



Jan Mayen Island in the Norwegian Sea is pictured.

This stamp recognizes the International Geophysical Year (1957-1958).

Bakke Land Posten

Texas Hill Country News

Sons of Norway - Cleng Peerson Lodge #1-645

September 1999

Vol. 4 No. 9

Don't Miss The Fun in the Sun (er... Shade) at Sun City - Georgetown on Sept 18!!

More about the solstices in Norway

This is a continuation of the discussion of midsummer in Norway that appeared in the June *Bakke Land Posten*. The first day of summer and the longest day of the year is the summer solstice when the sun shines for 24 hours in northern Norway. Why don't Norwegians celebrate midsummer on either the day or the eve of the summer solstice?

The solstices were celebrated as heathen holidays for centuries by the old Norse so when Christianity came to Norway it became illegal to celebrate heathen holidays but the Christians couldn't stop the people from celebrating the solstices so they turned them into religious holidays instead.

The midsummer celebration continued as a religious holiday honoring the birth of John the Baptist. The day was referred to as **jonsok**, St John's Eve, or **sankthansaften**, St Hans Eve. Hans and John are not the same but there is speculation that Hans was at one time a nickname for Johannes, the Norwegian name for John the Baptist. The summer solstice still has remnants of the old traditions in Norway. Dr. N. Harstad recalls that when he was a child in Norway they still burned "witches" on the bonfire. They were dummy witches but the symbolism was still there.

Harstad said that even today if you are in Norway at Christmas time there is little to remind one that it is now a Christian holiday. In growing up Harstad never saw a nativity scene until he came to the U.S. In fact, Jul is the Norwegian word for the winter solstice. The celebration of the evergreen and the jultre are old heathen traditions. In spite of Christmas being a Christian holiday it is well known among Christian scholars that the birth of Jesus happened in the springtime, not the winter. The birth of Jesus would probably not have been celebrated in December if the Christians could have stopped the heathens from celebrating the winter solstice.

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

Holy Smokes! Check the updated Viking Fest 2000 web site!! www.vikingfest.com

Fra Presidenten-Carol Tveita DeBoe

Well, I'm back from Germany and Norway! We had a wonderful time in Norway. The weather was perfect and warm. We saw the farms where my grandparents were raised and met a whole lot of cousins on the island of Stord. A beautiful island. I fell in love with Norway and would love to go back. Guess who I ran into in the airport in Amsterdam? Signe Griffin!! She was on her way to Bergen to see her son and to sign papers on a farm they want to buy. Sounds neat! It was such a shock to see someone you know from Austin in the Amsterdam airport!

We went all over Bergen and then rode the train to Gutendon, took the bus down to the fiord and rode the ferry on the fiord, then caught another train in Flam up to Mydral and caught another train onto Oslo. In Oslo, we had only one whole day and enjoyed the Folk Museum the most. It was a collection of old buildings from each region in Norway and brought to this place which was owned by the King and given to the people for this museum. On the grounds was a real old Stave church.

Let me just say that it was fun. I hope everyone else also had a great summer experience. Now, it is time to plan for a great fall at Cleng Peerson Lodge. First, there is a correction to when the NST cooking classes are held—they are on the 3rd Sunday of the month, usually at the Northcross Apartments clubhouse (just south of Luby's on Balcones Dr. at Steck). Next, we must start thinking about new officers for 2000. All of your officers, *including me*, want to encourage all members to take our places. You will be personally contacted by an arm twister. When you are contacted please try to accept a one year commitment as an officer. We need your help!!

Don Nedrud, our co-social chairman has planned very hard to organize a great picnic at Sun City Georgetown on **Saturday, September 18**. Reservations are required and limited tickets (\$10.00) will be available to purchase in advance. Don Nedrud plans to invite all Scandinavian groups in Texas (everyone) to this event. However there will only be

continued on next page...

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

Sons of Norway, Cleng Peerson Lodge #1-645, c/o Editor, 9900 Richelieu Road, Austin TX 78750

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300 tickets. There will be contests between the Nordic groups. Practice for the tug-of-war, watermelon eating, and **lutefisk throwing** contest. The Nordic ladies will have a **frying pan throwing** contest! Don't miss this big Fall event! Bring your cameras and hard hats!! Don't be disappointed if you can't get a ticket. Just call Don at (512/869-2852) or me (512/331-0095) or Lois Patterson who lives at Sun City (512/931-0926). **HURRY!** The deadline for tickets and reservations is September 11. There will be no meeting at Ascension Lutheran in September. Please call us NOW with your reservations.

