

**SONS OF  
NORWAY**  
**1895-2000**

# Bakke Land Posten

## Texas Hill Country News

Cleung Peerson Lodge #1-645

March 2000

Vol. 5 No. 3

## **The Grinch (Global Warming) Steals U.S. Birkebeiner Cross-County Ski Race (see p. 4&5)**

**Fra Presidenten Jane Bolgen**

God Dag,

We had such a good time at our Anniversary/Valentine's Pot Luck, February 13. Wish you could all have been with us. As usual, we had too much food. Linda Erickson, Co-Social Director, decorated the tables with boxes of chocolates, balloons and candles. Duane Huseby, Language Director, presented some little known information and facts about Valentine's Day and taught us words associated with Valentine's Day in Norwegian. Did you know that Norway doesn't celebrate Valentine's Day? Rita Carlson, Music/Co-Social Director, provided musical entertainment for us and taught us a Norwegian folk song. We also celebrated the couple married the longest (63 years), Alma and Joel Hougen; the couple with the most children (6), Rita and Merrill Carlson; and the couple married the shortest time (16 months) Pam and Mike Knott. Pam had a neat story to share with us. Her first date with Mike was the First Inaugural Dinner of the Cleung Peerson Lodge three years ago.

As the Lodge will be selling Nordic food (meatballs and potatoes) at Viking Fest, I've been motivated to try out other Norwegian recipes. One of the best I've found is for Norwegian pancakes from the S/N Scandinavian Cook Book. (3 eggs, 1-1/2 C milk, 1/2 C cream, 1/2 C melted butter, 1 C flour, 1 T sugar, 1/4 t salt. Beat eggs till creamy, add milk and cream, beat well, add dry ingredients, beat well. Fry on hot skillet, covering bottom of skillet with dough. Serve hot with butter and sugar or jam. Fold into quarters.)

If you like Norwegian treats, you won't want to miss the next Lodge meeting. We will be learning how to make heart waffles, krumkake and lefse. The meeting is scheduled for Monday evening, March 20 at Ascension Lutheran Church. The business meeting will start promptly at 6 pm (bring a brown bag supper with you unless you want to wait for the waffles, krumkake and lefse for your dinner) and the social meeting will begin at 7 pm.

Look forward to seeing you then.

Hilsen,

*Jane*

### **VALENTINE HONOREES**

(Left to Right) The Knotts, Carlsons and Hougens



**VikingFest 2000**  
will be held at San Gabriel River Park  
in Georgetown Texas  
on April 29-30, 2000!!

**Watermark - Cleung Peerson - Father of Norwegian Emigration to the USA (Viking May 1996)**

Sons of Norway, Cleung Peerson Lodge #1-645, c/o Editor, 12006 Snowgoose Rd, Austin TX 78758

## Kalender fer mars (marsh) 2000

Det regner (rine-air) i mars! Hvor er regneret?  
It rains in March! Where is the rain?

- 20.mar (man) Brown Bag Business Meeting at Ascension Lutheran, 6 pm. All are invited.  
Social Meeting, Demonstration of Norwegian baked goods, 7 pm.  
Learn how to make lefse, krumkaker, and heart waffles (vafler).
- 17.apr (man) Cleng Peerson Lodge Business Meeting at Hometown Buffet, 6pm  
(located on Mopac just north of Parmer in front of K-Mart)  
Note: there is no regular Social Meeting in April due to VikingFest

**Sat/Sun, April 29 & 30**

**Viking Fest 2000!!**

**San Gabriel River Park, Georgetown, Texas**

- 20.mai (lør) Joint 17 May Celebration (**Syttende mai**) with NST (no details at this time)
- 19.jun (man) Brown Bag Business Meeting at Ascension Lutheran, 6pm. All are invited.  
7 pm Social Meeting. A Video Tour of Norway by Rita and Merrill Carlson (postponed from Jan)
- man**=mandag (Mon), **tør**=tørsdag (Thur), **fre**=fredag (Fri),  
**lør**=lørdag (Sat), **søn**=søndag (Sun)

### Time-Warner Cable May Carry New Scandinavian TV Channel

If Time-Warner Cable receives enough requests for the new Scandinavian Channel (ScanChan) they may carry it in the Austin area. Time-Warner Cable will log in the phone requests. If and only if there is enough local interest will they carry and offer the channel. **Presumably it will be offered to subscribers for \$9.95 per month! Call Time -Warner at 512/485-5555.** VikingFest may have a ScanChan (<http://www.scanchan.com>) booth and banner to promote the channel to the public. **Please call Time-Warner!!** For more information please call S/N and NST member Dale Orbeck Van Sickle at 512/478-3300.

