

· Sigdalslag Saga ·

VOL. IV

OCTOBER 1984

NO. 3



Registrations were handled by Evelyn Evenson, Doris Campbell, & Elaine Schulstad above as well as Fred & Alice Mensing, Phyllis Marquardt and Marion Matson.
"Sigdal Registration Flag" made for each of the five lags by Cora Koester.

Anita wears the traditional Sigdal-Eggedal bunad.
Her grandmother's (Cir. 1940's) may be worn as representative of the Buskerud fylke (county/district).



SOGN OG FORDANE-RINGEN FOLK DANCE GROUP

Five delightful Norwegians with roots in Sigdal attended the 1984 stevne at Northfield!

Gunhild Aaby, Prestfoss, and her son, Dr. Jon Åby, Levanger, Norway were the first to register at Northfield.

Following a week of teaching at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Hans Wold, his wife, Olaug, and granddaughter, Anita, (who provided English translations) arrived. Hans was chosen by Vesterheim Museum, Decorah, Iowa, to teach classes in rosemaling the entire month of July.

Saturday afternoon following the showing of the videotaped film, "KRØDSHERAD", Wold opened his remarks by saying he came to America to see his work--a church restoration project--included in the film!

Various rosemaled articles--selected to illustrate some aspect of technique, color, motif of the Sigdal variation of the Telemark rosemaling style--were a part of Wold's commentary. Each person had an opportunity to examine these treasures and to ask questions. Preserving the antiquity and authenticity of a motif is important as well as where and how it was used.

As many of you remember, Wold's oil painting, "RANTEN--EGGEDAL", was a gift to Sigdal Lag from Sigdal and Krødsherad Kommunes (townships) in 1982.

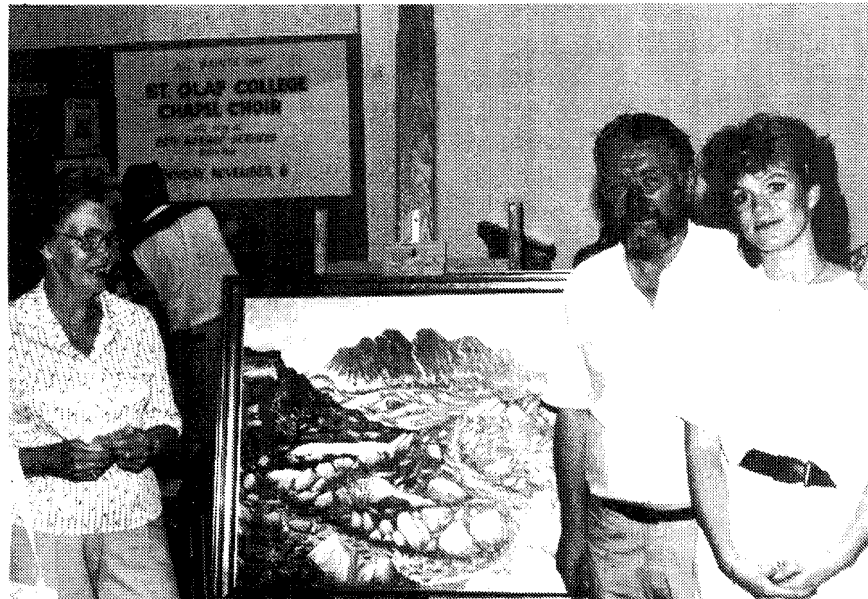
Wolds live in Aamot, Modum, Norway. Olaug grew up in nearby Sigdal and her cousin, Bernice Paasch, came from Red Wing to share "visiting time" with the lag. The enthusiasm for expression in the Norwegian language--as well as in art--added a wonderful opportunity to hear the language.

Like the Aabys, the Wolds know many relatives and friends of lag members in Norway. Thankfully, we look forward to such continuing exchanges of friendships and information in the future.



Gunhild Aaby shares her story but hides Jon, a medical doctor. Gustav Rued and Edgar Christianson (background) and Telford Ansten (right foreground).

