

NHOH News

Volume 11 Number 3 Fall 2006

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

Hilsen Fra Presidenten:

It's all about volunteers. An organization like NHOH depends on them. We've got a significant need right now for a newsletter editor...someone to take on the responsibility for putting out our *NHOH News* 3 times a year (spring, summer, and fall).

I understand Norwegians pretty well (mostly because I see one every time I look in the mirror). On the whole we're responsible, industrious, capable, and a little goofy looking (or maybe that last one is just me?).

But.

We're damn slow in raising our hands in the air when someone says "we need a volunteer." In fact, when we hear the word "volunteer" our shoes become the subject of intense inspection, we avoid all eye contact, and we pray that someone else will jump to their feet and say "I'll do it!" (Even when we're thinking (very very quietly) to ourselves - "we'll, I could probably do it"). Stop thinking. Shrug off your ethnic shackles. Say yes.

There is some genuine work involved in serving as a Newsletter editor, and I don't want to make light of it. It's a manageable commitment. Articles need to be hustled, regular contributors need to be nagged, submissions need to be trimmed, lopped, and tweaked. The editor needs to be a first-rate communicator, a capable writer, and needs to be good at hitting 3 deadlines a year. But they don't need to be everything or do everything.

Depending on the strengths, skills, and desires of the editor in charge, there are some newsletter tasks that could readily be farmed out to other volunteers or an *ad hoc* newsletter committee. The NHOH Board of Directors would be happy to help an editor-elect find a custom solution that fits their needs. For instance, it might help to assign regional reporters from our membership base, or turn the newsletter layout tasks over to a member with good word-processing skills, or find someone willing to handle the mailing chores 3 times a year. But designing a committee without a chair is backwards. First we need someone to say "Sure, I can take that on."

One other important note: This is a job without location barriers. With the relative ease of email and internet communication it could be managed as readily from Timbuktu as Tomah. If you're in a far-flung spot and haven't been able to take on other NHOH volunteer opportunities because of distance, this might be the niche for you.

We owe sincere thanks to Rollie Krogstad, who has held the editor's pen for all these years, while managing a myriad of other tasks as well. He deserves the break he has requested from newsletter duties and will be happy to discuss the work involved with any successor candidate(s). Pick up the phone and call him at (608) 238-6652 or me at (651) 690-0872. Soon.

Best, Dx

REPORT OF 2006 TRE LAG STEVNE

"Following the Timber Trail" was the theme.

Attendance at the stevne held in Eau Claire tied the previous record of 242. Attendees were asked to rate activities on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest. Between eleven and seventy-one attendees responded to the various activities. Of the 34 activities rated; 11 received an average rating of 9 or above; 19 received an average of 8-8.9; 3 received an average of 7-7.9; and one received an average of less than 6.

The church women's supper, use of computers & maps for genealogical research, the opening ceremony, and Norwegians in science, were among the highest rated activities. Many positive and some negative comments and suggestions were offered for the Tre Lag Stevne Planning Committee to consider.

Most evaluations were positive. Five of our Lag members staffed three seminars in the area of genealogy. Highlights of the stevne included: A Trempealeau County Heritage Tour; Chippewa Valley Museum and Logging Camp; Norwegian Immigrants to Dunn County; History of the Chippewa Valley; and the Genealogy Lab.

2007 STEVNE

is scheduled for Onalaska/LaCrosse, Wisconsin on August 1-2-3-4, 2007. Plan now to attend!

NHOH HISTORY BOOK COMING SOON!!!

After about 1 ½ years of researching, critiquing, and writing *HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST TEN YEARS OF NHOH LAG 1995-2005*, it will be off the presses soon !!

A Tusen Takk go to the following who critiqued and/or served on the Writing/Editorial Committee consisting of Mike Bovre, Orrin Helstad, Rollie Krogstad, Gene Nelson, Gary Olson, John Reindl, Shirley Schoenfeld, Joy Shong, Bill Simenson, and Donald Teigen. A special thanks goes to Dixie Hansen for the arduous tasks of obtaining additional photos designing and laying out the book.

The book describes the founding and development of NHOH Lag. It contains eleven chapters about the Lag's chronology from 1995-2005. These chapters describe highlights of the annual stevner, Board meetings, the annual Membership meetings, *NHOH News*, year-end membership, and treasury reports. Chapter 12 describes genealogical research and resources provided by the Lag. The next section, chapters 13-17, contains interesting

stories about Norwegian heritage, emigration, and settlements in America. Several appendices complement the stories and over 100 photos bring them alive. We think you will like it, for a very reasonable price.

