

NHOH News

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Hilsen Fra Presidenten

Every year as the Stevne planning gets underway, I believe with all my heart that this one is going to be the best one ever. And do you know what? I've never been wrong yet!

We build on our experience, evolve as a planning team, scrap a few things that proved unworkable, put a little shine on the finest jewels of the past, and tap into new resources and new ideas.

The theme of TreLag Stevne 2007 perfectly fits our LaCrosse Venue:

Norwegian on the Move
Rivers, Roads, and Rails

And, inspired by an overwhelming show of support at last year's Stevne, we have decided to live out our theme in real life this year with a Thursday night Mississippi River Cruise on the LaCrosse Queen. Norwegians on the Move! It's going to be fun!

Mark your calendars for the LaCrosse TreLag Stevne, August 1-4 2007.

After 2+ years of hard work by many volunteers, I'm pleased to tell you the we have published a Lag book, "Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag / Highlights of the First Ten Years" which is now available for purchase (see order form elsewhere in this newsletter).

You may think, as I did initially, that an organization like ours, that's still in its youth, is a little presumptuous to publish a "history" so early on. But, as I've seen this book come together, I'm convinced that it's an important document – not just in capturing (while it's still fresh) the intertangled complexity of both struggle and satisfaction that go into starting an organization from scratch - but also in setting the stage and expectations for our future. This is a group that has come a long way. Volume II is ahead of us. And we've got a lot to live up to. That's a good thing.

I hope that every NHOH member will want a copy of this book. I won't tell you that it's a riveting cover-to-cover read – because it wasn't intended to be. But it will be something you'll find a reason to pick up and page through many times over the years. It has successfully captured who we are and includes many stories of our ancestors too. I think you'll enjoy the memories of NHOH's tentative rise from the scattered ashes of the old Østerdalslaget. *What year did we take that great tour of Koshkonong? Who was that guy who built the miniature Nidaros church replica? Who attended our first meeting? What's that bald guy's name again? What members of our group have passed away? Does anybody have a copy of our constitution and bylaws? When was the Bygdelag Centennial in Decorah?* There are many many answers to everyday organizational questions in this book and a whole slough of photographs to remind you of our ancestors, our origins, and the days of our youth.

Continued on page 12

NORD HEDMARK/HEDEMARKEN TO THE STATE OF WASHINGTON USA

Adapted from: K.Bjork, O.Lovoll, K.Nilsen, V.Stoen, H.Ulstad, *Osterdalslaget Aarbok*, and U.S.Census.

As the Nation's population moved westward, so did "urbanism" as illustrated by the Puget Sound area in the state of Washington from the cities of Everett to Seattle and Tacoma. Lovoll(1) indicates that this region became the main destination of Norwegians as they settled among the protected sea lanes and bays into separate Norwegian communities at Ballard, Everett, Island County, Kent, Paulsbo, Seattle, Stanwood, Tacoma, and others. Employment was found in fishing, shipping, and logging. In urban areas they also obtained employment in the construction and building trades. Women became employed as housekeepers. These communities have maintained their character throughout the years. From Bjork(2) we learn that the completion of the transcontinental railroads with their ensuing advertising campaigns in Scandinavian papers, marked the beginning of a substantial migration by rail to the Pacific Northwest. Attractions included the availability of railroad and government land, the moderate climate. The ocean, mountains, and lakes and streams reminded them of Norway the land they left. The U.S. Census of 1880 and 1900(3) revealed that many different nationalities came to Washington state from such countries as: China, England, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Russia, and others. Norwegians also came from most states of the Upper Midwest. They looked forward to the relief from the hot dry summers and the cold blustery winters. Some came directly from Norway to the east coast and traveled by train across the country. Fishermen coming from the coastal regions of Norway and later first- and second- generations played a dominant role in the halibut, salmon and fish oil industries of the Pacific Northwest. Some ventured north to Alaska and the Bering Sea during the cod season.

Lovoll(4), also indicates: In 1900, Seattle took on a Scandinavian flavor; in the 1920s, 1/4 of the Norwegians in the state lived in Seattle; in 1940, Norwegians were the largest ethnic group in Seattle. In 1990, King County which includes Seattle, had over 110,000 residents who claimed Norwegian ethnicity. In the state as a whole, there were over 333,000 first-and-second-ethnicity Norwegians(6.9%). Geographical mobility has dispersed Norwegians throughout the U.S.. Nevertheless, the 1990 Census indicates a persistent strength in their traditional regions of settlement. Of those who gave Norwegian as their first and second-ethnicity, (51.7%) resided in the Midwest that year. Minnesota continued to lead in numbers of people of Norwegian ancestry, Wisconsin ranked second, and North Dakota fifth. The West had 32.5% of all Norwegians, with California ranking third after Wisconsin, and the state of Washington fourth. The South had 9.5% of the Norwegian-American population, and the Northeast 6.2 percent.

As Norwegian immigrants settled in Washington state, a few as early as 1870s and 1880s, over 160 names from Nord Hedmark and Hedemarken Districts in Norway were identified in the following sources. Dates and localities are indicated when available. As time passed, some residents moved. Recognize any kinfolk? Are these names of any value?

From: Martin Ulvestad, 1907 (5):

T. Sund and Peter Sund from Ringsaker to Pierce County, WA in 1895

Cyr Oakland from Tysnes and Halvor and Sam Underson from Os to Douglas County, 1884

John Dahl from Trysil to Spokane County, 1888

Martin H. Strandvold, Olaf and Harold Strandvold, Ole Strambo, Henry Hanson all fra Trysil to Yakima, 1895

H.O Berg, Paul & Martin Olsen, Ole Relson, Martin Iversen, all from Trysil to Stevens County, 1889

From: *Osterdalslaget Aarbok*, 1923, no author:

Olaf Fossum from Storelevdalen to Tacoma

Ole Moen from Tolgen to Bellingham

From: *Osterdalslaget Aarbok*, 1925-26, by Pastor K.J.Nilsenn

Rev. O.P. Grambo, from Trysil to Ellensburg

Olaf Strandvold from Trysil, moved from Yakima to Prosser

Harold Strandvold from Trysil, moved from Yakima to Potlatch

From Martin Ulvestad, 1930 (6)

Ole J. Rude from Vang, Hedemarken to Seattle, King County

Johan M. Wold from Stange to Seattle

(Immigrants continued)

Brothers Anton & Johan Tronsrud from Romedal to Seattle

L.K.Hoiby from Ringsaker and Easten K. Ostrom from Tolgen to Seattle

Pastor Anton Sandmel from Tolgen to Seattle

John Eide from Os in Tolgen to Seattle

Brothers Halvor & Peter Norby from Trysil to Seattle

From: *Osterdølenes Saga* by Pastor K.G.Nilsen, 1936, (7) page 406, spelling as per document

