

NHOH News

Volume 21 Number 1

Spring 2016

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

“Lasting Legacies – The Future of Our Past”

Is the Theme for the
2016 Tre-Lag Stevne
August 3-6, 2016

Clarion Hotel

**701 Concord St. So.
So. Saint Paul, MN 55075**



To make reservations call
the Clarion Hotel at 651-455-3600.
Tell them you are with the Tre Lag
Stevne group. You must call to reserve
your room by July 1 in order to get the
guaranteed rate of \$75 (plus tax). It
includes a free hot breakfast.

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Hilsen! Fra Presidenten Joy Shong

This year the Bygdelagenes Fellesraad (the Lag of Lags) is holding its Centennial Celebration in May at the Earle Brown Center in Brooklyn Center MN. Details are included in this issue. The first lag was formed in 1899. By 1916 this umbrella organization was formed to work to promote the member bygdelags.



The precursor to the Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag, Østerdalslaget, began in 1910. It was a functioning lag until 1971 when the last few members agreed to disband due to diminished membership. As the original members aged and passed away, their children were less interested in looking back; most were well assimilated into American society.

That changed as people became interested in their ancestry, sparked by the TV series Roots. After a 23 year gap a group of people, lead by Roland Krogstad, with a renewed interest in their Norwegian heritage began planning the first NHOH stevne in November 1994. The gathering held in Madison, Wisconsin on August 18 and 19, 1995 was attended by 80 interested individuals. At the business meeting on the 19th the Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag was formally established. Officers were elected, committees formed, a name chosen, dues set, and plans for the next stevne were begun.

For the past 20+ years the NHOH lag has worked to provide services and information to continue the connection to our shared Norwegian heritage. We have a lot to celebrate and be proud of. Attending this year's stevne in South Saint Paul in August or participating in the Fellesraad celebration in May, are ways you can continue to learn and share and make new friends. I hope to see you all in May or August.

Hilsen fra
Joy Shong



WHO ARE WE?

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag includes 16 kommuner in the three districts of Nord-Østerdal, Sør-Østerdal, and Hedemarken/Hamar as follows:

District 1:

Nord-Østerdal:

Alvdal
Folldal
Os
Rendalen
Tolga
Tynset

District 2:

Sør-Østerdal:

Åmot
Elverum
Engerdal
Stor Elvedal
Trysil

District 3:

Hedemarken and Hamar

Furnes
Hamar
Løten
Nes
Ringsaker
Romedal
Stange
Vang



Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter.

Articles, photos and graphics relating to Norwegian history, culture, emigration and Lag activities, especially those with ties to the NHOH geographical area are invited. Articles may be historical in nature or may highlight current resources available to help members research their heritage. Articles about Norw/American community events of interest to our members are welcome.

Send to Editor Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld by e-mail SASLAX@aol.com

When contacting any officer by e-mail, please put NHOH in the subject line so we know it is not spam. Thank you.

Our Purpose

The Lag is organized exclusively for educational purposes. To the extent consistent with this general purpose, the specific purposes of the Lag are:

- to help people learn more about the history, culture, and customs of the Nord Hedmark and Hedemarken area of Norway and to aid in the preservation of that heritage
- to teach and assist people in genealogy research
- to gather immigration and settlement history and develop immigration data
- to develop a library of resources, such as bygdebøker (farm histories) and Norwegian church, census, and probate records.
- to encourage the research and writing of family, immigration, and settlement histories

NHOH Newsletters are published three times per year – Spring, Summer, and Fall. Members are welcome to send articles or news at any time of the year, and the editor will put them into the next newsletter, or one that is appropriate.

Issue	Submit by	Mailing Target
Spring	March 1	March 15
Summer	June 1	June 15
Fall	Nov. 15	Nov. 25

Policy on advertising in newsletter: The Board approved that the newsletter editor will accept advertising related to Norwegian culture, heritage and genealogy. Eighth and quarter page ads will be sold for \$15 and \$25, with funds to help offset the cost of producing the newsletter.