From the Desk of the Genealogist

John Reindl

As was clearly shown at the stevne this year, the Internet is becoming a more and more powerful source of genealogical information all the time. In the genealogy lab, we had wireless access to the Web and a volunteer who helped people look up information. Several talks included extensive information available from the Internet, including a wide array of maps and related resources as shown by Dixie Hansen in her presentation.

One of the very useful web page for genealogical resources for Norwegian records is the Digital Archives web page from Norway. With over a dozen categories of information, such as censuses (1801, 1865, 1875, 1900), emigration records, military records, probate registers, tax lists, etc, it has been well known as a genealogical resource for some time.

A new feature of this web is the posting of digitized copies of church books. While not all books have been scanned, the list is very extensive – at the beginning of November, for example, there were 145 church books from Hedmark fylke available on the Internet. The scans are very clear, often much easier to read than the microfilm copies that many of us have struggled with over the years.

To access this resource, go to <http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/>, choose English as your language if you need to, and then "Digitised parish records" at the top. Choose the county of your choice and a page will come up of the available registers.

I hope that you find this a useful source of information and that you will share with the membership other web sites that you have found to be valuable.

NORD HEDMARK og HEDEMARKEN LAG



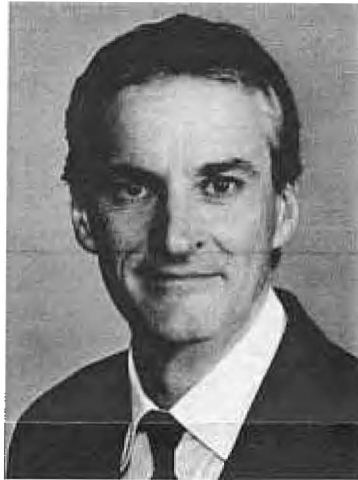
Highlights of the First Ten Years
1995-2005

the word on henrik ibsen

Permission from *NEWS OF NORWAY*, By Norwegian Embassy

JONAS GAHR STØRE
Minister of Foreign Affairs

■ People all over the world are moved by Henrik Ibsen's writings. He was a Norwegian citizen, but he was a universal writer. If we are to use the *Ibsen Year 2006* effectively, we must renew our contact with both the writer and his work. We must remember that Ibsen could be sharply critical of Norway and Norwegians. The scenes he creates are set in Norway and are typical of their time. But he put freedom of expression, environmental protection, gender equality, human dignity, corruption, and use of power on the agenda in such a way that his plays have continued to be relevant. These are issues that belong at the top of our agenda today. But Ibsen does not resolve them for us. As he said himself, his calling was to ask questions, not to give answers.



ADRIENNE SWEENEY
Actor and Ibsen Festival Coordinator
Commonweal Theatre Company, Lanesboro, Minn.

■ As an actor it's a joy to perform Ibsen – he offers unparalleled roles (especially for women), dynamic conflict, and issues that are still relevant today.

Through my work as Ibsen Festival Coordinator, Ibsen has offered me much more. He has connected me with the most remarkable people: the academics whose passion for Ibsen is inspiring, the individual fans who use their vacation time traveling the globe to see his plays, the Norwegian-American residents of our area who respect the national treasure that is Ibsen, and many more. For me, Ibsen's legacy is palpable on the stage – and beyond.



NORA IBSEN
Great-granddaughter of Henrik Ibsen
Producer, IBSEN 2006, Norway

■ I am the great-granddaughter of Henrik Ibsen, but I'm sorry to say that his writing gene was not passed down to me. However, he was also a very practical theater-man, so at least I've inherited that.

As producer for the opening ceremony of IBSEN 2006, it was fascinating to see how Henrik Ibsen is still an inspiration to artists from around the world. Among other things, we presented *Hedda Gabler* as a Chinese opera; *Ghosts* as a ballet, and a rap-version of *Peer Gynt*. There is no doubt that the old man is still alive!