H.O. Berg in Prosser

Brubakken, Mrs Martha Kvėbak, in Everett

Botten, Mrs Clara Prestlien, in Sylvana

Eide, Mrs Křisti Wold, in Stanwood

Engebretson, John, Silvana

Engebretson, Mrs Anna, Silvana

Engebretson, Martin, Granite Falls

Engebretson, Cornelius, Marysville

Engebretson, George, Stanwood

Fredrickson, Mrs Brit, Spokane

Fosse, Mrs Elise, Ballard

Fossee, Mrs Mabel, Everett

Fournier, Mrs Tina Preestlien, Seattle

Grady, Mrs Mary, Seattle

Grambo, Per, Spokane

Grambo, Mrs P. ,Spokane

~~Grambo, Johan, Spokane~~

Grambo, Ole, Prosser

Grambo, Mrs Martha, Prosser

Grambo, Brorson, Cathlanete

Grambo, Milton, Ellensburg

Guel. Mrs Clara, Summer

Gronaas, Johan, Seattle

Gronlund, Pauli, Everett

Gronlund, Theodore, Everett

Gusk, Olaf, Port Angeles

Hanson, Mrs Oline Wold

Hanson, Mrs Petra, Westli, Everett

Hanson, Mrs Hatti, Seattle

Hanson, Mrs Cora, Seattle

Hanson, Mrs Emma, Seattle

Jessen, Mrs Ellen, Stanwood

Johnson, Ivar, Everett

Johnson, Johan, Everett

Johnson, Julia, Everett

Johnson, Minnie, Everett

Johnson, Irene, Everett

Johnson, Arthur, Everett

Johnson, Mrs Minnie, Bremerton

Kulbak, Mrs Ingrid Westli, Everett

Kulbak, Eunice, Everett

Kulbak, Evelyn, Everett

Kulbak, Raymond, Everett

Kulbak, Maynard, Everett

Knutson, Mrs Hanna, Sylvana

Kristianson, Mrs Ragna, Lohn, Redmond

Langsjon, Cornelius, Arlington

Langsjon, Nils, Sylvana

Lasson, Mrs Caroline, Norman

Loberg, Mrs Marion, Everett

Larson, Mrs Olga Prestlien, Seattle

Moe, Mrs Inga, Leavenworth

Molland, Mrs Clarissa, Everett

Molland, Mrs Hulda, Everett

Norby, Peter, Port Townsend

Olsen, Olaf, Olympia

Olson, Mrs Ingeborg, Westli, Everett

Oliverson, Mrs Elevine, Prestlien, Bellingham

Paulsen, Mrs Nina, Richmond Beach

Peterson, John, Arlington

Prestlien, Andrew E., Stanwood

Prestlien, Melvin E., Stanwood

Prestlien, Joseph E., Stanwood

Prestlien, Raymond E. Stanwood

Prestlien, Nels E., Stanwood

Prestlien, Elias, Concrete

Prestlien, Melvin, Everett

Prestlien, Donald, Everett

Rice, Oscar, Everett

Rice, Clarence, Everett

Rice, Mrs Clarence, Everett

Rice, Donald, Everett

Rice, Margaret, Everett

Rice, Lawrence, Everett

Rice, Mrs Lawrence, Everett

Rice, Shirley, Everett

Rice, Mary Jacqueline, Everett

Strandvold, Olaf Halverson, Prosser, moved from Yakima?

Sonmor, Gina, Seattle

Swanson, Josie, Seattle

Schroeder, Mrs Caroline, Everett

Schroeder, Wayne, Everett

Stuart, Mrs Wanda E., Stanwood

Stasvik, Mrs Minnie, Everett

Sullivan, Mrs Lillian, Everett

Stengrund, John, Everett

Stengrund, Mrs John, Everett

Storbeck, Marvin, Bremerton

Tenning, Mrs Thea Rosten, Seattle

Torgerson, Olaus, Everett

Taurtellot, Mrs Emma, Seattle

Storbak, Lars, Seattle

(Immigrants continued)

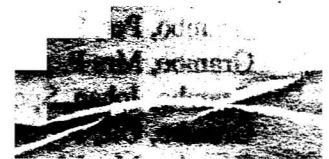
Lancaster, Mrs Clara, Tacoma
Langsjon, Johannes, Stanwood
Langsjon, Mrs Kristine, Stanwood
Langsjon, Edwin, Stanwood
Langsjon, John, Stanwood
Langsjon, Henry, Sylvana

Smebak, Elias, Bremerton
Westli, John E., Norman
Westli, Andrew, Everett

From: Vidar Stoen, (8) ISBN 82-996243-0-4, ca 2000. NOTE: Only four emigration or arrival dates were indicated.

Anne Marie Tronsbakken to Twisp, WA
Anton Jorgen Jonson Stetten, Seattle, 1891
Arnold Anderson Flyen, Renton
Arthur E. Lien, Spokane
Borghild Anderson Flyen, Renton
Britt Svendsdtr Lillebroken, Spokane, 1907
Carroll W. Hanson Asagard, Tacoma
Elisabeth Strambo, Everett
Goro Pedersdtr Brennodden, Seattle, 1872
Harold Hanson Asagard, Bremerton
Gudrun Hanson, Tacoma
Helene Anderson Gashovde, Seattle
Ida Anderson Gashovde, Tacoma
Juditta Tobiasdtr Greitrygglien, Spokane
Julia Mabel Hanson Sveen, Spokane
Julia Oliver Strombo, Tacoma
Lucille Aasegard, Seattle

Luella Melvine Hanson, Spokane
Mabel Jorgenson Ryhaug, Seattle
Marie J. Hanson Asagard, Paulsbo
Martha Faldet Sandene, Bellingham
Martin Kristianson Lohn, Kirkland, WA
Mona Lillian Brandvold, Spokane
Oline Pedersen, Seattle
Oliver Edwin Larson, Everett
Oscar Kristianson, Redmond
Oscar Theodore Brandvold, Spokane
Petra Sletten, Bellingham, 1900
Ragnhild Olesdtr, Redmond
Rudolph Brandvold, Spokane
Siver Hanson Eide, Stanwood
Thorvald Brandvold, Spokane



From Lovoll(9): Norwegians in the cities and in the country on the Pacific coast performed the same social and religious activities as Norwegians in the Middle West, from which so many of them had come, although it took time for the church to gather its resources and respond.

From Lovoll(10) Norwegian-Americans usually upheld their Norwegian heritage in a variety of ways: special foods for celebrated holidays, exhibits, parades, festivals, stevne, etc. On Puget Sound public busses flew the Norwegian flag during the week of May 17. This prime symbol of Norwegian ethnicity is gradually being incorporated into the array of American holidays much like St. Patrick's Day. People of many ethnicities march in the parade, provide entertainment, enjoy Norwegian food at the stands and line the parade route. In the 1990s ethnic traditions entered into the American mainstream. They can choose to be culturally Norwegian without having a Norwegian ancestry.

Hopefully, readers will recognize ancestral ties to some of the names listed. We welcome further accounts of individual experiences in the treks from Norway to the Pacific Northwest for consideration in *NHOH News*. A tusen takk

FOOTNOTES

1. Odd S. Lovoll, *The Promise Fulfilled, A Portrait of Norwegian-Americans Today*, University of Minnesota Press in cooperation with The Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1998
2. Kenneth O. Bjork, *West of the Great Divide, Norwegian Migration to the Pacific Coast 1847-1893*, Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1958
3. U.S. Population Census, 1880, 1900
4. Odd S. Lovoll, *Ibid*.
5. Martin Ulvestad, *Nordmaendene i America*, History Book Company's Forlag, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1907
6. Martin Uvelstad, *Norsk-Amerikeren*, Seattle, Washington, 1930
7. *Osterdolenes Saga*, Fuhr Publishing and Printing, Duluth, Minnesota, 1938
8. Vidar Stoen, *Utvandrer Historie for Follidal*, ISBN -82-996243-0-4, ca 2000
9. Odd S. Lovoll, *The Promise of America, A History of the Norwegian-American People*, University of Minnesota Press in cooperation with The Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1984
10. Odd S. Lovoll, *Ibid*, 1998.

Adapted from: **DEN HJERMSTAD SAGA** (Hamar, Norway to State of Washington, USA)

By: Dagny (Edel Bergljot Hjermstad) Reque & Solveig (Reque) Peck

The Rev. Hans Andreas Leonard Hjermstad's parents, the Rev. Ulrik Carl Severin Hjermstad and his wife Georgine, emigrated from Hamar, Norway where he had held the position of "klokker" and "skolelaerer." A *'klokker'* is a position much like an elder of the church; *'skolelaerer'* would be one who reads the lessons during the Sunday service. When he first came to the US he was head of a parochial school. In 1867 he answered God's call to become a shepherd to the Norwegian Lutherans in America. They entered their new land via the St. Lawrence River and settled in Red Wing, Minnesota. Hans Hjermstad was born in this town in 1877.