RANTEN-EGGEDAL, the oil painting that first brought Hans Wold to us--Olaug, Hans, Granddaughter, Anita.



SIGDALSLAG GENERAL MEETING
NORTHFIELD, MN. JUNE 30, 1984

The 73rd. Annual Sigdalslag meeting was called to order by President, Marilyn Somdahl at 9:00 am, Saturday morning, June 30, 1984 in the music hall at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.

Mrs. Gunhild Aaby, Prestfoss; her son, Dr. Jon Åby, Levanger; Mrs. Hans (Olaug) Wold and granddaughter, Anita, Modum, Norway were introduced.

Secretary minutes were read and accepted. Treasure's report was read: credits are \$3,165.34; debits are \$2,127.25 leaving a balance on hand of \$1,038.09 as of June 26, 1984. Telegram greetings from Ingvald Granum and Gubrand Halmrest, Sigdal and a letter from Andreas Mørch, Prestfoss, were read.

Past President, Donald Berglund, brought greetings to the members and invited all to an open house in their home following the program Saturday evening.

Doris Campbell, representative to the bygdelag, reported on that annual meeting, May 5, 1984 in Minneapolis. It had been suggested that all lags donate money to the Vesterheim Genealogy Center, under the direction of Mr. Gerhard Naeseth, at Madison, Wisconsin. The bygdelag would match the funds up to \$100.00 to purchase tapes or microfilm. Motion made, seconded, passed that we donate \$100.00 to the Center.

Microfilm can be purchased from the Church of Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City at \$15.00 each with permission from Norway. The Sigdal films would cost \$120.00. The bygdelag would match that up to \$100.00 and other material would be purchased with that for our use. Past motion amended! Motion made, seconded, passed to give \$120.00 to purchase Sigdal microfilm. Motion carried as amended.

Many expressed enjoyment and appreciation of being and meeting with the other 4 lags: Hadeland, Land, Telemark, and Toten. We were encouraged to express our thanks to them.

The Sigdalslag was founded in 1911 in Fergus Falls and it was suggested in 1983 that we visit Sigdal for the 75th Anniversary in 1986. There was a show of 21 hands for interest in a possible trip. A committee of Andreas Mørch and the mayors of the Norwegian communities could be a possibility. The committee selected here is: Irene Navarre, Alice Mensing, and Muriel Hoff.

The Bygdelag suggested incorporation of our Lag. A lawyer need not be hired but much paperwork could be involved. There could be a \$40-50 fee to file for non-profit status. Evelyn Evenson, Sidney Rand, and Don Berglund were suggested for a committee to investigate incorporating.

Our banner, a gift in 1914, is in need of repair.

Mr. Telford Ansten, Decorah, Iowa, gave a 1926 picture of the Stevne group at Grand Forks.

Motion made, seconded, passed that we meet here in Northfield with other lags in 1985 and suggested meeting elsewhere in 1986. Carol Meade suggested we meet at Concordia College some year.

Nominations were opened for officers. Motion made, seconded and passed to cast unanimous ballot for the present board of officers, motion carried. Officers are:

President: Marilyn Somdahl, Bloomington, MN.

First VP: Orville Ruud, Bloomington, MN.

Second VP and representative to the Bygdelag: Doris Campbell, Rochester, MN.

Third VP and Librarian: Lee Rokke, Bloomington, MN

Secretary and Treasurer: Elaine Schulstad, Wadena, MN.

Past President and Advisor: Donald Berglund, Northfield, MN.

Meeting adjourned for a combined 5-Lag meeting in Urness Hall.

