



First Norwegian Settlement in America was founded in 1825 in Kendall Township NY on land bought by Cleng Peerson.

# Bakke Land Posten Texas Hill Country News

Sons of Norway - Cleng Peerson Lodge #1-645

December 1999

Vol. 4 No. 12

## ***Jultrefest!!!***



The Cleng Peerson Lodge of the Sons of Norway  
and  
The Hovedstad Chapter of the Norwegian Society of Texas  
Invite You and Your Family to Celebrate This Joyful Season  
with Norwegian style dinner and entertainment

6 p.m., Sunday, December 5, 1999

Ascension Lutheran Church

6420 Hart Lane

Austin, Texas

### **Program**

Election and Installation of Officers

Bring an Ornament to Decorate the Living Christmas Tree

Nisse (Santa) and Nissemor (Mrs. Santa) will make an appearance

Julesanger (Christmas Carols)

### **Menu**

Svinekjøtt (Roast pork)

Blomkål (Cauliflower)

Potetstappe (Mashed potatoes)

Gulerøtter og erter (Carrots and peas)

Kransekake og Bløtkake (Desserts)

*Catered by Glenn Mack, Culinary Academy of Austin*

### **Reservations**

Reservations and checks are due by Tuesday, November 30

Make check payable to NST Hovedstad Chapter and mail to Merrill Austin, 8300 Loralinda Dr., Austin, TX 78753. Write on your check how many adults, children.

Adults, \$12.00 each

Children under 12 years of age, \$6.00 each

For more information call Signe Griffin at 842-1298 or Carol DeBoe at 331-0095

**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



# *Jultrefest 1999!*

*You better not pout,  
Julenissen is coming to town!!*

**Sunday, Dec 5, Ascension Lutheran Church, 6:00pm**

It is hard to believe that it is almost Thanksgiving! But it is and Christmas is around the corner. It was so good to see all of you who attended our Auction. This has become an annual thing and is mostly put on by the men. I want to thank all of them for all the hard work that they did and I think they did a splendid job! The selection of items was even better than last year and the auctioneer was even more entertaining! I am sorry so many missed it, we really had a good time. I can not help but think that if had been on a Friday more people would have come and would not have missed out on the really neat items. I bought 2 antique items that I cherish, one a Norwegian jar or bud vase made by Prosgrund and an Irish bone china saucer with a little pitcher. The bidding was fast and furious and even tho I spent more than I intended I really came away feeling I got a prize and a bargain! I also got the prized cake made by Mrs. Huseby, a pumpkin bundt cake with fresh fruit all around in the shape of a crown! It really was a prize!

We had a lot of other really great gifts and donations from the Wooden Spoon and individuals; especially from Fred Bolgen, who donated over \$900.00 in value of items and from Jens Busch who always brings some neat treasures. Mr Johnson got a beautiful Norwegian sweater, blue with red embroidery down the front and on the sleeves. He really looked good in it. There were some rare old books donated and were fought over, also other antique glassware. Those who did not come, really missed a good time.

My year as President is almost over and in looking back it has been a good and fun year even if it was a lot of work. I had a lot of ideas I wanted to try and I did. I know it seems confusing why we cannot finalize the nominations for the officers, but it is hard to find people willing to put in the time. We need new people to help us. Just a few have been putting it all together for a long time. I really had a great staff of officers helping me and I want to thank them all for that. No President can do it by him or herself. It takes all of us. I only took it for a year though. I have a lot of family spread all out and a big wedding in September in San Francisco which is going to monopolize my time and thinking. It is hard to make the board meetings and the social meetings and try to travel between them all. If I feel I cannot give my all to something, I feel I must step down. I have tried to move the board meetings closer to the social meetings, but finding a time when all can do it is impossible or too hard to change. I explain this, so you know a little about why we are so up in the air about the position.

Remember next month is our combined Christmas party with the Norwegian Society of Texas. We have decided to contract with Glenn Mack to cater the dinner so everyone can enjoy the festivities. In the past, those who did the cooking missed out on the fun and that is no fun! We will have to pay more for this dinner because we are not doing very much of the work. A few women have volunteered to make the special desserts as was done last year. Look forward to the Kransekake, Krumkake, and Bløtkake cake also, and many more desserts. The menu is going to

be roast pork, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, and peas and carrots. There will be the traditional festivities we have enjoyed in the past. I hope to see everyone there this year.