My next task for IBSEN 2006 is premiering in Egypt in October: *Peer Gynt* with Edvard Grieg's original music. The

venue will be amazing: The play will be performed in front of the feet of the Sphinx, with the pyramids as the background – a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



LARS ROAR LANGSLET
Former Minister of Cultural Affairs
Chairman, the National Ibsen Committee, Norway

■ Ibsen's work belongs to world literature. He competes with Shakespeare for the title of the most-often-performed playwrights through the ages. In 2006 – the *Ibsen Year* – approximately 200 Ibsen plays will be performed on stages all over the world, and we have already counted 8,000 events in 80 countries.

Ibsen was unmistakably Norwegian, heavily inspired by our culture and history, and using Norway as the backdrop for most of his plays. He was a critic of his fellow countrymen, however, and a teacher forming Norwegian identity. When he spellbinds people from other countries and cultures, it is because his works open up to universal issues – the conditions under which we exist as humans, and our struggle to liberate ourselves and lead authentic lives, and for the aristocracy of the mind and the will.

He was a master of the craft of the drama, the interplay between dialogues in which every single word is subject to thought; the scenography, in which color, lighting, and the symbolism that provides extra depth to what's being acted out onstage. Endless perspectives can come into play even in dramas that seem simple on the surface. Ibsen uncovers the great questions in life, but leaves it up to us to answer them.

Ibsen has inspired me since childhood, and will always do so. Each time I see or read another Ibsen play, I discover new dimensions.



Permission from *NEWS OF NORWAY*, By Norwegian Embassy

We asked eight Ibsen enthusiasts how they feel about the Norwegian playwright

KIM NESSELQUIST
CEO and Executive Director
Norwegian American Foundation Seattle, Wash.



While I was living in Norway, Henrik Ibsen was to me one of many great "historic" Norwegians – like Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, Grieg, Asbjørnsen, Moe, and Henrik Wergeland. After moving to the United States, I became aware of the fact that Ibsen is very well known, and to my surprise, in many ways is better known elsewhere than in Norway itself. The biggest surprise was that most who know of Ibsen, do not know that he is Norwegian. This year however, I am very satisfied that Norway is making an attempt to make Ibsen "Norwegian" around the world.

I continue to be amazed that the themes of Ibsen's plays, written over 100 years ago – focusing on human fundamental values and rights, environment, maltreatment of children, the institution of marriage, freedom of expression, women's rights, and business ethics, are still very pertinent and important topics of society and political life today.

SIGRID MELLE
Teacher of Norwegian at the Awty International School in Houston, Texas

My love affair with Ibsen's plays began at 16 when I read *A Doll's House* for the first time. I was struck by his piercing questions about truth and personal freedom, as have been so many people through the years. It is hard to stand up for what you believe in when society pressures you to conform. And a lot of the questions Ibsen poses in his plays are related to just that:



Who are you? Are you true to yourself, or do you let others decide who you ought to be like Mrs. Alving? Nora, for instance, took this question very seriously; she left her family and ventured into the world to find out who she was and what was right for her.

Do you have a firm moral center in your heart, or are you like Peer Gynt, egotistical and with no center at all?

Do you dare to speak the truth about society's poison like Dr. Stockmann – even though you may be the only one? Each generation will strive to find truth and freedom in their lives, and that's why the questions that Ibsen poses still will echo through the ages.

LOUIS JANUS
President of Norwegian Researchers and Teachers Association of North America (NORTANA), Minnesota

In September, 1969, I had just returned from an unbelievably wonderful summer on the island of Senja in North Norway. Because I wanted to continue learning Norwegian, I enrolled in an intermediate Norwegian course at the University of Chicago. I had read some short stories with my instructor, Kjetil Flatin, and he saw that I was ready for a bigger challenge. Before I knew it, I was captivated by Nora, Torvald, and Dr. Rank in *Et dukkehjem*. Since then, I've devoted my life to learning and teaching Norwegian, as Coordinator of the Less Commonly Taught Languages Project at the University of Minnesota and developer of a new multimedia Norwegian dictionary for English speakers.



RUNE ENGBRETSSEN
Professor of Scandinavian Studies at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota and Researcher at The Centre for Ibsen Studies, University of Oslo

"The highest to which a human being can attain is this: to realize one's self in the conduct of life. That is a task we all have; but the vast



majority bungle it," Ibsen wrote to his friend and colleague Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson. This statement could stand as a motto for Ibsen's authorship and its appeal to me.

