

# Sigvals lag Saga.

VOL. IV

FEBRUARY 1984

NO. 1

How many calendars have June 29-30, 1984 circled? Those are the dates for attending the 5-Lag Stevne at St. Olaf College. There will be ample opportunity to share portions of the weekend with other lags and also time to pursue those interests which are immediately those of persons with ties to Sigdal, Eggedal and Krødsherad. The next planning meeting is scheduled for April 14.

Space for handwork, artwork, crafts of any kind will be determined from a field of interested persons on a reservation basis. Please write Mrs. W. D. (Cora) Koester, Route 1, Box 317, Northfield, MN 55057, stating your intentions and what you can offer and what size your contribution for display may be. She will let you know how to participate if space is available.

Details on fees will appear in the next SAGA. Each person will pay a daily user fee to St. Olaf in addition to meals and room rental. Rooms for single occupancy will be \$9.50 per night and double occupancy will be \$7.50 each night. Larson Hall which has an elevator will be the main headquarters for lodging. Meals are priced as follows: \$2.65, breakfast; \$3.80, lunch; \$6.90 Friday evening. Menu selections will determine the price of the Saturday evening banquet.

Earlier arrival may be a consideration if you are interested in spending some time at the college library.

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES AND CARDS

It was decided at the general meeting of the Lag that household membership dues for the year would be \$6.00 and this would include the SAGA. Many members cannot be present for the stevne but would like to be members to be a part of the Lag.

After a delay, the membership cards are ready and enclosed for those paying the membership dues. Thank you one and all for promptly paying the dues and donations. It was good to hear from all of you and especially the newcomers.

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## SCANDINAVIAN WEEK

July 22-28, 1984

Armand Hammer United World College campus  
Las Vegas, New Mexico  
(1 hour east of historic Santa Fe)

The program will offer instruction in Norwegian and Swedish languages, Scandinavian folk dancing and fiddling, the craft of rosemaling (traditional Norwegian painting on wood), and traditional folk costume embroidery. Sidsel Rattsø of Norway will teach folk dancing. Tim Rued, of California will teach fiddling.

Fishing and hiking are available in the surrounding mountains of the Pecos Wilderness. The campus, in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, is located at an 1880's hotel adjacent to a famous hot springs. The elegant ballroom of the old Montezuma Hotel, complete with stained glass windows, will serve for dancing instruction.

The facilities at the Armand Hammer United World College are very comfortable. Rooms are for double occupancy and include linens and towels. There are no private baths. Scandinavian meals will be served.

For more information or registration forms write:

Christine Tuttle  
1144 Princeton Dr. NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106  
(505) 262-0145

There is no program for children under 10.

The program cost of \$300 per person includes room and board and all instruction.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCE PEOPLE

At the Sigdalslag General Meeting, July 29, 1983, Decorah, Iowa, President, Marilyn Somdahl, asked for volunteers as resource people. We are in need of more volunteers throughout the country. Please send a note to your editor of your willingness to promote publicity of the Lag, reports of activities or personalities of interest in your communities, etc.

Here are the results of two of our enthusiastic resource people: Irene Navarre, Albuquerque, NM and "Bergie" Lorain Bergan, Wendell, MN. Bergie had articles in both the "GRANT COUNTY HERALD" and "THE FERGUS FALLS DAILY JOURNAL". Irene states that some Norwegians from Texas are coming in March for a workshop, "DANCING SCANDINAVIAN". These could be interesting to anyone who loves the Southwest--or has never been out there!

FROM GRANT COUNTY HERALD

## Five Lags to hold annual conventions

Five Lags will hold their 1984 Stevne (Conventions) on June 29-30 at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. At a recent meeting the executive board of the Sigdalslag voted unanimously to accept a reciprocal invitation to one it had sent earlier enabling the Sigdahhl Lag to join together with the Lags representing Hadeland, Land, Telemark and Toten for a 5 Lag Stevne, June 29-30 at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN Toten Lag's President, Dr. L.J. Opsahl of Willmar, MN attended the Sigdahhl Lag Stevne in Decorah, Iowa this past July 29, 1983. He had had experience in cooperative planning for the four Lags while assuring each group to also retain its own distinctive identity.

