

**SONS OF
NORWAY**
1895-2000

Bakke Land Posten

Texas Hill Country News

Cleng Peerson Lodge #1-645

April 2000

Vol. 5 No. 4

VikingFest Invades Georgetown Again

See pictures of VF 1998!

Fra Presidenten Jane Bolgen

GodDag,

Two years ago when my husband, Fred, was Grounds Chairman for Viking Fest 1998, our phone rang day and night for Viking Fest business. You would think our phone would be ringing off the hook this year since Fred is Viking Fest 2000 president. The phone never rings, because the line is always busy while Fred conducts Viking Fest business by e-mail. First thing every morning and last thing every night, Fred is on his computer doing Viking Fest correspondence. I wonder what advancements the next two years will bring.

Speaking of computers, have you visited the Cleng Peerson Lodge web site? Erik Svenkerud has created our very own web site for those of you who have been bitten by the e-bug. You can visit our web site at <http://members.xoom.com/ClengPeerson>. Erik attached the Sons of Norway web site as well as 1999 and 2000 newsletters and a map to Ascension Lutheran Church. It's a great advertisement for our lodge. We don't see a lot of Erik due to a conflict on Monday evenings, but he faithfully supports the lodge behind the scenes. Thanks Erik for making our web page possible.

So many people are involved in the success of Cleng Peerson Lodge, such as Russ Larsen, the editor of the Bakke Land Posten. Russ spends days gathering news and pictures for the monthly newsletter. Russ started gathering pictures for this month's newsletter mid-March. He's done a wonderful job depicting the events of the Viking Fest. When you see these guys, remember to tell them how much they are appreciated.

Many of our members are also leaders in the planning and production of Viking Fest. The Viking Fest takes many laborers to make it successful. Don Nedrud is this year's grounds chairman, (I wonder if his phone is ringing day and night), Pam Knott is assisting with publicity in Austin, Phil Erikson is assisting Don Nedrud, Leila Tackett is in charge of games with Russ Larsen helping. The rest of us are serving meatballs and mashed potatoes at the Cleng Peerson Lodge booth. If you would like to volunteer to help at the booth or help in other areas at Viking Fest, give us a call. If the line is busy – send an e-mail. Thanks to all of **the many** volunteers who have already signed up!! Look forward to seeing you at Viking Fest 2000. Don't forget to check out the Viking Fest web site at <http://www.vikingfest.com> and the Cleng Peerson Lodge web site at <http://members.xoom.com/ClengPeerson/>.

Hilsen,

Jane



Cleng Peerson
Lodge booth at 1998
VikingFest

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

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

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Tax Problems??

Billionaire Moves Back to Norway, Pays More Taxes

The Norwegian newspaper, *Verdens Gang*, reported that Billionaire Kjell Inge Røkke is moving back to Norway. He had to notify the Oslo Population Register of his intent. This will mean that he will have to pay almost NOK 90 million more in taxes each year. \$1=NOK 8.4; NOK 90,000,000=\$10,694,000. UffDa!

High Gas Prices? Don't Complain— Gas is REALLY Expensive in Norway—Why??!

Norwegian drivers pay high price for taking to streets

CNN Norge's Geir Terje Ruud contributed to this report which appears at <http://www.cnn.com/2000/WORLD/europe/03/16/norway.gas/>

OSLO, Norway (CNN)—As U.S. consumers and politicians react with shock and outrage to paying \$2 or more for a gallon of gasoline, the price at the pump in Norway heads toward \$5 per gallon, the highest in the world. What makes that price all the more remarkable is that Norway is the world's second-largest oil exporter behind Saudi Arabia. And the cost of gas is just part of the equation of the high price of driving in Norway. In addition to the high gas prices, Norwegians pay \$250 a year for vehicle registration, and Oslo charges its residents an additional \$125 per year if they drive on studded tires. Norwegians also pay \$800 million a year for using toll roads.

Over two-thirds of the gas price is tax. Tax makes up over 60 percent of the sales price of a new car, **adding \$19,000 to the price of an \$11,000 VW Golf.**

Of the current price of 10.50 *kroner* per liter (about \$4.75 per gallon), 4.34 *kroner* is fuel tax, 2 *kroner* is Value Added Tax, 0.95 *kroner* is carbon dioxide duty — leaving 3 *kroner* to be shared between the oil company and the gas station. Knut Sandberg, a senior economist at Norway's Institute of Transport Economics, says politicians long ago stopped trying to justify the high price of gas by using environmental arguments. "The government needs money and gets it from the consumers. The money invested in roads and car safety projects are less than half the income from car and gasoline taxes," he says.

The Norwegian government raises \$2 billion a year from gasoline taxes, \$500 for every Norwegian, and \$2.5 billion from car sales taxes. Norway's oil production and export royalties are projected to produce a surplus of \$20 billion this year.