Through his masterful plays, Ibsen shows that each human being – regardless of limiting external and internal factors – is a being of infinite worth. Each one of us has a call to become an authentic human being. The task is to embody the basic values of the beautiful, the true, and the good in my personal life and to enact them communally in caring relation to and with others. That involves a choice. I choose, therefore I am. A human being is granted a choice. How so? A choice of what or whom, and under what circumstances?

Those are questions of human freedom and self-actualization that Ibsen pursues with deep insight and vigorous, dramatic thrust in *Brand*, *Peer Gynt*, *A Doll's House*, indeed, in most of his plays.

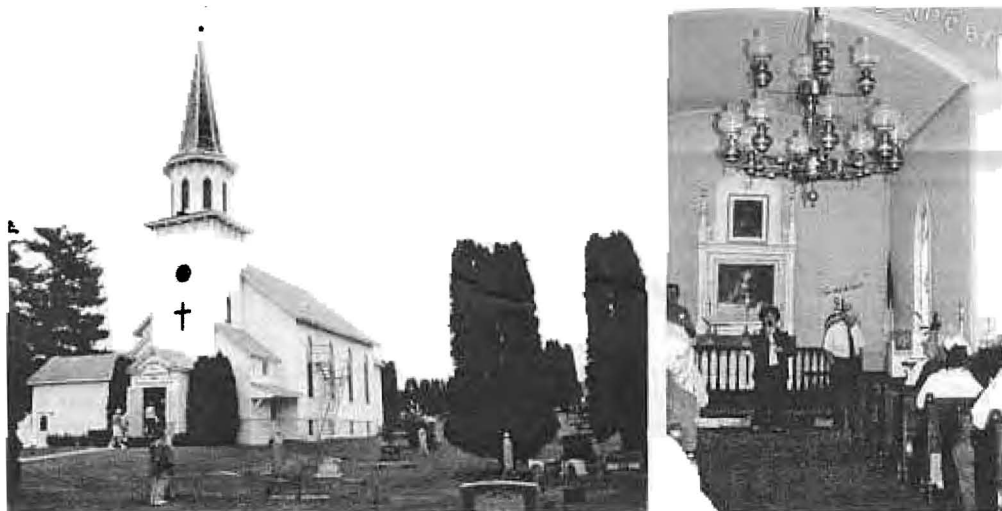
TRE LAG STEVNE, AUG 2-5, 2006, EAU CLAIRE, WI



Dixie Hansen and Irma Krogstad posed like Vanna White to welcome us at the registration desk

WEDNESDAY; TREMPEALEAU COUNTY HERITAGE TOUR

PIGEON CREEK NORWEGIAN CHURCH



VISIT TO THE AMISH COMMUNITY



Tempealeau County Tour at Stevne

By Joy Shong

If you didn't attend the 2006 stevne in Eau Claire, you missed a wonderful tour of the northeastern corner of Trempealeau County. Two busloads of stevne attendees rode through this region with deep Norwegian roots. We picked up our tour guides in Osseo, who each gave an entertaining review of the history of the local area and its Norwegian settlers.

Osseo was founded in 1857 by New Englanders as the Beef River Station along the stage line started in the 1850's between Tomah and Minneapolis-St. Paul. The Buffalo River (also called the Beef river because the French word for buffalo, bouef, is pronounced 'beef') that runs through the Beef River Valley, and through Osseo was dammed to create Lake Martha. There are no natural lakes in this part of the state because it is in the unglaciated area of Wisconsin.

The library in Osseo was built with \$300,000 donated by a man named Hauge. This was a surprise because no one knew he had money. Osseo is also home to one of the oldest rod-and-gun clubs, founded in 1890.

Norwegians settled in the hills around Osseo in the second half of the 1800's. The King Valley Lutheran Church in Osseo was founded as a Hauge church by followers of Hans Nielson Hauge. It was considered a 'Low Church', with very devout parishioners, and not tied to the state church and its rituals. Music accompaniment was provided by the Autoharp, which was a more humble instrument than the organ.

As we traveled south on Highway 53 we learned that Trempealeau County had 27,000 inhabitants in 1900 and had 'grown' to 28,000 by 2000. Our first stop was at the Buena Vista Wayside Park that offered a spectacular view of the rolling valleys. The Norwegians saw these hills, thought they looked level, and settled their farms on them. The Poles and Germans settled on the actual flat land in the valleys.