Almost 60 registered for the past Stevne in Decorah, Ia. Highlights were a certificate of appreciation to Past President Don Berglund of Northfield, MN; the showing of a new film "KROD SHERAD" and the opportunity to attend the Nordic Fest.

It was decided at the general meeting of the Lag that membership dues would be on the basis of \$6.00 per year and this would include the "SAGA" the newsletter sent out three times a year. Membership cards for 1984 will be sent with the next issue of Saga in February. It was felt that many members cannot be present at the Stevne each year but would like to be a member and keep up with the Lag news through the newsletter. To continue receiving the Saga in 1984 one must become a member.

Please send your dues of \$6.00 making check payable to Sigdalslag, and send to Elaine Schulstad, 16 Madison Avenue SW, Wadena, MN 56482. For further information contact L.A. Bergan, Wendell, MN 56590. All descendants of Norwegians from Sigdal, Eggedal, and Krosherad Norway are eligible and encouraged to join.

## VATNÅS CHURCH

Vatnås church in Sigdal, is strictly speaking not a church, but a chapel. It is a part of the head parish in Sigdal. This house of God was a lov church, where the minister, Herr Peder, preached once a year--on St. Hans, or Midsummer's Day, June 24. He preached at Vatnås in 1663; so folks say the church was built in the late 1650's.

Freeholders living on "Greenskogen" have always owned the church and maintained it. They chose their own caretaker, the kommune didn't have that concern. However, the minister precenter or song leader and in later years, the organist, are supplied by Holmen, the head church in Sigdal. Originally, two masses were said in the church each year; one at St. Hans and the other at Christmas. More than 100 years ago, four services were held each year. Since 1900, there have been six services a year, as there are today.

This church or chapel is not the original. But a church occupied this very same site during the Middle Ages. It was in use as recently as 1424. The church is of wood, and covered with planks, placed up and down. These planks have been treated with tar to help preserve the wood. The result is a rich, warm, brownish-rust color. Log walls are found in the church's interior. The rosemaling, which is younger than the church itself, decorates the three top tiers of logs. The rosemaling is so bold and vigorous that no rosemaler in the kommune has tried to copy it, or use any of the roses in his art.

There were quite a few lov churches in Norway at one time; and the old Vatnås church was one of them. It also concerned the new. People firmly believed that to give or promise (låve) to give a gift to the church when someone was ill or in need would surely help.

Most of the furnishings in Vatnås church were given as gifts. Many of the donors are unknown. The caretaker has a record of gifts and receipts from 1811. In 1812, 112 gifts of money were received from Modum, Eiker, Lier, Krødsherad, Numedal; the remainder from Sigdal and Eggedal.

The altar piece was carved in 1665, painted in 1679, and has the monogram of Pastor Niels Grus at the side. Moses and Aaron stand on each their side of the center, which pictures the baptism of Jesus. Christopher Ridder is said to have carved the altar piece, the pulpit with a "heaven" above, and the choir area with the figures of the twelve apostles.

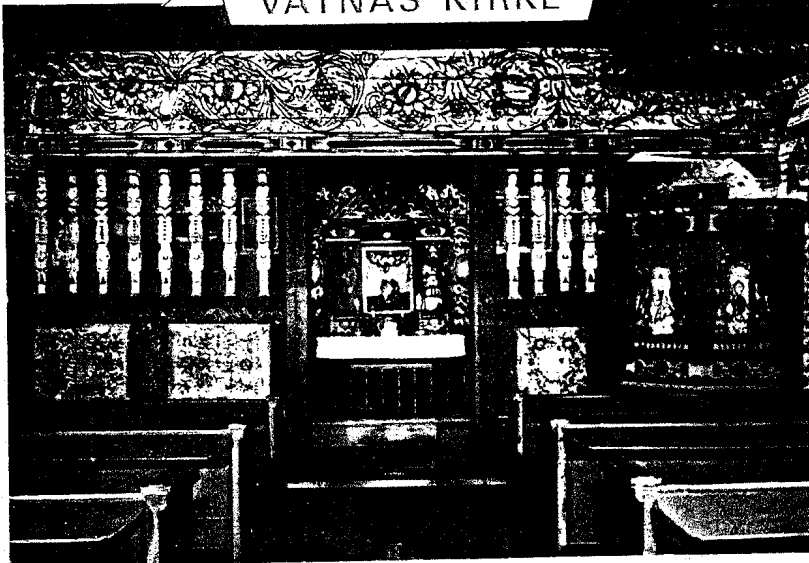
The brass candelabra was a gift from Sheriff Bjørn Flågan of Sigdal, in 1672. The large crucifix, a carving of Jesus on the cross, is the only visible reminder of the first church here. The painted crucifix is said to date back to the 1400's; it shows the ravages of time.

