

SONS OF
NORWAY
1895-2000

Bakke Land Posten

Texas Hill Country News

Cleng Peerson Lodge #1-645

November/December 2000

Vol. 5 No. 11 & 12

Fun, Fun, Fun!!!

Greetings!

The Viking Dinner Theater was a great success and a lot of fun. While some of our members were out of town, the meeting was well attended and we had several visitors. The audience participation was educational and Duane Huseby presented an informative language lesson on the Norwegian words found in genealogy research (He even had a very useful handout!).

The planning for the Christmas party is underway, and you will receive an invitation mid-November. Keep the date open (Saturday, December 9th) and bring the whole family.

The November meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept 18. The meeting will consist of a book reading and signing by a local Texas author, Patty Jones Morgan. The book is entitled *ISLAND SOLE; A Memoir of Norway* and will be available for purchase at the meeting. Our Annual Auction will follow the book signing. The auction will be an abbreviated version and will last approximately an hour. You will still find many wonderful bargains including Norwegian items such as Porsgrund Christmas plates, pewter items, restaurant gift certificates, and your attic treasures. Please bring one attic treasure per person to be auctioned off. You all have some nice things that have been in storage in your attic for at least 10 years just in case you change your room. We would like you to donate those items to the lodge for auction. They should be something nice that someone else would enjoy and be willing to buy (no yard sale or white elephant items).

The Year 2000 term of office is drawing to a close, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. The nominating committee presented a ballot of new officers for 2001 at the September meeting, and elections for the new board will be held at the November meeting.

Look forward to seeing you at the November meeting.

The following is the slate of officers:

President - Don Nedrud Vice President - Rita Carlson Secretary - Ray Tackett Treasurer - Leila Tackett
Financial Secretary - Phil Erickson Programs - Fred Bolgen Refreshments - Linda Erickson
Marshall - Lewis Stimson Web Master - Erik Svenkerud Counselors - Bob and Sandy Helle
Language Director - Duane Huseby EDITOR - Volunteer still needed to begin in January!!!

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

The Norwegian Forest Cat - the skogkatt

<http://home.powertech.no/skogkatt/NFOfaq.html>

<http://www.forestcats.net>

Norwegian Forest Cats

Norwegian Forest Cats are a breed that emerged centuries ago from the rugged forests of Norway. This breed was shaped by nature with a thick uneven coat that has both a top weather-proof quality, and a short, dense undercoat which insulates the body. They have strong bones and a compact, muscular body and, of course, an instinctual love for the outdoors. These remarkable creatures have won the hearts of many throughout the world with their purity of mind and the freedom of their spirit. Despite their supposed domestication, these cats are truly wild at soul.

History

Norway is a land of rugged mountains, tranquil lakes, wild forests, and glaciers. The winters are long, harsh and dark. The summers are cool and brief. From this dim, difficult terrain

(the skogkatt continued on page 2)

Høst kalender

Fall calendar

18.11.00 (lør) 7 pm - Third Annual Stor Norsk Auksjon --
Nov 18! (Sat) **Attic Treasures Auction**

See other side for details!

2.12..00 (lør) Norwegian Country Christmas Tour &
Dec 2! (Sat) Lutefisk Dinner, Clifton Texas

9.12.00 (lør) 6pm - **Jultrefest!!** Christmas Party -- hosted
Dec 9! (Sat) jointly with the Norwegian Society of Texas.
Ascension Lutheran Church.

**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.

President	Jane Bolgen (JBolgen@hotmail.com)	873-8786
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**Gratulerer med Fødselsdagen
(Grah-tew-LEHR-er meh FERDS-els-dah-en!)**

NOVEMBER

1 Linda Pierson Cisneros	16 Bruce Israels
7 Fredrick Sando	28 Dorothy Gilbertson- Winburne
12 Patricia Austin	

DECEMBER

14 Carol Tveita Deboe	28 Rita Carlson
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the skogkatt (continued)

emerged the Norse Skogkatt, literally meaning the Norwegian Forest Cat. Some say the basic type, with all of the characteristics unique to the breed, existed as early as 2000 years ago.

These cats are a natural breed and arrived in Norway probably around 1000 AD, and it is entirely possible that the ancestors of the skaukatt are Turkish longhairs - since several Byzantine emperors had Scandinavian guards - the vaeringer. Cats have been farm animals ever since, usually living outdoors with...

Get the rest of the skogkatt story on page 3 of the color version of this newsletter at:

<http://members.nbc.com/ClengPeerson/>

Attic Treasures Auction!!!

6:30 pm Bring Auction Items... At least one nice thing that you don't want to store anymore and someone else will use!

