



SONS of NORWAY



July 2021

Walworth County, WI

Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Greetings all:

We are preparing for our first July meeting since I have been a member of our lodge. I am really looking forward to it because we have not seen each other much in the past year. We will meet at Williams Bay by the lake where the covered area is. I know we really need the rain, but let's pray for rain after our meeting and not during.

July 23 and 24th they will be holding the Nordic Fest in Decorah, IA. District 5 will be represented by several district members. I may attend one day. If you are interested in attending, please let me know and I will coordinate the info with our Dist. Representative, Cheryl Schlessler. Even if we don't attend, I will send several of our brochures so if anyone from our lodge area is interested, they will have our info.

We are also slated to serve a luncheon in Aug. 14 for the Norwegian-American History group at Heg Park. Please volunteer to help that day. Either call me or show up at the meeting to learn more about it.

We have a new pin to earn. It's for recruiting one member to join our lodge, enjoy their Nordic heritage and commune with other people who love their Norse background. Just get one person to join, be sure to put your name on the embership card, and you will earn this beautiful pin.



I have some sad news to relate. Edith Hanstad passed away. I have tried to find more information on her life and passing, but there does not seem to be an obituary online anywhere. If you know ore about Edith, please let me know so that I can relate it to the lodge and international office.

The Sons of Norway Foundation is here for you . . . and it is here for good! The mission of the Foundation is to share and preserve Nordic heritage, to positively affect our members' lives, and to make Sons of Norway communities better places to live. Since 1966, staying true to this purpose, the Foundation has been supporting our members through scholarships and cultural exchange opportunities, providing disaster relief to members in need, and funding community programs that celebrate Norwegian heritage and culture. In 2020 the Foundation provided \$10,742 in camperships for youth to attend Norwegian culture camps in the USA.

In 2020 the Foundation provided \$10,742 in camperships for youth to attend Norwegian culture camps in the USA. In 2020 the Foundation provided \$3,800 in humanitarian aid to members and children in need. In 2020 the Foundation provided \$23,530 in grants for Nordic culture and heritage programs. In 2020 the Foundation provided \$17,170 in scholarships for American students studying in Norway. In 2020 the Foundation provided \$89,100 for students to study in the United States and Canada. To quote Foundation Development Manager Emily Stark, "First and foremost, I would like Sons of Norway members to know that the Foundation is a great resource for our members. We provide grants to our lodges and other partners to advance our core values, scholarships to members and their children and grandchildren, and the opportunity to achieve philanthropic goals that reflect your interests and passions."

As of December 31, 2020, the net assets of the Foundation were \$9,864,547. Most of these assets are in scholarship endowments. For more information about grants and scholarships, go to the Sons of Norway website and click on Foundation. And remember . . . the Foundation is here for you . . . and it is here for good.



Gratulerer med dagen

July Birthdays

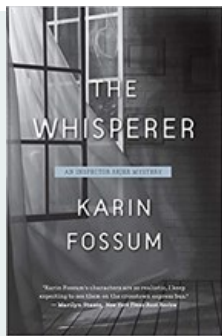
Diane Olson	2nd
Elaine Lundgren	19th
Anne Harrington Hope	30th

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KALENDAR

Picnic at Williams Bay park by the Lake, 6 p.m. July 13th.



This psychologically acute thriller from the queen of Norwegian crime fiction asks: How does a lonely, quiet woman come to brutally kill a man?

Ragna Riegel is a woman of routines. She sits in the same seat on the bus every day on her way to her predictable job at a supermarket. On her way back to the house she has always lived in, she visits the same local shop. She feels safe, until one day she receives a letter with a threatening message scrawled in capital letters. Ragna's carefully constructed life begins to unravel into a nightmare. Isolated and threatened by an unknown enemy, she must use all her means to defend herself. When the worst happens, Inspector Konrad Sejer is called in to interrogate Ragna. Is this unassuming woman out of her depth, or is she hiding a dark secret?

The Whisperer shifts between Inspector Sejer's interrogation of Ragna and the shocking events that led up to her arrest. Sejer thinks it is an open-and-shut case, but, unnervingly, *The Whisperer* keeps readers questioning assumptions even in its final moments.

This book is available from the Wisconsin Library system in book or ebook format.

Southern Norway More Genetically Isolated than Previously Thought

by University of Agder

"We have long known that the sea is a barrier to people meeting each other and having children. One could suspect this not to be the case for a maritime nation like Norway, but Norwegians have surprisingly little kinship with Danes for example," says Morten Mattingsdal.

There is less genetic variation in the south than in the rest of Norway. Rogaland, Agder and Telemark have seen surprisingly little migration over the last couple of hundred years, according to a new genetic study that is the first of its kind in Norway.