11:00 AM COMBINED 5-LAG MEETING

Mr. Morgan Olson, president of the Bygdelag, gave a resume of that organization. Calvin Peterson brought greetings from the Land Lag. Marilyn Somdahl, Sigdalslag, read greetings from Ingvald Granum, Gubrand Halmrest and Andreas Mørch all of Norway. Glen Nelson, Telemark and Larry Opsahl, Totenlag greeted everyone. All these lags expressed a desire to meet at St. Olaf again in 1985 but left the decision to Hadeland. Hadeland had voted to try Fargo/Moorhead in 85, depending on a musical Norwegian group, finances

5-LAG MEETING CONTINUED

and date. Land, Toten and Hadeland will be celebrating 75th Anniversaries in 85.

Sam Sorenson, President of Valdres Samband, brought greetings; they were in Granite Falls for their 85th Anniversary now in June. Stanley Anderson had Nordland greetings as did Hjordis Helgestad from the National Gudbrandsdal.

Morgan announced the evening meeting will be in Music Hall, not Boe Chapel as planned.

RECONVENED SIGDAL MEETING 2:00 PM

Attendance was so good at the morning meeting we were moved to a larger room for the afternoon gathering.

Motion made and seconded to go to Fargo/Moorhead in 1985.

Motion amended: motion made, seconded and passed that we go with majority either to St. Olaf or Fargo/Moorhead with a preference to Fargo/Moorhead.

Meeting adjourned.



We outgrew our morning room. Past president Don and Olga Berglund (standing) invited lag members to open house at their home.



F.R. L. to R.

Elaine Schulstad, Sec.-Treas.;

Doris Campbell, 2nd. VP;

Marilyn Søndahl, President.

B.R.

Lee Rokke, 3rd. VP/Librarian;

Orville Ruud, VP

SIGDALSLAG MEMEBBERSHIP for 1985

Ansten, Telford	R. 5 Box 87	Decorah	IA	52101
Bergerud, James A.	R. 5	Fergus Falls	MN	56537
Bisbee, Elvera	161 Union Street	Tracy	MN	56175
Christ, Ruth	R. 3 Box 76	Iowa City	IA	52240
Dahlen, Ruth & Helmer	P. O. Box 106	Michigan	ND	58259
Evenson, Evelyn	207 5th Ave. SW #701	Rochester	MN	55902
Foss, Ole & Hazel		Elbow Lake	MN	56531
Hoff, Muriel	3512 White Bear Ave.	White Bear Lake	MN	55110
Holzinger, Irene	609 SE 4th St.	Willmar	MN	56201
Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Jim	R. 2	Monticello	MN	55362
Jones, Ken & Evelyn	4361 N. Vincent	Minneapolis	MN	55412
Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Richard	8020 Jefferson NE	Minneapolis	MN	55432
Jolson, Lyle A.	1770 Fremont Ave. S.	Minneapolis	MN	55403
Klassen, David & Karen	916 Pleasant View Court	Northfield	MN	55057
Larson, Paul D.	517 Mechanic St.	Osage	IA	50461
Mensing, Fred & ALice	4416 44th Ave. S.	Minneapolis	MN	55406
Navarre, Harry & Irene	932 Summit Dr. NE	Albuquerque	NM	87106
Neggen, Christian	8523 Etiwanda Ave. #10	Northridge	CA	91325
Nystrom, Mr. & Mrs. Jack	R. 2	Monticello	MN	55362
Rokke, Lee & David	10409 Ewing Road	Bloomington	MN	55431
Ruud, Milda & Orville	10709 Morgan Ave. S.	Bloomington	MN	55431
Schulstad, Chris	P. O. Box 268	Dawson	MN	56232
Schulstad, David	109 Ute	Kiowa	CO	80117
Schulstad, Elaine	16 Madison Ave. SW	Wadena	MN	56482
Schulstad, Robert	Box 3	Greenleaf	WI	54126
Schulstad, Ross	P. O. Box 2611	Mesa	AZ	85204
Shelsta, Norman A.	817 W. First St.	Northfield	MN	55057
Solum, Julie H.	410 Van Dyke #120	St. Paul	MN	55119
Somdahl, Marilyn & Narvel	10129 Goodrich Circle	Bloomington	MN	55437
Sund, Russell & Gladys	3812 17th Ave. S.	Minneapolis	MN	55407
Uselman, Mrs. Steve (Verna)	R. 1 Box 237	Wadena	MN	56482