We drove off the beaten path onto Eimon Road that runs along a beautiful wooded ridge to Skoyen Road. The pines in the area are not native, but were planted after much of the hardwood forests were logged off in the 1800's. Many Norwegians worked in the lumber industry in Northern Wisconsin, and there are still many lumber mills in Trempealeau that mill the cherry and oak trees of the local forests. The forests also provide habitat for deer and turkey. 10,000 deer are harvested in Trempealeau annually. A flock of turkeys in a field by the road was one of the sites provided by the tour. How thoughtful of our guides. I wonder how they did that?

The Pigeon Creek Lutheran Church in Pigeon Falls, on Highway 121, was our next stop. The following excerpt is from the church's brochure:

The "...congregation was founded in 1866 by a small group of Norwegian settlers. They were initially served by "Circuit Rider Pastors," meeting in homes and the schoolhouse. Services were held on week days and about six times a year. The Pastor's salary was \$50 a year.

The resident Pastor, Rev. L. Sherven, was called in 1872 and served until 1876. During his time of service, construction of the church began. (1874, \$4500) 23 acres of land (450) were purchased on which the first parsonage was built in 1876 (20'x20', \$600). From this land, the Pastor was also supposed to make "his living". 3 acres of land were also purchased for the cemetery (\$30). The second parsonage was built in 1912 (\$4500).

In 1876, Emanuel Christophersen, a Theological Candidate from the University of Oslo, accepted a call to serve this congregation along with five others. The church building was completed to the extent that it was used for his installation services on May 31, 1876. His son, Einar, followed him and served until his death in 1963. The "Christophersen Era" covered a span of 86 years and the church was always referred to as "Christophersen's Church."

The brass kerosene chandeliers that were originally installed in 1914 were converted to use electricity in 1937. They were eventually removed and put in storage where they were stolen. Someone observed the theft and told the person to return them, and they did. One of the chandeliers has been restored and remounted in the church. In 1973 the advent candles set fire to part of the church and damaged the piano and paint. During the remodeling a basement, bathrooms and furnace were installed. The new cushions by the rail were stuffed with corn husks, and the original husks are still in the cushions.

The church was in the Norwegian Synod. During a schism within the church another group broke away and formed a second congregation in Pigeon Falls. The original church is called the 'upper' church. A Mr. Eckert, who

owned a general store in town at the time would not let people from the upper church shop in his store. One pastor now serves both churches.

On the road again, we traveled to Coral City past farms with tobacco barns. Trempealeau is the farthest north that tobacco grows. This cash crop paid many mortgages during the depression for many of the Norwegian farmers.

In recent years Amish have moved to the area, making Wisconsin the 4th most populated state for Amish folk after Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana. The first Old Order Amish arrived on the continent before the Revolutionary War. They still live and farm in the same way as many of the first settlers of Wisconsin, making their farms living representations of farming from the nineteenth century.

At this point the busses split up and went to different places. Our next stop was the Amish "Kountry Store" south of Coral City on Highway S. Several families arrived in buggies to shop for food and other household items while we toured the lower level store and upper level home. The young, barefoot daughters were babysitting a small boy and graciously showed the group around the house.

North of Whitehall we traveled on Highway D to Highway O to Pleasantville. The art gallery owned by the Sandivar's, who did much of the painting at the Norske Nook restaurant in Osseo, was along this stretch of road. We turned onto Highway E at Pleasantville and traveled past the intersection of E and EE where the village of Hale used to be on Hale Creek. The turn on OO toward Strum brought us to the Elk Creek Lutheran Church, a beautiful brick church on a hill with a spectacular view from the cemetery of the valley. Several members of the tour had attended this church or had ancestors in the cemetery.

This Missouri Synod Lutheran church was founded by part of the West Beef River congregation from Elk Creek, not because of any ideological split, but because the location was closer to where they lived. The church is commonly referred to as the Hale Church.

Pastor Sigurd Falkestad, who came from Brooklyn after graduating from seminary in 1907, was instrumental in the formation of the church. The building burned in 1914. While the pastor was visiting in Norway in 1915 he met a wood carver, Jacob Espidal, a folk artist of the Arts and Crafts movement. The Arts and Crafts style of folk art, which saw a revival of dragon or Viking style carving in Norway, coincided with the independence of Norway in 1905. Pastor Falkestad asked Espidal if he would carve the altar for the replacement church. The altar carving Jacob did was similar to the carving in the stave church in Vik. Two dragons are biting the base of the cross near the top of the altar. This is the only altar of its kind in the U.S.