The Baptismal font is of wood, painted in 1665. The brass basin is much like the one in Holmen Church in Sigdal. The bottom has "Syndefallet"--"The Fall of Man", hammered in. Very impressive!

As one sits down in the church, we notice the "Korskillet" (choir area). The twelve



VATNÅS KIRKE



characters (of the apostles) carved of wood, stand under the beams above. The paneling underneath has been decorated twice; but the painting is quite destroyed.

In 1875, the church was subjected to a renovation, intended to be a beautification project. The choir area with the 12 apostolic characters were torn down, the pulpit moved and everything painted with shiny, white paint, with contrast in heavenly blue, a light red and bronze. The benches were oak-stained. The only thing left in place were the rich rosemaling decorations on the upper logs of the walls. The church remained in this condition until 1947. Then began the restoration project under adviser Finn Kraft's direction. The church interior was restored to look like it had before 1875. The shiny white paint was removed from the altar carving, the pulpit, the baptismal font and walls. The pulpit, with painting from the late 1700's has the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The light holder near the pulpit is of iron--1694 vintage.

Time glasses of sand will when turned a bit, run out after 1,2,3 or 4 quarter hours. The minister didn't need a clock to watch the time he was on the pulpit!

Brass shields containing <sup>n</sup>candleabra were given in 1633. An iron candleabra, hanging from the ceiling, looks quite plain and modest but serves its purpose, even now. Paintings, hanging one on each of the long walls are almost 300 years old. The one is of Jesus on the Cross; the other, when Jesus was visited by the disciples of John the Baptist.

The church block (1688) has its place by the outside door. Here folks placed their coins as they left the church in ages past. (Here we left a contibution when we attended services in Vatnås, Sunday, August 3, 1969.)

The church bells are from 1686; and one dates back to the Middle Ages. A large iron ring or handle on the church door was a lov gift in 1681.

The church, when filled, seats 150. It was filled to capacity that Sunday morning. We heard Pastor Gunvald Havig preach and Andreas Mørch read the opening and closing prayers and lead the singing. The ladies' hats and dresses were not the latest style. This group had come to Worship. A baby was christened that morning; the baby's mother and little sister both wore bunads, richly embroidered. It truly was a special day!

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Up in the ridge, (Åsen) above the Vatnås church, is a crypt containg water. It is never dry; it is triangular in shape--ca 18" in each direction and ca 18" deep. People of old carried water from here for medicinal purposes. Offering were left here, in gratitude; it might be money or jewelry. Periodically these were removed to help maintain the church.

Legend has it that as St. Olav and his thirsty men traveled through in Christianizing Norway, St. Olav struck his sword against the rock and water rushed forth. His thirsty men were able to drink their fill of water.

We were also told that there are quite a number of these crypts in Norway--thanks to St. Olav!

Both the above articles translated from a brochure courtesy of Ruth Johnson Dahlen, (Mrs. Helmer Dahlen), Michigan, ND 58259.

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Our President states that an Epiphany letter from Don and Olga Berglund relates thankfulness and prise for the Lord's healing when a Thanksgiving illness put Don in the hospital and kept him from returning to Concordia College until after Christmas vacation. Don is busy teaching flute students, and Oggs' days are filled with church and college activites.

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Many thanks to all of you for sharing information with the SAGA writers. We always welcome comments and suggestions.

