long city event. Mel and RayJean knew their house on 42nd Avenue wasn't going to be big enough for their growing family so they began a big home project in a new neighborhood on the outskirts of Rockford, really just in the nick of time because in July 1959 they had a surprise blessing when Dawn Rae (John Gessner) was born. Another girl! What's a fella going to do with all those girls around?!! In tandem with their move and new neighborhood Mel and RayJean began attending and got involved at Evergreen Covenant Church where Mel served as a Trustee and RayJean taught Sunday School. Not yet settled with four blonde girls at home, in June of 1963 they welcomed a 5th tow-headed daughter, Darla Jean, who had the lightest blonde hair of all 5 girls—now they had 5 Ds!

During this era of industrial strength in Rockford Mel left his job as foreman at Barber Coleman and began work at Rockford Clutch Manufacturing. Mel has had many hobbies and interests throughout his life. His biggest interest? Following the Chicago Cubs and all things Baseball. Mel is also known for his love & skill with crossword puzzles. He always enjoyed gardening & birdwatching, surrounded by bird houses. A "Master Tinkerer", Mel loves to tinker with things, anything that needed fixing he'd work with until he figured it out. He also loves to utilize discarded things to build new! Daughter Debbie proudly remembers when he made a picnic table out of discarded wood from the Camp Grant steps! He was also a very good dancer! In the 1940s he traveled to California along Route 66, stopping along the route dancing to big band music, jazz and swing. Mel has been a member of First Free Church for many years, began attending in 1948 with RayJean. Although he cannot attend services these days, he streams the services on his iPad each Sunday. He was also an active member of the Sons of Norway.



Mel & RayJean's family includes 5 daughters (Donna, Diane, Debbie, Dawn, Darla), 3 sons-in-law (Sam, Richard, John), 8 grandchildren (Kristen, Samuel, David, Sarah, Jennifer, Michael, Jacqueline, and John), 5 grandchildren-in-law (Jenni, Laurie, JR, Cody, and Holly), and 15 greatgrandchildren (Matthew, Taylor, Gabriella RayJean, MaKenna, Sophia, Ethan, Willow Leona, Levi, Brooklynn, Meadow, Oliver, Elliott, Riley, Felix Theodore "Teddy," and Eleanor "Nola"). From one man continues a family of 38 people!



*Happy Birthday*





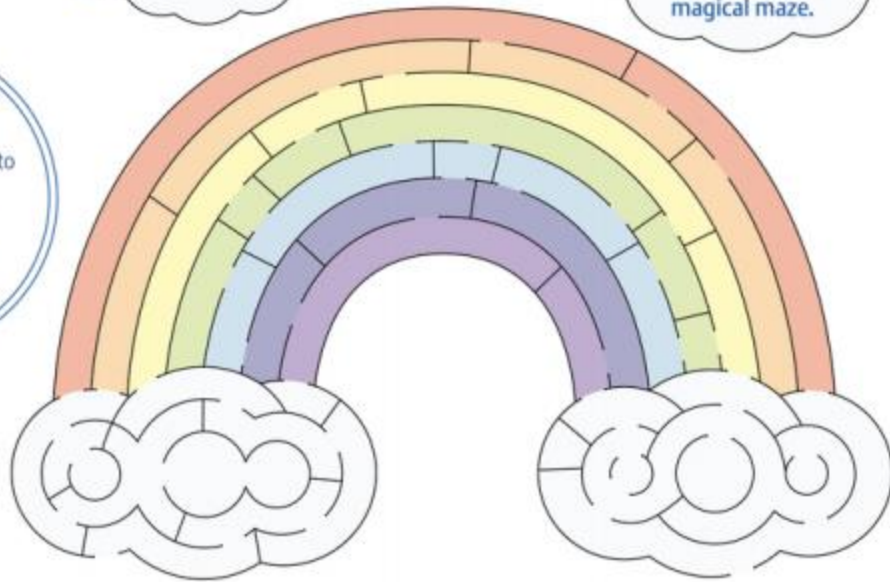
# JUST FOR KIDS



## RAINBOW RIDE

Find your way through this magical maze.

For more Just for Kids pages from previous issues, go to [sofn.com/justforkids](http://sofn.com/justforkids). The "Family Matters" archive is available on the Just for Kids webpage.



## KNOW YOUR COLORS

Learn to say your favorite color in Norwegian.



## WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words of animals that live in Norway.

1. ednreier \_\_\_\_\_
2. arpol reab \_\_\_\_\_
3. salwur \_\_\_\_\_
4. ealwh \_\_\_\_\_
5. fipfnu \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: 1. Reindeer, 2. Polar Bear, 3. Walrus, 4. Whale, 5. Puffin



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**Would you like to receive a paperless copy of your newsletter?**

Contact your newsletter editor at [cfairc56@gmail.com](mailto:cfairc56@gmail.com) with Newsletter in the subject line

If you know of a member that is ill at home, in the hospital, lost a family member, fell on some hard times, needs some encouragement or passed away –

**Sunshine Person: Lee Ann Harp – [leeannharp@yahoo.com](mailto:leeannharp@yahoo.com) – 909-806-0825**

The Valhall Lodge Newsletter is published every three months. Submit items of interest you would like to post in our newsletter to the Editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. When attending a Norwegian event that would be of interest to your fellow lodge members, please add your editor's name & address to their mailing list. Also, please notify the editor of a member passing so they may be acknowledged in our newsletter.

**Editor: Christina Fairchild 226 W River St. Rockton, IL. 61072** Phone (815) 624-4478

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