Carol DeBoe, President Cleng Peerson Lodge

## **Nominations for 2000 Cleng Peerson Lodge Officers**

President	Vacant
Vice President	Don Nedrud
Immediate Past President	Carol DeBoe
Secretary	Ray Tackett
Treasurer	Pam Erickson Knott
Financial Secretary	Phil Erickson
Social Directors	Linda Erickson, Glenn Mack, Rita Carlson
Cultural Director	Leila Tackett
Editor	Russ Larsen
Language Director	Duane Huseby
Publicity Director	Kay Knutsen
Historian	Mary Nedrud
Marshall	Lewis Stimson
Counselors	Sandy & Bob Helle
Chaplin	Merrill Carlson, Fred Bolgen

## **Vinter kalender fer desember**

20.nov Deadline for reservations for Lutefisk Dinner, Cranfils Gap, \$12adults, 5 seatings, 4:30-7:30 call Barbara Epley 254/675-2265 or 254/597-2531

25.nov **Happy Thanksgiving!**

04.dec **Norwegian Country Christmas Tour, Clifton**  
10am-4pm, \$6 send SSA envelope with order to Norwegian Country Christmas, 115 N Avenue D, Clifton, TX 76634

04.dec **United Methodist Church Preschool's Norwegian Luncheon Fundraiser,**  
Clifton Civic Center, 403 W 3rd, \$8.00

04.dec **34th Annual Lutefisk Dinner** (turkey, too)—all you can eat family style, Cranfils Gap Lions Booster Club, Cranfils Gap High School, \$12adults, 5 seatings, 4:30-7:30

05.dec **Joint Jultrefest,** Cleng Peerson Lodge & NST, Ascension Lutheran, 6.00pm, adults \$12.00, children, \$6.00. Bring Christmas ornament for jultre. This will replace regular December social meeting.

25.dec **God jul!!**

01.jan **God nytt år!!**

17.jan Cleng Peerson Lodge Social Meeting, Ascension Lutheran Church, program TBA

31.jan Business Meeting, Ascension Lutheran, 7:15; dinner Luby's (Steck), 6:15

14.feb Third Anniversary Celebration of Cleng Peerson Lodge

## Leif Erikson Night invaded by Vikings!

**Sandy Straubhaar, Christine Ward (Gunnora Hallakarva),** and the merry band of Vikings from the Society of Creative Anachronism (SCA) in San Antonio and Austin invaded Ascension Lutheran Church and put on a terrific performance for Leif Erikson night. Fifteen Vikings were in dress, chain mail, and armor. The Vikings each talked about their costumes and necklaces many of which were made by Herskerinde Gunnora (Mistress Gunnora), The Viking Answer Lady. Each personage had a Viking name and explained Viking customs and their role in the Viking era. Please see the accompanying pictures and the Viking Answer Lady web page ([www.realtime.net/~gunnora](http://www.realtime.net/~gunnora)). Thanks everyone for coming to give such a wonderful program!!

Be sure to check out the Ladies of the Chivalry at [www.realtime.net/~gunnora/ladyknights](http://www.realtime.net/~gunnora/ladyknights) Don't miss Sir Elizabeth, Sir Erika, and Sir Fern in their colorful red dresses. Uff Da!!



**Sandy Straubhaar**



**Christine Ward  
(Gunnora Hallakarva)**



## The Celtic Cross of the Stave Church

by Rev Ariel B Mollrem

What does a Celtic Cross have to do with the Hjemkomst Center, the Stavkirke, or the Viking Ship in Moorhead, Minnesota?

[editor's note: The Hjemkomst Center is the home of the Stave Church & Viking Ship located at 202 First Av, North, Moorhead, MN]

The Celtic church was among the first to send missionaries to western Norway. In many places when there was a nucleus of converts to the Christian faith they raised their cross church. Later as their numbers grew, they built their church became the unique architecture of the newly

As a result, the Celtic cross became the Scandinavian Viking Age to the Christian Age. Norway. Some of these crosses are cut into runestones. church was growing fast through the establishment were being trained to share the Gospel.

Viking ships sailed on both the Baltic Sea where Viking towns were established. Other Viking Ireland, planting settlements in York and Dublin. prayers the phrase, "Deliver us from the fury of the Celtic monks and priests set sail to the land of the band of Christian converts on the shore of Loen, a This stone cross is one of the oldest Christian symbols



symbolic mark of the transition from the Thirty-five such crosses have been found throughout In the northern parts of the British Isles the Celtic of a series of monasteries, whose monks and priests

and the Mediterranean Sea and into the Black Sea fleets ravaged the coasts of England, Scotland, and No wonder that the English Church included in their Northmen." To combat the devastation, a band of Northmen. A stone Celtic cross was erected by a present day village some miles south of Strynelve. in existence in Norway.