NHOH Lag Officers & Directors

President: Joy Shong.....pres@nhohlag.org
Vice-Pres.: Chris Falteisek.....chrisfalteisek@gmail.com
Secretary: Gay Kearin.....Chechon@aol.com
Treasurer: Ron Helstad.....treasurer@nhohlag.org
Membership: Dixie Hansendx@dxhansen.com
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Editor: Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld SASLAX@aol.com
Genealogist: John Reindl.....genealogy@nhohlag.org
Web Master: vacant



Fellesraad Centennial Celebration

May 5-8, 2016

Brooklyn Center, MN

Join our celebration! Learn about Norwegian bygdelag, heritage, history and hopes.

For information go to:

www.fellesraad.com/centennial

or check your Lag Newsletter

**or call Jean Knaak at
651-357-6139**

Invite your friends and relatives to join you.

Send this card to people who might like to celebrate their Norwegian heritage.



You are invited to the centennial celebration for Bygdelagenes Fellesraad entitled Norway to America --- Memories and Dreams. The conference and celebration will be held at the Brooklyn Center, a northwest suburb of Minneapolis just off Interstate 494. The dates are Thursday May 5 through Sunday May 8, 2016. Thursday and Friday will be at the Doubletree by Hilton in Brooklyn Center. Saturday and Sunday will be at the Earle Brown Center in Brooklyn Center. There are optional activities on Sunday at Norway House and Mindekirken in Minneapolis.

We are expecting good attendance for the entire conference. A similar conference in 1999 had a goal of 300 participants and actually had nearly 1000. While we do not expect these numbers, we expect the conference to be well attended.

This celebration will have many types of events:

- On Thursday, May 5, the conference opens with an evening reception and special presentation by author, photographer and story teller, Doug Ohman, telling the story of Norwegian Images in Minnesota.
- Friday, May 6 will feature dual events. One will address **Norwegian-ness: Past, Present and Future** and the other **Twenty First Century Norwegian Family History**.

Special exhibitions on Friday, May 6 will include displays from genealogy resources throughout the country. One will feature "A View from my Heart" by Norwegian landscape and wildlife photographer, Øystein Johnsen. Another will be an historical poster exhibit "New Land, New Life" on Norwegian immigration which was developed by St Paul Sons of Norway Lodge.

- The Gala Centennial Opening Reception on Friday, May 6 is at the Double Tree by Hilton. It will include a humorous performance by Ole and Lena as they build their lag house.
- On Saturday, May 7, the Centennial Celebration will focus on Fellesraad through 100 years. There will be renowned speakers on the current Norwegian events and the cultural landscape, lag displays, vendors of Norwegian heritage products, a celebration luncheon and a gala banquet.

- The Stoughton Dancers will perform at the opening session of the Saturday celebration. It opens with the call of the Lur. A representative of each Norwegian American group will be honored at this opening session.
- On Saturday, May 7, there will be a special Norwegian Day Camp for children through teens. This will provide an excellent introduction to Norwegian culture and heritage for our youth.
- Sunday, May 8 is an additional day with invitations to Norway House and to Mindekirken, the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church.

Norwegian-American Bygdelagenes Fellesraad Centennial Celebration

Speakers confirmed include: **Terje Mikael Hasle Joranger**, historian/scholar at the University of Oslo speaking about the Norwegian-American character; **Ida Marie Tenvik-Bringedal** of Skein, Telemark, speaking about the contemporary art scene in Norway; **John Christenson**, Professor Emeritus from Luther College, speaking on "What Does it mean to be Norwegian?"; **Gracia Grindal**, Professor Emeritus from Luther Seminary, speaking about the strength of Early Leaders; **Dennis Gimmestad**, historian, facilitating a panel addressing symbolic, enduring and invisible Norwegian ethnicity; **John Yilek**, author, historian and lawyer, will speak on Cultural Landscapes and why immigrants left, incentives for emigrating and areas where they chose to live; **Karen Humphrey**, historian and author, will speak about historical archives and their future; **Duane Swanson**, historian, will speak about the future of printed materials in the digital era; **Elaine Hasleton**, historian, certified genealogist, and lecturer, will speak about melding old and new research techniques in the 21st century; **Laurann Gilbertson**, Chief Curator at Vesterheim Museum on preserving and learning Norwegian Folk Arts; and last but not least **John Storlie**, Director of Genetic Research, will speak about DNA and its impact on family history in the 21st century.