The next officers meeting is **August 30**. Please come and help us divvy up all the things that we have to do for the big Sun City Picnic on September 18. Help us choose the size of the frying pan to throw. Our meeting will be at the Luby's at Steck and MoPac at 7:00 pm.

Hilsen -Carol Tveita DeBoe

Secret Garden comes to Austin on September 30

The New Age instrumental duo, *Secret Garden*, comprised of Norwegian composer Rolf Lovland and Irish violinist, Fionnuala Sherry have released their third CD, "Dawn of a New Century." The duo also filmed a special PBS program called "A Night at Secret Garden" at Maihaugen in Lillehammer, Norway last winter.



The musical program was to be aired on Austin PBS station KLRU on August 18. This program was broadcast throughout the country when PBS stations did their fall fund-raising and pledge drives. Sons of Norway members will be offered specially reduced price tickets when *Secret Garden* returns this fall to perform a live concert in Austin on Thursday, Sept 30 at the Paramount Theater. Austin is one of only 20 U.S. cities on their Fall Concert Schedule. They will also be in Dallas on October 1 at the Majestic Theater.

Kitchen Band cooks up sweet music in June

Bob and Jo Martin and the entire crew of the Sky View Kitchen Band really impressed us at the June S/N social meeting. Their devotion to sharing the joy of singing old hymns to the accompaniment of the piano, musical spoons, triangles, sticks, and bongo drums was most evident. Bob, the leader, played an impressive collection of small to large harmonicas. The band has traveled for ten years in an old 16-passenger Ford church van which has logged over 100,000 miles. Many, many thanks to the entire kitchen crew for sharing their joy.



In Norway, Movies Must Pass a Nanny Standard

By Walter Gibbs, *New York Times*
Oslo. July 7, 1999

Censoring entertainment is as natural as sweeping the streets in Norway. The streets are well swept indeed. By almost any standard this Scandinavian capital might be considered a bastion of wholesomeness. The police are unarmed, the children frolic in public fountains, and the most divisive political issue in Parliament this year is kindergarten policy.

No one manning the cultural ramparts, however, takes Norway's platonic order for granted, least of all a vigilant woman named Ingeborg Moraeus Hanssen. A political celebrity with swirling capes and robes, Ms. Moraeus Hanssen leads the Oslo Municipal Cinema Company, a branch of city government that owns 31 movie screens in the city of a half million. She must approve every commercial film before it is shown. At stake, in her view, is the mental health of Norwegian young people.

"I care more about my public than I do about the movies, she said recently in her office overlooking Karl Johans gate, the cultural hub of Oslo. "This industry can be very, very gruesome. You live just once on this earth, and I don't want people wasting their time watching stupid movies filled with violence and raw sex." As she spoke, she rapped her knuckles on her large wooden desk. Spread before her were the day's newspapers, which had not yet reported her latest thumbs-down ruling. The American action thriller "Universal Soldier: The Return," featuring computerized warriors, will not be shown in Oslo because Ms. Moreaus Hanssen considers its violence "speculative" and of no artistic value. (The film is scheduled for release in the U.S. on Aug. 20.)

Last year the French director Jan Kounen called Ms. Moraeus Hanssen "the lady of darkness" for rejecting his gangster film "Doberman" on the same basis. "This could maybe happen in Iraq or China," Mr. Kounen thundered to Norwegian reporters, but in a democratic society, such censorship is scandalous." He threatened to get even by setting his sequel, "Doberman II," in Oslo. (To be continued next month).