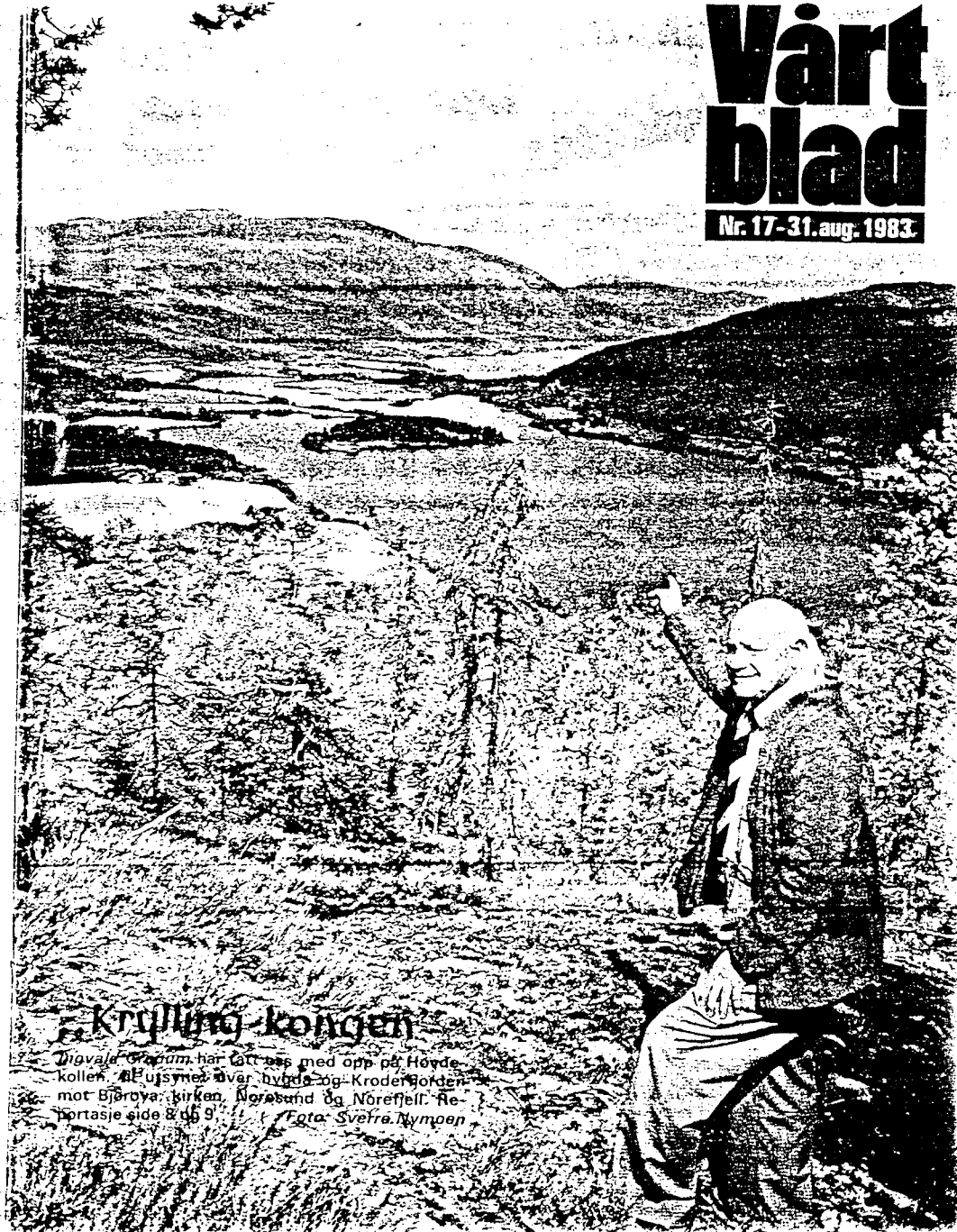
# Vårt blad

Nr. 17-31. aug. 1983.

## "KRYLLING-KONGEN"

Pictured on the cover of the Norwegian Rural Co-operative Association magazine, "VART BLAD", is Ingvald Granum, a guest at the 1982 stevne at Fargo, ND. He is dubbed "KRYLLING-KONGEN" (Krødsheard's King) for his enthusiastic public service. After 26 years as ordfører (mayor), he accepted the position of Rådmann at age 68.