Newly confirmed speakers will be listed on Fellesraad.com as they get their final acceptance to the program coordinators. We are confirming speakers from Norway and also have a very special program of new presentations. This will continue to appear as news on the website.

The conference/celebration committee encourages you to pass on this welcome to interested friends and relatives verbally, digitally, and in print.

Please refer to www.fellesraad.com for registration options and current program information. All attendees must be registered.



Stoughton High School Norwegian Dancers
Perform at Bygdelagenes Fellesraad's 100th
Anniversary Celebration
May 7, 2016

One of the outstanding Norwegian folkdance troupes will be featured when Bygdelagenes Fellesraad, the national council of *bygdelag*, celebrates the second day of its centennial May 7, 2016 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center MN.

Colorful flowing bunads, smiling faces, and abounding energy will greet us as we watch the precision and humor of the Stoughton High School Dancers.

For sixty-three years, the community of Stoughton WI has supported the Norwegian dance culture. The group is comprised of twenty high school dancers and three high school keyboardists, who wear authentic customs, shoes, and jewelry imported from Norway. This venue will give an opportunity for the male dancers to show off their strength and

athleticism, especially during the famous "Halling" dance and for the girls to demonstrate their countless spins. They are dedicated to the continuation of the Norwegian folkdance heritage while touching people's lives and brightening their days.

With the support and assistance of talented community members, school personnel and parents, the Stoughton Norwegian Dancers have become "good will ambassadors," performing for millions of people all

over the United States. In 1968 they danced for King Olav of Norway when he visited Madison WI. In 1972 they were invited to perform in Norway in and around Bergen and Oslo.

The Fellesraad is excited to invite you to an energy-packed and inspiring morning with the Stoughton Norwegian Dancers. Promptly at 8 a.m. they will be teaching folk dances to young students or young at heart. Following the "Opening Ceremony" they will be giving a full performance of authentic folk dances from Norway.

The theme for the three-day 100th Anniversary Celebration is "Norway to America: Memories & Dreams." Registration is open and information about the many amazing festivities will be posted at: www.fellesraad.com/centennial so you can choose the activities you prefer.
Elaine Nordlie



Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag

Highlights of the First Ten Years 1995-2005

This publication is still available for purchase.



Generously illustrated with 150+ photographs old and new, this 144-page book recounts the foundation of our lag, including our historic roots, our formative meeting in Madison, the establishment of our governing body, and a decade full of activities and stevner.

Later chapters include selected stories of emigration and settlement and articles reprinted

from the NHOH newsletter. The book concludes with a full appendix of documents associated with our lag history as well as an every name index.

Membership Renewal Policy

Members need to check the year next to their name on the newsletter address label, especially on the fall newsletter.

Reminders will be sent for expired memberships early in the year following the year of expiration, with a renewal deadline of Mid-March, prior to the spring newsletter.

Members who get their newsletters via e-mail will be sent a reminder.

Purchase a copy of the First Ten Years book for yourself and for the members of your family who share your Norwegian roots.



Order Form - Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken - Highlights of the First Ten Years

Name	_____
Address	_____
City/State/Zip	_____
Email	_____
Phone	_____

	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Each</u>
NHOH Book	_____	\$22.50
Total Enclosed		
Surface Shipping to Norway – add \$5.50		

Total \$
\$ _____ Includes shipping & handling US*

\$ _____ **Make check payable to NHOH**
Mail Your Order to: Joy Shong
523 S. Concord Rd., Oconomowoc, WI 53066



New Members:

Sandra Harvey from Anoka MN

Joan and Ralph Hemrick from Covina CA

Bruce and Suzanne Johnston from Menomonie WI

David S. Olson from Grafton ND

Jody Woldseth from Wilburton OK

Mark and Lori (Evers) Hedin from Ramsey MN



NHOH WEB SITE **Wanted: A Webmaster**

Photos taken by Ed Scherer and Chris Falteisek at the 2014 Tre Lag Stevne are posted on the NHOH web site. Click on the "Stevner" tab to access available photos from all past stevner. For most, you can click on the image for a larger view. And if you want to copy or save it, right click on it to use browser commands.

MEMBER AREA ACCESS

The member's-only area of the NHOH website requires a user ID and password. **For 2015** the user name is **NHOH2015** and the password is **Kommune** These are case sensitive so type them exactly as printed here. **First click on the "Member Area"** button in the left border of most website pages. Then, click on the link for the content that you wish to view. You will then be prompted to enter a user name and password.