### Olga serves lobster

Olga was hired as a waitress in a very famous restaurant in Hollywood. She was very anxious to please her customers and their every wish was her command. I'd like a lobster tail, please, " said the customer. "Vell, vunce upon a time der vus a handsome lobster..." began Olga.

From Leapin' Lena, Here's Uff-Da #4, compiled and edited by Charlene Power, Box 209, Crosby, North Dakota 58730. Signed "Queen Lena"  
(Charlene Power)

## Nordic Book Club Starts

A Nordic Book Club is being organized to read novels (in English) about the Nordic countries, Nordic American immigrants, etc. Initially the group will meet at Border's North on US 183 (Research) across from the Arboretum on the third Saturday of every month at 10:00 am. The first book to be read is Lauraine Snelling's *An Untamed Land*, Vol 1 in a series. Please call Leila Tackett for more information (512/327-5397) or send e-mail to: ltackett@swbell.net. Please come and join us and spread the word.



### Ole has Appendicitis

Lena was awakened by Ole. Poor Ole was in severe pain, so Lena quickly called the new lady doctor, who rushed to the hospital to meet Ole and Lena.

After examining Ole, the doctor said, "Ole, you have acute appendicitis!!"

"Tanks, doc. I bet yew have a cute appendicitis tew!" replied Ole.

### Volunteers Needed for VikingFest!!

**Donna Olson**, Volunteer Coordinator for VikingFest 2000 is asking for volunteers and needs your help. She needs volunteers for two and one-half to three-hour time slots, starting at 9:00 am both Saturday and Sunday, April 29th and 30th. The volunteers need to be in these specific areas: two entrance gates, two food token booths, one souvenir booth, and possibly other areas as the time approaches. She needs at least one male to be available for each time slot at the entrance gates. Donna needs a commitment no later than March 31 specifying day and time slot (am or pm) that you prefer. Anyone volunteering will receive an all weekend pass for free admission. Please call Donna in Austin at 512/345-4155.

### Poppy Festival Provides Excellent Opportunity to Promote VikingFest!!

The **Poppy Festival** in Georgetown is two weeks before VikingFest and is an excellent opportunity to promote VikingFest to people in the area. There will be a VikingFest booth at the Poppy Festival to give information to its attendees. Relax after the tax season in the great outdoors while promoting VikingFest! Volunteers are needed for various shifts on Saturday and Sunday, April 15th and 16th. **Call Pamela Knott at 218-8828 for more details.**

## Newsflash from VikingFest – JUST IN!

BE SURE TO SEE THE LATEST ADDITIONS to the VikingFest Website at [www.vikingfest.com](http://www.vikingfest.com)!!

From VikingFest Website (Sheila Lee, Webmistress!!) Viking Fest has entered into discussions with **SAMSO RECORDS** of Denmark and Austin, Texas to produce a Scandinavian Music Review at Viking Fest. At this point this is only in the planning stages but appears to be a very workable endeavor. The potential artists would include Henning Kvitnes/Norway, Claudia Scott/Norway, Poul Krebs/Denmark, Esther Brohus/Denmark, Louise Hoffsten/Sweden and others. These are more modern, acoustical musicians, totally rounding out our entertainment program.

### ***Back by Popular Demand!***

**Monaco Blues Band from Sweden** (Jennie, Bennie, Bjorn, and Bjorn!!)

**The Texas Cardamom Band** from Dallas

**The Norwegian Society of Texas Leikarringen Dancers**

### ***New!***

**Västerfärnebo Dragspelklub** (Västerfärnebo Accordion Club) - 18 accordionists from Sweden

**Norwegian Immigration Trunk Show from Minnesota**

**Scandinavian Folkdancers from Houston**

**Bella Music Stage Play from Denmark** (performances planned for Fri and Sat. evening 7:30pm)

And roving musicians and entertainers throughout the festival grounds

### **DEMONSTRATORS:**

Della Clogs - Swedish Clog Making	Jan Zetterlund - Norwegian Rosemalling	Kenneth Beck - Split Log Furniture
Arline Filed - Hardanger Embroidery	Janet Mendenhall - Spinning	Patricia Hewitt - Viking Life Needs
Jan Faubion - Swedish Straw Figures	Lila Hess - Basket Making	Frances Johns - Chain Saw Sculptures
Rod Johnson - Wood Carving	Torill Samuelson - Norwegian Sweaters	