He points to Norefjell (used in the winter Olympic games of yester-year), the city of Noresund, and the island Bjørøya which is part of another article elsewhere in this issue.



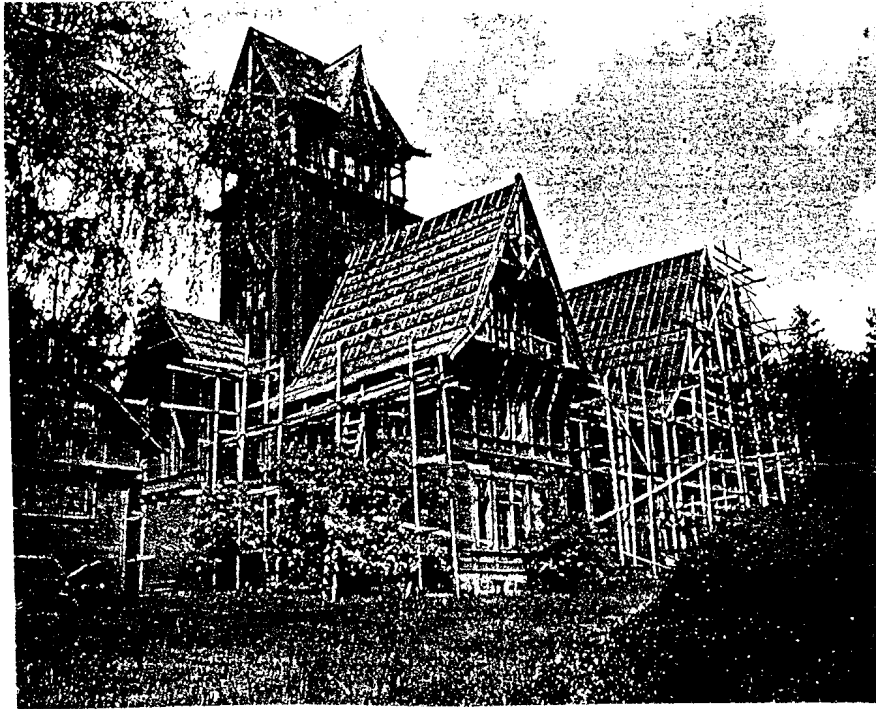
### Krylling kongen

Ingvald Granum har tatt oss med opp på Høyde-kollen. På tross av høyde og Kroyderorden mot Bjørøya kirken, Noresund og Norefjell. Reportasje side 8 og 9. Foto: Svein Nyman

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Liv Kristin Halstenrud, 3350 Prestfoss, sent Christmas and New Year greetings. She helped start a Lodge of Sons of Norway in her district, Drammen, Buskerud, nr. 4. Liv was the enthusiastic co-ordinator for the Sigdal group that came to the stevne at NDSU in 1982.

## AN EXTRAORDINARY HOUSE BECOMES NORWAY'S FIRST EVENTYRMUSEUM



Located on Krødsherad's island, Bjørøya, lies an unusual building called "Fridheim". It has the distinction of being one of the largest remaining wood-frame homes of its era in all of Norway.

With steep roofs and tall viewing towers, it seems like a castle called from its own fairytales, but it is closer to becoming a folk- & fairytale museum... the first in Norway.

"Fridheim" was built in 1890-1892 by Svend Haug, a most respected timber merchant from Drammen. Since he died before construction was completed, the large 'country house' was used only about a year as a summer place.

Restoration (note scaffolding in picture) began in 1980. Standing 23 meters high and offering 1800 kqm of floor space on several levels, "Fridheim" marks the first instance in Norwegian architectural history of the National-Romantic art style still found in one of the few surviving forms. It was a rarity in its own time and is cherished more a century later.

Usage from 1914-1960 was as a pensjonat, including a brief requisition by the German Occupation force during the war. In the next decades, deterioration began to set in and a definite choice had to be made. Should the building be saved or torched?

Craftsmen from the parish steering committee in cooperation with Norsk Kulturråd & Riksantikvaren began plans for protection of the house. Kulturråd director, Åsmund Oftedal, launched the idea of use as an Eventyrmuseum.

