Sigdal Lag cordially welcomes present and prospective members to the 7 Lag Stevne at Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa, July 11-13. Having an 85th birthday might also encourage some lapsed members to look at their address labels, so they don’t miss out on the fun and fellowship. The more, the merrier. Remember the individual lag meetings begin after breakfast Saturday morning.

Orders Now Taken for Volume II -- The Sigdalslag 1929, 1932, 1941

Waldorf is downtown, across from the court house. Arrive at the Campus Center for your dorm key, tickets, and badge which admits one to all activities except meals. (You’ll find exhibitors, elevator to food service and bookstore here.)

Next head for the air conditioned Atrium for both genealogy and programs, pp 6·7.

Before you go, buy your evening banquet ticket and box lunch for noon Saturday as you pre-register. The lag registration form (page 11) is to be received by June 27. So is Waldorf’s form.

Meal cards insure a savings in the inclusion of tax, tip, and beverages with your meals. You need not stay in residence halls to buy them.

If you’ll be wearing your bunad, please bring along information on which area it is from, its acquisition, who did the embroidery, jewelry and accessories. This will be useful for the Saturday evening bunad parade.

Treasuries from Sigdal Trunks For Display

Members are asked to share interesting old objects, small artifacts, pictures, books, utensils--whatever immigrants brought or used. They should be labeled with owner’s name for a lag display. Deb Shortino will relate interesting facts of lag history.

Alice Mensing, Minneapolis, has attended Sigdal stevner since childhood. Her talk, “I Remember Mama”, is partially based on a translated diary. Instrumentalists will have an opportunity to play and Eleanor Schultz will present, “The Way It Was”.

New members will have an opportunity to tell how they relate to the lag. Relatives of previous officers will be especially welcomed.

Lag box lunches will be picked up as a lag, and we will be gathering at the farm of Stanford and Ruth Holten.

Book news in February and again this month shows great creativity. Now is your chance to order Sigdalslag books and others for gifts or yourself. See page 2 for gifts to libraries.

The lag’s editorial committee applauds the fact that historians of yesteryear left writings to reveal something of themselves and the time in which they lived. It has been quite an undertaking. Lee Rokke, chief word processor and print liaison, and others have rectified some typographical errors found in the original texts.

This 9x12” large book of about 270 pages is expected to be ready for stevne distribution at cost, which is $20 per copy. Mail orders pay postage according to zip code.

---

Checks payable (in US dollars) to Sigdal Book Fund may be sent to Muriel Hoff, Treasurer, 3512 White Bear Ave, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Mail, adding $5/bk postage & envelope for copies, @ $20 each of Ili8Sigdalslag, 1929, 1932, 1941, to

_________________________, name
_________________________, address
_________________________, city/state/zip

Total Check IUS currency enclosed $ _
Lag members, we need your help to carry out the mission of the Sigdalslag. Most of our children can no longer use the language of our grandparents. Three (of six) Norwegian language yearbooks have been translated into English to make our history available to future generations of descendants. These books, now at the printer, will be packaged in one hardcover volume which will sell for exact cost, $20 per copy, not including postage.

The Sigdalslag board would like to place copies of The Sigdalslag 1929, 1932, 1941 (in English) in the libraries in the United States that have extensive collections of Norwegian or Norwegian-American material. We think that it is also essential to send several copies to libraries and archives in Norway. This would be a total of about 20 books.

To complete this project would deplete our treasury; therefore we ask you to consider a gift to a college or university library or to an appropriate institution in Norway where you have special ties.

Here's how you can participate: If you send the name of the library you choose and a $20 check, the lag will absorb the cost of postage to the library. (Sorry, no refunds, if that library has already been chosen. We will send your gift on to another.) We thank you because we believe such a gift is a legacy that is possible.

Where might you place a book?
Suggested US libraries for donations are: Vesterheim Genealogical Center, Norwegian-American Historical Association, University of Wisconsin, University of Minnesota, University of North Dakota, Harvard University, Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Genealogical Society, Concordia College at Moorhead, Luther College, and Pacific Lutheran University.

You may also consider local libraries or genealogical associations as recipients. For these you will want to send along the addresses.

Norway destinations might include Sigdal-Eggedal Museum, Sigdal kommune archives, Kmdsherad kommune archives, Villa Fridheim, University of Oslo, Riksarkiv in Kongsberg, and Utvandrers Museum at Hamar.

Make your gift check payable to Sigdalslag, c/o Muriel Hoff, Treasurer, 3512 White Bear Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Fra Presidenten:

Dear members and friends,

With this issue of Sigdalslag Saga we find much information of the upcoming 7 Lag Stevne. The programs sound terrific! My hopes are that Sigdal members will pre-register early so that they can enjoy all the events Thursday through Saturday.