Genealogy

John Reindl, Lag Genealogist

From the "Norwegian Genealogy and then some" website



When dealing with death causes in old church records we need to keep in mind that they did not have the tools to make accurate diagnoses that we have today. Looking at these death causes, all collected from church records, we see a number of diagnoses that are at best, vague. Some of the conditions that are listed are not fatal in them self (even in the 1800's). One may therefore suspect that some of the causes listed in fact have been Sepsis.

- Afkræftelse – fatigue
- Alderdomssvagheth – weakness of old age
- Apoplexia – apoplexy. Sudden impairment of neurological function, especially that resulting from a cerebral hemorrhage; a stroke
- Betennelse – inflammation or infection
- Blodbrækning – vomiting of blood (Hematemesis). May be caused by a number of conditions in the esophagus (food pipe) or stomach/upper intestines
- Blodforgiftning – Sepsis. A whole-body inflammatory response to an infection.
- Bryst betennelse – probably pneumonia. With nursing mothers it could be Mastitis, a potentially fatal mammary glandinfection.
- Bylder – Abscesses
- Drukne – drowned
- Embotis – probably embolism
- Engelsk syke – Rickets
- Gikt – Rheumatoid arthritis or some other rheumatic disorder. Could also be Gout.
- Gulstot(t) – Jaundice, also known as icterus. Often seen in liver disease such as hepatitis or liver cancer. It may also indicate leptospirosis (field fever, rat catcher's yellows) or obstruction of the biliary tract, for example by gallstones or pancreatic cancer
- Halsesyge/-syke – «Troath disorder». Could be a number of conditions afflicting the troath.
- Hjerneslag – Stroke, also known as cerebrovascular accident (CVA), cerebrovascular insult (CVI), or brain attack
- Hjernebetennelse – meningitis
- Hjerteslag – Myocardial infarction (MI) or acute myocardial infarction (AMI), commonly known as a heart attack
- Hjertesyke – undefined heart condition
- Influenza – Influenza, commonly known as "the flu"
- Kighoste – Pertussis (also known as whooping cough or 100-day cough)

- Kjærtelsygdome – undefined disorder in a gland. Possibly Hypothyroidism.
- Kolik – cholic. undefined pain that starts and stops abruptly. Could be Renal colic, a pain in the flank, characteristic of kidney stones, Biliary colic, lockage by a gallstone of the common bile duct or cystic duct. May, of course occur with infants caused by gas, but this is rarely fatal.
- Kopper – Smallpox
- Kramper – Convulsions. May be caused by high fever in children and Tetanus also known as lockjaw in adults.
- Kræft/kreft – cancer
- Leversyke – Undefined liver condition
- Lungebetennelse – pneumonia
- Mage/mave -kreft – stomach cancer
- Mage/mave -tilfælde – undefined stomach condition
- Meslinger/Mæslinger – Measles, also known as morbilli, rubeola, or red measles
- Nervefeber – Typhoid fever
- Paa barselseng – died while giving birth
- Rosen – Erysipelas "red skin"; also known as "ignis sacer", "holy fire", and "St. Anthony's fire"
- Slagtilfælde – undefined stroke. Heart or brain attack
- Skarlagensfeber (abbr Sklfbr) – Scarlet fever, also called scarlatina
- Strubehoste – probably Tracheolaryngobronchitis/Croup in children. May be larynx cancer in adults.
- "tilfælde/tilfelle" – means occurrence/condition. Used in connection with the name of an organ to indicate illness in this area.
- Tungetæring – Larynx cancer. May also have been used to describe Tuberculosis.
- Tyfus/Thyphus – Typhoid fever
- Tæring – Tuberculosis (MTB, TB)
- "Ubekjendt" – cause of death is not known
- Ulykkestilfælde – Death by accident
- Vatersott – Edema
- "Vides/vites ikke/et" – cause of death is not known



A Very Special Thank You to Rollie and Irma Krogstad

Rollie and Irma have been picking up the NHOH Newsletters every time for a number of years, stamping, and mailing them out and are now turning that job over to our Membership Chairperson, Dixie Hansen. Thanks again Rollie and Irma for faithfully doing that.