In 1880 the Rev. U.C.S. Hjermstad became an ordained minister in the "Norske Synode." "One of the parishes he served was in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. At that time most of the churches had their own schools for the congregation's children. The teacher there was Ludwig C. Foss, a young man in his early twenties. Hans Hjermstad and his eight siblings attended this school under Foss' tutelage from 1884 to 1886. In 1885, Rev. U.C.S. Hjermstad performed the wedding service for Ludwig C. Foss and Ida Hanson.

Rev. H.A.L. Hjermstad attended Luther Academy and College, and the Norwegian Lutheran Synod Seminary. He was ordained in 1904 and received his first call to Washburn, North Dakota. In 1905 he was married to Hulda Thoreson, a member of his father's congregation at Half Way Creek, near LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Their first parsonage was a sod house in the middle of the North Dakota prairie. It had one window for which Hulda sewed a curtain. They befriended a little gopher that came whistling at their only door. Rev. Hjermstad named it "Kong Haakon" after Norway's recently crowned monarch. Rev. Hjermstad received \$40 a year but at the same time he served nine other congregations in the same vicinity, most of which undoubtedly met in homes.

In 1906 their first daughter, Martha, was born. That same year Rev. Hjermstad was called to Lakota, N.D. at which place he served six congregations. Their second daughter, Signe, was born in 1908. When Signe was four months old her mother died of tuberculosis. In 1910, on Signe's second birthday, Rev. Hjermstad married Hannah Østby Sandlie, a widow with three teenage children. Solveig and Dagny were the two daughters of this second marriage. Hannah was now a mother with seven children.

In 1912 Rev. Hjermstad received a call to Mohall, N.D. where he served eight congregations. Because of poor health the doctor advised him to move to a milder climate and to seek an occupation that required outdoor activity. In 1917 he and his family, along with a cow and chickens, moved to the state of Washington. The chickens flew out of the freight train as they were crossing the Rocky Mountains. They settled briefly in Custer, WA as they went to investigate the farm nearby which they had seen advertised in *Decorah Posten*. The house there was a tarpaper shack.

In the spring of 1918 they secured a mortgage on a farm in Pleasant Valley, WA near Birch Bay. This place must have seemed like paradise. Instead of the flat, dry prairie of North Dakota, they now lived beside a virgin forest of tall evergreens. On their property were two fruit trees and an abundance of wild blackberries, a little wooded glen through which ran a clear, rippling stream with an old moss-covered log bridge. The deep well furnished them with the most wonderful water. They no longer had to buy water for 50 cents a barrel as they had done in North Dakota. They had a beautiful cozy home with a field stone fireplace and plenty of free wood to keep them warm. Times were extremely difficult for farmers during the First World War. In 1920, unable to pay the mortgage, the family had to move. Fortunately, they were offered a vacant house four and one half miles away and within walking distance to the church. Among their new neighbors was a family that generously provided them with milk.

There was a vacancy in the "Molde" Lutheran Church in Bothel. With 13 cents in his pocket, he and his family moved there in 1921. Rev. Hjermstad served congregations besides Bothell, in Redmond and Novelty, WA. In 1923 he received a call from Chinook, WA where he served until 1925 when he answered a call to serve the Lutheran Church in Anacortes, WA and a neighboring community in Lake Campbell. He was a pastor there for eight years until his death in 1933. The Rev. Hjermstad was in God's service for twenty-four years, serving thirty congregations, living in nine parsonages and twelve homes.

Hannah Hjermstad was an excellent mother and stepmother. She managed well under the most difficult circumstances. Her father had been a tailor and she in her turn had his talent. Rev. Hjermstad's old suits became beautiful garments for the children. Hand-me-downs and "missionary barrel clothes were common, as they were with many other families. Often, it is true, when a mother sews, her children are given a desire to learn to use the needle also. As they grew older, when they needed or wanted a new coat or dress they sewed it. There was no other choice and they helped each other in this task. This was the way of life in many families. They never felt deprived. In later years Hannah's daughters always called her "Pearl." She was not only considered a precious pearl by her family, but she looked like one with her beautiful white hair and fair skin, and her regal appearance. She was a beautiful woman.

Hannah was born in 1869 in Spring Grove, Minnesota. Her parents were David and Johanna Østby, who were born in 1821 and 1831 respectively. They emigrated from Eidsvold, Norway in 1857 to this picturesque countryside where in America land sold for \$1.25 an acre, according to the deeds shown in the family records. Some of the property was purchased from a family who had moved away for a safer place during the Sioux Indian uprising in 1862 at New Ulm, Minnesota, about 160 miles away.

Hannah often spoke of her childhood, her experiences—and the customs of the times. During recess periods at school, she said, one child would ask her friend, "Kan jeg fa lane kvaen din?" 'Kvae' in Norwegian means resin and the child was asking her friend, "Can I borrow the resin you are chewing?" The families would not spend money on such frivolous things as chewing gum, so "kvae" was the substitute. It was a hardened glob of resin from a cherry tree.

Whenever the family attended a fair in the vicinity the children would pick up discarded peanut shells that had been dropped by other people. Hannah and her sisters would hold the shells to their noses and were able to catch the delightful fragrance still clinging there.

There was a large sign in the basement of her church, the social hall. It was directed to the farmers who chewed "snus", chewing tobacco. "Du skal aldeles ikke spitte pa gulve." (You ABSOLUTELY shall not spit on the floor") It appears they had money enough for snus but not chewing gum. She would also tell of the custom, following a funeral service, the church bells would ring out the number of years the departed one had lived.

The most impressive story of her childhood was about Christmas Eve. All of the yuletide preparations had to be completed, the whole house thoroughly cleaned, all the cooking and baking done and in readiness, "Da tenner moder lys til ingen krok er mørk." That means that mother had lit all the candles in the house. Then the family would all stand in the front porch, where the whole countryside was covered with glistening snow, and the sky covered with glistening stars, in order to hear the distant church bells ringing in the birth of the Christ Child, and announcing salvation to all. This was the prelude to their Christmas.

Hannah died in 1957, nearly 88 years old. Her funeral was held in the church of her childhood near Spring Grove, Minnesota. At the close of the service, Martha said, "The Bells!" The family stood in rapt attention and joy as this same church bell, which Hannah had listened to so joyfully in her childhood was now tolling her age.

"KLOKKER END KIME OG KALDE"

"Church bells are chiming and calling," from the old Norwegian hymn 'Built on a Rock.'

Hannah is buried in the beautiful old Half Way Creek cemetery near her childhood home. She is at rest beside Hans Hjermstad and many members of his family.

Going back to 1913, shortly after moving to Mohall, North Dakota, Rev. Hjermstad compiled a photo album of his four daughters and composed a very fitting poem about each child. He had a tremendous ability to read character and to give proper admonition for each person in his gifted poetic way. Each poem is followed by that daughter's brief biographical sketch in the following order of birth: Martha Solveig Hjermstad Cederberg, Signe Dagmar Hjermstad, Solveig Johanna Hjermstad, and Dagny Edel Bergljot Hjermstad Reque (Mother of co-author Solveig Reque Peck).

Martha Solveig Hjermstad Cederberg

"Martha Solveig er den største
Trenger ofte kamm og borste.
Hun vil lære av vaere
Vil du ikke det, min Kjaere?"

*Marthe Solveig is the oldest
She often needs a comb and brush
She will learn to be neat,
Won't you, my dear?*

Og sa ma hun altid ga
Mor til hande med de sma.
Ikke tirre, ikke strike -
Men en hoist forstandig pike."

*And she always is
Mother's assistant to the little ones
Doesn't tease, doesn't screech -
But is a fine, independent girl.*

Martha was born in a log cabin on her maternal grandparent's property near the Half Way Creek church in Wisconsin. Her first home was the sod house in North Dakota, her parent's first parsonage. In later years, following the admonition in her father's poem she did indeed become a little mother to her three younger sisters. She continued this practice all of her life. Referring to the comb and brush in the poem, Martha became very adept with her own coiffure. It was one of her crowning features. Along with this capability she was able to create "hair-dos" for her sisters, giving them "shags" and shingling the back of their heads which style was all the vogue in the late nineteen twenties.