The tour ended with a marvelous Lutheran Church-Lady potluck supper in the basement of the church. The variety of hot dishes, salads and desserts was impressive. If anyone left hungry, they had no one to blame but themselves.

To the Editor:

The 2006 Tre Lag Stevne was a busy and fun time. As Hospitality Chair, I was almost overwhelmed by the goodies brought by members. The krumkake (two kinds), lefse, flatbrod, spritz and other cookies were wonderful and the pickled herring on crackers was very popular also. It proved a popular place for visiting with other stevne attendees as well.

Mange tak for alt!, Joan Dosseth Skalbeck

The early worm gets eaten by the bird, so sleep late.

Submitted by the Optimist Club of Arkansas City, Kansas

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat are really good friends.

The easiest way to find something you lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

TRE LAG STEVNE, AUG 2-5, 2006, EAU CLAIRE, WI

SEMINAR SPEAKERS



Even Bergsengstuen, Roland Krogstad, Marilyn Sorensen, Tim Hirsch, John Russell, Hans Myhre



Roger Reinhart, Marv Slind, Johanna Hocker, Elaine Hasleton, Sue Sutherland, Marv Lang



Clair Haugen, John Reindl, Dixie Hansen, Joy Shong, Colleen McFarland, Karl Andresen

VENDORS & HOSPITALITY ROOM



Jack Twet & Jo-Anne Larsen were two of the vendors offering heritage related products. A hospitality room was a new feature this year.

TRE LAG STEVNE, AUG 2-5, 2006, EAU CLAIRE, WI

GENEALOGY LAB



Some newly discovered cousins.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS & MEMORIAL SERVICE



Dick Feeney gave the keynote address: History of the Chippewa Valley. Pastor Richard Mork led the memorial service. Elsie Elverud accompanied on the piano.

TRE LAG STEVNE, AUG 2-5, 2006, EAU CLAIRE, WI

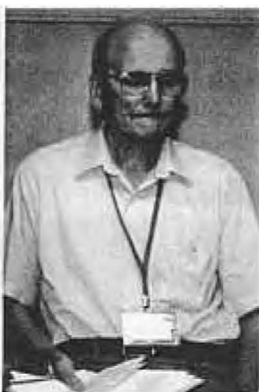
NHOH BUSINESS MEETING, Fri Aug 4, 2006



NHOH LEADERSHIP FOR THE COMING YEAR: l. to r.; Gary Olson, Dixie Hansen, Roland Krogstad, Elaine Smiley, Ron Helstad, Joy Shong, Marilyn Sorensen, John Reindl. Not pictured Mike Bovre.



Dixie Hansen presented Tusen Takk Awards to John Reindl and Rollie Krogstad and a President's Certificate of Appreciation to Bob Christensen.



Joy Shong, Rollie Krogstad and Dixie Hansen gave reports. Charter members Karen and Peter Christianson returned.

TRE LAG STEVNE, AUG 2-5, 2006, EAU CLAIRE, WI

FRIDAY NIGHT BANQUET



David Oyen



Bunad Parade



Norske Folke Sangere

SATURDAY LUNCHEON



TRE LAG STEVNE, AUG 2-5, 2006, EAU CLAIRE, WI



See these & more photos in color on the NHOH website: www.nhohlag.org
15 Photos by Bob Christensen & Gene Nelson

NEW MEMBER BIOS

Many bygdelags request genealogical information from new members to start them on the path to involvement. Some even publish *new member bios* in their newsletter. Some lags collect this type of information now to include in future lag yearbooks or history books. See Example below. As you know we are in the process of developing *HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST TEN YEAR* to be published by Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag. Your Board of Directors would be interested in your feedback as to feasibility, format, content, etc. for collecting this type of information.

