

NHOH News

Volume 4 Number 2

Summer 1999

Published 3 times per year by: Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag

Who Are We?

NHOH Lag includes the following districts and kommuner in our bygdelaag:

District 1:

Nord-Østerdal:

Alvdal

Folldal

Os

Rendalen

Tolga

Tynset

District 2:

Sør-Østerdal:

Åmot

Elverum

Engerdal

Stor Elvedal

Trysil

District 3:

Hedemarken &

Hamar:

Furnes

Hamar

Løten

Nes

Ringsaker

Romedal

Stange

Vang

Hilsen fra Presidenten

Kjaere Venner,

In approximately one month the historic event of the year will occur -- the NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN BYGDELAG CENTENNIAL!!

I trust everyone has made plans to attend, especially the Parade of Lags on Friday evening, July 30, and the banquet on Saturday evening, July 31. All members of our Lag who wish to participate in the Parade of Lags may do so; however, you must wear your bunad! Participants will march into the auditorium behind our banner and receive preferential seating near the front--if you have questions, please call me, 507-282-1090. I hope many of you will take advantage of this opportunity and be part of this historic occasion.

On Saturday afternoon July 31, beginning at 1:00 pm., our Lag will hold its annual business meeting, at a site to be announced --check the bulletin boards at the college for room location. The agenda for the meeting will include: election of officers; formation of committees; preliminary plans for our stevne 2000, which will be in Alexandria, Minnesota; and information on our Lag's first tour of Norway, which is planned for September of 2000. In preparation for the meeting, please be thinking of a committee you would like to join. We need people who are willing to step forward and support their Lag by participating in one of the following committees: stevne planning for 2000, genealogy, history and heritage,

membership, newsletter, and technology. The latter will be an ad hoc committee to design a web page for the Lag.

A special feature of our business meeting will be information on the proposed Norway 2000 Tour. A representative from the Ed-Ventures, a travel agency from Rochester, MN will be present to highlight plans for the tour and answer questions. This should be exciting!

Enjoy the summer. I hope to see many of you in Decorah!

Hjertelig hilsen fra

Gary M. Olson
President

LAG OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

President: Gary M. Olson(507)282-1090

V.President: John Reindl (608)238- 0393

Secretary: Dixie Hansen (612)690-0872

Treas:Charlotte A.Helstad(608)833-3455

Directors: Orrin Helstad (608)833-3455

Paul Romdahl (612)474-5775

Marilyn Sorensen(612)633-1329

Past Pres.:RolandKrogstad(608)238-6652

BOARD MEETING

At its meeting on May 22, 1999 in Eau Claire, the Board of Directors approved:

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Treasurer's Report of \$2,599.50 on hand.
2. Report of 17 returns of 1999 Genealogy Committee Survey. Some of the suggestions have been done. Volunteers must be obtained to work on other projects.
3. Payment of \$350 for Lag Banner which has been completed.
4. Purchase of Lag Pins for re-sale.
5. Alexandria, MN as site for Stevne 2000
6. Travel Agent Ed-Ventures, Rochester, MN to plan trip to Norway in September, 2000.

Other Item: Roland Krogstad appointed chair of Nominating Committee. Please send names to him.

1999 DUES

If your mailing label indicates 1998, it means that your membership dues expired on December 31, 1998, and that your 1999 dues (Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1999) are now due. Please use the following DUES RENEWAL FORM to facilitate payment of dues. Make checks payable to NHOH Lag and mail to Charlotte Helstad, Treasurer, 8 Sebring Court, Madison, WI 53719-3521.

DUES RENEWAL FORM

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

E-mail _____

Address: _____ Ph: _____

Roots in Norway(See P.1) _____

Dues: 1 yr=\$10, 2yrs=\$18, 3yrs=\$25 \$ _____

Genealogy Fund or other contribution \$ _____

EACH ONE - REACH ONE(OR MORE)

Every organization, in order to survive and grow needs to continually recruit new members to replace those that drop out for various reasons.

Why Recruit?