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 18th**

7:00 - 8:00 pm Book reading & signing

8:00 - 9:00 pm Auction

At Ascension Lutheran Church

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

*Map found on Cleng Peerson Webpage

**BRING
DESSERTS
or
SNACKS!**

Sons Of Norway

Cleng Peerson Lodge #1-645

c/o Editor

12006 Snowgoose Road

Austin, Texas 78758



a color version of this newsletter is
found at:

<http://members.nbc.com/ClengPeerson/>



Happy Thanksgiving!

the skogkatt (the rest of the story)

shelter wherever they could find it in the barns and stables. Possibly the skogkatt evolved here, since it is very well adapted to such a life. There is speculation that the Maine Coon, the Siberian, the Turkish longhairs and the skogkatt are related, having a common ancestral basis somewhere, but this is still just speculation. It may equally likely be a case of parallel evolution under similar living conditions.

This cat was long-legged, intelligent, and brave, equipped with a double semi-long coat (a long one would easily be caught in brush and a short would not offer relief from the constant cold). The top coat was glossy and waterproof and never matted, and the inside coat was soft, cotton-like and dense. It insulated the cat well and kept them warm even in freezing temperatures. Their paws were large and heavily furred so that they did not get cold in deep snow, with thick claws used for fishing and climbing.

Although these cats were generally wild, they were sometimes kept as pets by the locals as they had a sweet, fearless temperament and could easily be converted to perfect house cats. Vikings often took them on their expeditions to keep down the rat population onboard, and as companions. It is said that when Lief Erickson discovered America, he left a few cats who became the basis for the Maine Coon breed.

The Cat Fancy Association in Norway was started as late as 1934 and not until 1938 did anyone take notice of the beautiful cats that roamed the rural countryside. A group of cat fanciers eventually got together to promote the Forest Cat but World War II temporarily halted the breed's progress and the cat was all but forgotten. Random breeding between the common short haired house cat and the Wegie (as they are affectionately referred to) further delayed the development of the breed. The Forest Cat bloodlines were rapidly being diluted.

However, in the early 1970s, Carl Fredrik Nordane, past president of the Norwegian Cat Association, organized a meeting to design the first Forest Cat breeding program. The breed had finally been established. In November 1977, Nordane traveled to Paris where he made a presentation to the Feline International Federation (FIFe). He wanted Wegies to be sent to different countries so that the breed could be popularized throughout the world. This program of exporting cats was successful.

The Norwegian Forest Cat has alert, almond eyes. They are intelligent and expressive and speak volumes of the cat's personality. They range in shades of deep blue, to emerald green and the purest gold. From the tip of the ears to the bottom of the chin, the Wegie's head forms an equilateral triangle. The ears are thick at the base and arch forward with long sprouts of hair at the tips.

Like a lynx, the back legs are longer than the front ones, accounting for the breed's agility and speed. They have the ability to make great distances in a single leap. Their bodies are square with thick,

heavy boning and lots of muscle tone. Although their builds are compact and heavy, they would not be classified under "cobby" for body type. Their tails are long and very bushy similar to a fox and they proudly hold them in the air.

The weatherproof coat of this cat probably evolved to survive in the most trying conditions. It has two lengths of textured hair. One length is guard hair that cannot matt and the second is short and very warm. In autumn, the thin glossy coat that can make this cat appear short-haired blossoms into a full, thick coat that is soft and luxurious. The neck is covered with a thick ruff of shaggy hair giving the cat an exotic tiger appearance. This ruff makes it so that if a predator were to bite the neck, it would be deceived by the thick coat and only get a mouthful of fuzz.

Maine Coon cats look somewhat like but differ from Norwegian Forest Cats. The Maine Coons are rectangular where the Wegies have longer hind legs. The head shape is different, and there is a marked difference in the fur texture - the Maine Coons have a silky outer coat while the Skogkatts have a coarse coat of quite stiff hairs. The agouti colors - i.e. the tabbies - seem to have a thicker, softer fur than the solid colored cats, unlike the Maine Coons who have the same texture for all patterns/colors.

A Skogkatt is a family member, like most cats. They are often a bit reserved with strangers, but usually gentle, friendly cats. Most are not lap cats. Maybe just as well, the males can weigh 10 kg. Head-bumping and chin-scratching is of course a must, but with some restraint - you don't have to pet them all the time. They'll tell you, quietly, when it is needed. (If you ignore them, they'll get louder.) They climb well, and can even climb down from trees headfirst. There's also evidence that outdoor cats who live near streams do fish!



At the October 16th social meeting, Fred Bolgen (on left) organized the Leif Erikson play in which everyone had a part to play.

Duane Huseby (second from right) taught those present some important Norwegian genealogy terms.