The study is built on an analysis of genetic material from 6,369 individuals from all over Norway. The analysis was performed by Morten Mattingsdal from the University of Agder (UiA) and Eivind Hovig from the University of Oslo and their colleagues.

They studied a biobank that Pål Møller at Radiumhospitalet collected over a period of 40 years. The researchers have examined the population structure of Norwegians, or simply put, who had children with whom over the last couple of hundred years. "We did not expect to find that Rogaland, Agder and Telemark were so isolated, genetically speaking. There has been little migration from other parts of Norway, and the people who have lived here have found partners from the same region," says Mattingsdal.

The article, "The genetic structure of Norway," is published in *European Journal of Human Genetics*. The study was funded by the Norwegian Cancer Society, South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority, the Research Council, and the University of Oslo.

Poor and isolated regions

It is a well-known fact that geography influences who has children with whom. Formations such as mountains and seas are natural barriers that affect where people meet. This affects the gene flow between populations in many species, including humans.

"Our starting point was that there are a lot of mountains and fjords in Norway, and we expected that this would impact the genetic structure of the population," says Mattingsdal.

The researchers expected to find that the Sami population and immigrant minorities, such as the Kvens from Finland, would stand out, since they have a genetic ancestry from the east. What they did not expect to find was that the counties in southern Norway would stand out as much as they do.

Mattingsdal speculates that the lack of deep fjords along the coast between Stavanger and Oslo has made southern Norway, and especially the inland areas, more isolated. Another explanation for the genetic isolation may be that the region has been a relatively poor part of Norway for the last couple of hundred years.

"Especially the hinterland in Agder, Telemark and south of Stavanger were not attractive places to move to if you were without a job at the beginning of the 20th century," Mattingsdal says.

A brother nation

Another finding in the study reveals that Norwegians have a much greater kinship with Sweden than with Denmark.

"We have long known that the sea is a barrier to people meeting each other and having children. One could suspect this not to be the case for a

maritime nation like Norway, but Norwegians have surprisingly little kinship with Danes," Mattingsdal says.

The counties of Hedmark and Trøndelag, on the other hand, show a close relatedness to the neighboring counties in Sweden. "Jämtland, which Norway lost to Sweden in the 17th century, also shows a close relatedness to the Trøndelag counties. It might not be surprising, but it is interesting that historical events have left a genetic imprint," says Mattingsdal.

Valuable for cancer research

The biobank, on which the study is based, was set up to investigate whether there are genetic variants that predispose to cancer. One of the underlying goals has been to gain new knowledge about the genetic structure of the population. This will make it easier to identify vulnerabilities and genetic variants predisposing to cancer in the population.

In the future, the researchers plan to look at new mutations and rare variants and see if any areas of Norway have an accumulation of mutations that are pathogenic. "In addition to the medical aspect, trends in population patterns are of historical interest. These trends, and these genetic structures in the population, disappear as we become more mobile," says Mattingsdal.

Campers Find 2 Million Kroner Stashed in Cave in Norway

By Frazer Norwell, news@thelocal.no, 28 June 2021

The two men were scouting out the forest near Mossemarka, Viken, South-



Photo: Norges Bank/Nils S. Aasheim

East Norway, to see whether it would be suitable for a family trip and reached a memorial site where the Norwegian resistance stored weapons and equipment during WW2. Around 200 meters or so from the war memorial, Ole Bisseberg and his friend spotted something that looked unusual behind a rock. The friends, curious, began to look around to see if any exciting artefacts had been left behind from the war when they

stumbled upon a tiny cave.

"The cave was cramped and relatively unexciting. But we had no idea what was waiting for us," Bisseberg told newspaper VG. In it, they discovered a bag with four large wads of cash wrapped in duct tape inside. "When we found the money to say we were surprised would be an understatement," Bisseberg said.

The banknotes, a mix of 500 and 1,000 kroner notes dating back to 1999, and the bag storing the money, were weathered and seemed like it had been there for quite some time. Bisseberg estimates that there was around two million kroner of cash in total.

The two men hurried home with their discovery and counted one of the packages, which contained more than 500,000 kroner, and contacted the police about their find. Police soon arrived at Bisseberg's home to ask a few questions, and the pair took the police to the site where they found the haul.

The police have sent the money to the National Criminal Investigation Service, where they will search for DNA and fingerprints on the money with the hopes of tracing it back to someone.

Head of operations for the Eastern Police District, Terje Marstad, told state broadcaster NRK that while such finds are rare, the public should contact the police immediately should they make a similar discovery.

Danish Family Reported to Police for Flying US Flag



A family from the town of Kolding in southern Denmark was asked to take down the American Stars and Stripes from a flagpole in their garden.

Official flag rules in Denmark state that, unless special authorization is given, it is not permitted to fly other national flags than the Danish Dannebrog, a white Scandinavian cross on a red background.