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5 LAG JOINT STEVNE

President, Marilyn Somdahl, Orville Ruud, Lee Rokke, and Elaine Schulstad met with the stevne committees at Willmar, MN., Saturday, September 29, 1984. Morgan Olson, stevne coordinator, reviewed the St. Olaf Stevne and his report was accepted. Evaluations of the 1984 lags were presented by Marilyn Somdahl, Sigdalslag; Dr. Opsahl, Toten; Cal Peterson, Land; and Glen Nelson, Telemark.

Motion made, seconded, and passed that Morgan Olson be Chairman of the 1985 arrangements committee. Numedalslaget is reactivated and will join us at Concordia.

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At the 84 Stevne, it was suggested we carry pictures, stories of past Sigdalslag officers in future SAGAs. Names mentioned were: Pederson, Braateli, Hagen, Bjorka, Olson, Juvet, Mohagen. If you can help us out (and with anything you would like in the SAGA), please send these to: Elaine Schulstad, 16 Madison Ave. SW., Wadena, MN. 56482.

MANGE TUSEN TAKK, IRENE!

One of the brightest communications of the summer was the report of Irene O'Connor Navarre, (7/8ths Norse, she says) the Lag's resource person in Albuquerque, NM. She, husband Harry, sister Evelyn and her husband Ken Jones of Minneapolis traveled to Sigdal, Norway this past summer.

Sigdal executive board members asked if some preliminary planning toward the proposed 1986 trip by lag members to Norway might be squeezed into precious travel time. Irene and Evelyn's cousin, Bjarne Nerdalen, arranged a 9 am meeting with some of the VIPs in Sigdal.

Accompanied by another cousin, Guri Enger, Irene and Evelyn met with Havard Nymoen, Sigdal ordforer (mayor), historian Andreas Mørch and his son, Asbjørn,--both of whom have met and spoken with descendants of Sigdal, Eggedal and Krødsherad mainly in the Dakotas and Minnesota a few years ago!

Both the hosts and guests were in agreement that 1986 was a most suitable year to plan a trip to Norway. That year will mark the 75th Anniversary of the Sigdalslag!

We must begin to determine how many have relatives living in the Area (who prefer to host relatives) and how many would prefer the housing and arrangements committee to place them in a Norwegian home (similar to bed & breakfast places in America, England etc.). THIS IS ONE OF THE FOREMOST CONCERNS. This beautiful country has visitors from all over the world; accommodations must be planned early!

Please give some deep thought and planning to this! Do you have relatives in Sigdal, Eggedal or Krødsherad? Are you in occasional contact with them or others elsewhere in Norway? Is there some possibility that you would encourage others in your family to make the trip? Give us a GUESS of what that minimum/maximum number might be! Nothing binding at this point.

Late July/August might be a possible time. Lag members meeting in the U.S. has most regularly been in late June.

Send your comments to the SAGA editor, or ONE of the committee members:

1. Muriel Hoff, 3512 White Bear Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN 55110
2. Alice Mensing, 4416 44th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406
3. Irene Navarre, 932 Summit Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106.

PLEASE NOTE: We plan to have some sort of form for you to fill out and return in the next issue of the SAGA so the committee will have some numbers to plan with for arrangements.



Evelyn Jones, Aslang Olson,
Irene Navarre at the Kopseng
farm or place



FERGUS FALLS 1926

Telford Ansten of Decorah, Iowa brought a picture of the 1926 Fergus Falls Stevne to the 1984 Stevne in Northfield, and left it as a gift to the lag. Many of us had a good time identifying friends and relatives in the picture.

After the Stevne, Edna Erickson sent the lag pictures of the Fergus Falls Stevne in 1923 and the 1927 Stevne in Albert Lea.