Please come Saturday for SIGDAL'S 85TH YEAR CELEBRATION! Here are some primary reasons for attending:

1) Programming in honor of 85th year
2) Meeting friends and possibly finding some unknown relatives whose ancestors were from our lag areas
3) Availability of genealogy films and other materials purchased by the lag. Kmdsherad, Eggedal & Sigdal church, probate, and census records, for example. Then key in your ancestor's names in Lee Rokke's data base to find sources for information on your ancestral lines.
4) Experienced genealogists will assist you.
5) Meet entertainers from Norway and talented Norwegian-Americans at the evening programs
6) Share the excitement and experience of being Norwegian! Take part in the bunad parade after the Saturday evening banquet, and, depending on the temperature, you might wear it to Sigdal's own celebration.

By the way, the number that pre-register largely determines which room will be large enough to accommodate all of us, so we depend on each of you to help us to respond.

Finally, if you play a musical instrument, bring it-- or your favorite piano music so that we can sing some of the Norwegian favorites.

See you there! s/Corrine

Fra Presidenten:
Genealogist Thanks for Family History Books

by Lee Rokke

After years of gathering material, HARALD KASTELLE, Sun City, AZ, and RUSSELL KASTELLE, Breckenridge, MN, have collaborated on a family history. They chose the title, *Hans Hanson Kastellet 1817-1890, His Family and Descendants*. They have donated a copy to the Sigdalslag, and we thank them for the gift.

They have included details which will be especially helpful for Sigdalslag researchers. There is a short piece, "History of the Aastad-Rock Prairie Parish," and a plat map of Aastad and Stony Brook that shows locations of the churches and some farms. You will notice that some of the lakes have Sigdal names.

The book is full of family stories. Harald says, "We tried to make this one show what the people were like, not just a compilation of genealogical tables."

Harald has given us permission to reprint this story about Henry Kastella and Carl Bjorka, which I especially enjoyed:

At Henry's funeral in 1962, Carl told an interesting anecdote about their work on a steam threshing rig in North Dakota. They'd both worked on the same threshing crew. Carl was the water hauler and Henry was the engineer running the steam engine.

Carl had an open top horse-drawn tank to haul the water from whatever nearby source could be found. A lot of water would splash from the tank while driving from the source to the place where the engine was working. He began the day by hauling from a nearby brackish water slough. Henry complained that "the water was no good--it makes the engine froth." He told Carl that he should "go to the river to get water--river water is much better."

The distance from the steam engine to the river was much greater than from the engine to the brackish slough. Also, there were hills between the engine and both sources of water. Both sources were out of sight of the engine. Carl did not like the idea of loading up a tank of water and having half his load splashed out during the long trip from the river to the engine. But Henry kept insisting that the "river water was better."

Carl had a solution to his dilemma. He knew a farm lady whose place was near the route between the brackish slough and the engine. She always had the coffee pot on the stove and she made nice doughnuts. Carl went to the brackish slough (out of sight of the engine) and filled the tank with a load of water. Then he stopped at the home of the lady with the good coffee and doughnuts. He killed enough time drinking coffee and eating doughnuts so that Henry thought he had gone to the river to get water. Then Henry declared, "This river water is much better."

---

MAREN MASON, Laguna Hills, CA, has contributed three items to the Sigdalslag. These are valuable additions to our family history collection, and we thank Maren for sending:

1. A copy of *RJvreNore Siekten*, gathered by Ingvar Austad, grandson of Ole O. Nore and Ingeborg Larsdatter Blekaberg. It is a small booklet worth looking at, even if much of the contents repeat what is in the *bygdebok*. He spends some time of the Ringnes line, and the Griis family. Maren also sent an English translation of the material, so you will have an easy time reading it.

2. A copy of *En Skoleholder og Hans Slekt, 1540-1966*. Written by O.K. Opsahl and published in 1966, it was given to Maren Mason by Lars Nilsen Flathus who lives on Lesteberg. Olav K. Opsahl was married to Kirsti Eivindsdtr Rishovd. The book traces the family of "school holder" Truls Olsen Rishovd, and begins with Kolbjlilrn Olsen Ve i Fla. The section of the book that traces Truls Olsen's wife, Ase Eivindsdatter Kleiverud, was put together by Eva Aasand. Some of you will be surprised that she did more than write poetry. This work is valuable because it contains many notations of occupations of family members.

3. A copy of *Medbanslekten* by O.K. Opsahl. The book begins with Erik Trulsen Slevika and is full of people from farms all over parts of Krildsherad, Fla, Eggedal, Sigdal, Norderhov in Ringerike, and Nore in Numedal. Some of the Halling connections are Sillnsteby, Trommald, Trllistheim, Leknes, Heiei, Stavn, Gulsvik, etc. Names that will especially interest our members are: Rishovd, Skinnes, Mgllerud, Finnerud, Nore, Sandum, Rime, Åsand, Baasum, Tangen, etc. This work contains names of many who emigrated, and tells where they went. Mr. Opsahl usually gives the occupation of people in this work.
Not all of our members may be aware of the services that the Sigdalslag genealogist provides or exactly what kinds of material can be seen at the Waldorf stevne. The following is a reminder of the resource material that we have.