Police visited the family at their home on Monday and asked them to lower the American flag, reports local media Jydske Vestkysten. The flag has flown from a flagpole in the Hedegård family's garden for the last month. Police received reports of a prohibited flag being flown at the address, according to the report. The family was reportedly advised it could receive a fine of 2,500 kroner (\$375) if it did not lower the flag.

Rikke Hedegård told Jydske Vestkysten that she was disappointed that nobody spoke to her before reporting the flag. "My thoughts are that if someone was so offended, why didn't they stop by and mention it? We go outside almost every day, so just stop by and listen to our story," she said. The family chose to fly the flag because they like American culture, Hedegård said. "We feel we are a part of American culture in Denmark," she told Jydske Vestkysten. "I could understand if it was a Nazi or Isis flag, but an American flag, I don't understand that at all. But it's probably because [complainants] are not part of the culture," she said.

There are some exceptions to Danish flag rules – the Greenland and Faroe Islands flags, along with flags of the other Nordic countries, the EU and the UN may be flown, according to Ministry of Justice guidelines. If permission is given to fly other countries' flags, this is usually on condition that a Danish flag of at least equal size be hoisted alongside the foreign flag. The ban on flying foreign flags in Denmark dates back to 1915.

The Story of the Shetland Bus

March 10, 2021 by David Nickel

The Shetland Bus played a crucial role in the British-Norwegian resistance movement during World War II.

During the German occupation of Norway, most Norwegians knew that small boats were shuttling people and weapons between Shetland—an archipelago off the northeast coast of Scotland—and the west coast of Norway. Under the cover of darkness, small fishing boats traversed the treacherous North Sea on secret missions. The boats were collectively known as the Shetland Bus. In Norwegian, the term was *Shetlandsgjengen*, or the Shetland Gang.

First informally and then as a formal part of the war effort, the Shetland Bus operated more than 200 trips. Soldiers, intelligence personnel and military supplies were transported along with those fleeing capture. Together with Orkney, Shetland is steeped in Norse history and that legacy continues to this day. One can only imagine that local people were delighted to help the Norwegian resistance efforts.

How the Shetland Bus came to be

Once Norway was invaded by German forces, the Shetland Islands became a key defensive location for Britain. It also quickly became a key resistance route between Britain and occupied Norway.



Shetland Bus Memorial

At the beginning of the war, small Norwegian fishing boats were used to transport intelligence and supplies and offer Norwegian refugees passage to Britain. The operation was under British command, but later it became a joint effort. When the German guard along the Norwegian coast was tightened in 1943, the Shetland Bus switched to three smaller American submarine fighters. This increased the success rate of the missions.

Riding the Shetland Bus

Because of the need to travel at night in the winter, crews and passengers were in constant danger from storms. Additionally, the risk of discovery by German patrols at sea and in the air was great. Although disguised as fishing vessels, the boats were armed with guns concealed inside oil drums on deck. Several missions were unsuccessful, and 44 men were known to have died during the transports. "We armed the ships as best we could against chance encounters, always bearing in mind that to appear as innocent fishing boats might often be their best chance of survival, so that the armament had to be invisible except at close quarters".

The Telavåg Tragedy highlights the risks taken by anyone travelling the route or assisting the operation. In 1942, locals in the small Norwegian village hid two British agents. Two Gestapo officers and a Norwegian informer were killed upon their discovery. Occupied forces quickly took revenge, burning every house in the village. Women and the elderly were imprisoned, while adult men were sent to German concentration camps. Almost half never returned.

Who operated the Shetland Bus?

The boats were crewed by young albeit expert sailors and fishermen with extensive local knowledge. Many brought their own vessels but some used boats that were "stolen," with the owner's permission, of course.

Popularly known as Shetland's Larsen, Leif Larsen was a highly decorated Norwegian sailor. He was arguably the most famous of all who operated the route. Of the 198 trips to Norway, Larsen completed 52 of them. In 1943, Larsen and some of his crew escaped after German aircraft bombed his boat by rowing for several hours to reach the Norwegian coastline. Following the war, Larsen received multiple medals in both Norway and Britain. According to Scalloway Museum, no other non-Brit has received more British medals.

"After he became skipper, he soon showed astonishing qualities of a rough and ready leadership and perfectly unshakeable courage, and a combination of confidence, bravado and luck which brought him through one adventure after another that would have broken the nerve of most men"—
The Shetland Bus by David Howarth.

Remembering the Shetland Bus

The village of Scalloway is now the center of memories of the operation, and the Scalloway Mu-

The Lutefisk Wars

PUBLISHED MAY 1, 2021

Some foul fish is worth fighting for!

While lutefisk is “not just for Norskie,” few others than Norwegian Americans seem to like to eat it.

By JOHN SMISTAD, Olympia, Wash.