She attended Pacific Lutheran College (PLC) from 1924 to 1926 which years included her high school senior year and the two years of Normal School required at the time for a teaching certificate. Pacific Lutheran College, founded by the Norwegian Synod, began instruction with Rev. Bjung Harstad in 1894. She graduated from U of Washington in 1929.

In 1937, Martha married Theodore Cederberg. Since her grandfather, the Rev.U.C.S. Hjermstad had performed the wedding of Ludwig C.Foss in 1885, she commemorated that event by having Rev. Foss perform at her wedding in Anacortes, WA, 52 years later. She wore her mother's hand sewn gown, veil, and shoes from 1905. Most of her career was spent in teaching history in the Everett, WA, High School. Being strong in Lutheran doctrine, she never failed to point out the importance of the Reformation period. For two years, she and her husband had the opportunity to teach high school in Vienna, Austria for children of military personnel. Martha and Theodore lived in retirement in Edmonds, WA for many years. She died in 1988, two years after her husband.

Signe Dagmar Georgine Hjermstad

"Signe Dagmar Georgine
Kan nokk ogsa stundom grine.
Dog vil hun saa rod og rund
Oftest gaa med smil pa mund.

*Signe Dagmar Georgine
Stands and smiles
Although she is so pink and round
She most often goes with a smile on her mouth.*

Om jente mi al sin ti'
Vil prove vaere sot og bli'
Ja, saa maa hun altid ga
Med sine smilehuller pa."

*Of my girls, I always say
She will try to be sweet and blithe
So she most often goes
With her dimples on.*

The early years of Signe's life were very unsettling. She was four months old when her mother died of tuberculosis. Previous to this death Signe was taken to her father's sister's home where she was raised, and later, to another relative's home where as a little yearling, she was much adored and petted by much older cousins. In 1910 on her second birthday, her father married Hannah Sandlie and they brought Signe home to Lakota, North Dakota. This meant adjusting to a third home, starting another life, living with someone her own age (sister Martha) and, by the time she was four years old, she had two more sisters. Signe was a precocious child. She could read at the age of four. Her father had first taught her to read Norwegian.

Signe attended PLC from 1924 to 1926 in which years she completed her senior year of high school and the required two years of Normal School. She took piano lessons and became church organist at age thirteen. She pursued advanced

piano lessons at PLC and the recreation room there became very popular on Sunday afternoons where all the “dorm” kids would gather to sing the popular songs with Signe at the piano.

Signe became a schoolteacher at the age of eighteen, having all eight grades in one room her first year. Some of her students were fifteen and sixteen years old and much larger than she. She also taught at Edison, WA, teaching first grade and music in all grades. In 1930 she became ill with tuberculosis, she recovered, and was employed as an office manager with an apparel store in Everett which she held until her death in 1966.

Solveig Johanna Hjermstad Robins

“Men Solveig da?Aa,ja,aa,ja.
(Hun hetter ogsaa Johanna)
Med riggen stram hun bruser fram
En aekte “Suffraget Madam.”

*But Solveig? Oh, dear,oh dear!
(She is also named Johanna)
With a strong back she bustles forth
A genuine suffragette!*

I veiret staar det stric haar
Og mangt et farlig “Bump” hun faar.
Hverenda kvell, saa stø som fjell
Hun ligger sig med flasken, lell.”

*At all times with messy hair
She acquires many nasty bumps
And every evening as firmly as a mountain
She lies down with a bottle.*

Solveig was an excellent cook, but flower gardening was her passion. She created a beautiful setting for their home in Edmonds, WA on a bluff overlooking Puget Sound. She had many talents and would tackle any job no matter how difficult. She attended PLC one year only, her senior high school year 1929-1930. She wanted to become a nurse, but since it was the Depression, she put her talents to work being employed as a housekeeper in various homes in Tacoma and Seattle. In 1937 she married Carter Robins. They had one child, Erik Jon, who is now married to Cathie Goulet. They have two children, Aaron and Haldis. Aaron Goulet Robins, son of Eric and Cathie has one son, Severin Hans Robins, born November 7, 1998. After Eric enlisted in the Navy, Solveig became an aide in a nursing home. She died in 1984, 73 years of age.

Dagny Edel Bergljot Hjermstad Reque (Last of the four daughters)

“Skrape kaken” aller sisst
Hun ‘dukken’ er for sandt og visst.
I stolen sin saa rød og trind
Hun smiler dagen ut og ind.

*The last of the cake batter
She is certainly our ‘dolly’
Sitting in her chair, so pink and trim,
She smiles the whole day through.*

I sanser fem og hvert et lem
Hun viser sig saa rent fornem
Og navnet blott saa fint og flott
Er”Dagny Edel Bergljot.”

*With five senses and all limbs
She shows herself to be complete
And her name, so fine and elegant,
Is “Dagny Edel Bergljot.*

Dagny attended PLC for three plus years 1929-1932 which included her senior year in high school and the college requirements for a teaching certificate. On a choir trip to the Midwest she met her future husband who was a member of Luther College which also sang at the Luther League Convention in Chicago. In 1941, she received her Bachelor of Science degree from LaCrosse State Teachers College in Wisconsin. That same year she married Odd Frithjof Reque of Wisconsin. Many of his ancestors emigrated from Voss, Norway in 1845. Many were staunch pastors of the original Norwegian Lutheran Synod.

Dagny and Odd made their home in Everett, WA and were very active in church work. Two daughters were born to them: Georgine Ulrikke (1943) and Solveig Hildegard (1947). Georgine died suddenly in 1981 at age 38, a son, Daniel Erik died six years later as a result of an auto accident. Odd died in 1978 after a long illness.

Solveig attended the Cornish School of Applied Arts in Seattle and married Jeffrey A. Peck, also a Cornish student. They have two children: Severin Whitworth, b. 1968, and Maia Reque b.1972. Both are attending college. Maia Reque Peck Janus, daughter of Solveig and Jeff Peck has two children: Dominic Burton Janus, b. 23 JUN 1999 and Eva Reque Janus, b. 18 MAR 2003. This ends the saga of the Hjermstad family from 1821 to 1991.

HJERMSTAD FAMILY PHOTOS



Ulrik Carl Severin Hjermstad
Student-Norway-cl860



Hans Andreas Leonard Hjermstad



Hannah Mathilda Sandlie Hjermstad



Four Daughters in Mohall(clockwise from top):
Martha,Solveig,Dagny(with ball),Signe

HEDEMARKEN TO SOUTH DAKOTA (Thence to State of Washington)

Adapted From: *SUN MOUNTAIN-THE FAMILY SOLBERG*, By: Kristen B. Solberg, EDD and Ona C. Solberg, Cmdr(Ret) USN, 2003

Ingeborg Simensdatter Solberg was born 9 FEB 1841 in Byen, Ring, Hedmark, Norway. She married Borre Gudbrandson on 6 JAN 1875 in Brottum, Hedmark. He was born 17 JAN 1851 in Haugsløkken, Biri, Oppland. They had the following children:

1. Simon B. Solberg, b. 13 SEP 1875 in Brottum, Hedemarken
2. Gunder B. Solberg b. 20 JAN 1877 in Brottum, Hedemarken
3. Clara Solberg b. 13 SEP 1878 on Bagstad Farm, Yankton, Dakota Territory, USA
4. Knud B. Solberg b. 1 JUN 1881, Turner County, Dakota Territory, USA

On May 5, 1878, this family of four set out for America. They arrived in Mission Hill, Yankton County, South Dakota on May 30, 1878. They stayed with a Dagstad(or Bagsted) family. Their third child was born there. Mr. Dagstad and a Mr. Freng, a relative from Norway, went with Borre to search for a homestead site. Borre was concerned about flooding in the flat areas; he finally made a choice of 160 acres on the highest point at Turkey Ridge in Salem Township of Turner County. On June 11, 1878 he filed on this property and also for an adjoining timber claim of another 160 acres. He was the third settler to file in Salem Township; windswept treeless prairies with dry prairie grass as far as the eye could see, this was radically different from his beloved Norway. Now that they had a claim, the next step was to develop a place to live. On the side of a steep hill facing east, Borre dug a small cave, called a "dugout." This provided a cool place in summer and good protection from the blasts of winter. They moved in during November 1878. In about 1888, they built a large nice home on the timber claim. By this time the area was well-settled.