The Sigdalslag owns copies of all of the Norwegian church records from Sigdal, Eggedal, and Krilidsherad. We have Sigdal, Eggedaland Krilidsherad bygdebeker, and the 1801, 1865, 1875 census records. We have tax lists from 1647, 1723, 1838, 1886, and 1904. We have access to the probate index from this area.


We are building a library of material, mostly donated by our members, of local, church and family histories. Much of our library is available to members who pay the postage both ways. All of this material is available at the meeting every year, and our members take full advantage of the resources.

As Sigdalslag genealogist, I use all of these resources to help people with their family trees, working on their genealogy problems and puzzles. I do this free of charge for members of the Sigdalslag. I must charge non-members $10 per hour because of the costs and time involved.

We are attempting to track descendants in this country, building an index, and helping to locate relatives and friends for both Americans and Norwegians. Our index, which now contains nearly 5000 names of immigrants, has served many people in the US and Norway. The people in Norway are very interested in what we are doing because it helps them also. A copy of the index has been placed in the museum in Prestfoss, and updates will be sent to them periodically. We make an effort to maintain contact with the "home area" in Norway, regularly exchanging information.

We are looking forward to the meeting in Forest City in July. Come ready to work on your family tree Thursday morning. There will be competent, knowledgable volunteers to help you solve your problems.

**Happiness is**

**Reading Completed Survey Forms.**

Eight members provided and returned family history material for the Sigdalslag survey. Their ancestral family is listed last.

1. John Runningen, Atlanta, Georgia  
   Lars Ellefsen Mohagen family
   Helge Olsen Sergtrangen
3. Delores Christenson, Rochester, Minnesota  
   Anders Johnson Rud
4. Ken Enger, Cumming, Georgia  
   Peter Eriksen Nyhus
5. Ruth Ghrist, Iowa City, Iowa  
   Halvor Ellefsen BJilleshaugen
6. Helen Bunkowske, Helena, Montana  
   Engebret Engebretsen Sund
7. Maren Nohre Mason, Laguna Hills, CA  
   Knut Andersen Nohre
8. Harold Olson, Moorhead, Minnesota  
   Eilert Johnson

Give Ken A (Genie) Ring

Ken Enger, Cumming, GA, was not satisfied to send a query. He sent a "Dream List"! He'd like to know:

1. Ole Eriksen Nyhus, my g-g-grandfather's brother, died December 27, 1867, in Freeborn County, MN, about 7 months after leaving England. He was buried at Silver Lake Lutheran Church. (In Iowa) What happened to his wife, Ingeborg Gundersdatter Svensrudeie, Nore, (born 1844) and their children: Gjertrud (b 1862 Pletaneie); Gunder Olsen b 1864; Margit b 1867?

2. His gog-grandfather, Peter Eriksen Nyhus, who lived in Albert Lea, MN, and Enger Township, North Dakota, returned to Norway after the death of his wife Kari Ellensdatter. Ken was able to locate him in the 1900 census at the Flekkerud place on Asen in Eggedal. He'd like to know when he died, and if there were obituaries printed. (We'll depend on the people in Norway for answers).

Call Ken collect at 770-844-1351 if you know about Ingeborg Gundersdatter or her children.
Sigdal Lag expresses its appreciation to the Forest City Host Committee which is working with Waldorf College on behalf of the 7 Lag Stevne: Curtis and Norma Amundson, Elaine Bergan, Ardith Halvorson, Ruth Holten, and Mavis Thorson.

Best wishes for good recuperation to DOROTHY DALE who had major surgery earlier this spring.

DR. SIDNEY A. RAND, the grandson of Sigdal Lag's founding president, Anders B. Pederson of Rothsay, Minnesota, joins his wife LOIS (left) in presenting some reflections as descendants of Norwegian immigrants during the program Friday evening. We welcome having someone with near and dear ties to our origins. The lag organized June 24, 1911, at Fergus Falls, Minnesota. See stevne pages and page 10.

Congratulations to MURIEL HOFF on the birth of her first grandson (and fourth grandchild) April 11. Peter and Jody are the proud parents of Randy Russell Hoff.

Sokneprest Jon and his wife Hilde Jorgensen write in the Spring 1996 (Vol. 31 No.1) Sigdal og Eggedal Menighetsblad about a continuing Easter tradition at Prestfoss. On Easter morning there was a gathering for morgensang at the old cemetery behind Holmen's prestegard (parsonage) at 9 a.m. Then there a (potluck) Paskefrokost (breakfast) was held before the festival service in Holmen Church. What a good way to begin Easter! Everyone was welcome to come.