**LECTURE SERIES:** - will be located in the Heritage Hall—NO ADMISSION charge for the Heritage Hall

**Christine Ward, The Viking Answer Lady** has returned via the marvels of the World Wide Web to unravel enigmas and unscrew the inscrutable as it concerns the lives and times of the Scandinavians prior to 1000 A.D. She will gladly attempt to answer any questions posed by you, the Gentle Reader, in order to dispel the many myths and obfuscations that surround what has come to be known as the Viking Age. Send your questions to The Viking Answer Lady at [www.realtime.net/~gunnora](http://www.realtime.net/~gunnora) or to [gunnora@bga.com](mailto:gunnora@bga.com)

**Mrs Gloria Farley of The Epigraphic Society of Oklahoma.** Gloria's work started as a casual investigation into a local curiosity. This investigation turned into a fifteen year quest which ended in the recognition of the Heavener Runestone as the work of ancient Viking travelers and its protection within a state park. She has gained many honors as a result of her work. She is a Fellow of the Epigraphic Society, a Fellow of the Explorers Club, and a charter member of the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame. Her book, "In Plain Sight," will be available for purchase at the Viking Fest.

**Dr. John Weinstock** of UTexas at Austin - Icelandic Sagas; **Dr. Sandy Straubhaar** of SCA - Viking Clothing; **Charlene Jordan** of VASA - Immigration; **Don Amundson** of NST- "Why we don't speak German" or "The heavy water incident in Norway, WWII

**VIKING VILLAGE:** Courtesy of Society for Creative Anachronism of San Antonio, Texas

**HERITAGE HALL:** Displays - depicting the life and times of each of the Nordic Countries past and present.

**ARTS, CRAFTS, & NORDIC VENDORS:** - This was one of our largest events in the past two festivals. Beautiful Nordic arts and crafts both hand made and imported are featured — from Dala Horses and Straw Goats, to Trolls, to Viking Jewelry and Silver, to Clogs and Woodcarvings – and much much more!

**GAMES:** for Young & Old - Competitions Among Nordic Countries: Daily 1-4 pm.

Tug-of-War, Wife Carrying, Lutefish Toss, Field Games Viking War Games staged by Society for Creative Anachronism of San Antonio, Texas

**SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH SERVICE:** There will be a Lutheran service Sunday morning in the Entertainers Tent at 10 am.

### **RAFFLE!!!**

Grand Prize: 2 Round Trip Tickets to your desired location in Scandinavia donated by SAS Airlines. Raffle tickets are **only** \$1 each. Many more great prizes are being added as we get closer to the festival date.

## “Birkie” more than a ski race

North America’s biggest Nordic event attracts top pros, hungry kids  
by Sal Ruibal *USA Today* (2/25/2000)

The first Birkebeiner probably was the most exciting cross-country ski race in history. As the civil war of 1206 raged in Norway, rebels desperately were trying to kidnap 2-year-old prince Hakon Hakonsson.

The prince was spirited away from his would be captors by the courageous Birchleg warriors, who got the name from their unusual footwear —animal skins wrapped around their legs, tied with birch roots, or birkebeiner (BURK-uh-biner). Carrying Hakon on their backs, two of the Birchlegs outskied the rebels in a 31.6-mile dash from Lillehammer to Rena.

The prince grew up, became king and ended the civil war. The Birchlegs found a place in Nordic history and became synonymous with heroic cross-country skiing.

Saturday, February 26, at the **Telemark Resort** in Cable, Wis., 6,335 modern-day Birchleg warriors were to test their meddle in a 31.6-mile (51 km) cross-country ski race to the town of Hayward. The American Birkebeiner is the largest Nordic race in North America, and its nickname, “The Birkie,” also has become synonymous with heroic cross-country skiing.

“There’s nothing like it,” says **Carl Swenson**, who in 1998 became the only American to win the Birkie since it began 27 years ago. “The mass start is incredible, and the finish on main street in Hayward, with the big crowd cheering and the **cowbells ringing**, is so cool.”