Support came from "Friends of Villa Fridheim" and more recently a foundation called "Stiftelsen Villa Fridheim" has been established with Ingvald Granum as president. Just getting the house in respectable restorative condition is a struggle in a somewhat poor economy. Granum foresees continued assistance from Norsk Kulturråd & from Riksantikvaren, from the parish residents, and fellow Norwegians; then "we can manage, little by little. But it is certain we need all the help we can get!"

Tales told and retold had not been preserved in writing until a preacher-poet-author named Jørgen Moe and another man named Asbjørnson did just that. Moe spent 10 years as the minister whose farm (prestegård) lies just across the fjord --near Bjørøya.

(Sverre Nymoen wrote a more detailed article in VÅRT BLAD; summary/translation, MDS)  
(Sverre Nymoen photos)

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President: Mrs. Narvel (Marilyn) Somdahl, 10129 Goodrich Circle, Bloomington, MN 55437

First VP: Orville Ruud, 10709 Morgan Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55431

Second VP & Representative to the Bygdelag: Mrs. Harold (Doris) Campbell,  
814 6th Ave. SE., Rochester, MN 55904

Third VP & Librarian: Mrs. David (Lee) Rokke, 10409 Ewing Road, Bloomington, MN 55431

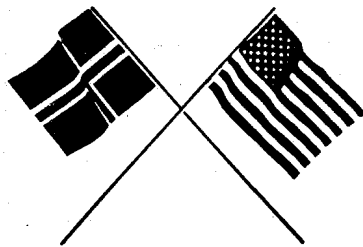
Secretary, Treasurer and Editor: Elaine Schulstad, 16 Madison Ave. SW, Wadena, MN 56482

Past President & Advisor: Donald Berglund, 1220 28th Ave. S. #307, Moorhead, MN 56560

## \$6.00 MEMBERSHIPS and/or DONATIONS

In addition to the memberships listed on page 11 of the November 1983 SAGA are:

Ethel & Ole Anderson	P. O. Box 111	Hanley Falls	MN	56245
Telford Ansten	R. 5 Box 87	Decorah	IA	52101
Avis & Morris Baasen	R. 1	Wendell	MN	56590
Delores & LeRoy Beck	303 Railroad Ave.	Hatton	ND	58240
Lou & Lorain Bergan		Wendell	MN	56590
James A. Bergerud	R 5	Fergus Falls	MN	56537
Alvine & Edgar Christianson	1206 4th Ave. N	Wheaton	MN	56296
Thelma & Bernard Donahe	3050 Brenna Ave. NE	Salem	OR	97303
Don E. Dybdal	513 Second Ave. N #102	Fergus Falls	MN	56537
Delores & Orlo Eastvold	Box 196	Mayville	ND	58257
Ole Foss		Elbow Lake	MN	56531
Doris Galstad	1603 Lindley Drive	Prescott	AZ	86301
Gilbert Gilbertson	120 5th St. SE	Mayville	ND	58257
Eddie & Alice Gronseth	R. 4 Box 910	Edinburg	TX	78539
Halvor Gronseth	P. O. Box 28	Montny, Canada	BC	VOC1YO
Mrs. George Gunderson		Northwood	ND	58267
Donald Guttormson	514 19th St. NW, Mitchell #1	20, Washington	DC	20006
Verna & Thomas Haines	1639 Oakes Ave.	Rockford	IL	61107
Jerry Hanson	R. 3	Frazee	MN	56544
Eunice Helgeson	10943 105th Ave. N.	Maple Grove	MN	55369
Rosanna & Emore Johnsrud	722 N. 6th St.	Grand Forks	ND	58201
Eunice Gronvold Kalloch	417 Carlisle Blvd. SE	Albuquerque	NM	87106
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Larson		Norcross	MN	56274
Gertrude & Anne Larson	P. O. Box 270	Escondido	CA	92025
Irene Larson	R. 1 Box 43	Wendell	MN	56590
Duane & Eloise Leegard	R. 2	Detroit Lakes	MN	56501
Ira Leegard	13517 Waller Rd. E.	Tacoma	WA	98371
Odell Leegard	1708 6th Ave. SW	Puyallup	WA	98371
Alvina & Charles Lemon	4653 Kimble Rd. E.	Port Orchard	WA	98366
Russell Lillemoen	P. O. Box 41	Wendell	MN	56590
Mrs. Alvin (Marcie) Melstad	R. 1 Box 57	Edinburg	ND	58227
Harold Mohagen		Elbow Lake	MN	56531
Mr. & Mrs. Lorian Mohagen	R.2	Spicer	MN	56288
Mrs. Laverne Murch	206 First Ave. SW	Hillsboro	ND	58045
Mrs. Melia Nelson	Box 432	Spring Grove	MN	55974
Nancy C. Nelson	Box 432	Spring Grove	MN	55974
Mildred & Gaylord Odegaard	R. 2	Detroit Lakes	MN	56501
Norma Paasch	723 14th St. N.	Moorhead	MN	56560
Ms. Ardis Peterson	1738 19th St. NW	Rochester	MN	55901
Mrs. R. C. (Agnes) Powell	1010 13th Ave. N. #3	Fargo	ND	58102
Lois & Sidney Rand	19 S. First St. B907	Minneapolis	MN	55401
Mildred & Gustav Rued	1345 11th Ave. S.	Fargo	ND	58103
Tom & Clarice Rund	R. 5	Fergus Falls	MN	56537
Alice Serkland	Box 126	Rothsay	MN	56579
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Skjervem	930 Canterbury	Sierra Vista	AZ	85635
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Skjervem	560 Northlake	Dallas	TX	75218
Mr. & Mrs. Carmen Skjervem	2774 Spruce Drive	Cheyenne	WY	82001
Corrine & Merville Soliah	R. 5 Box 57	Fergus Falls	MN	56537
Marilyn & Narvel Somdahl	10129 Goodrich Circle	Bloomington	MN	55437
Mrs. Vince (Olga) Trimbell		Bovina Center	NY	13740
Alice (Sally) & D.E. Waring	79 Delaware Ave.	Delhi	NY	13753
Joan Warnke	520 W. Front St.	Detroit Lakes	MN	56501
Edna & William Wilson	4301 Baring Apt. 2B	East Chicago	IN	46312
Inez & Lester Olson	4724 W. 6th St e	Duluth	MN	55807