The same issue carried/pictures of the four-year-olds who were presented with their "children's churchbook", including a cassette with children's songs and music for listening at family services at Eggedal Church and Holmen Church. Sunday services are also held at Nerstad School, Solumsmoen Chapel, Leikvang and Frydheim (grendehus); Ascension Day with communion at Vatnas May 16 and May 17th services at both Eggedal and Holmen.

Congratulations belatedly to IRENE NAVARRE who was honored by the NMDHA (New Mexico Dental Hygienists' Association) on the 30th Anniversary of her presidency of the American Dental Hygienists Association. She organized the first dental hygiene class at UMN, Albuquerque, in 1962, after having practiced in Minneapolis and Los Angeles. She retired from clinical instruction in 1982. She married HARRY, now a retired oral surgeon, who attends meetings with her for two lag: Sigdal and Ringerike-Drammens District Lag.

WALDORF COLLEGE CAMPUS MAP - 6th Street between J and G Streets

A. Student Parking
B. Handicap/Shorter Term Parking
1. Salveson Hall
2. Thorson Hall
3. Smith Theatre
4. Latham Foyer
   Theatre/Library Entrance
5. Voss Memorial Library
6. THE ATRIUM Elevator
7. Nilssen-Boe Hall of Science
8. Rasmussen Residence Hall
9. The Annex
10. Ormseth Residence Hall
11. Odvin Hagen Music Center
   Recital Hall
12. CAMPUS CENTER
   Bookstore
   Food Service
   Registration
   Exhibits-Sales Display
13. Tanner Residence Hall
14. Johnson Residence Hall
15. London Residence Hall
16. Hanson Fieldhouse
17. Forest City YMCA
"Treasures from the Trunk" Offers Thursday Classes, Lab
Genealogy Research and Programs Use Air Conditioned ATRIUM

**TIME** | Classroom A | Classroom B | Computer Lab
---|---|---|---
8:30-9:30 am | Beginning Genealogy<br>Thelma Johnson | Agent Records<br>Unconfirmed | (Ray Olson. Lab Coord)
10 - 11 am | Bygdebok Research<br>L. Dikken | Naturalization Records<br>Unconfirmed | Internet/Library Catalogs<br>Possible Option
11:30-12:30 | Norw Census Records<br>J. Frye | Ancestral areas of Norway<br>Unconfirmed | Personal Ancestral File<br>L. Rokke
• Lunch 12-1 pm | I(Thurs-Fri) | Writing<br>Family Histories<br>B. Rockswold
1:00 - 2:00 pm | Reading Old Script<br>J. Pederson | Naming<br>Custon II<br>Unconfirmed | Family Treemaker<br>Holter
2:30 - 3:30 pm | Emigration/Immigration<br>M. Sorensen | | Roots - R. Olson
4:00 - 5:00 pm | Norw-Amer Church Records<br>L. Madson | | Open Lab
5:15 - 6:00 pm | | | Dedicated last October "in gratitude to God for"
6:00 - 7:00 pm | Family History Centers<br>L. Madson | | all immigrants who settled on the prairie." This
7:30 - 8:30 pm | Paper Trails<br>Unconfirmed | | family grouping is entitled, "The Promise of
8:30-9:30 am | | | America," taken from the book of the same name
**Breakfast 7-8 am | IFri-Satl by Dr. Odd Lovoll, King Olav V Chair of
| | | Scandinavian Studies at St. Olaf College. You'll
**Lunch 12-1 pm | | | want to see this park enroute or during stevne
time with friends.
| | | Individual lag leaders
1:00 - 2:00 pm | | | will participate in the
2:30 - 3:30 pm | | | opening ceremony and program in the
3:00 - 4:00 pm | | | Atrium Friday
4:00 - 5:00 pm | | | afternoon at 2 p.m.
5:15 - 6:00 pm | | | Sigdalslag, founded in 1911, and
6:30 - 7:30 pm | | | Ringerike-Drammens
7:00 - 8:00 pm | | | District Lag, a
8:00 - 9:00 pm | | | successor to the
9:00 - 10:00 pm | | | Ringerikslag of 1916,
**Dinner 5:30-6:30 pm | | | celebrate their
**Dinner 7:30-8:30 pm | | | respective 85th and
8:00 - 9:00 pm | | | 80th lag
9:00 - 10:00 pm | | | anniversaries. A
**Breakfast 7-8 am | IFri-Satl sampler of stevne
10:00 - 11:00 pm | | | entertainment is
11:00 - 12:00 pm | | | planned.
12:00 - 1:00 pm | | | Dr. Sidney A. and Lois M. Rand along with a
1:00 - 2:00 pm | | | men's choir and orchestra from Volda, Norway,
2:00 - 3:00 pm | | | will perform Friday evening.
3:00 - 4:00 pm | | | Both of the Rands have unique ties with the 7
4:00 - 5:00 pm | | | Lag Stevne, Waldorf College, and Norwegian-
5:00 - 6:00 pm | | | American communities everywhere. After Dr.
6:00 - 7:00 pm | | | Rand's service as US Ambassador to Norway,
7:00 - 8:00 pm | | | this couple defied the usual dictates of retirement
8:00 - 9:00 pm | | | in favor of active leadership roles. (next page)
As co-chairs of the Royal Visit Committee, they coordinated all advance arrangements for six Midwestern venues 16 months prior to the October 1995 visit of King Harald V and Queen Sonja. (also see p. 101)

About 55 Norwegians travel with the VOLDA MANNSKOR og ORKESTER (right) which has been organized many years. Besides their music at Waldorf Friday evening, they perform July 14 at Norway Day in Minneapolis.