[abstracted from an article in *FM Greeter*, Fargo-Moorhead's City Magazine, September 1999, p18, courtesy of Emil and Erik Svenkerud]

## The Austin International Children's Festival 16 October 1999 at Fiesta Gardens



Knud Hitarel and Bodil  
Uglebjerg from Iceland



Jostein Helleland  
and Sigrid Førland  
from Norge

### New Scholarship funds available thru the SON:

from speech made by Liv Dahl, Administrative Director, SON Foundation for use at local lodge meetings.

In recent years, outstanding generosity from wills and bequests has made it possible to establish new scholarship funds. The Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial Fund, the Nian Draxten Fund and the Myrtle Beinhauer Fund are all operational and benefit scholars across the SON Order. The newest Scholarship fund was established in 1999 in the name of Carl M. Saltveit, a long and active contributor to the Norwegian American community through Greig Lodge in Portland, OR. This is a permanent scholarship and will pay tuition at the Oslo International Summer School for a member, child, or grandchild of District 2 members of SON. The foundation has had special interest fundraisers such as the Special Olympics World Games, and for the Midwest floods in 1994 and 1997. Contributions to the foundation, which was started in 1967, can be from individuals or lodges, corporations and other organizations.

There is a Heritage Cultural Grant which is to provide assistance to larger projects such as video tapes, books, teaching tours, exhibits and radio programs.  
Contact : Sons of Norway Foundation, 1455 West Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408 (612)827-3611 fax: (612) 827-0658

The SON Foundation encourages each Lodge to purchase a King Harold Medallion which requires a minimum of \$250.00 to purchase. The revenue would go to the fund and the medallion will be a collector's item as King Harold allowed only 2000 to be produced. Also, the foundation encourages each lodge to raise a minimum of \$.50 per member as an outright donation to the Foundation.

*submitted and reported by Carol DeBoe, Pres. Cleng Peerson Lodge 1-645*

### Secretary's Report Submitted by Ray Tackett

Minutes of Officer's Meeting - November 1, 1999,  
Luby's Cafeteria, Steck Ave., 7PM

Officers Present: Don & Mary Nedrud, Carol Tveita,  
Fred Bolgen, Russ Larsen, Phil Erickson, Sandy Helle,  
and Ray & Leila Tackett.

Reports Presented:

Meeting Minutes for October 18, 1999 presented.

VikingFest 2000 - Fred Bolgen gave a preview of the expected sales, Norway and Sweden demonstrations, craft displays, and lectures available for VikingFest 2000.

The motion was passed to have a Lefse booth at VikingFest, if the NST elects not to enter their Lefse booth this year.

The Sons of Norway Insurance Field Representative position for our area is open and we are searching for someone to fill this position as a full time representative.

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## Cartoonist Raymond Helle dies at 82

Amy Morrison, Holiday, FL, in *Western Viking*, October 15, 1999.

**Raymond Helle** created the comic strip *Sam & Ellie* and the *Flibbertys* which appeared for years in *Western Viking* and was picked up by the *Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate*. Ray Helle was a cousin of **Bob Helle, Counselor (along with Sandy Helle)**, of Cleng Peerson Lodge. Ray Helle, who had heart bypass surgery in the early 1980s, died in his home on Friday, Sept 17, 1999 from complications from congestive heart failure, according to his son, Ken, a photographer for the *St Petersburg Times*.

In 1953, drawing inspiration from his family and their pets, Ray Helle penned the *Flibbertys*, a six-panel daily comic strip about the lives of Stan and Fran, their three children, Geddown the dog and Preston the cat. The popular strip ran in syndication for 18 years and appeared in the *Evening Independent*.

After retiring from the *Chicago Tribune-New York Times* syndicate in 1966, Ray Helle did freelance work, creating *Sam & Ellie*, a strip about a retirement-age couple living in a tropical setting. Though many editors suggested that a comic strip about older people wouldn't sell, Ray Helle's lighthearted, honest look at retirement and aging became a popular fixture in the *Evening Independent* for several years.

The son of Norwegian immigrants, Ray Helle, who was born in Brooklyn NY, knew he wanted to be a cartoonist when he was just 12 years old. He sold his first cartoon in 1939 to Judge, training himself by copying other comics that he liked. He later enrolled in a night class at Pratt Institute in New York to study perspective and figure drawing.