Special thanks to both of these friends, who have generously shared their pictures with us.

SPECIAL THANKS AND APPRECIATION

To Morgan Olson, Five bygdelag co-ordinator; and the committees for letting us join in the stevne at St. Olaf. Everyone agreed it was a good weekend and we look forward to next year.

To St. Olaf College; Dr. Harland Foss, President; Mr. Forrest Brown, Librarian; and the entire staff for all that was done to make the stevne enjoyable in your lovely facilities.

To the Northfield Ladies Trio and the Gjevve Family for sharing their musical talents, and Don Berglund for being their host.

To Dr. Sidney and Lois Rand for their delightful presentation of, "NØKKEN OG NISSEN" in Sigdal and Hadeland.

To "Oggs" Berglund and Milda Ruud for leading the Sing-a-longs.

To the Sogn Og Fjordane-Ringen Folk Dance for their fine entertainment.

To Cora Koester for making the registration flags for all the lags.

To the officers responsible for getting the Krødsherad slides videotaped and the script translated to English. (I'm sure I'm not the only one that appreciated that!)

To all who helped with registrations, tickets, setting up rooms (we haven't always outgrown our assigned rooms!) helping with coffee and bringing all those goodies.

To all of you for being there; your co-operation, comments, suggestions, criticisms (if they are constructive). All of this helps your officers to know what you want as a good lag and we will do our best.

To Don and "Oggs" Berglund for opening their home to us Saturday evening--what a pleasant way to end our stevne!

To Narv Somdahl with his "always ready" camera and also David Rokke and Orville Ruud--Nisser, I believe--always willing and running behind the scenes spirits!

To anyone else I may have neglected to mention; thank you one and all!

Telelaget **Sigdal** **TOTEN**
LAND **Sigdalslag** **Numedalslaget**

Bygdelag RALLY in the VALLEY

The 1985 Stevne will be at Concordia College, Moorhead, Mn., June 28-29. Marilyn Somdahl and Elaine Schulstad are on the arrangement committee for Sigdalslag. Dorms at Concordia are not air-conditioned, so if that is important to you; you may want to make your motel reservations now.

June 28-29, 1985 is also Scaninavian Days weekend in Fargo/Moorhead so there will be many groups in town.

We would like a committee, preferably someone in or near the Fargo/Moorhead area, to help with arrangements. There will be a meeting in Concordia perhaps in April for final plans. If you would like to volunteer, please let Elaine Schulstad know now. Thanks!

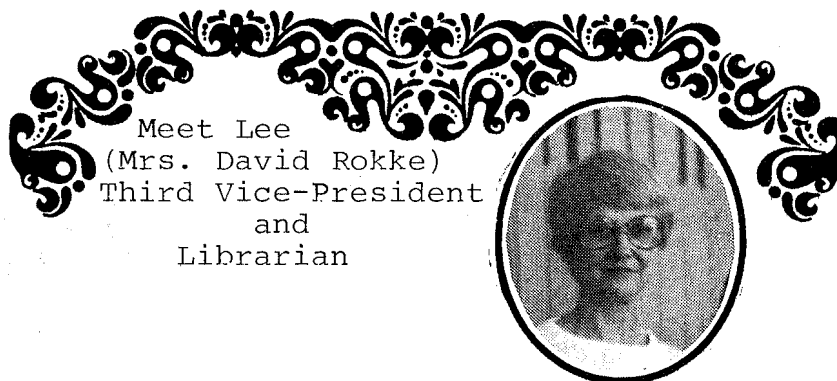
TO ALL SIGDALSLAG MEMBERS:

Do you also have forefathers from the Sunnfjord District of Norway? Sunnfjord is on the west coast of Norway and extends inland from Florø to Kinn, Jølster and Fond. Nordfjord is to the north and Sognfjord is to the south.