Entertainers Saturday evening are Kris Meyer, storyteller, and the Skandinavian Hottshots, a musical duo, featuring folk tunes and the old time music of Dick Rees and Art Bjorngjeld (pictured below).

Kris Meyer has charmed her listeners of all ages with the folklore and fairy tales that have enhanced her workshops for teaching language skills in Iowa schools. Area reading teachers and libraries request her performances as well.

Adults may hear her on the radio pr in person at seasonal festivals, cultural or historic programs, and at senior citizen functions. Having been reared in a Wisconsin parsonage, she finds Scandinavian subjects of enormous appeal. Her husband joins her in musical performances and she is active at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, as a contemporary worship leader.

Both Rees and Bjorngjeld sing and offer heritage music of several countries. Art Bjorngjeld's roots are from Norway's west coast. He performs on a fiddle and a button accordion after daywork as a cabinetmaker in a large shop.

Dick Rees acknowledges he is the first Norwegian in his family, but "everyone has to start somewhere." As a full-time musician, he lives and gives lessons in St. Paul but his visits to Norway are ongoing, as recently as March this year.

Well-known in dance circles for his schedule of Scandinavian old-time dances, he plays classic melodies, original songs, or square dance tunes with gusto. He serves as a consultant-producer for special festivals from time to time, being most active in IronWorld USA.

Having lived in both Norway and Sweden, Rees is a master of the 2-row diatonic button accordion. He also plays the piano accordion and the fiddle. His music also provides jobs with several other musical groups.

Besides a long list of recordings, Rees did radio/theater work for Garrison Keillor's Powdermilk Biscuit Band, Children's and Chanhassen Dinner Theaters, and at Dudley Riggs' Brave New Workshop.
Getting to Know the Lag's Secretary

Henry Berg, Sigdalslag secretary for the past two years, was born Alberta in 1951. He attended school there, graduating with a BA in history and anthropology in 1972 and an MA in European diplomatic history in 1976. He also studied law a couple of years but decided against a legal career.

After teaching at the college level for several years, Henry is now self-employed. This gives him more flexible time to pursue his hobby of genealogy. His link to Sigdal is through a great-grandfather who moved from Sigdal to Modum in 1878, and whose son subsequently emigrated to North Dakota.

1996 BYGDELAG STEVNER

Bygdela8genes Fellesraad invites you to explore your Norwegian roots at the summer assembly or stevne for your ancestral community.

AGDER LAG 11997 JUNE 28-29
BAIKI Fargo, ND. JUNE 28-29
Mel Olsen, 715-364-2850
GUDBRANDSDAL AUG 8-10
Mill Inn, Dexter, MN, 1-800-892-6455
Betty Strand, 612-571-1831
GUDBRANDSDAL-NW JUNE 22
El Rancho, Williston, ND
TriNe Overlee, 701-546-41"
HALLINGLAGE JUNE 21-23
Elementary School, Brooten, MN
Peter Gandrud, 218-751-4803
NORD HEDMARK 09 HEDEMARKEN
AUG 23-24, Days Inn, LaCrosse, WI
Einari/Jane Olson, 608-269-2829
MAJESS-OPPLAND
Norman Evenson, 608-423-3856
NORDFJORD-Willmar MN JUNE 14-15
LuAnn Williams, 612-721-7170
NORDFJORD-WI AUG 3, Sugar
Creek Bible Camp, Ferryville, WI
Arvane Vedvik, 608-734-3192
NORLANDSLAG JUNE 28-29
River Inn, Fargo, NO
Orville R Nelson, 701-232-5311
ROMERIKSLAG SEPT 19-21
Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI
Albert Grender, 715-325-2485
SETESDAL Oklae. MN JULY 13
Owen Scramstad 218-681-2280
SOGNEFJORD LAG JUNE 14-15
Tech College, Willmar, MN
Tamra Yndestad 612-831-1916
TRONDERLAGE AUG 16-17
Nordic Hall, Sioux Falls, SO
Clifford Hoff, 605-986-5337
VALDRESSAMANDJUNE 27-29
St Olaf Colleage, Northfield, MN
Al Stevens, 507-768-3424
Z LAG STEVNE JULY 11-13
Waldorf College, Forest City, IA
Norma Gilbertson, 612-533-7410
Marilyn Somdahl, 612-8314409
HAELAND:
Dean Sorum, 218-233-1617
LAND:
Marilyn Somdahl, 612-8314409
NUMEDAL-KONGSBERG:
Chet Habberstad, 218-826-6268
RINGERIKE-DRAMMEN:
Cliff Thompson, 612-929-9695
SIGDAL:
Muriel Hoff, 612-777-7395
TELEMARK:
Sue Hanson, 612-835-3795
TOTEN:
Helen Ann Nelson, 320-765-2558
VESTLANDSLAG SEPT 5-7
Holiday Inn, Willmar, MN
Zona Mathison, 218-233-4649
Dick Risrand, 507-433-9577
HARDANGER:
Glady S Slobodny, 320-235-1590
MeRE 09 ROMSDAL:
Andrews Jordahl Rhude, 612-823-3990
NORDHORDLAND:
Marv Berkeland, 605-697-7550
ROGALAND:
Howard Amundson, 612-938-2869
SOGN:
Gerald Sims, 218-727-2842
SUNNHORDLAND:
Lana Loken, 701-338-2943
VOS:
Dean Ge5me, 319-362-6910
sponsored by
Bygdelagenes Fellesraad
The National Bygdelag Council
"41" 1 MONT" PRIOR TO EVENT