Norway Ranks Best Country for Youth



Norway has been ranked as the top place to live for youth under 25 by the global Youthonomics index.

The Youthonomics index combined 59 indicators to rank 64 countries from best to worst based on several political, social and economic factors. The goal of the index is to help the younger generation make informed living decisions based on which nations will provide them with the most opportunity.

Some of the factors that tied into a country's ranking were political and economic aspects such as access to employment, quality and cost of higher education, political and religious freedom, the average age of elected officials and housing affordability, among several other factors. A successful ranking can depend highly on the country's willingness and economic capacity to adapt to a younger population, according to the Washington Post.

The Youthonomics index used data from sources such as the World Bank, UNESCO and OECD to determine top-ranking countries. The index relied heavily on the availability of certain information, so several countries where data wasn't obtainable were excluded from the study.

Scandinavian countries Norway, Sweden and Denmark and other western European nations like Switzerland and the Netherlands ranked highest in the study overall.

Norway's first-place ranking is attributed to several youth-friendly economic factors – one of them being Norway's accommodating job market. Norway and Sweden have an employment collaboration – if there is an open position in Sweden, Norway covers the costs for a Norwegian citizen to take the position abroad. This joint employment effort with Sweden can be extremely appealing to a younger population because of the increased opportunity available.

Low unemployment, higher chances of social mobility and access to higher education are factors that boosted a nation's ranking in the index. And although a country's wealth doesn't guarantee a higher ranking, a nation's economic opportunity does play a large role.

Article from Sons of Norway Website – Thank you.

Is it any surprise to you that Norway comes out on the top of the list?



The United Nations' annual Human Development Report, a behemoth study of every nook and cranny of the world, is out this week. And the countries that come up on top in the rankings portion of the report are entirely unsurprising.

Norway cinches the spot as the overall best country to live in, in the world—making this the 12th continuous year that it's taken the title. Out of nearly 200 countries, Norway continues to score the highest in life expectancy, education, and standard of living, as well as in a number of smaller subcategories, boosting it to the top slot in the UN's list.

Life expectancy at birth in Norway is 81.6 years, and the country's gross national income per capita is \$64,922.

Norway's continuous success hinges on a number of factors, including an oil-driven economy, robust healthcare system, and strong government structure. Not just a source of pride, its natural beauty also drives a lush tourism industry.

Close runners-up on the list, released Dec. 14, include Denmark, Australia, and Switzerland. The lowest-ranking countries on the entire list were Niger, the Central African Republic, Eritrea, Chad, and Burundi. While most countries held steady in their rankings from last year, Syria fell 15 spots on the list, and Libya slid down 27 spots.

But here's a more cheering suggestion of change, from another area of the same report: Though roughly 830 million people in the world are still classified as "working poor" (earning under \$2 a day) by the UN, some two billion people were able to move out of extreme poverty over the last 25 years.





Mark and Lori (Evers) Hedin from Ramsey

MN. Lori is a great-granddaughter of Peter and Indiana (Rodhammer) Pryts from Røros who were charter members of Østerdalslaget somewhat inexplicably, since their discovered roots are actually in Trønder turf, near, but not in, Østerdal.

Lori found us through the 2016 Project (the Pryts Family was one of those Dixie worked on) and she's a first cousin 1x removed of Eloise Westby who, you may remember was recognized as a charter member descendant at our 100 year celebration in 2010.

Interestingly, one of Lori's Prytz relations in Norway (Odd Prytz) is a found-through-DNA cousin of Dixie's (3rd cousin 1x removed) and he also is a DNA cousin to Joy Shong and Bjørnar Steivang... Odd told her that they are connected on a different line than Lori is (cousins of cousins). Lori says that her great grandmother on another line comes from the Sørør area - so she's got us surrounded now and we may ultimately indeed find an intersect in Nord Hedmark if we scrape back enough layers..

Lori puzzled about whether she should join Trønderlag (where the Pryts roots are) or NHOH (in honor of her great-grandparents and their curious membership in Østerdalslaget). She ultimately decided to join both!

Lori has already registered for the Fellesraad Centennial and will be representing NHOH there as a charter member descendant.

More about the Centennial:

Saturday Includes a Day Camp for the Kids!