1. New members bring fresh ideas
2. More people to work on projects make work easier for all
3. More services can be provided
4. More people get helped with their genealogy and search for their roots
5. New members attract more members
6. Our Lag will eventually die without recruitment!!

The enclosed Membership Application Brochure could be put into good use, such as:

1. Ask your relatives if they would like to join an organization which would help them with genealogy
2. At a meeting of Norwegians, such as Sons of Norway, ask if any attendees have roots in Hedmark
3. At a lutefisk supper in waiting room have a display, poster and make short presentation about our Lag.
4. At a county fair or Norwegian Fest have a booth with maps and brochures and talk about our Lag
5. Place brochures in display racks where traffic is relatively heavy such as in tourism areas.
6. Recruit in areas near to the next stevne

If more brochures are needed, please request them from Roland Krogstad, 2718 Regent Street, Madison, WI 53705-3714

A tusen takk for your time and assistance in recruiting new fellow Hedemarkens!!!

What If?

If you could see your ancestors
all standing in a row,
Would you be proud of them or
don't you really know?

Some strange discoveries are
made climbing family trees
And some of them, you know,
do not particularly please.

If you could see your ancestors
all standing in a row,
There might be some of them,
perhaps, you wouldn't care to know.

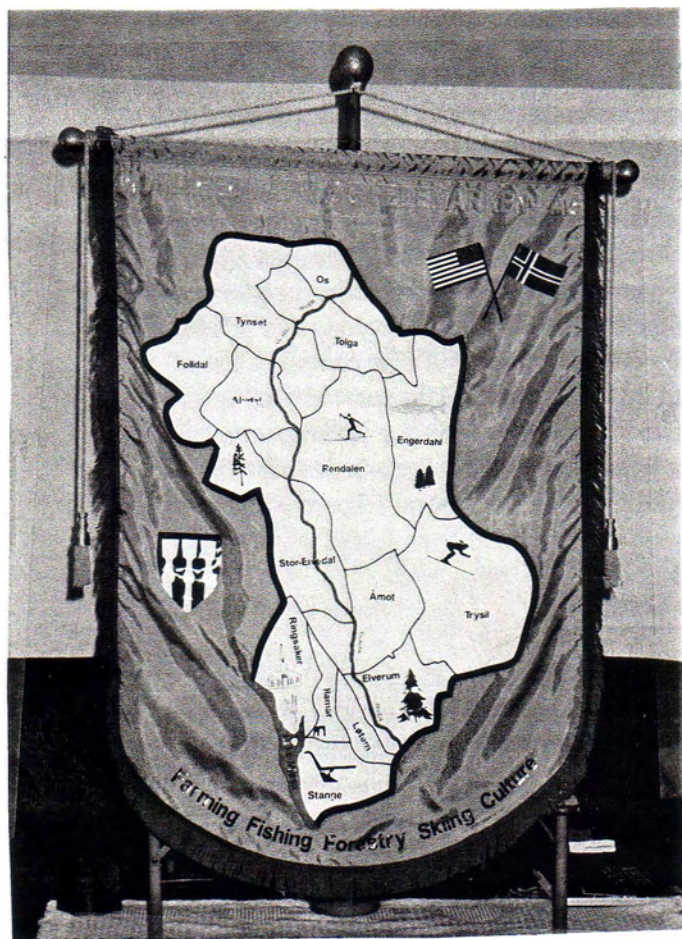
But there's another question
which requires a point of view,
If you could meet your ancestors,
Would they be proud of you?

FHSA-AZ

LAG BANNER

Our NHOH Lag now has a banner! The colorful banner responds to the red, white, and blue of the flag of Norway. The light blue background fringed in red features a white map representing the land from whence our ancestors came. Symbols scattered throughout the white map represent the typical activities of farming, forestry, fishing, skiing, and culture common throughout the history of Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken districts. The banner is flanked by bright gold braiding and tassels. The premier showing of the Banner will be at the Centennial Celebration at Decorah, Iowa on July 30, 1999. All Lag members wearing a bunad will have the honor of marching behind the Lag Banner.