As a West Coast resident recently transplanted to Palm Springs, CA, Henry has attended the past three stevner at Wahpeton and at La Crosse, Wisconsin. Since he has been a lag member since 1990, he has thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet fellow Sigdal descendants and get acquainted with many of his correspondents.

His life project of tracing Gunder Aaslese descendants continues. The total located thus far is around 70,000.

Aside from his personal and professional genealogy work, he enjoys reading and caring for his dog and cats.

Roald Amundson May Have Been 1st Over North Pole

Recent research of Admiral Richard Byrd's diary, passages of which were released last week by Ohio State University, and a 1990 book, Beyond the Barrier, by polar scholar Eugene Rodgers --"suggest that Byrd was not the first man to fly over the North Pole" in 1911.

Amundson & his crew in the dirigible Norge saw the pole three days after Byrd was to have been there. By his own admission, Byrd was into the "hero" business by any means.
Hekla Carries Five from Sigdal to America

by Anita Welsh

Born at Vatnasgard, Grenskogen, June 3, 1873, Maren Torgersdatter Lie Vatnaas grew up in Sigdal, Norway. She was the oldest of eight children of Torger Torgerson Lie and Ingeborg Olson Aasen Vatmis. Little is known of the first 20 years of Maren's life. The family raised cows on their forest-farm, but the rocky soil must have produced little else.

In the early spring of 1893, Peder Langerud, a neighbor and the son of Torger's sister Anne, who had been living in the United States, returned to Norway. He must have painted an attractive picture of the new world because, on his return to the United States, he was accompanied by four young women and his brother Andreas who was 16 years old.

One of the young women was Martha Langerud, a sister of the brothers. (These young people are listed in Emigrant book #17, page 416 in the State Archives in Oslo.)

In spite of his objections to having his oldest daughter leave home and homeland, Maren's father took her to Drammen for her departure. The destination for the young people embarking on this voyage was Fairmont, Minnesota. (Names change or become shortened at some point, as readers may notice.)

Peder T. Langrud, age 22, paid a fare of 201 Kroner; Maren Olsdtr Lie, a young housemaid, age 22, paid a fare of 603 Kroner (most likely a total for the four girls together), Maren Torgersdtr Lie, young housemaid, age 20, and the first-mentioned subject of this sketch; Martha Langrud and Ingeborg Endresdtr Finrud, 21, (born at Finnerud, but emigrated from Hunstadhagen, the farm of a married sister). Ingeborg, among others, had completed a course for dressmakers at Drammen's syskole, and all four were young seamstresses, who may or may not have been listed as such on the passenger roster.

The ship, Hekla, departed June 22, 1893. Less is known about how long this voyage took, where it landed, or how the group traveled to Fairmont. Maren stayed with the Cirst Nordsiden family in Fairmont. Mrs. Nordsiden was Maren Lie, the sister of Torger Vatnas and Maren's aunt. The girls took in sewing to suppo'rt themselves.

Maren used the name Mary Thompson when she was married to Gottfred Christenson Gullickson by Reverend Cross in Fairmont on August 22, 1895. Mary and Gottfred lived in Walnut Grove, Minnesota, where their four children were born. Gottfred's parents, Kristen and Gunhild Johannesdtr Gullickson, had settled on a farm not far from where the St. Olaf's Church was later built near Walnut Grove. In April 1882 they had also emigrated from Sigdal.