John Smistad, “The Quick Flick Critic” and a proud Norwegian American, shares his thoughts about a film about the wacky world of lutefisk ...

Synopsis (seriously)

Documentary filmmakers look into the troubles that had recently escalated in Newford, ND, a small town with a large population of Norwegian descendants. Karl Larsen, a Schwan’s frozen food deliveryman with ambitions for a cooking career, explains that it all started one afternoon when an odd and clearly agitated old man knocked on his door.

A Norwegian fisherman, the elderly gent had an urgent message to impart. Alas, Karl didn’t understand his frantic Norwegian. So, naturally, he invited the stranger in for coffee and a bite to eat. However, before the poor codger could utter another word, he plopped face-first into Karl’s three-bean hot dish, dead as Erik the Red.

Not just for Norskies

Although neither one claims ancestral connections to Norway, filmmakers David E. Hall and Christopher Panneck say they were surrounded by Norwegian people and culture while growing up in Iowa and North Dakota, respectively. As such, they each became intimately familiar with Lutheran church potlucks come Sunday, along with Sons of Norway lutefisk dinners every Christmas.

When the pair embarked upon jointly writing, producing and directing a film with funding from a group of North Dakota investors looking to get a movie made about their home state, Hall and Panneck knew just how to fill the bill. And so was born the silly funny farce: *The Lutefisk Wars*.

Now you don’t necessarily have to be Norwegian, or even of Norsk descent (as I am ... proudly!) to enjoy and appreciate this 2011 comedy, now available for streaming. But it sure helps. Still, no matter your heritage, chances are you’re gonna find something to laugh at, and with, in this satirical send-up of stoic Scandinavian sensibility centered on an ancient secret lutefisk recipe and the two Norwegian “mafia” families battling like hell to secure it for their own.

That’s right. I said Norwegian mafia families. Told ya’, you’re bound to find something to solidly strike your funny bone amid this “wink, wink, nudge, nudge” nuttiness.

Incidentally, if you’re not aware of the wonders of lutefisk, I suggest you look it up. I do not, however, suggest you eat it. Uff da!

To learn more about *The Lutefisk Wars* and to purchase or rent it for viewing, visit www.lutefiskwars.com.

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Photos courtesy of David E. Hall and Christopher Panneck



Nikolai Astrup's Time to Shine

Known for his unique depictions of western Norway's lush landscapes and traditional ways of life, Nikolai Astrup (1880-1928) was one of the country's most innovative painters, printmakers and horticulturalists. While his art was celebrated in his home country, Astrup was not well known outside of its borders. This has begun to change in recent years as the world discovers his work through new exhibitions and books. In 2016, Astrup made his London debut at the [Dulwich Picture Gallery](#)—nearly 90 years after his death.

This summer, Astrup's paintings will be on display in the United States. *Nikolai Astrup: Visions of Norway* opens on June 19 at the [Clark Art Institute](#) in Williamstown, Massachusetts. It's the first North American museum exhibition focused on the Norwegian painter. View more than 85 of his works on display until September 19.

You may recognize Astrup's name from the [September 2020 issue of Viking](#). In the story, we highlight fascinating facts about the artist, revealed through his art. Astrup devoted his career to the celebration of western Norway. He was inspired by the mountainous landscape, lush vegetation and distinct atmosphere. Best known for his luminous paintings of Midsummer nights, Astrup's landscapes evoke the atmosphere and changing seasons of his homeland of Jølster. Together with Edvard Munch, he expanded the artistic possibilities of the woodcut, blurring the boundaries between prints and paintings.

To view a digital collection of Astrup's prints, sketches, letters and notes, [this website](#)—developed by the KODE Art Museums of Bergen—has been cataloging all artwork by the legendary artist. If you're in the Bergen area, take a day trip to [Astruptunet](#) where Astrup's home, studio and farm are preserved as a museum open to the public.



SIX THINGS WE OWE

THE VIKINGS



(Credit: tigermad/http://www.istockphoto.com)

2. LANGUAGE

In the centuries after their first raid on English soil in A.D. 793, Vikings made a historic series of attacks, waged wars and formed settlements in the British islands, leaving a permanent impact on the land, culture and language.

As the Vikings interacted with their English neighbors, first through farming and trading activities and later through intermarriage, the two languages (Old Norse and Old English) mixed as well. This process is evident in place names such as Grimsby, Thornby and Derby (the suffix -"by" was the Scandinavian word for "homestead" or "village"), or Lothwaite (-thwaite meaning "meadow" or "piece of land").

"Give," "window" and "dream," among other common English words, also derived their modern meanings from Viking influence.

In another famous example, the word "berserk" comes from the Old Norse berserker, meaning "bear shirt" or "bearskin." These Viking warriors worshipped Odin, the god of war, and whipped themselves into a frenzied state before and during battle.

The next issue will include the 3rd thing we owe the Vikings.