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Høst Kalendar

- 30.aug(man) **Business meeting.** 7:00 pm Luby's at Steck & MoPac. All are invited to help plan the Sun City Picnic.
- 18.sep(lør) **A Scandinavian Saturday in Sun City.** Big picnic at Sun City-Georgetown, 3-8 pm, \$10. Limit 300 tickets. Nordic contests, fun, food, fellowship. HURRY! Contact Don Nedrud at 512/869-2852.
- 30.sep(tor) **Secret Garden Concert** at Austin's Paramount Theater with specially reduced prices for S/N members
- 04.oct(man) **Business meeting.** 7:00 pm at Luby's at Steck & MoPac.
- 18.oct(man) **Leif Erickson Night.** Special Program. Ascension Lutheran Church, 7:00 pm
- 23.oct(lør) **Pancake breakfast.** 8 am to 12 noon - Ascension Lutheran Church.
- 29.oct(fre) **Whist and Games Night.** 7:00 pm TBA!!
- 01.nov(man) **Business meeting.** 7:00 pm Luby's at Steck & MoPac.
- 15.nov(man) **Second Annual Big Norwegian Auction & election of officers**
- 04.dec(lør) **Joint Christmas Party** with Norwegian Society of Texas, Ascension Lutheran. TBA
- jun 2000 **NORWAY 2000**— SON International Convention, Stavanger; Host- Cleng Peerson Lodge , Stavanger
- man**=mandag (Monday), **tor**=torsdag (Thursday), **fre**=fredag (Friday), **lør**=lørdag (Saturday), **søn** = søndag (Sunday)

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Bakke Land Posten Boosters

- Don and Mary Nedrud (6/1999)
Leila, Jane, and Ray Tackett (6/1999)
Sande and Bob Helle (6/1999)
Linda, Pam, and Phil Erickson (6/1999)
Carol Tveita and Lewis Stimson (6/1999)
Bob Olson (6/1999)
Johanna Wimberly (11/1999)
Emil Svenkerud (6/2000)
Trudy Tommeraasen (2/2000)
Anonymous - 2 (6/2000)

On the Web

Wow, the Viking Fest 2000 web page is really something! The new look has the site translated into the five Nordic languages with dozens of links to other Scandinavian web sites. If you haven't been able to access the Internet before, now is the time to do it. The prices of computers and Internet providers have never been lower. Quality bargains are out there! Visit Scandinavia on your computer. Check out the Nordic-American Web Ring and the Norway Post all of which are accessible on the VF web site. The Norway Post has daily news from Norway in english.

Next Board Meeting: Sat. Oct 16, 1999, 12 noon in Waco, TX at Wiethorn Visitors Center, Baylor Univ. Volunteers are still needed in all areas!! A T-shirt contest was announced to design the 2000 official T-shirt. Check the rules on the VF web page. Entertainers, food vendors, corporate sponsors, exhibitors, and Nordic organizations from Texas and elsewhere are still being lined up. Contact Sheila Lee, webmaster at slee@phaenom.com, or Fredrik Bolgen, VF2000 President at vikingfest@worldnet.att.net or 512/873-8786

Ole's church

Ole was shipwrecked on a desert island. After twenty years, he was finally spotted by a passing ship. The captain went ashore with the boat and looked around at the compound Ole had built.

"It looks as if you've done pretty well for yourself, under the circumstances," he said to Ole. "But tell me, what are those three huts for?"

Ole said, "Vell, da firs' hut is da vun I live in."

"Makes sense," said the captain.

"An' da secon' hut is my church."

"Very admirable. But what's the third hut?"

"Dat's da church I *used ta* go to!"

Lars Walker - Author of "Erling's Word" and "Wolf Time,"
published by Baen Books



Lewis Stimson, Cleng Peerson Lodge Marshall

**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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Marshall	J. Lewis Stimson (ctvieta@worldnet.att.net)	331-0095
Music Director	Linea Ward	453-4286
Counselors	Bob and Sandy Helle (rhelle@flash.net)	238-6600

Gratulerer med Fodselsdagen!

Fer september

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1 Fred Henry | 21 Norma (Sandy) Helle |
| 6 Todd Jermstad | 22 Yulah Sisler |
| 18 Glenn Mack | 22 Leila Tackett |



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Come!! Enjoy!!!

A Scandinavian Saturday

at Sun City - Georgetown

**With Nordic competition (games) and food
in the Pavilion**

September 18th from 3:00 to 8:00 pm

Please RSVP to Carol Tveita (331-0095), Don Nedrud (512-869-2852) or Lois Patterson (512-931-0926) by September 11th

Sons Of Norway

Cleng Peerson Lodge #1-645

c/o Editor

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Austin, Texas 78750