Meredith Bauer finished her first Birkie in the middle of the 800-strong women’s pack last year—exactly in the middle. That earned Bauer a special award. The Dream Of It Award is given to the male and female skiers who finish precisely in the middle of their fields. That’s in keeping with the proletarian nature of the race. Bauer, now 18 and a freshman at Boston College, received racing gear and skis, plus a year of coaching from Swenson’s Subaru/Fischer/Salomon Nordic team.

The Birkie is a big race, but it is also a huge party, a celebration of Nordic culture in northwestern

Wisconsin. About 20,000 fans were expected to watch. Every area room and cabin is booked. More than 2,000 volunteers are on hand to direct traffic, groom the course (classic skiers on the left and right, skate skiers in the middle) and ladle out the Birkie’s famous blueberry soup and Swiss Miss hot chocolate.

Cookies are big at the celebration. Kids skiing in the **Sons of Norway**

**Barnebirkie** fun race are rewarded with treats such as saddle-shaped Norwegian **oatmeal lace cookies**†.

The American Birkebeiner is part of the exclusive Worldloppet circuit. Only one race per country is allowed in the series. The Birkebeiner also is one of only eight races in the FIS Marathon Cup circuit.

Swenson is hoping another win will boost his chances of making the 2002 U.S. Olympic team that would compete in Salt Lake City. He’s also a world-class mountain bike racer and on the short list of

candidates for a slot on the US team for the Summer Games in Sydney, Australia. With 204 days to go before the Olympics, his training emphasis has been on cycling. I’ve won a lot of races in both sports,” he says. “But the one people remember the most is The Birkie.”

**Editors note:** The complete results of the 1997-1999 Norway Birkebeiner races from Lillehammer to Rena are available on the web at <http://birkebeiner.no/birken/> The three Norway Birkebeiner races are the Løypet (cross-country skiing) on Mars 18, Rittet (the bicycle race) on Aug 26, and the Rennet (the run) on Sept 16. A topological map of the courses and elevations appears under Løypekart (ski-track map) on the above web site. Canada claims that the Canadian Birkebeiner in Edmonton, Alberta is North America’s largest (<http://www.webconxn.com/birkie>)

Unfortunately, **the Grinch stole the 2000 Birkebeiner race in Hayward Wisconsin** due to warm weather! Four continuous days and nights of unprecedented warmth along with rain showers played havoc with Birkebeiner Trail snow cover and led safety-conscious race officials to cancel the American Birkebeiner ski race scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 26, for the first time in its 28-year history. Over 6,000 skiers had signed up for the race, North America’s largest ski event and part of the 14-nation Worldloppet series of ski marathons. Several Birkie Week events were held with great success prior to the cancellation of the main race. (Rick Lubbers, [UpNorth Newspaper Network](http://www.upnorthnews.com) in Sawyer County *Record*, <http://www.hayward-wi.com>)

The **Sons of Norway/Swiss Miss Barnebirkie** drew about 1,100 skiers 3 to 13 years old on Thursday to try out their skiing legs on a one-kilometer ribbon of snow from the Hayward Golf and Tennis Club to Main street, where 400 truckloads of snow were laid down the night before by the City of Hayward Public Works Department and the Sawyer County Highway Department. Friday’s cancellation of the

Birkebeiner came after four days and three nights of continuous above-freezing temperatures, including daytime highs in the 50s, plus rain showers on Wednesday and Friday. Race officials said that the snow at the planned race start area at Cable Union Airport was obliterated, and six to eight inches of water covered the site.



Spectators, who lined the street to watch the sprints, also saw that snow begin to slowly succumb to sunny, 49-degree weather. To a fan, eating a brat and drinking a beer while taking in the races, it might have seemed more like a cold July day rather than a warm February day.

† A recipe for Sandy Helle’s **Lace Cookies** (kniplinger smakaker) appeared in the Feb 1998 *Bakke Land Posten*.

## Global Warming

### OSLO (15.02.00)

This winter may turn out to be the mildest in Norway for almost 200 years. Thus far in February, the average temperature is 5.4 degrees (Celsius) above normal in the Oslo area. (*Dagbladet*) (5.4 degrees Celsius=9.7 degrees Fahrenheit)

### Want snow?

#### Iditarod Dog Sled Race Begins March 4

The **Iditarod** is a 1,100 mile race of endurance by dog sled from Anchorage to Nome Alaska. Check out the daily updates with color photos of Harald Tunheim's dog sled team at his website <http://www.tunheim.no>. Harald from Alta Norway is Norway's best musher and a three time champion of Finnmarksløpet, the longest sled dog race in Europe (650 mi). Harald's dogs are North Cape Alta Huskies. A record 81 sled dog teams are entered in this year's race. Want to read a good book? Try *Murder on the Iditarod Trail* by Sue Henry. It has real insight into the grueling nature of the Iditarod race.