'It is a kind of robbery' Egil Otter of the Norwegian Automobile Association says consumers have never managed to effectively put pressure on the government to reduce gas prices. "When the oil price soars, gasoline prices follow. When oil prices fall, gasoline prices stay high," Otter says. "It is a kind of robbery. Especially families with kids are punished by the high taxes, because they pay for the car and the gasoline themselves."

Taxes impact pattern of motoring The high cost of driving has impacted the pattern of car ownership and usage in Norway. A small car and some free gasoline are common parts of the compensation package for middle management in private companies. About 60 percent of new car sales in Oslo last year were for company cars, says Otter. The high cost of vehicles has left Norway with an elderly car stock. The average car on the road is between 8 and 9 years old. While none match Norway's combined cost of car ownership and use, other Scandinavian countries tax the motorist heavily. In Denmark, the price of gas is about 10 percent lower, but the car tax is higher. Sweden has the same gas prices as Denmark but charges only Value Added Tax — the European Union-wide sales tax — on new car sales. Norway's airlines' fuel expenses will jump 40% this year. If their passengers must cover the entire cost it could add up to 200 *kroner* (\$24.00) to fares on every domestic flight in Norway.



**Da Boyz discussing tax loop holes (???)
at last lodge meeting.**

Newsflash from VikingFest – Get Ready!

BESURE TO SEE THE LATEST ADDITIONS to the VikingFest Website at www.vikingfest.com!! Pictures of performers are included!!

From VikingFest Website (Sheila Lee, Webmistress!!) Thanks Sheila for borrowing freely from your terrific website. 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 advance 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

PARADE & OPENING CEREMONIES: Parade is at 11 am on Saturday followed by the Opening Ceremonies

"Ankomst parad - Parade of the Countries" - this is the most colorful event of the entire festival. Everyone is in their native costume and there is music and singing and some definite "Flag-Waving!!!"

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



**Sweden's
Monaco Blues
Band at
VikingFest '98**

New!

Västerfärnebo Dragspelsklub (Västerfärnebo Accordion Club) - 18 accordionists from Sweden

Norwegian Immigration Trunk Show from Minnesota

Scandinavian Folkdancers from Houston

Bella Music Stage Play from Denmark (performances at 6:00 pm Sat. evening and Sunday 12:00 noon)

And roving musicians and entertainers throughout the festival grounds

DEMONSTRATORS: There will be a tent DEDICATED to the "Actual" creation of Viking Art! You can view, learn, and ask questions of the artisans! Their wares will be for sale as well.

Della Clogs - Swedish Clog Making

Arline Filed - Hardanger Embroidery

Jan Faubion - Swedish Straw Figures

Rod Johnson - Wood Carving

Jan Zetterlund - Norwegian Rosemalling

Janet Mendenhall - Spinning

Lila Hess - Basket Making

Torill Samuelson - Norwegian Sweaters

Kenneth Beck - Split Log Furniture

Patricia Hewitt - Viking Life Needs

Frances Johns - Chain Saw Sculptures

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

Christine Ward, The Viking Answer Lady (NOTE: Christine Ward has had to decline her appearance this year - because of family illness - Our Prayers are with her and her family). Be sure to visit her wonderful web page noted below! 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.realttime.net/~gunnora or to 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!

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.

More VikingFest Activities

SMORGASBORD OF FOODS: Jeg vil gjerne ha en av alt! (I will have one of everything!)

There will be FOOD GALORE of every type and style - with an EMPHASIS on the Scandinavian FLAVORS!

Ableskiverr, Hot Dogs by Danish American Society - Lefsa by NST, Hovedstad - Norwegian Cookies by SON, Fort Worth - Swedish Breads & Baked Goods, Linneas of Texas - Norwegian Cookies by SON, Fort Worth - Waffles & Lefse by NST, Midnattsolen Norwegian Cookies by NST, Bosque - Scandinavian Meatball Dinner by SON, Austin - Turkey Legs by Haney Food Services - Ice Cream by VASA, Williamson Co. - Snow Cones & Cotton candy by Round Rock Chapel - Cookies & Coffee by Danish Rebuild Park . . . and much more!

GAMES FOR YOUNG AND OLD: Competitions Among Nordic Countries: Daily 1-4 pm. Tug-of-War, Wife Carrying, Lutefisk Toss, Boot Toss, Frying Pan Toss (Women only), 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 10:30 am.



ON RIGHT VikingFest President Fred Bolgen demonstrating krumkake making at March 2000 Cleng Peerson Lodge meeting.



ON LEFT "Viking" at 1998 VikingFest



ON RIGHT "The Committee" at the Control Center of VikingFest 1998



ON LEFT "Viking with his Vikingship" on the San Gabriel River at VikingFest 1998

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!

1. Volunteers STILL Needed for VikingFest!!

Please call Donna Olson, Volunteer Coordinator for VikingFest 2000. Donna is a member of the Austin Swedish-American organization, Carl Widén Lodge VASA Order of America. Please call Donna in Austin at 512/345-4155.