Sincere sympathy to family and friends of Thora Bjorsness who passed away this past October at Cheyenne, Wyoming. She leaves a son-in-law and daughter, Sharon; sisters Elise and Don Kylander, Thea & Clifford Hagness; sisters-in-law Elma Olson, Lois Olson; nieces and nephews. Thora grew up in a North Dakota pioneer preacher's family of 7 children. Her mother had relatives at Grimelid in Sigdal and her father served two rural churches over 35 years.

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Here's what's cooking \_\_\_\_\_ SIGDAL SNIPP COOKIES

- 2 kopper god melk (fløte-blandet)
- 2 kopper sukker
- 2 kopper fett (smelta)-melted
- 2 tsp. hjortesalt (Baking ammonia)
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- Mel til passe deig

Courtesy of Ragne Eken, Krøderen, Norway

SIGDAL SNIPP COOKIES

- 2 cups rich milk-4%-or milk mixed with sweet cream
- 2 cups Sugar
- 2 cups butter flavored Crisco (softened)
- 2 teaspoons baking ammonia (Buy at drug store)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Flour enough to roll
- Bake in moderate oven-8 to 10 minutes

Courtesy of Ruth Dahlen, Michigan, ND 58259

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1926 STEVNE LADIES IDENTIFIED

The four ladies pictured on page 9 of the November 1983 SAGA are:

1. Ingeborg (Finnerud) Johnson
2. Marth (Velstad) Knutson
3. Sigrid Lokken
4. Anna Jorgenson (Mrs. Andrew)

The Andrew Jorgensons lived right in Bachelor's Grove, near McCanna, ND. In fact, Andrew was one of the seven bachelors who settled (homesteaded) in that area. They had a large family and had a beautiful home surrounded completely by beautiful elm, oak and other trees.

Anna Jorgenson was in Ruth Dahlen's Aunt Anna Flaglien's confirmation class at Holmen church in Sigdal. Ingeborg Johnson was confirmed by Rev. G. Hartmann in 1886, in Holmen. Anna Jorgenson was 7 or 8 years older.