A tusen takk go to the committee of Mike Bovre, Kathryn Cobleigh, Dixie Hansen, Borger Hanson, John Hogenson, and Roland Krogstad, with comments and approval by the Board of Directors.



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 10, 1999: Scandinavian Holiday at Ironworld Discovery Center, Chisom, MN 55719; Ph: (218)254-3321 or 800-372-6437. www.ironworld.com

July 11, 1999: Norway Day, Minnehaha Park on the south side of Minneapolis, MN. More info: (612)832-0164 or (612)823-3990

July 23-25: Nordic Fest, Decorah, Iowa

July 29-31: Bygdela Centennial Celebration, Decorah, IA

August 11-14: Conference for Nation's Genealogists, St. Louis, MO. Contact: FGS, PO Box 200940, Austin, TX 28720-0940. Ph: (888)347-1500

August 14: Norwegian-American Fest, Mt. Horeb, WI. Contact: Gen Wilberg (608)873-6568

October 13-16: Norsk Host Fest, Minot, ND

VELKOMMEN!!

We wish to extend a hearty welcome to the following new members who have joined since the last NHOH NEWS:

Arlen and Henry Lund	Cambridge, WI
Ann R. Magdzinski	Bloomington, IN
Eugene G. & Virginia A. Nelson	Madison, WI
Robert O. & Jo Ann Olson	Minneapolis, MN
Lynn Skordal	Mercer Island, WA
Geraldine L. Lachman	Pleasant Prairie, WI

IN MEMORY

Our symthay goes to the family of Ella Johnson who passed away February 18, 1999. If you know of others who pass away, please notify the Treasurer or the Editor.

Ellis Island to Get Research Center

From: ROMERIKSLAGET NEWS5-99

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is playing a key role in the establishment of a family history research center on New York's Ellis Island, where in two years the public will have automated access to a computerized data base containing over 17 million United States immigration

New Genealogy Site Includes Newsgroup for Hedmark Fylke

A new, very comprehensive Norwegian genealogy web page has recently been launched on the Internet. Besides an extremely complete set of links to specific genealogy web pages, it includes a newsgroup for each fylke in Norway, including Hedmark.

The site is part of the Rootsweb genealogy collection of Internet services and is located at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wgnorway>.

This is one of the most complete Norwegian genealogy sites that I have seen. Under the category of "Research Sources", for example, links are provided from basic descriptions on how to do Norwegian genealogy to Norwegian-English dictionaries, the census records computerized by the National Archives and the University of Tromsø, the classic set of books on Norwegian farm names by Oluf Rygh, and much, much more.

There are also two query sections for requesting information on specific questions that people have. One is a query section by surname and the other is by area of Norway. For the second approach, there are links for posting or reading queries by the specific fylke of Norway plus several general categories. In the link to the Hedmark newsgroup, the user has the choice to read existing messages or to post new messages. These messages are then available to anyone who has access to the Internet.

NHOH Policy on Genealogical Assistance

At the January 1999 board meeting, the issue of the role of the lag genealogist in responding to inquiries came up. The genealogists receive many requests for help from both members and non-members, often asking for assistance in looking up information from church records or census records.

While some lags have extensive collections of bygdebøker and church and census records to use to provide this level of detailed service, our lag does not at this time have many such resources. Thus, at this time, the agreed policy of the lag board is the main role of the genealogists will be to provide assistance in directing people on how to find the information that they seek, but not to have the role of the lag genealogists to look up this information. For those people who are interested in having their genealogy done by others, the lag will also compile a list of professional genealogists that are able to assist people. Exceptions to this policy will be the searching of the bygdebøker and censuses owned by the lag, which at this time consists of the bygdebøker for Elverum and Ringsaker and the 1875 census for Ringsaker. (Note: The Ringsaker bygdebøker do not include descriptions of farms and the genealogies of people who lived at the farms, but instead focus on the natural resources and history of the area.)