NEW MEMBER BIO (Example)

Submitted by Bill Simenson

Robert B. Simenson was born at Cameron, Wisconsin on 29 OCT 1923. At the age of 18, at the outset of WWII, he left the streets of Chicago and enlisted in the U.S. Navy and spent 3 ½ years cruising the North Atlantic Ocean in convoys carrying supplies to the battle fronts in the European Theatre of Operations. After the war and after some time rehabilitating, he went to work for American Airlines at Midway Airport. Starting as an aircraft cleaner, in nine years he worked his way up to Dispatcher's Assistant. He left there for personal reasons and soon after, founded and published a community shopping guide in the Joliet area of northern Illinois. It became very successful and due to his popularity in the area, he was the President of the Lockport Civic and Commerce for nine years and a member and a President of the Christian Laymen's Association of Joliet, Illinois. He was helpful in founding the Christian Youth Center of Joliet which is still successfully functioning to this day.

Bob's marriage of 26 years and fathering four sons, ended when he lost his wife—at the Courthouse in Joliet. Now divorced, he turned his attention to his first love, serving the God who made him. He moved back to the scene of his childhood, Rice Lake, Wisconsin, in 1982 after a bout with cancer. Changing to a healthier lifestyle and by the grace of God, he has no further problems with it.

In 1988 he had been introduced to "care providing" and became a respite provider for the developmentally disabled in contract with Northern Pines. Shortly afterward, he established a two-bed home and cared for three men for 11 years. In September of 1994, a tragedy struck the Simenson family. Bob's policeman son, Sgt. Timothy of Crest Hill, IL was killed in the line-of-duty by a gunman hiding in the trunk of a getaway car. Bob subsequently wrote and published a book about his son entitled, *Not To Be Forgotten*.

In April, 2002, Bob tried unsuccessfully to convince three of his friends to apply for the open position of Program Manager at a home he had known about for many years, Ag-ri-cove, which was now managed by Northwest Pathways to Independence. For no reason, he then applied, and was approved and accepted. He worked there for three years and has now accepted a call to be a live-in volunteer at Country Life Ministries, Portage, Wisconsin and will be promoting their health seminars, cooking schools, and school of evangelism.

MAP SERVICE

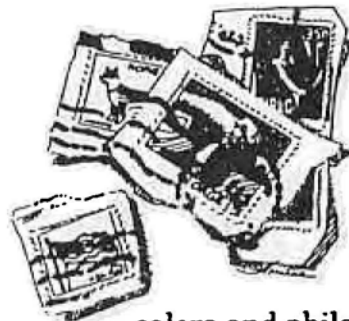
The Lag has over 45 large scale topographical maps showing farms and other features in each kommune of the NHOH Lag areas. If you want a "xerox" copy of the part of the map showing your ancestral farm in Norway, please indicate the farm names, and the kommune, parish, city, village, or town, and mail a stamped self-addressed envelope to John Reindl, Genealogist. The maps will also be at the Stevne. Originals may be ordered from Vesterheim Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library.

SEEK: YOU MAY FIND!!

To help members find missing ancestors & descendants.

TUBFRIM

NEVER THROW AWAY USED STAMPS



TUBFRIM is a humanitarian organization owned by the Norwegian Health Service. Used postage stamps are collected, packaged and resold to wholesalers and philatelists world wide. The profits earned from these activities are used to provide care and aid to handicapped children. All types of stamps are received with thanks. Tubfrim gives used stamps a *new value*.

INTERESTED IN MEETING MORE NORWEGIANS?

We lose about 12-15 members per year. Our Lag membership has declined from about 225 households in 1999 to 185 in March, 2005. Your NHOH Board is concerned about the need to recruit new members to offset the loss of those who choose not to renew their membership for various reasons, such as become deceased, complete their genealogy, join other lags, etc. Would you be willing to serve as an ambassador for our lag and help us maintain membership in our Lag?

1. Identify potential new members, make contact, and invite them to attend our stevne and/or to join our lag?
2. Set up displays and/or talk about our Lag at Norwegian festivals or gatherings, lutefisk dinners, or at Sons of Norway activities, etc. with maps and photos of Norway, brochures, etc?
3. Another way to bring forth our Norwegian Heritage is to give gift memberships to our children or grandchildren.
4. Perhaps you have other suggestions to recruit new members?

Please request Membership Brochures from Roland Krogstad, 2718 Regent Street, Madison, WI 53705.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

One way to bring forth our Norwegian Heritage is to give gift memberships to our children and/or grandchildren. They will then receive three issues of HHOH NEWS per year and perhaps attend our annual stevne. You'll note several examples in our membership.

Ole and Sven die and wake up down below. Checking on them, the devil finds them dressed in parkas, mittens and bomber hats, warming themselves around a fire. He asks, "What are you doing? Isn't it hot enough for you?"