#### Fra Sekretæren Ray Tackett

Jane Bolgen was sent raffle tickets by Randi Parker, President of NST, for a drawing of a 16 x 20 oil painting of "The Rock Church of Bosque County" by Betty Wilkins. They are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.


The drawing will take place at the NST 25th Jubileum on March 11. If you are interested, please let Jane know and she will fill out the ticket and submit your donation and winning ticket to Randi by the due date March 7. You can pay Jane later. You can also call Randi Parker at 512/258-0039.

## Linda Pierson Knows Her Stuff!

Did you see the article about S/N and NST member Linda Pierson in the Life & Arts section of the *Austin American-Statesman* on Sunday, Feb 20, 2000? Columnist Kay Powers wrote that she recently enrolled in a class in Austin Community College's Senior Academy. The class was an eight-hour Windows Intermediate course using spiffy new Dell computers. Kay said, "...in

no time at all, Linda had us delving into the thing's innermost secrets, left-clicking, right-clicking, double-clicking here, there and everywhere, doing stuff we'd never dared to do on our own computers at home.

When it was over, we were eager for more, begging Linda to persuade ACC to have more classes for Seniors. If you ever get a chance for a computer course with Linda, grab it. She knows her stuff, and she's fun, even if she was really too nice to a bunch of know-it-all seniors who talked all the time in class. Listen, honey, if I'd been her, I'd have sent the lot of us to the principal's office or wherever it is misbehaving college students get sent, but she just kept smiling and teaching. Hey, Linda, you go girl! (Kay Powers' column appears in the *American-Statesman* every other Sunday. Thanks to Kay Knutsen for forwarding the article!).



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#### Rogaland County is Home of Cleng Peerson

The nature of Rogaland is quite varied. Here you find some of Norway's most beautiful sandy beaches, deep fjords, exciting mountains, and lakes for fishing. Nature is the primary basis for tourism in the county, and care is taken to offer experiences and activities which the entire family may enjoy.

Stavanger, Norway's oil capital, is the largest city. Other cities include Sandnes, Haugesund, and Egersund. The county has two airports, excellent ferry connections along the coast, and a train connection to Kristiansand and Oslo.

Rogaland and Stavanger are also central to the emigration from Norway to America. Cleng Peerson from Tysvær, which is a little north of Stavanger, was the man who started the organized emigration. His first group sailed out from Stavanger on July 4, 1825, and arrived in New York on October 9 of the same year.



Fredrik Bolgen  
Owner

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**Sons of Norway  
Cleng Peerson Lodge #1-645  
Austin, Texas  
Instituted February 14, 1997**

**Mission statement.** The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote, preserve, and cherish a lasting appreciation of the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic countries while growing soundly as a fraternal benefit society and offering maximum benefits to its members.

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**Gratulerer med Fødselsdagen  
(Grah-tew-LEHR-er meh FERDS-els-dah-en!)  
MARS**

8 Ray Tackett                      16 Duane Huseby  
10 Renee Hermanson            22 Wesley Hjernevik

**Anne & Jan most popular names of century  
in Norway**

Statistics Norway announced that the most popular Norwegian names of the 1900s were Anne and Jan. Seventy eight thousand Norwegian females were named Anne and 59,800 males were named Jan. (*Dagsavisen*)



**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!!**

**Cooking Class at the March Meeting**

Learn the secrets for making Norwegian heart waffles, krumkake, and lefse!

**7:00 pm on Monday, March 20th**

**At Ascension Lutheran Church**

**(6420 Hart Lane, Corner of Balcones overlooking MOPAC, between 2222 and Far West)**

**Please Bring Brown Bag to Business Meeting at 6:00 pm!**

**Sons Of Norway**

**Cleng Peerson Lodge #1-645**

c/o Editor

12006 Snowgoose Road

Austin, Texas 78758



*Sons of Norway fyller 105!*

We wish Russ Larsen, Editor of the *Bakke Land Posten*, a continued speedy recovery!!!