Borre passed his blacksmithing, woodworking, and general mechanical skills on to his sons. They would often make or fix things over the open forge. Borre purchased a steam engine and a threshing machine and expected the three sons to pay for it, which they did by doing plowing and threshing for the entire community. They generously shared their talents with their neighbors who frequently would bring broken machinery and equipment to them for repair. Borre's skills as a blacksmith were also in demand on the Missouri River boats. He worked at Yankton, and left Ingeborg and children in the dugout to "prove up" the homestead. He used skis in the winter time. To find his way across this flat land with no landmarks, he carried two small compasses.

Ingeborg was also a courageous and resourceful individual. A story goes that she saved the homestead and timber claim from a raging prairie fire. When the fire approached she went out and started a "backfire" which would be drawn to the larger fire because of the tremendous draft caused by the big fire. This provided a burned space which protected the home and the trees. She was the only one in the area who was able to save all of her property.

The pioneers of Salem Township were of several nationalities, but were a class of hardworking honest people who came out for speculation, and to build homes for themselves, their children and grandchildren. For dwelling places they used prairie stone, sod and logs hauled from points on the Jim(James) and Missouri Rivers. As soon as possible they turned their attention to schools and churches. In the summer of 1893, those of the Lutheran faith picked out a site and erected a nice building for their worship called the Bang Lutheran Church. In June 1902 a great windstorm leveled the building which was rebuilt in 1904. It was struck by lightning in 1915, and once more the people rebuilt a larger more costly one in 1918. Borre Solberg was the man of perseverance. The family were charter members of Bang Lutheran Church and helped build all three structures that were erected there. The two older sons were baptized in Brottum Church in Norway and the other two and all the grandchildren and some of the great grandchildren were baptized and confirmed at Bang. The first term of school started in winter of 1882-1883 in a sod house. Their only fuel was twisted course hay prepared by the teacher and pupils. A wood building was erected in 1883-1884.

Life of these settlers was a difficult one. Their homes were built of sod walls and thatched or sod roofs, or a cellar dug into the ground with a roof of wood poles and brush covered with dirt. Fuel was twisted hay. Wheat and corn were ground in coffee mills to get flour. Borre Solberg and a neighbor walked 30 miles from Yankton, each with a sack of

flour and groceries upon his back. Many of the winters were very severe; especially in 1880-81 and a blizzard in 1888. An estimated 100 lives were lost. Prairie fires were a hazard and caused serious damage. After spending over 45 years of pioneer life on the South Dakota prairie, Borre Solberg died 4 JUN 1923 in Turner County, South Dakota at the age of 72. Ingeborg died 19 OCT 1931 in Mission Hill, South Dakota at the age of 90. They are both buried in Bang Cemetery, Turner County, South Dakota.

Since he was the eldest son, Simon B. Solberg began work at a young age. At age 5 he was attempting to use the breaking plow and had to reach up to hold on to the plow handles. When the plow would strike a boulder (there were many of them) Simon would be sent flying from the plow handles. Since his father was working in Yankton, there was no one else to help at home. He became efficient in working with and treating livestock. In addition to his mechanical skills, he also loved horses and had a herd of about 20 at one time. The sleeping sickness epidemic of 1935-1937 destroyed much of the herd, and in later years he worked primarily with tractors. He also sang bass in the church choir. Simon B. Solberg died 9 AUG 1949 at Viborg Hospital, Turner County, at age 74. He is buried at Bang Cemetery.

Gunder B. Solberg grew up with the family on the homestead farm. He was a skilled carpenter and assisted with the construction of all three churches. Although he was the reason the family emigrated to South Dakota because of rickets, he was active in church work, choir, and treasurer for many years. He died 5 SEP 1957 in Yankton County at the age of 80. He is buried at Bang Cemetery.

Clara Solberg was born in America, lived in the first dugout and became an adept seamstress. She married Syvert Bruget(born in Ringsaker) on 22 OCT 1918 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Syvert worked on farms, eventually buying his own just outside of Mission Hill, South Dakota. He was chair of the school board and also became a county supervisor. Clara died 17 JUL 1968 in Beresford, SD at the age of 90. She and Syvert are buried at Bang Cemetery.

Knud (Knut) B. Solberg, the youngest child of Borre and Ingeborg was born on the homestead and grew up there. Knud, Gunder, and Clara each "proved up" on homesteads near Wasta, South Dakota, then they returned to the home farm. Knud attended Brookings State for one year and was offered a scholarship to teach blacksmithing; however, Borre did not approve of this and expected the three boys to pay for the threshing machine and the steam engine. This they did by doing custom threshing and plowing for most of the neighbors around.. A highly gifted blacksmith, inventor, and engineer, Knud invented a machine to take the bundles from a reaper and set them up into a shock of grain. He received U.S. and Canada patents for this machine. He frequently made his own tools over the open forge. He was a highly respected leader in the community, township, and county. He married Annie Camilla Carter on 16 MAR 1914. They had the following children:

1. Ina Oney Solberg	b. 15 OCT 1914	Lewistown, Fergus County, Montana	
2. Kristen Birdeau Solberg	b. 13 APR 1917	Turner County, SD	Currently, Ellensburg, WA
3. Dagny Cleo Solberg	b. 29 JUL 1920	Yankton, SD	Died 12 NOV 1981
4. Kaya Audrey Solberg	b. 26 JUL 1926	Turner County,SD	Died 12 MAY 1934
5 Knud B. Solberg	b. 11 JUL 1929	Sioux Falls, SD	Lives on the homestead farm

Knud built a two and one-half story house on the original homestead quarter where he and Annie lived until Knud's death with pneumonia on 12 APR 1929 at age 48. During the Great Depression and dust storms of the 1930s Annie was left a widow with five small children. She worked hard, refused government surplus, and never complained. She graduated from Luther Normal School in Sioux Falls, so she could teach in church school. She "proved up" a homestead near Presho, SD.

Kristen Birdeau Solberg/Opal Lavina Christopherson Family

Kristen Birdeau Solberg, married Opal Lavina Christopherson on 18 JUN 1944 in Corpus Christi, Texas. She was born 01 JUL 1921 in Yankton, SD. Kristen attended Junior College receiving an Elementary Teaching Certificate and completed a BA in English at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD in 1942. He taught radar at NTS until discharged from the military in 1946. He went on to obtain an MA and PhD, and became chair of Department of Psychology and Dean of Students at Pacific Lutheran University at Tacoma, WA. After eleven years at the University he took employment as a Psychologist at the Veterans Administration Psychiatric Hospital in Tacoma. After 20 years there he

retired as Chief, Psychology Services and with his wife moved to Ellensburg, Washington where they opened a private practice for a number of years. They have been active in church activities and in reparenting over 70 young people who have sought help to restructure their lives. Opal received RN certification in Minneapolis in 1943 and has worked in hospitals in Texas, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Washington.

They have the following children, now grown:

Kenneth Bruce Solberg, b. 21 JUN 1945

Don Alan Solberg, b. 17 SEP 1947

Ona Claire Solberg, b. 23 FEB 1958

Kenneth earned a PhD at Madison, Wisconsin, and married Marilyn Renee Frost. They became divorced in 1984. In 1987, Kenneth married Virginia Lee Ehrman. They had two children: Kevin and Brigit. Kenneth and Virginia were divorced in 1997. Kenneth married Jacqueline Kay Wiersma, PhD in Psychology at Argosy University. They live in Minnetonka, MN where he is Professor and Chair of Department of Psychology at Minnesota School of Professional Psychology. Jacquelyn also teaches part time at Argosy and has a private practice.