Lag Buys 1875 Ringsaker Census

The lag has recently purchased a computerized version of the 1875 census for Ringsaker from the University of Tromsø in Norway. The Ringsaker area has the largest concentration of NHOH members and the 1875 census is not yet available on the Internet.

The census is organized as an ASCII text file, not as a database. There are just over 14,800 listings of nearly 1,800 farms. The list is searchable by farm name, or person's first or last name, age, occupation, etc. If known, information is also given on the types and number of farm animals and the crops at the farm.

Members who would like the disk searched for their ancestors should contact John Reindl, the lag genealogist, at either his email address (preferred) at reindl@chorus.net or at his home address at 4514 Gregg Road, Madison, WI 53705. (Note: John will be attending the Oslo International Summer School from late June until mid August, so please be patient with getting a response back.)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A NORWEGIAN -AMERICAN?

by Bill Simenson (Folldal descendant)

What a glorious Syttende Mai we had in the Washington D.C. area in 1997 when I was President of the Norwegian Society of Washington D.C. Our picnic/tog, falling on a non-work day that year, gathered together more Norskies (as they say in Wisconsin) than we've had in a decade or more. Estimates were over 500. Our dinner dance that Saturday evening was also well attended (160 people). It was a good show by the Norwegian Society of Washington D.C., the Sons of Norway Washington Lodge, the Norwegian Church Service of Washington D.C., and the Norwegian Embassy. It was a great long day.

On the quiet, very early Sunday morning (0600 hours) drive back to Charlottesville, VA. (where the rest of my family was celebrating a mini-reunion at the M.D. graduation of a nephew at UVA), I reflected on what 17, May meant - especially the differences to Norwegians and first generation Norwegian-Americans born in Norway on the one hand and to us second, third, and fourth generation Norwegian-Americans on the other hand. To the former group, it meant memories of barne- and russe togs waving flags down Karl Johan and every main street of each town and village in Norway, the royal family waving from the balcony of the palace, images of the giants of the Romantic Nationalist period like Henrik Wergeland, Bjornstjerne Bjornson, Edward Grieg, and Henrik Ibsen, and moving addresses about Eidsvold, 1814, and the Norwegian Constitution, as well as reflective references to the dark but heroic years of the occupation.

To Norwegian-Americans in general, however, it has meant something else. Yes, we have had our parades and 17 Mai Festivals; Stoughton, WI has a three day blast, and during my high school days in Chicago, I decorated my bike with red, white, and blue crepe paper and joined the great parade down North Ave, ending at the Leif Eriksson statue in Humboldt Park. Speeches were and are still made, often by prominent politicians like the year I recall at Humboldt Park by Illinois Governor Greene who stressed what great Americans that Norwegians make. But isn't what this Yankee Governor so glibly said in essence what most Norwegian-Americans think about when thinking of the heritage group they belong to? Pride, yes, in the honorable position Norway has today in the nations of the world regarding human rights, environment, and social justice at home, pride in Norway's admiral achievements of organization and athletics in the last winter olympics, of the epic achievements of Norwegians like Nansen, Amundsen, Undset, and Heyerdahl. But essentially, for most of us, the rock bottom pride of being a Norwegian-American is the conviction that we make good Americans and have made and continue to make contributions to the American traits which are traditionally valued as good and positive in our country.

Certainly, we often are grossly in error, but don't we in essence and subliminally believe that Norwegian-Americans essentially:

- *play by the rules, pay their dues, believe in individual responsibility and self-reliance, and are not a litigious group,
- *believe in the "janteloven" that no one is (or should not act like he or she is) better than anyone else,
- *lacking guile, don't make good used car salesmen, because their upbringing stresses straightforwardness, fairness and honesty?