Youngsters from 5-16 are encouraged to come along with their parents/grandparents to the Centennial Celebration on Saturday, May 7th. The \$60 registration fee includes all materials, lunch and snacks. It also covers admission to the Friday evening reception and Saturday evening banquet.

This special day of activities designed especially for the 'next generation' begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m. We'll start things off with the Stoughton Norwegian Dancers, who will teach us a Norwegian folk dance. We'll then have a getting-to-know-you session, learn a little Norwegian history, and sing some Norwegian folk songs. After sharing a special lunch together, we'll fill the afternoon with games and crafts...and a visit from a ventriloquist!



Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag Scholarship Program

One \$500 scholarship per year may be awarded to a qualified high school senior.

- Applicants must be related to a current NHOH Lag member
- The funds may be used for any post-high school education or degree program (college, vocational, or other similar education opportunity)
- Funds will be paid to the student and the school (e.g. through the financial aid office of the school, or similar office)

Application Process

- Scholarship information will be provided in the NHOH Lag newsletter, on its' web page at www.NHOHLAG.org, and on the lag Facebook page.
- Scholarship information will be posted by February 1.
- Application must include:
 - ✓ Personal demographic information including 3-mail address
 - ✓ Name of lag member(s) and relationship to them
 - ✓ A letter of acceptance to an institution of higher learning
 - ✓ A letter of recommendation (from the high school)
 - ✓ A two to three paragraph essay explaining your career goals and why you should receive this scholarship.
 - ✓ Previous scholarship recipients will not qualify.

Applications must be submitted to:

Gary Olson at olson.gm33@gmail.com
or mailed to him at: 2510 28th St. SE,
Rochester, MN 55904-5827

Applications submitted by mail must be postmarked by March 31.



Application on next page.

Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag Scholarship Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

NHOH Lag member(s): _____

Your relationship: _____

High School: _____ Graduation Date: _____

School/Educational Institution attending: _____

Major/Course of study: _____

Please describe in two or three paragraphs your career goals and why do you feel you should receive this scholarship and attach it to this application.

Return completed application and the following documents to the address below (postmarked by March 31.)

A letter of acceptance to the institution of higher learning

A letter of recommendation from your high school

Mail application to: Gary Olson, e-mail is olson.gm33@gmail.com
or mail to: 2510 28th St. SE, Rochester, MN 55904-5827

Logging in North Idaho

By Glen Brandvold

During our 2015 Tre-Lag in Eau Claire, we took a bus tour which visited an interesting museum nearby. There I learned about the intensive forest logging which occurred in the second half of the 19th century. It was that logging which attracted my grandfather, Martin Brandvold, who arrived from Norway in 1887 (the last group of his family to immigrate). He married my grandmother Juditta Tobiasd. Steivang in 1889 in Wilson, Wisconsin – just west of Eau Claire.

On the bus tour, we learned that logging in Northern Wisconsin just about ended in 1900 – the white pine forests virtually gone from “clear-cutting” the trees. And in the mostly gently rolling terrain the land was quickly utilized for farming. Most lumber mills closed soon after, and no doubt this prompted my grandfather and his family – now with 8 children – to head West to the forests of Idaho and Montana.

I commented during the bus tour that the forests in Idaho were still being used for lumbering – now on the second regrowth (and in a few instances third cycle) after the original cutting. This caused a discussion of why one forest cutting in Wisconsin and continuing harvesting in Idaho. I have found a study done in 1981 by the Forest Service and BLM which discusses some of the differences.

The study begins by noting at the turn of the century the shortage of “good white pine” in the Great Lakes states, and the subsequent interest of the logging industry in the Northern part of Idaho. Railroad lines were just then opening up the northwest – Northern Pacific in 1881, Great Northern in the 1890’s, and the Milwaukee Road in 1909. Northwest markets for lumber were expanding; Agriculture and fruit growers needed lumber for harvesting, shipping and storing products, mining was consuming vast amounts of shoring timbers, railroads needed ties, and growing populations needed lumber for buildings.