Sven replies, "Vell, ya know, ve're from norderen Minnesoda, de land of snow and ice and cold. Ve're yust happy for a chance to varm up a little bit, ya know."

The devil decides that these two aren't miserable enough and turns up the heat. The next morning, there they are, still heavily dressed. The devil asks again. "Can't you guys feel the heat?"

Ole says, "Vell, ve said ve're from norderen Minnesoda and ve're yust happy to varm up."

In response, the devil cranks the heat up as high as it will go, but while everyone else is wailing and screaming, Ole and Sven are in light jackets and hats, grilling walleyes and drinking beer. Sven explains, "Ve don't get too much varm vedder up in International Falls, so ve yust got to have a fish fry in dis nice vedder."

The devil furiously turns off all the heat.

The next morning, in temperatures below zero with icicles hanging everywhere, people are shivering too much to even complain. Seeking out Ole and Sven, the devil finds them in their parkas, bomber hats and mittens, jumping up and down, cheering like mad men.

The devil is dumbfounded. "You're happy when it's hot and you're happy when it's freezing cold. What's wrong with you two?"

Ole and Sven look at the devil in surprise as Ole says, "Vell, don't ya know, if dis place froze over, dat must mean de Wikings von de Super Bowl!"

Budstikken, La Crosse, WI / Fesselyngen Runespekk

REVOLVING PLOWSHARE

Contributed by Mike Bovre

The revolving disc plow was invented by Ole Ringness, son of Jens and Kari Ringness. Ole was born in 1843 in Loten, Hedmark and emigrated to America with his parents in 1851 and moved to Bosque County, Texas in 1854.

He got the idea for the disc plow when he was hauling logs from the Leon River. He noticed that the concave shape of his broken wagon wheel caused the soft wet sod to turn from his wagon. On a trip back to Norway to visit, he was going through Washington, D.C. to get a patent on this new invention. He died mysteriously on his trip while in New York in 1872. He did not get the patent.



Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News
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First Class Postage

2007 DUES DUE !!

If your mailing label has 2006 on the top line, it means your **Lag Dues expire on December 31, 2006 and are now due** for the calendar year January 1 to December 31, 2007. When paying dues it is a good time to update addresses, apprise us of moves, etc., as indicated on the **DUES RENEWAL FORMAT**. Make checks payable to NHOH and mail to Joy Shong, Treasurer, N4695 Highland Drive, Sullivan, WI 53178-9705

DUES RENEWAL FORMAT

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TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$

GENEALOGY CHECK-UP

How would you rate your genealogical research progress? ☐ Excellent? ☐ Satisfactory? ☐ Needs More Work?

How many of your 16 Great-Great Grandparents have you identified?

Have any of your grandchildren visited an ancestral farm or homestead?

If your genealogy research needs more work, there are several types of information to look for:

1. Have you identified your ancestors in government censuses in the township or city in the county of the state in America where they settled and lived; and in Norway on the farm in the kommune of the fylke where they lived?
2. Have you identified your ancestors in church records in America where they settled or lived; and in Norway in the kommune or parish in the fylke where they lived?
3. Have you checked naturalization records at the Clerk of Court in the county seat in the county where they resided at the time? It's a two-step process and the second step could have occurred in a different county if they moved.
4. If they were involved in property transfers, you may wish to check at the Register of Deeds office, also probate records in America and in Norway.
5. Other sources may include military, school, passport, ship passenger lists, obituaries, plat books, bygdeboker, etc.

The above records are generally accessible or available in several sources:

1. The Internet
2. Your State Historical Society/Museum/Library. May conduct workshops.
3. A local/county/Norwegian or Historical Society/Museum/Library. May conduct workshops.
4. The Vesterheim Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library, 415 West Main Street, Madison, WI 53703, PH:(608)255-2224, have excellent staff for assistance for a fee. Conducts workshops.
5. A Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in your community; PH: 1-800-346-6044, for location, computer programs, assistance. Conducts workshops.
6. John Reindl, Lag Genealogist, 4514 Gregg Road, Madison, WI 53705, PH: (608)238-0393, for assistance.

We wish you well in your genealogical research. If you are just getting started, obtain copies of pedigree/family tree charts and family group charts, and start filling in known family information beginning with yourself.