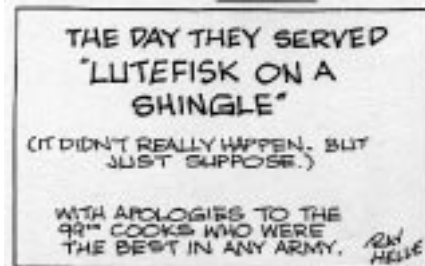
After a year of rejection letters, his comics began to appear in *Colliers*, the *American*, and the *Saturday Evening Post*, but his success was interrupted by World War II. He served with the Army's 99th Infantry Battalion through five campaigns in Europe and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Ray Helle, who also wrote *Box Seat*, a daily one column panel gag on show business, and did *Life With Lucky* and *Pet Parade* for the *National Enquirer* for several years, came to St Petersburg in 1961 from Northport, NY. He moved to Holiday 15 years ago.

He was a member of Community United Methodist Church, Holiday, the National Cartoonist Society, Vasa Order of America, the Finnish American Club and Sons of Norway.

In addition to his son, survivors include his wife, Dorothy; a daughter, Joanne Forgette, League City, TX; a stepson, Scott Mathieson, New Port Richey; and five grandchildren.

**Big Norwegian Auction pictures and sponsors names will appear in the January 2000 newsletter. Support our Sponsors!! Please renew your *Bakke Posten* Boosters contribution (mail \$7.00 to Philmon Erickson) for the new year.**



## Viking Name Missing from Town Register

A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official who apologized profusely saying,

"I must have taken Leif off my census!"

Thanks to MissElaineous at misc@llano.net

**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.

<b>President</b>	Carol Tveita (ctveita@earthlink.com)	331-0095
<b>Past President</b>	Fred Bolgen (extrahand@worldnet.att.net)	873-8786
<b>Vice President</b>	Erik Svenkerud (svenkerud@pol.net)	451-2735
<b>Secretary</b>	Ray Tackett (rtacket2@flash.net)	327-5397
<b>Treasurer</b>	Leila Tackett (ltackett@flash.net)	327-5397
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Philmon Erickson (perick@flash.net)	244-4977
<b>Social Directors</b>	Don Nedrud (dmnedrud@aol.com) Linda Erickson (lerickson@bfg.mro.com)	869-2852 244-4977
<b>Cultural Director</b>	Todd Jermstad	836-7758
<b>Editor</b>	Russ Larsen (rdlarsen8@aol.com)	346-5570
<b>Language Director</b>	Duane Huseby	398-9935
<b>Publicity Director</b>	Glen Larson	926-9905
<b>Historian</b>	Mary Nedrud (dmnedrud@aol.com)	869-2852
<b>Marshall</b>	J. Lewis Stimson (ctvieta@worldnet.att.net)	331-0095
<b>Music Director</b>	Linea Ward	453-4286
<b>Counselors</b>	Bob and Sandy Helle (rhelle@flash.net)	238-6600

**Gratulerer med Fodselsdagen!**

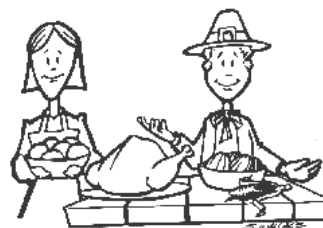
Fer desember

14 Carol Tveita DeBoe      28 Rita Carlson

**Deepest Sympathies**

Cleng Peerson Lodge extends deepest sympathies to the family to Kinny and Johanna Wimberley.

Kast på Herren det som tynger deg, han skal holde deg oppe.  
 Han skal aldri i evighet la den rettferdige rokkes.  
 Salme 55,23.



**Happy Thanksgiving!**

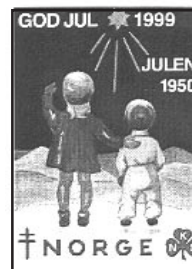
**Bakke Land Posten Boosters**

Please renew your support of the newsletter for 12 more months. If you are not a **Bakke Land Booster** already, please consider helping to defray the cost of the newsletter. Seven dollars will help cover the production and delivery costs. The newsletter is mailed to 120 addresses each month. Please mail your contribution to Philmon Erickson. We thank you for your support.

- Johanna Wimberley (11/1999)
- Emil Svenkerud (6/2000)
- Trudy Tommeraasen (2/2000)
- Anonymous - 2 (6/2000)

**Erickson is Sub-District 8 Rep**

Congratulations to Philmon Erickson who has accepted the position of Sub-District 8 (Texas) representative of Sons of Norway.



**Save your stamps—Remember Tubfrim**

You will be getting **lots of mail** over Christmas. Don't forget to clip, save, and send your canceled stamps to **Leila Tackett** who is collecting them to send to Tubfrim in Norway. See the April issue of *Bakke Land Posten*.

**Sons Of Norway**

**Cleng Peerson Lodge #1-645**

c/o Editor

9900 Richelieu Road

Austin, Texas 78750



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