Don Alan Solberg married Joy Lynn Vander Maas in 1972 in Portland, OR. He received an MD from the University of Washington School of Medicine in 1973. He moved his practice to Ellensburg, WA in 1978, where he has remained. Joy has received a BS in Computer Software Design and Application and works in this field in Ellensburg. They have two daughters: Jessica Anne Solberg, b. 09 AUG 1975; and Kristin Kay Solberg, b. 06 MAY 1978. Jessica spent a year of College at Hull University in Hull, England. She later completed a BA in Theater Arts and is active in this field. Kristin also spent a year studying in England. Ona Claire Solberg pursued education and training in the field of Aviation Administration and pilot training. She enlisted in the US Navy and advanced to the rank of Commander, doing her major work in the field of intelligence gathering and analysis. She was overseas in both Desert Shield and Desert Storm and was stationed in the Pentagon very near where it was attacked on September 11, 2001.

Thus, some members of the Solberg Family which had settled on the South Dakota prairies during 1878 to about 1940, joined the previous wave of Norwegian immigration to the Pacific Northwest during its waning years

(Presidenten Letter from page 1)

Still hot off the press, we put 29 copies of the book in the mail as donations to various history libraries, genealogical centers, and Norwegian-American organizations in the US, as well as to several Historielags in the Hedmark area of Norway – and, already, have received very nice notes of thanks back from 3 of them.

Congratulations to the Committee who put so many hours and so much sweat equity into this great Lag history!

Dixie

2007 STEVNE

is scheduled for Onalaska/LaCrosse, Wisconsin on August 1-2-3-4, 2007. You may wish to make hotel reservations soon. See notice elsewhere.

The deadline for submitting copy to the editor for the next *NHOH News* is June 10, 2007!!

TUSEN TAKK TO CONTRIBUTORS

A Big Thank You goes to those who shared resources for this issue of *NHOH News*: Dagny Reque, Solveig Peck, Dr. Kristen B. Solberg, and Ona C. Solberg. Their valuable help was greatly appreciated.

FEEDBACK APPRECIATED

Your editor would greatly appreciate any feedback about the Norwegian settlement stories published in the *NHOH News*. Do any of the over 160 emigrant names from *NHOH* areas in Hedmark who settled in the state of Washington help anyone in their genealogical research? Would appreciate any leads to Norwegian settlement information in California, Canada, Colorado, Oregon, or any other state. Mange Takk.

THE STORY OF "ME" By J.W.B.

Dictated by Joe W. Brandvold in 1978; Joe's father was Martin Oleson Brandvold (1860-1930) who came from Folløien Alvdal. His mother (Dixie Hansen's Great Aunt) was Juditta Tobiasdatter Steivang, who also came from Alvdal. They immigrated in 1885 and 1887 respectively and married in Wilson, St. Croix County, Wisconsin. They had 11 children and lived separately on the move following the lumbering business. Reportedly the marriage was unhappy and ended in divorce. The sheer number of jobs that their son, Joe, had over the years is a story in itself. Juditta eventually moved to Idaho near Spokane, Washington.

Both my parents were born in Norway and came to America in their early teens. They met and were married in Wisconsin. I was born on December 13, 1901, in Stanley, Wisconsin, a small town of about 2000 people, boasting of a small sawmill and a creamery, in the center of a farming community. Nine of us children were born in Wisconsin, and one after we came to Idaho. About the first thing I remember is a house full of kids, as we all had lots of friends coming and going. My Dad was working at the sawmill, bought a lot and built a small house on it. The family soon outgrew it but we had to make do. We slept three in a bed, two at the head and one at the foot. We were all quite young.

The fall of 1906 was a bad one, winter started early, the mill shut down, leaving most of the men out of work. My Dad and a friend went out of town a short distance and killed a sleigh full of deer, probably 25 or so. They borrowed the team and sleigh from another friend. They sold the deer around town, they were all gone by noon. They didn't need a license then. This friend of my Dad had five children and a wife. There was no work so the two men decided to go to northern Michigan, where they heard there was work in the woods. They left Stanley with clothing and two blankets in a bedroll. They got work right away. My Dad got a job driving two head of oxen skidding logs about ten hours a day. The pay was 50 cents plus board per day. They worked the winter and decided to ride the freight train home to save money. They were almost home when they jumped off the train. My Dad made it but his friend fell under the train and was killed instantly.

In the Spring Dad put the house up for sale and took off for Idaho. He got a job right away, so in October 1907 Ma, us 9 kids and her younger sister took the train for Coeur d'Alene, Idaho which was near Spokane, Washington. My Dad was a logger, his only work in the woods. He came home a little bit for a couple of years, then just quit coming home. We moved to the west end of Officer's Row houses which were built for the officers when the fort was here. We had just one half and a Mrs. Swanson had the other half where she ran a boarding house for men who worked at the mill. Lots of children lived in the area. We lived in this house for a few years, then moved to the Officer Row house at the East end of the street. We boys went skinny diving in the Spokane River. I hit a rock and have a white spot in the middle of the back of my head.

When I was about 10 years old I got a job delivering groceries with a horse and buggy after school and on Saturdays. When I was 11 years old and still living in the Fort Grounds, a man who lived about 8 blocks from us asked me and my mother if I could sleep at their house, as he worked in the woods and was home only on weekends and his wife was afraid to be alone nights. I slept there about three months. She was very nice to me. They paid me a little and gave me breakfast. But boy did I get homesick.

In our neighborhood we kids had a lot of contact with the Indians, as they came in off their Reservations to the hills around here to pick huckleberries and to hunt deer. There was no season for them then. Whenever they needed meat they went hunting. Most of the men and women wore buckskin outer clothing. They kept their kids pretty well in camp, but once in a while they would get a little far away. Then some of us would start hollering at them and they'd holler back. No one knew what the other was saying, but that was scary fun. The Indians never bothered anyone..

Once a year the gypsies came to town and parked their wagons in the same place. They always had ten or twelve extra horses with them to trade with the local people. I heard older people talking about how the women and children would go into stores and carry off what they could in pockets they had in their skirts. They also told fortunes while there. Anyway, they only stayed two days, and everyone was glad to see them go.

The one big event of the year was when the big circus came to town and performed under the big top. They always held the event on the parade ground of the fort, right in front of our house. They arrived in town about 4 a.m. and there was

always a crowd of people to watch them unload. When they got every thing down to the location about 20 or 25 of us kids got to help putting up tents. They gave us each two tickets; we would have sneaked in anyway. They had a 15 piece band with them and about noon they had a pretty good parade up town and back. They had an afternoon and evening performance. By 10 p.m. they were packing up. The next morning before daylight my brother Melvin and I were there, finding small change, pocket knives, etc. We were lucky. Another event we enjoyed was the one or two carnivals that came to town every summer, watching the free shows outside the tents before they went inside. They drew big crowds.

One day when Ma was through washing she hung some dish towels on a line strung across the corner of the room over the cook stove. My brother and I thought we'd have some fun. We took some stick matches, stuck the heads against the hot stove and they would pop like small firecrackers. All of a sudden the dish towels burst into flames. I yelled "Fire" as loud as I could. My older brother Oscar was in the other room. He gathered all the towels in his arms and ran out the back door and threw them on the ground. He singed his hair and arms a little but it saved our house. I guess you know who got the lickings, which we both deserved 'cause we knew better.

One year Melvin and I did odd jobs up to the 4th of July so we could get some firecrackers to celebrate with. We went up town and got a lots of all kinds. They were very cheap then. We got about half way through the park on the way home and couldn't wait any longer to try a new one that was just out. We lit a couple and they were just super! Mel said, "Oh just one more and we'll put the rest away." All of a sudden Mel was a live firecracker! He had his pants pockets full of firecrackers and it seemed they all went off at once. I was scared and he was jumping up and down. Nobody was around so he grabbed at his pants to get them off and the whole front was blown off. His celebration was over quick. But I gave him some of mine so we still had good 4th.