Logging has been described as fundamentally a problem of transportation, moving a heavy and bulky product from stump to mill. The North Idaho terrain immediately offers a major challenge. Contrasting with the gentle slopes of Wisconsin, it is steep and rocky hills and canyons with drainages which often turn 180 degrees every few miles. That terrain discouraged clear-cutting; there were always natural seedlings of the several commercial tree varieties which survived the logging. Artificial replanting has virtually never been done in the Idaho forests, although it is practiced in the Cascades of Washington. And although the big trees were gone, farming of those hills and canyons was just not possible.

And those old-growth trees were big! Western red cedar was 8 to 12 feet across 12 feet above ground level. Yellow pine was sometimes 8 feet in diameter. The oxen and horses had no chance to haul lengths of such weight.

The timber size, combined with the rough terrain, led to unusual innovations. First was extensive construction of chutes and flumes. Until the 1930’s, 250 miles of chutes were built each logging year. In the Coeur d’Alene area alone, 150 miles of flumes were constructed. About 20 logging railroad systems with 300 miles of track were built in the Coeur d’Alenes.

But the problem of getting those big logs from the stump to the collecting points was solved by two methods: the splitting grenade, and steam “donkeys”. The splitting grenade is a hollow iron conical wedge with walls at least an inch thick, with the “pointy” end open – about a half inch opening – to a central chamber which could hold 4-8 ounces of black powder explosive. A small hole in the side enabled a length of fuse to be inserted, the grenade hammered into the end of the log, and the fuse lit. This would split even the largest log into several lengthwise sections which could then be handled by regular methods. My grandfather used a variation of this method to split rails for his fencing. No maul and splitting wedge (as attributed to Abe Lincoln) but a hole drilled into the center near one end, a couple ounces of black powder poured in, and



a peg with slot in one side for a fuse pounded in. Light the fuse, get behind a nearby stump, and my job was to watch where the peg went so Grampa didn’t have to whittle a new one each time! And that log would be split into 6 or 8 rails slick as could be!

The steam “donkey” was patented after 1880, and consisted of a winch drum with as much as a mile of cable, a steam engine to drive the winch, and a boiler to provide steam. Located at a collecting point – the head of a flume or terminus of a rail line – the cable could be run out up-and-down hills to snake logs to it. Animals continued to be used for smaller timber into WWII, and even now are used in selected areas to minimize damage to the terrain. Indeed, the County Fair in Coeur d’Alene always has a team “pulling” contest, with “working” teams (usually Belgians) always outpulling the bigger “show” teams of Percherons.

Log drives were conducted on the North Fork of the Coeur d’Alene river and on the St. Joe river, with fleets of tugs towing brails to mills until 2002. Since WWII tractors and trucks hauled the first and second regrowth logs to mills; harvesting typically occurs every 50 years or so. Species varieties remain numerous – white, ponderosa and yellow pine, western red and white cedar, Douglas and red fir, spruce, tamarack. And now those smaller third-growth logs are brought out of the most difficult areas by helicopter.

There are isolated stands of old-growth timber scattered around the area, and they are well worth a visit. One on the North Fork of the Cd’A river has a nearby campground and is accessible by car.

...Ref: “A Cultural Resource Overview of Idaho Panhandle National Forests”, Lorelea Hudson et al. Sept. 1981

Here are two good pictures Glen sent from the 1920's



Burnt Cabin Creek. Heisler engine #1, circa 1920. Log-8-37



Winton Logging camp on the Skookum Creek sale. In the foreground men are rolling logs into the chute. Horses were used to move the logs along. The flume on the right cost \$9,000. Coeur d'Alene National Forest, 1924. Log-1-10

Ed. Note: Thanks Glen, for providing us with your story. My own uncle Oliver Lokstad worked in the lumber industry in St. Maries ID for many years, and as many of you know, I am still searching for the exact date in 1870 and place where my Great Grandfather died in the lumber camps around Menomonie WI.



Two tourists were driving through Wisconsin. As they were approaching Oconomowoc, they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town's name. They argued back and forth until they stopped for lunch.

As they stood at the counter, one tourist asked the employee, **"Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are very slowly?"**

The blonde leaned over the counter and said, **"Burrrrrrr gerrrrrr Kiiiiing"**



The beautiful Earle Brown Heritage Center in North Minneapolis is a short distance South of the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel.



Nord Hedmark og Hedemarken Lag News

November 2015

Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld, Editor

215 Juniper Ln.

Holmen, WI 54636



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



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