2. Volunteers are needed to help with the VikingFest Games on both Saturday and Sunday. Both adults and CHILDREN are needed. Please call Leila Tackett at 512/327-5397.

Who Won The Iditarod??

The **Iditarod Dog Sled Race** began March 4 in Anchorage and ended in Nome on March 14.

Doug Swingley of Montana won the 1,151 mile race of endurance by dog sled for the third straight year in the record time of 9 days and 58 minutes and six seconds. This was five hours earlier than second place finisher, Paul Gebhardt. Sixty-one out of 81 mushers who had started the race finished it. Swingley earned \$60,000 and a new truck for the 2000 title. Swingley's prize was part of a half-million dollar purse for



the 2000 race. Doug's Montana kennel is located near the Unibomber's Lincoln, Montana stomping grounds. He takes his dogs on long runs over 150 miles of trails some of which are in the high piney mountains about a mile above sea level. He is the only non-Alaskan to ever win the Iditarod in its 28 years.

Harald Tunheim, Norway's best musher, finished 25th with a time of 10 days, 12 hours and 4 minutes. This year, the last musher to get to Nome took 15 days, 5 hours, and 44 minutes. Harald Tunheim's website <http://www.tunheim.no> is a good place to read about the race. See also *Sports Illustrated*, April 3, 2000, p34. For more information about Swingley see <http://joerunyan.com/interviews/dougswingley.htm>

Reminders

Nordic Book Club Seeks Interested Readers

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.

New Scandinavian TV Channel

Please call Time-Warner Cable at 512/485-5555 and ask for New Scandinavian TV Channel... VikingFest may have a ScanChan booth and banner to advertise the channel to the public. For more information please call S/N and NST member Dale Orbeck Van Sickle at 512/478-3300.

Bakke Land Posten Boosters

Emil Svenkerud (6/2000)

Trudy Tommeraasen (2/2000)

Dr Gerarde and Karin DeSequera (2/2001)

Anonymous - 2 (6/2000)

Kalender for April (a-preel) 2 000

Det blåser (blaw-ser) i April!

(It's windy in April!)

Vær så snill, Gud, ikke mer tornadoes!

(Please, God, no more tornados!)

However, two sunny days for VikingFest would be nice!

15.04.00(lør) VikingFest Board Meeting, Weithorn
April 15! Visitors Center, Baylor University, Waco
Last Board Meeting before VikingFest
2000, 12 noon

17.04.00(man) Cleng Peerson Lodge Business Meeting at
April 17! 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

20.05.00(lør) Joint 17 May Celebration (Syttende Mai)
May 20! with NST;
Walnut Creek Park Pavilion (located on
North Lamar just north of Braker)
(11:00 am - 4:00pm). Celebration officially
starts at 1:00 pm

19.06.00(man) Brown Bag Business Meeting at
June 19! Ascension Lutheran, 6pm. All are invited.
7 pm Social Meeting. 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)

Fra Sekretæren Ray Tackett

Minutes of March 6, 2000 VikingFest Working Meeting

*Nordic meatballs and mashed potatoes were served by the Bolgens at their home in order to decide if the Cleng Peerson Lodge should have a Meatball Booth at VikingFest. The vote was in favor of doing this.

*The Nordic Meatball Kitchen will be open from 1:00 am to 6 pm on Saturday and 12 noon to 4 pm on Sunday at VikingFest. The price of 8? meatballs, mashed potatoes, and jelly will be \$4.00. Coke extra at \$1.00.

*Lewis Stimson and Ray Tackett will set up tents and tables. The site will be selected by Don Nedrud.

*A motion was passed to defer the attempt to sell Nordic sweaters and to thank Rita Carlson for her efforts to organize and man the booth.

*First District delegates will meet in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on 8-10 June 2000. Phil Erickson will attend as the Sub-district 8 (Texas) representative.

**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!)**

APRIL

8	Joan Curtis	17	Matt Nelson
9	John Riggs	25	Terryl Robbins
11	Maurice Johnson		

God bedring

Brother Jens Busch is recovering from triple-bypass surgery. We have really missed you Jens!! We hope to see you at VikingFest and Syttende Mai!! Jens, just try to laugh at these things that you didn't want to hear during surgery....



"Someone call a janitor, we may need a mop."

"Has anyone survived 500mls of this stuff before?"

"Ya know, there is big money in kidneys. Heck, the guys got two of em."



Viking Fest 2000!!!

**Lively Nordic Music & Folk Dancing, Nordic Arts & Crafts
Viking Ship, Village, & Fighting; Wife Carrying & Frying Pan Throw; Games
LEFSA! MEATBALLS! Win SAS Trip for Two to Any Nordic Country**

APRIL 29 & 30

**San Gabriel River Park, Georgetown, Texas
Sat 10 am to 8 pm & Sun 10:30 am to 5 pm**

Sons Of Norway

Cleng Peerson Lodge #1-645

c/o Editor

12006 Snowgoose Road

Austin, Texas 78758



Sons of Norway fyller 105!