In 1917 the Gottfred Gullickson family moved by train to a farm near Eckelson, North Dakota. The family later moved to Island Lake Farm, a half-mile away, where they continued to live. Gottred (b. 1874) died on May 5, 1939. Mary died on April 29, 1949.

Ingeborg E. Finrud went to her brother Helge in Tracy, Lyon County, Minnesota, arriving early in July. However she and Martha Langrud had a sewing shop in Fairmont that fall. After spending the winter of 1895-96 with cousins in Chicago, she moved to Omaha, Nebraska. She met and married another choir member, Peder Johnson, at Trinity Norwegian Lutheran Church, South Omaha, November 6, 1901. During March 1903 they moved by train to a yet-to-be-seen farm in Nelson County, North Dakota, purchased on the recommendation of the pastor, Hans Christian Olsen, whose wife was Ingeborg's cousin, Bertha Anderson from Kmdsherad. Olsen left Omaha in September 1898, accepting a call from Middle Forest River Lutheran Church, Dahlen, North Dakota, which continued 34 years until his death. The parsonage was in Nelson County, but the church stood across the road in Grand Forks County. (Ingeborg had lived with them when she first moved to Omaha, early in 1896). Ingeborg's husband was born Peder Johannes SliIrstokke, Kopervik, KarmilY, May 1, 1870; he died June 7, 1937. She was born February 12, 1872, and died March 27, 1958. Both were buried at West Forest Cemetery near Whitman, North Dakota.

Maren O. Lie married a Mr. Bergstrom.

Martha Langrud died in Chicago October 2, 1897, from either pneumonia or tubercolosis contracted after she had gone to work for a family there. Her brother, Peder Langrud, died February 9, 1948, in Loughheed, Manitoba, Canada. Andreas died in 1940, probably in San Francisco where he worked at a railway "roundhouse".

Sigdal Lag member Anita Welsh lives in Vancouver, Washington. She and her brother attended the 1989 SJU stevne at Collegeville.
Rand’s IN PLEASANT PLACES To Be Published This Month

Northfield, MN - From the small Minnesota town of Rothsay to the royal court of the King of Norway, Dr. Sidney Rand says his life has been filled "with pleasant places." And that, says the president emeritus of St. Olaf College and former ambassador to Norway, is why he selected it as a title for his book of memoirs.

In Pleasant Places, which is being published by the St. Olaf College Press, will debut May 24 at a celebration in the Administration Building’s Atrium at the Northfield campus. The event will include remarks by Dr. Rand, his wife Lois, and current St. Olaf President Mark U. Edwards, Jr.

The public is invited to book signing sessions at the Atrium between 3-4 p.m. and the following day, May 25, at the St. Olaf Bookstore from 2-3 p.m.

Rand's book has 328 pages illustrated with two eight-page photo sections. It follows Rand's life from his childhood in Rothsay, MN, through his career as a pastor, leader in the Lutheran church, and his presidencies at four Lutheran colleges, beginning as president of Waldorf College, Forest City, IA, from 1951-1956.

After serving as executive secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church from 1956-1959, he was elected executive director of the Board of College Education of the American Lutheran Church in 1959. Rand was elected president of St. Olaf in 1963 and served 17 years, until being named ambassador to Norway by President Jimmy Carter.

Following his ambassadorial stint, Rand retired to Minneapolis, but was called by Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD, and Suomi College, Hancock, MI, to take one-year presidential terms. He actually led Augustana twice, during the 1986-87 and 1992-93 academic terms, sandwiched around the 1990-91 year in Upper Michigan. He taught homiletics at Luther Seminary in St. Paul in 1984 and 1984.

Rand said he started to write his story several years ago and thought of it first as "a purely family affair. My purpose was to provide members of the family and a few friends with a record of my life as I view it."

After being encouraged by friends and colleagues to expand his thinking outside the family circle, he agreed to have the book published through the St. Olaf Press. It is Rand's second book. In 1988 he and Lois collaborated with Twin Cities photographers Robert and Loren Paulson to produce the coffee table book, Norway, now in its third printing.

In Pleasant Places will be available at the 7 Lag Stevne at Waldorf College. Rand will autograph books at the bookstore, and a tentative hour may be Friday at 11 a.m. A quality paperback, it sells for $9.95 (plus $2 for postage and handling, if ordered by mail directly from St. Olaf Bookstore, 1520 St. Olaf Ave., Northfield, MN 55057).

(Source: St. Olaf College News Bureau)

IN MEMORY

WALDO WENNERBERG (May 4, 1915-March 12, 1996) died at Rice Hospital, Willmar, MN. Funeral services were held March 15 at First Covenant Church there with burial in Hillcrest Cemetery near Kerkoven, MN.

He is survived by his wife, Hazel; children Gary and wife Sue; John and wife Doreen, all of Kerkoven; Diane and husband Tom Erickson, Gardner, Mass; Dean and wife Angie, Burnsville; Daniel and wife Julie, Clear Lake; 11 grandchildren, and brother Sam Wennerberg, Kerkoven. He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and three sisters.