Learn more about that part of your Norwegian heritage from others with the same interests. Read, "SUNNFJORDLAGET NEWSLETTER", the publication of Sunnfjordlaget of America. Send your name, address and farm, town, district you are descended from to: Donna and Stanley Anderson, Editors, R. 2 Box 333, Superior, WI 54880. You will receive a complimentary copy of the next issue of, "SUNNFJORDLAGET NEWSLETTER". If you decide you like it, you may subscribe by sending \$3.00 for the next four issues to the Editors.

TO ALL SIGDALSLAG MEMBERS:

Do you also have forefathers in North Norway? Read, "NORD NORGE", the publication of Nordlandslaget Av Amerika og Kanada. Send your name, address and farm, town, district you are descended from to: Donna and Stanley Anderson, Editors of NORD NORGE, Route 2 Box 333, Superior, WI 54880 for a complimentary copy. If you like it, send \$4.00 for the next four issues to the Editors. "NORD NORGE" has articles, stories and poems in English and Norwegian.



Meet Lee
(Mrs. David Rokke)
Third Vice-President
and
Librarian

Andreas Mørch introduced me to the Sigdalslag. I had been using his books, so I went to the stevne at Devils Lake just to meet him. I also met many other delightful people, and have enjoyed the lag ever since.

One of the most satisfying elements of belonging to the lag is learning more about our common heritage. All of us have questions about what life was like for our ancestors, and it seems, almost every member is able to supply a piece of the puzzle.

I grew up in Bagley, MN; graduated from Augsburg College; worked as a librarian for the Star and Tribune; taught school in Wisconsin; and am currently the librarian for General Office Products Company in Minneapolis. One of my hobbies is genealogy, and I have enjoyed helping many of the lag members with their family trees. Because of my interest in our Norse heritage, I have just been elected to the board of Vesterheim, the Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa.

My husband is the Executive Secretary of the Board of Trustees, and Treasurer of the American Lutheran Church. We have three sons, and we live in Bloomington, MN.

How many of you had the "NEW RELEASE--FIVE BYGDELAGS MEET AT ST. OLAF COLLEGE" on page 8 of the May SAGA accepted and used by your local newspaper and radio station? If it was accepted, did you thank them for the publicity? Radio stations and newspapers usually have community billboards, public awareness, etc. and this should be without charge. It is through your responsibility for this type of publicity in your area that people will know we exist and are growing, and that they are welcome!

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STEVNE REGISTRATION/MEMBERSHIP FEES

Each year there seems to be confusion between registration and membership fees. We will try to explain the difference.

Stevne or convention registration fee--The concerts and programs are covered in the registration fee and your registration name tag is your receipt and admission ticket to activities and programs. The registration fee covers the publicity, printing, college facilities and general convention expenses. Expenses are split between the lags on a percentage basis with the real key being ADVANCE registration. Room sizes and general needs are based on number of ADVANCE registrations and this cannot be stressed enough!

Lag membership--It was voted at the 1983 annual meeting that there be a \$6.00 family membership fee. This is to include the newsletter, "SIGDALSLAG SAGA". Membership fee to run from January to January, however fees paid at the stevne cover the following year. This is our income for our expenses: SAGA printing, postage, Bygdelag dues, general business. We also accept donations and memorials. If you have paid a membership fee and do not receive a membership card, please drop me a card for corrections to be made; we like to keep our records straight. If you paid dues at the St. Olaf Lag, your membership is good through 1985, and you should receive your membership card with this issue.

We put out three SAGAs per year and this will be your last unless your \$6.00 membership is paid for 1985 by the next edition. Please check if your name is on the 1985 membership list sheet included in this issue.

We suggest a membership gift for birthday and Christmas--maybe you have been wondering what a nice personal gift for that certain someone could be!

Please make your check payable to "SIGDALSLAG" and send to:

Elaine Schulstad, 16 Madison Ave. SW., Wadena, MN 56482

Thank you!

Your membership card will be enclosed in the next SAGA to save postage.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Elaine Schulstad
16 Madison Avenue SW
Wadena, MN 56482