All the time I was growing up in the Fort Grounds it seemed I was always working—washing windows, cutting wood cutting lawns or piling wood for someone else. But looking back at it all, I think we still had a lot of fun. The thing I think we enjoyed the most was a phonograph that my older brother Rudi saved for, for a long time. It was beautiful with a large pink and gold horn. It played cylinder records. We all spent many evenings sitting around listening to those records. There was a good assortment, from classical to comedy. Something for everyone.

About this time one of my older brothers had gotten married and divorced. His wife took off so he brought his 6-month old baby girl home to Ma to raise along with her ten kids. We had a very large dining room table and there was no talk at meal time at the table, except to pass something. I guess that was the only way Ma could keep any order at the table. One summer a friend and I herded about 22 cows across the Spokane River to a lush green pasture. Lots of people around town kept a milk cow and sold their surplus to the neighbors. These are the cows we picked up on our route in the morning and returned them in the evening. Lots of people kept a few chickens for their eggs also. I helped herd the cows while we still lived in the Fort Grounds.

When I got older I worked on a grocery delivery wagon. I carried the boxes of groceries into the houses. Another fellow drove the team and wagon. I was older then and could carry a 100 lb. sack of sugar or spuds quite easily. This was when I quit school, just one week before 8th grade graduation. I thought the pay was too good to pass up. I knew I would not go on to high school anyway. I took care of the horses, harnessed and unharnessed them daily.

The only means of advertising the local silent movies in those days was the local paper and posters put outside the theater. My brother Olaf started playing the cornet and I played the baritone. The owner of the theater rented a horse, wagon and driver to drive around town to advertise the movies. We sat on an old seat in the back and when the driver stopped every two blocks we were to play anything we could. We played 4 hours and each got \$1.50 plus three free passes to the movie so we were satisfied. The man told us later that attendance was way up.

I was 14 years old when I got a job for a short time at the Blackwell mill which was across the river. I picked board ends which were bundled and sold to the box factory to make boxes. One summer I helped make ice cream at a bakery using his equipment. Another summer a friend and I went over to Spirit Lake 30 miles from home to work replacing ties on the railroad, I got tonsillitis and was in the hospital a week and came home. One summer when I got older, I went up in the woods to a logging camp with my Dad. I was given the job of driving one large work horse skidding the logs after they were cut, down the mountain to where they were loaded to haul to the mills. I stayed a couple months, the food was good

and I had some money to bring home, and Dad gave me some money to give to Ma. Logging was not for me, I didn't like it, and it cut into my social life of dancing on Saturday nights.

My Dad was a large man at 6 ft. 4 in and 250 lbs. On Sept 29, 1930 he drowned in the Spokane River as he fell face down while getting a drink at the edge of the river. Ma was a small woman at 5 feet tall but she was a strong person for her size and a strong disciplinarian, but she had a house full of growing boys. After a day's work she would go to the Lodge and dance 3-4 hours. Her later years she lived in a downtown apartment in Spokane, Washington. Her last couple months she was ailing, but she was in the hospital only one week before she died of cancer of the pancreas in October 1952 at age 82. Her wish was to be cremated—her ashes are in a niche at Riverside Cemetery in Spokane.

When I was older one of my older brothers put in a good word for me to work at the largest lumber mill at that time, Blackwell across the Spokane River on Blackwell Island. This was my introduction to the lumber business. I did various jobs around the mill, mostly in the planer. I only kept this job a short time. For the next two or three years I had many jobs in many places, none too far from home. I worked at a mill in Spirit Lake and the longest time at a mill in St. Maries to pay a large dental bill I had. I then worked up the river at a place called St. Joe and another at Springston and another close to Harrison, Idaho. I also worked a couple weeks up at Kellogg at a mine, repairing the narrow gauge railroad that the ore cars ran on. I refused to go down into the mine. I quit and went home. None of these jobs lasted very long and had to stay at a boarding house and pay board and room. Another fellow and I went southwest of Spokane to work on a wheat ranch to help with the harvest. It was hard work and long hours but lasted only a month.

Most of the mills in the area had to close down in the winter—they couldn't get the logs out of the woods because of the bad winter weather. So I started to work at the City Bakery owned by a German and his brother. They were very good teachers and while learning the trade I also delivered bread and bakery stuff around town to different stores. How about a loaf of bread for a dime and a dozen donuts for 15 cents or 2 for a quarter? I developed eczema on my hands so I worked at the mill in the summer and the bakery in the winter for 14 years. Here I met Verla Mae Elder who later became my wife. We met at Tubbs Hill on Easter Sunday in 1921 and married that fall on October 1, 1921. We were happy and had two girls, Marion b. January 15, 1923 and Allis on August 1, 1924.

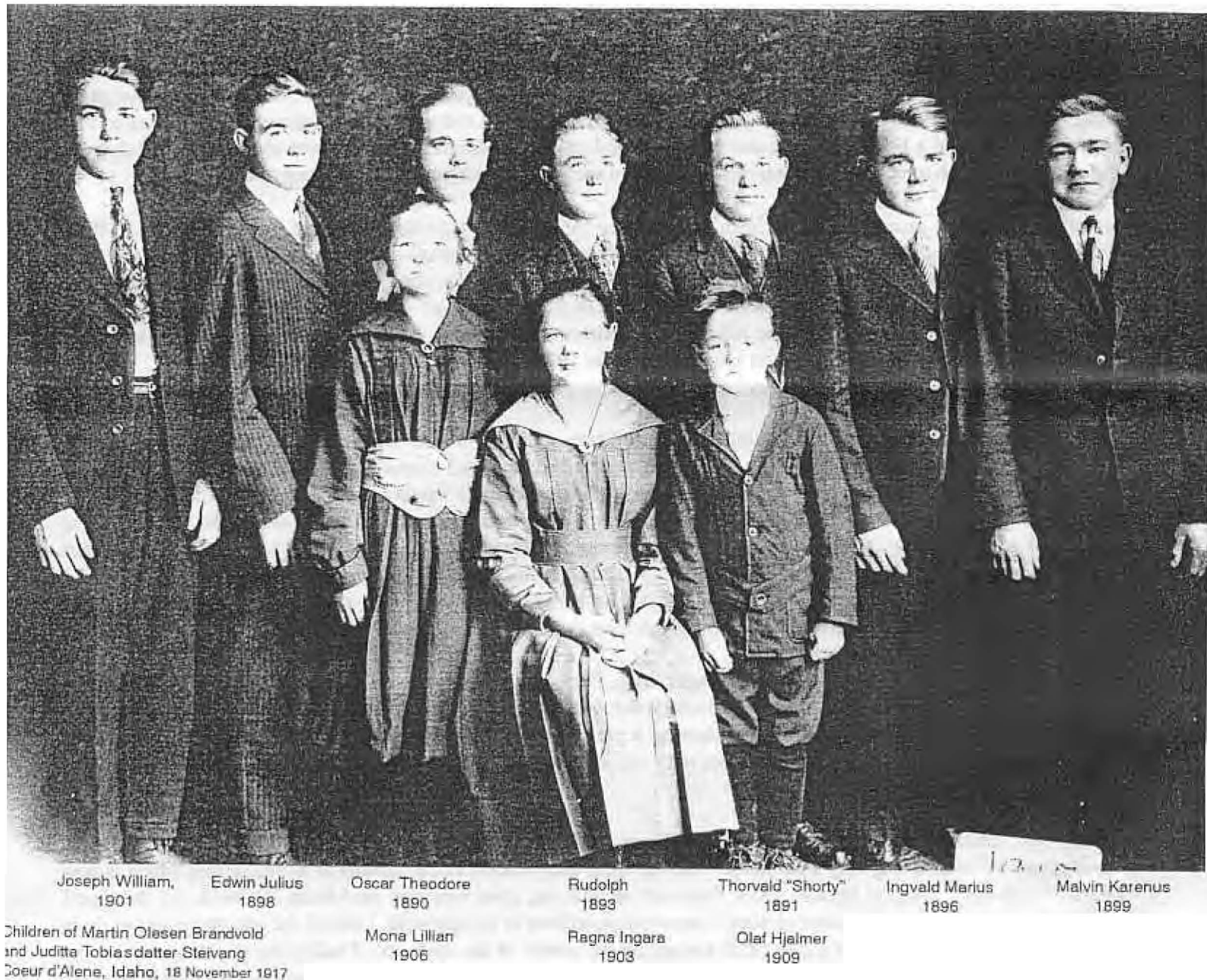
In 1928 we moved to Dover, a small sawmill town near Sandpoint. My brother was running a planing mill there and gave me a job at \$3.20 a day. While we lived there I also played trumpet and drums in a small dance band almost every Saturday night. We played all around the area, even into Montana. Patrons would take up a collection for a tip for us. All four of us in the band worked at the mill. We lived there a little over two years. The mill burned so we returned to Spokane and got a job at Western Pine mill at 25 cents an hour. We stayed at Ma's on south Cedar Street and took a bus to and from work. This left me \$1.86 a day. But we seemed to manage. My wife and girls moved to Cd'A and I followed. The country was still in the Depression. I signed up with the W.P.A. The pay was \$44.00 per month, I worked on the Gibb's by-pass a public works project. About this time our son, Glen was born on October 16, 1931.