Waldo was born to Carl and Amanda Larson Wennerberg in Hayes Township, Swift County, Minnesota, where he grew up.

In May 1942 Waldo entered the United States Army as a tank commander. His unit landed at Normandy in France on D-Day and had fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Bronze Service Arrowhead, and the Presidential Citation with cluster. He received an honorable discharge in November 1945.

He married Hazel Lesteberg November 17, 1945. They lived and raised their family in Benson until 1955 when they moved to Willmar. He worked as a plumber and steamfitter for 32 years, retiring in 1979. Last year they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Hazel, a sister of Lag president. Corrine Lesteberg Johnson, and her husband recently joined Sigdal Lag.
My/Our names: __________ Phone: _______
Address: ______________________ Zip: __________

REGISTRATION (Thurs/Fri(Sat - one or three days) $19 per person $--
*Genealogy  *Sales Exhibits  *Meeting Rooms  *Evening & Day programs

BOX LUNCH SATURDAY NOON (includes delivery to Holten's historic farm) $5 each $--
SAT EVENING BANQUET TICKET $11 per person $

EXTRA PROGRAM TICKETS, $4 each, but only if seats are available, 75 minutes prior
(for non-registered visitors, age 12 & up)

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SIGDALLAG TOTAL $___

Mail about June 23 so it is RECEIVED BY JUNE 27. Send to
MURIEL HOFF, Treasurer, 3512 White Bear Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

MEALS AND LODGING RESERVATIONS AT WALDORF

Name(s): __________________________ Phone: _______
Address: ______________________ Zip: __________

ARIVAL Date/Time: _____________________ DEPARTURE Date/Time: __________

Please indicate any special needs: ____________________________

Residence halls are not air conditioned. Bring a small fan and a pillow. Pillow case, (2) sheets, bath towel, wash cloth, soap and drinking glasses are provided. Showers/bathrooms located on alternate floors for men and women.

Single Room Rate: 1 person @ $12.50/night Double Room Rate: 2 persons @ $10.00/person/night

Thursday, July 11 Friday, July 12 Saturday, July 13
# of Single Rooms # of Single Rooms # of Single Rooms
-- of Double Rooms -- of Double Rooms -- of Double Rooms

# Sill Meal Plan • $27.12 # Four Meal Plan • $17.76 $--
Includes the following meals: Select four of the meals below: Select four of the meals below:
Thursday lunch Thursday lunch
Thursday dinner Thursday dinner
Friday breakfast Friday breakfast
Friday lunch Friday lunch
Friday dinner Friday dinner
Saturday breakfast Saturday breakfast

A check of $ , payable to Waldorf College, and this form need to be received by June 27. Send to
Ruth Melby, Director of S...r Conferences, Waldorf College, 106 South 6th Street, Forest City, IA 50436
1995-1996 Officers

CORRINE L. JOHNSON, President
612-831-8637
4575 - 80th St Orcle #202
Bloomington, MN 55437

DON SKADELAND, 1st VP
402-331-5906
10642 "O· Street
Omaha, NE 68127

ADDIE WIlLIAMS, 2nd VP
612-429-380g
2565 Lake Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

LEE ROKKE, VP/Genealogist
612-432-9767
13465 Garden View Drive
Apple Valley, MN 55124

HENRY A. BERG, Secretary
619-327-4641!
993 E. Parcefa Pl. #1
Palm Springs, CA 92264

MURIEL HOFF, Treasurer
612-777-7395
3512 White Bear Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

DEB SHORTINO, Wstorian
701-7476
315 - 24th Ave S
Grand Forks, ND 58201

MARILYN SOMDAHL, Editor
612-831-4409
10129 Goodrich Orcle
Bloomington, MN 55437

Welcome, New Members
Since February 1996

Dorothy DeWyze, Palatine, IL
Rev. Robert O. Evans, New Hope, MN
Rev/Mrs James Glesne, Decorah, IA
Lois A. Kline, Zumbrota, MN
Addie Nina liss, Anaheim, CA
Dan & Ruth Hoff Manning, Omaha, NE
Sonia & Elmer Minchau, Calgary, AL TA
Kjell & Tone Reistad, Krogstadelva, Norway
John Runningen, Atlanta, GA
Arlis Flaten Schmidt, San Antonio, TX
Dean & Linda Skadeland, Kansas City, MO
Arthur I. & Sharon Storbo, Bellevue, WA
Frank E. Storli. Panama City, FL
Harold' & Adelia Thompson, McIntosh, MN

VELKOMMEN TIL OSS!

THE 7 LAG STEVNE - JULY 11-13
Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa

Sponsored by
TOTEN LAG - TELELAG - SIGDALSLAG
RINGIERKE-DRAMMEN DISTRICTS LAG
NUMEDALSLAG - HADELAND LAG - LANDINGSLAG