Most Norwegian-Americans believe that there were, as Ole Rolvaag wrote, "Giants in the Earth in those days." Our Norwegian ancestors who came here without riches, often in the hold of a slow ship on stormy seas, lived in sod or log huts in lonely isolation, broke the soil and hauled out the stumps and rocks by hard physical labor, and helped build a decent community where their children had a more happy and secure future. The women, perhaps due to the Norwegian Viking period heritage, were often the bulwark and immutable guiding conscience of the family in hard times. These first Norwegian-Americans left a legacy of Norwegian-American colleges, a strong Lutheran spiritual imprint, political and economic reformism, and distinguished contributions in every aspect of American life. This legacy is, I believe, probably the most important aspect of pride and "Norwegianess" of the average Norwegian-American who has never been to Norway, but looks to it with fondness as his ethnic heritage. We are, of course, probably one of the most ethnocentric of the European-descended ethnic groups, but a large part of this identification of togetherness is because we believe we are, as a group, good Americans.

1999 STEVNE

Our Lag Stevne for 1999 will be held in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa on Thursday-Friday-Saturday, July 29-30-31, 1999. Our Annual Meeting will be on Saturday afternoon, July 31, 1999 in a room to be announced. See schedule of over 50 forums on Friday and Saturday(AM) below:

Session Times	Friday AM 8:30-9:45	Friday AM 10:15 - 11:30	Friday PM 1:15-2:30	Friday PM 3:00-4:15	Saturday 8:30-9:45 AM	Saturday 10:15 - 11:30 AM
Cultural I CFL- Rec. Hall	Promise Fulfilled Odd Lovoll	Immigrants and Education Conrad Thompson	Norway Today Consul General	Future of Norway Politically Culturally etc To be announced	Presenting A New Land in the Old Country Knut Djupedal	Bygdelaag Movement Odd S. Lovoll
Cultural II Valders 117	Art among Norwegians in America Marion Nelson	Art among Norwegians in America Marion Nelson	Anderson Bibliog & Internet Resources Charles Spetland & Dina Tofsbj	Emigrant Centers Hans Storhaug	Anderson Bibliog & Internet Resources Charles Spetland & Dina Tofsbj	Early Norwegian-American Churches Gracia Grindal
Cultural III Valders 168	Han Ola og Han Per Georgia Rosendahl and Arnold Sater	Skogfjorden Concept: Bldg Bridges Becky Fish Hegstad	Vesterheim--Topic? Janet B. Pultz	Nrwgn Perception of Norwegian-Americans To be announced	Storytelling: Drawing on the Power of Our Heritage Sarah Meybaum	Sami Perspective Anja Kitti
History I Valders 264	Why the Emigrants Left Norway John Christenson	Ole Goes to War Gerald Rosholt	Early N-Amer Church in St.. Ansgar, IA Audrey McKinley	Old Myths Doug Rossman	Early Nrwn Settlements Forrest Brown	Life in Rural Norway in the 1800s Ann Gesme
History II Koren 217	Norwegian Influence in the World To be announced	Folklore Fights the Nazis Kathleen Stokker	Early Norwegian Women Joan Buckley	A Viking Voyage Is There A Legacy? Orlyn Kringstad	Norway Today: Sports To be announced	Reminiscing about Rolvaag Solweig Zempel
Family History I Olin 102	Critical assmt of finding N Kings & Vikings in your Fam. Tree Lars Loberg	Nobel families, their destinies & where to look for descendnts Lars Loberg	Nrwgn Court and Probate Records Gerald Haslam	Nrwgn Court and Probate Records Gerald Haslam	intro to geopolitical events leading to liberation of Nrwy 1814 Lars Loberg	Storytelling with Gordon Jacobson
Family History II Olin 112	Norwegian Naming Customs Lee Rokke	Olaus Magnus Map of Norway Carol Urness	Emigration & Immig Records Marilyn Sorensen	History of Nrwns in Mpls & St. Paul David Mauk	Nrwgn RecordsOvervu Marit Lucy or Elaine Hasleton	Early Nrwn Union Cty Dakota Terr Blaine Hedberg
Crafts Jenson 105	Working with wood Norweign Style Dick Enstad	Bunad Selection and Acquisition Sue Sutherland	Immigrant's Trunk Jennifer Johnston	Handwoven Bedcvrs fr Farms of Norway Lila Nelson	Influence of Nrwn Craft on Amer Dress Susan Tortore	N-Amer Architecture Darrell Henning
Art & Music Jenson 112-RH	Psalmmodikon: music on a string Beatrice Hole	Norwegian Art Mary Jo Thorsheim	Secrets of Nrwn Life - Song & Fiddle Carol Sersland & Karen Solgard	Seterjente in story and song Sarah Granskou	 to be announced	Norwegian Songs Sing-a-long Margaret O'Leary

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

THURSDAY: Registration and craft displays/sales in Centennial Union (daily), demonstrations by artists, genealogy(Olin Hall); Jacobson Farm Tours(9:00am and 1:00pm); Vesterheim Museum Tours(also Fri, Sat am) Membership Table(could use some volunteers); Special observance of Olsok, St. Olaf's Day.

Entertainment: Noreg Leikarring from Drammen; LeRoy Larsen and Scandinavian Ensemble, Minneapolis.

FRIDAY: Folk Dance Teaching, craft sales,demonstrations; Evening Banner & Bunad Parade, all Lag members wearing a bunad are encouraged to march in the parade. PLEASE BRING YOUR BUNAD.

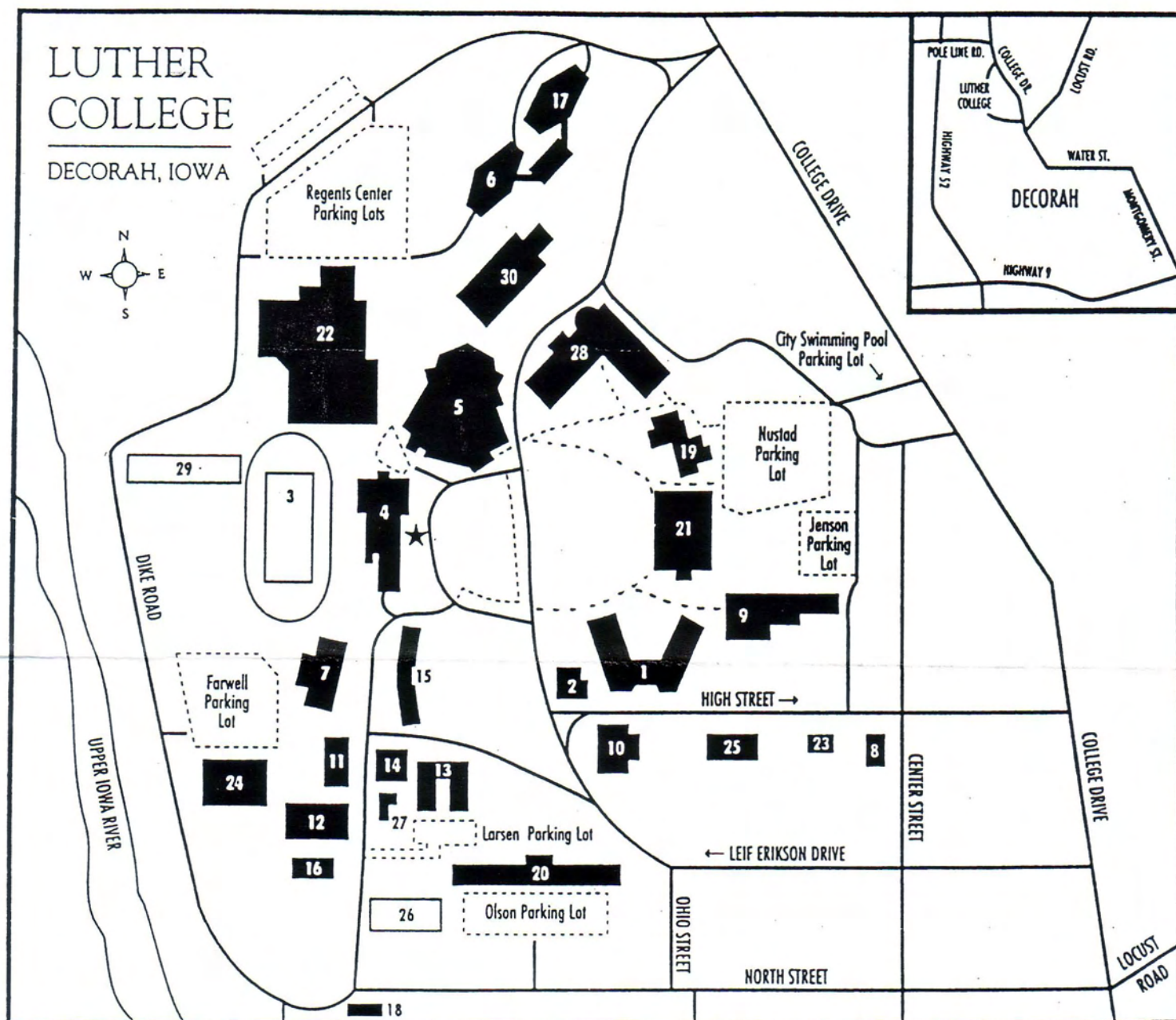
SATURDAY: Lag Annual Meeting, elections. Other items(1:00 PM). Banquet at 5:00 pm(Reserved tickets).

LODGING: Limited. Call Cindy Womeldarf(319)387-1538 - available Thurs at 2:00 pm in dorm.

MEALS: at Luther College even if you are not registered there.

DIRECTIONS: Because of huge bike tour from south, you may wish to use the Pole Line Road north entrance.

NOTE: See Registration Materials in Fall 1998 or Spring 1999 NHOH NEWS



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Brandt Hall | 11. Korsrud Annex | 21. Preus Library |
| 2. Campus House | 12. Korsrud Heating Plant | 22. Regents Center |
| 3. Carlson Stadium | 13. Larsen Hall | 23. Sperati Guest House |
| ④. Centennial Union <i>HQS</i> | 14. Loyalty Hall | 24. Storre Theatre |
| 5. Center for Faith and Life | 15. Main | 25. Sunnyside |
| 6. Dieseth Hall | 16. Maintenance | 26. Tennis Courts |
| 7. Farwell Hall | 17. Miller Hall | 27. TOHS |
| 8. Gjerset House | 18. Norby House | 28. Valders Hall of Science |
| 9. Jenson Hall of Music | 19. F.W. Olin Hall | 29. Wulfsberg Tennis Courts |
| 10. Koren | 20. Olson Hall | 30. Ylvisaker Hall |

30 COUSINS/SPOUSES MEET IN BRUMUNDDAL By Roland Krogstad

As a result of forming NHOH LAG and genealogical research of descendants of Anders Olsen Berget and Alis Eriksdatter Spikdal-eie by Thor Bøhmer of Furnes Historielag, 30 cousins and/or spouses met for the first time at a beautiful home in Brumunddal, Hedmark on Wednesday June 16, 1999. This was a very gratifying and memorable day.

During the afternoon, May Britt Hansen who had made all arrangements took our family of 15 to the Furnes Church which was built in 1702-1707. We then took our bus part way and hiked up to Berget, a former husmann farm where my great grandfather, Anders Andersen, was born in 1837. The three buildings have since deteriorated to rubble. It was gratifying to see our grown sons, wives, and grandchildren rummage through the ruins and walk where my great grandfather had once planted his first footsteps over 150 years ago. We descended to our waiting bus and went down to better farmland at Krogstad engen where Anders' family lived when they started emigrating one by one in 1871 to Pierce County, Wisconsin.

Lastly, we went to the beautiful home of Turid and Gunnar Ropphaugen in Brumunddal, Hedmark to experience Norwegian hospitality at its best. We were greeted by four hostesses dressed in beautiful Norwegian bunads, followed by friendly fellowship, and partaking of a bounteous Norwegian meal with breads, cakes, meats, cheeses, salads, lefse, rommegrøt, hand-picked cloudberry and other desserts. More fellowship, picture taking, and goodbyes ended a most enjoyable and memorable day. People with allegiance to flags red, white, blue (one with a cross, one with stars & stripes) were brought together because common blood flows through their hearts!