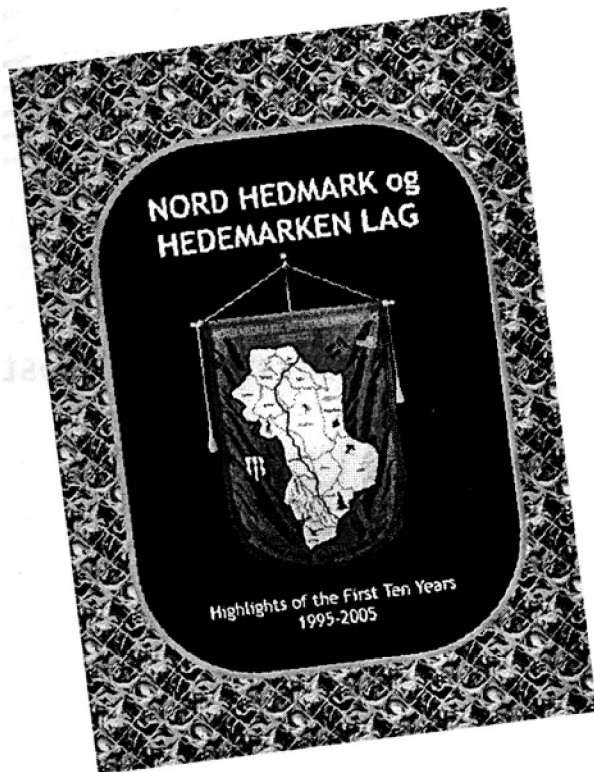
A friend of mine made me a deal to stay at his Aunt, Mrs. Pony Taylor's ranch east of town to cut cord wood for him and me and use three jackasses to skid the logs down to the road. He had an old chevy truck and would haul my wood to my home. We got a charge out of Mrs Pony chewing a plug of tobacco and smoking a corn-cub pipe. But she was a pretty good cook and pretty clean. I had trouble with the jackasses but used a 2x4 to keep them in line. They cut 14 cords of wood with a two-man crosscut saw.

Later on I was told of an opening at the box factory by my brother Inky who worked there. I got the job but it was in the northwest part of town, a long way from home. I stayed there until I heard of an opening at Rutledge mill which is now Potlatch Forests mill. I started there in 1936. Soon our second son, John was born on March 25, 1941. All the time I worked at Rutledge I was in the planer or shed, I never worked down in the saw-mill. I did all the jobs there was to do in the planer shed. As time went by I pretty much learned all the details of the operation. Finally, the shed boss—who was a good friend of mine retired and I was given his job. After a few years I was moved to the glue-up room as a foreman also. Here they took different width boards, glued them together under pressure and made wide ones. The last 11 years I worked there I was a foreman. While working in the planer shed a good friend of ours built a cabin up at the head of Hayden Lake. On weekends I'd do some carpenter work for him. I always liked to hunt and fish, and was lucky at bringing home deer, elk, pheasants, and bluebacks which my wife canned, much like salmon.

I retired from Potlatch Forests on December 31, 1966. We have traveled quite a bit, visiting our grandchildren. The one main event since retirement was the fabulous celebration our children arranged for our 50th wedding anniversary on October 1, 1971. They also went together and bought us a new gold color Chevrolet car, the first brand new car we ever had. These are memories we will cherish as long as we live. This pretty well covers the story of my 77 and ½ years.

P.S. About a year after I retired a friend and neighbor who worked in a store in the shopping mall north of town ask if I would play Santa Claus that season. I said I would try it once. They furnished the suit, beard and mustache. It was fun seeing the children so thrilled but it was only a one shot for me





Just Out!

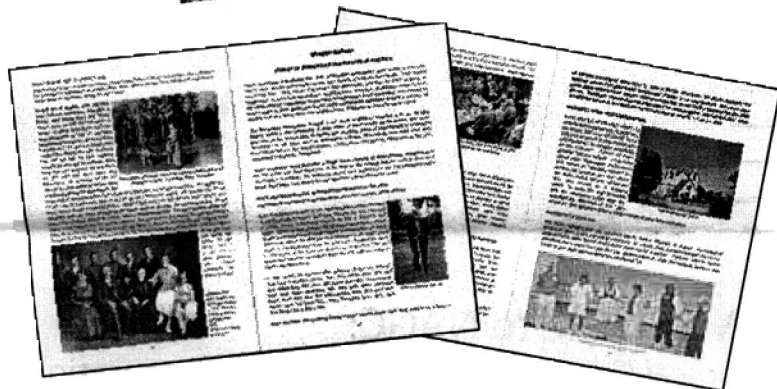
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Highlights of the First Ten Years
1995-2005

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Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News
Roland Krogstad, Editor
2718 Regent St.
Madison, WI 53705-3714

2007 DUES DUE !!

If your mailing label has 2006 on the top line, it means your **Lag Dues** expired 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

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 Address: _____ Ph: _____
 Roots in _____
 Norway: _____
 Genealogy Fund: _____ \$ _____
 Dues: 1yr=\$10; 2yr=\$18; 3yrs=\$25 \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____



First Class Postage

Make Hotel Reservations Now for Stevne 2007

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Stoney Creek Inn, Onalaska for stevne participants Aug. 1-4. The special Tre Lag room rate is \$64.00 per night plus tax. You are encouraged to make your reservations soon.

The hotel provides free breakfast, indoor/outdoor swimming pool, fitness center, laundry facilities, a business center, high speed Internet access, coffee maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board.

Please contact the Stoney Creek Inn directly to make your reservation:

3060 South Kinney Coulee Road
 Onalaska, WI 54650
 1-800-659-2220 reservations

You can get additional hotel information by calling the hotel or viewing their website: www.stoneycreekinn.com



From VGC & NL to NAGC: Genealogical Center Becomes Separate Corporation

The Vesterheim Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library (VGC & NL), located in Madison, Wisconsin, became independent of Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum beginning January 1, 2007. At that time, it took on a new name, the Norwegian American Genealogical Center (NAGC), with its own nonprofit status, corporate articles, bylaws, board of directors, and membership. The center remains in its current location in Madison and will continue in its 32-year-long tradition of providing outstanding service to those researching their Norwegian roots.



The Vesterheim Genealogical Center, now the Norwegian American Genealogical Center.

NORWAY DAY will be held on
 Sunday, July 8, 2007, at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis.