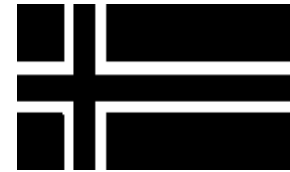


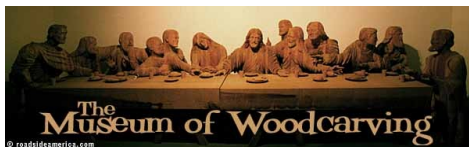


**July, August, September 2013
Sons of Norway Newsletter
Fagernes Lodge 5-616
Blair, Wisconsin**



Summer Trip to Shell Lake on July 20th

If it is July, it must be time for our lodge to take a day trip! This year we will be going to the Museum of Woodcarving in Shell Lake, Wis.



The Museum of Woodcarving is an amazing compilation of biblical history that visitors will find both breathtaking and astonishing. Located just a half mile from the small town of Shell Lake, Wisconsin this divinely inspired collection of handcrafted, wooden figurines will simply astound anyone who happens to stumble across this small but well put together travel through biblical times. The display of wooden biblical motivated figures was handcrafted by wood-crafter Joseph T. Barta. Mr. Barta's museum opened in 1951. He was a teacher in Spooner, Wisconsin in the 1940's. Mr. Barta developed this wide array of wood figures, depicting many well read biblical events, over a period of 15 years. As his niece, Maria McKay, states, "You feel like you're walking through a wooden Bible." This large collection of woodcarvings, actually, the largest collection in the world created by one person, consists of 100 life sized wood carvings as well as 400 miniatures. The construction of the religious scenes is made of ponderosa and sugar pine which are laminated together. This tedious form of craftsmanship is obvious when one closely examines the minute details depicted in each religious scene. Each piece although showing a rough finish, displays each labor intensive chisel stroke of the craftsman. Joseph Barta's museum opened in 1951. He was a teacher in Spooner, Wisconsin in the 1940's. Incredibly, Mr. Barta even developed his own glue for fastening the pieces together on many of the carvings.

This no frills museum is clean and if not somewhat bleak. The wood carvings are carefully displayed on gray wall to wall carpeting with plain white walls in the background. Each display is dimly illuminated by ceiling track lighting. Each scene is displayed in the chronological order as they appear in the Bible. Starting with Adam and Eve being banished from the Garden of Eden, the tour through the museum takes visitors from one epic biblical occurrence to the next. One of the most chilling, if not gruesome, carvings is that of Judas hanging from a rope. The carving of Judas swinging overhead is sure to send chills up the spines of visitors as they roam through the museum. Some very interesting events led to some of Mr. Barta's wood carvings. Mr. Barta claimed to have had a series of revelations that led to some if not all of his wood carving endeavors. It is said that he had dreams in which God spoke to him and advised him how to go about his works. On his carving of the Last Supper, Mr. Barta is said to have heard a voice with a German inflection giving him the inspiration to create this well known biblical scene. The Last Supper carving took Barta over four years to complete. Other stimulation was said to have come from a vision of Mary, Queen of the Universe. The entire museum was relocated to Florida for a time, but has since been reestablished back where it began in Shell Lake. Joseph Barta died at the age of 68 in 1972.

Contact Leland and LaVonne Wier at 608-539-3243 to reserve a seat. After we have a count and the names of lodge members going, we will set up meeting locations and decide who rides in which van. If you can drive a vanload, please let us know. We will leave from the Square in Galesville about 8:30.

Coming Events

July 20, 2013
Friday, 8:30 a.m..
Museum of Woodcarving
See article at left.

August 18, 2013
Sunday, 11:00 a.m.
*Potluck Picnic
in the Park*
In Whitehall
before the parade.

October 5, 2013
*Cemetery Walk
At Fagernes*
Potluck meal
Saturday, 1:00 p.m.

October 25, 2013
Friday, 7:00 p.m.
*Bingo and
Silent Auction*
Servers:
Charlene Saxe and
Judy Bleken

Parades left in 2013:

Trempealeau -
July 14th
Whitehall - Aug 18th
Ettrick - August 25th
Blair - Sept 15th

Norwegian Name Days

In Norwegian culture, a person's name day is a day of the year that according to an almanac is dedicated to their first name. The tradition of celebrating a name day comes from the early Christian church, evidently to reduce the significance of celebrating birthdays, which was considered a heathen practice.

The original name days were taken from a list of Catholic saints and martyrs from the Middle Ages. Even though the religious basis for saints' days fell away after the Reformation, the practice was retained in folk tradition. From about the middle of the 18th century until early in the 1900s these name days were published in almanacs. By 1912 both the names and the traditions surrounding them had died out in Norway.

Name days had little meaning in Norway during the 1900s, while growing in popularity in Sweden. This generated a certain amount of attention in the Norwegian media during the 1980s, and in 1988 a new calendar was published that included name days. For every date in the year except January 1st, February 29th and December 25th, two names were chosen, based on statistics for names from the period 1900-1982. About 125 of the names from the old name day calendar were reintroduced on the same dates as before. A few names were assigned to dates connected to historical figures with the name. Examples of this are Snorre, which was assigned to September 23rd, the birth date of Icelandic saga scholar Snorre Sturlasson, and Hakon and Maud, which were both assigned to June 21st, the date of the coronation of King Hakon VII and Queen Maud in 1906.

Today the tradition is well-known in Norway. You can look up your own name day at http://www.nordicnames.de/wiki/Norwegian_Name_Days

litt på norsk...

Norske Navnedager

En persons navnedag er den dag som ifølge almanaken er tilegnet personens fornavn. Tradisjonen å feire navnedag oppstod i den tidlige kristne kirken, nærmest for å redusere betydningen av fødselsdagsfeiringen, som ble oppfattet som en hedensk skikk.

De gamle navnedagene var hentet fra en liste over helgener og martyrer fra middelalderen. Selv om det religiøse grunnlaget for helgendagene falt bort med reformasjonen, ble de bevart i folketradisjonen. Fra omtrent midten av den 18de århundret til tidlig i 1900-tallet var navnedagene trykket i almanakker. Innen 1912 hadde både navnene og tradisjonene rundt dem dødd ut i Norge.

Navnedager hadde lite betydning i Norge gjennom 1900-tallet, mens feiringen av folks navnedager fikk stor utbredelse i Sverige. Dette vakte en viss oppmerksomhet i norske medier på 1980-tallet, og i 1988 lanserte Almanakkforlaget en ny kalender som etter svensk forbilde inneholdt navnedager.

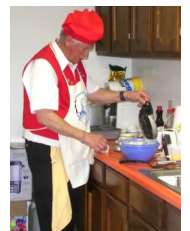
For hver dato i året, bortsett fra 1. januar, 29. februar og 25. desember, ble to navn valgt ut, basert på statistikk over navn for perioden 1900–1982. Rundt 125 av navnene fra den gamle navnedagskalenderen ble gjeninnført på samme dato som tidligere. Noen få navn ble lagt på datoer knyttet til historiske personer med navnet. Eksempler på dette er Snorre, som fikk navnedag 23. september etter dødsdatoen til Snorre Sturlasson, og Hakon og Maud, som begge fikk navnedag 21. juni etter kroningsdagen til kong Haakon VII og dronning Maud i 1906.

I dag er tradisjonen velkjent i Norge. Du kan slå opp din egen navnedag på http://www.nordicnames.de/wiki/Norwegian_Name_Days



Our Brunch & Bake Sale on May 17th was a wonderful success! Despite a rainy day that spoiled our sandwich sign, we had a very nice crowd. Todd Fetsch was the Norwegian waffle chef. LaVonne Wier made krumkake onsite for the breakfast and for sale. The tables were decorated festively with antiques and flowers. The brunch was well received.

All the baked goods were sold. We earned enough to finance two camp scholarships and more! Thanks to all who worked at the event, and to those who provided food for the brunch and the bake sale. The very nice variety of Norwegian baking sold out quickly. Mange tusen takk!



Past Happenings at Fagernes 5-616



Taylor Parade in June



Rainy day for the Arcadia Parade



Fun and fellowship at the Brunch and Bake Sale on May 17th



President Todd Fetsch and the Norwegian exchange student at Grand View

President's Message

'Corn is knee high in many fields. The warmth of the sun is working. We have a few parades yet to ride in. We were awarded first place in the Taylor parade for original float!! \$25.00!!! The new sail for the float is in transit (finally!!). So maybe we can have it ready for the Trempealeau Parade (July 14th). Roger Instenes is our float contact person and he says we are ready for all parades except Whitehall...maybe he has found a contact person by now. Blair Parade, Eddie Thompson knows about that parade. So I imagine Roger and Eddie will communicate on that one.

Our Shell Lake trip to the Wood Carving Museum information should be upcoming. That date is set for July 20th. Times to be announced.

Condolences are extended to the family of LaVern Saxe. Also -- to the family of David Olson from Osseo Sons of Norway Lodge.

We had a grand time in Pigeon falls where we celebrated St Hans Dag Fyrbal. Fran and Roger Instenes were crowned our King and Queen for this year 2013--2014. They will ride on the throne seat of our float in the parades we attend. Congratulations Fran and Roger!!

I survived Boy Scout Summer Camp at camp Decorah and now looking forward to a week long canoe trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe area in Northern Minnesota 29 July to Aug 4th.

Keep up the good work and have a great "rest' of the summer!!

Todd Fetsch, presidente'



Congratulations to our new lodge king and queen, Roger and Fran Instenes! They were crowned at the Fyrbal in Pigeon Falls on June 25th. They are pictured with 2 grandchildren, Gavin and Sierra. They will represent our lodge in the area parades. Look for them - or better yet.... join them on the float!

Happy Birthday Queen Sonja!

A very special happy birthday to Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway who will be celebrating her seventy-sixth birthday on July 4th. In honor of this special day, lets learn a bit more about Queen Sonja.

- Her Majesty Queen Sonja was born in the Vinderen neighborhood of Oslo in 1937 to Dagny and Karl August Haraldsen. She received a diploma in dressmaking and tailoring at the Oslo Vocational School before receiving a diploma from École Professionnelle des Jeunes Filles in Lausanne, Switzerland and undergraduate degrees in French, English and Art History from the University of Oslo.

- It wasn't until 1959 that she first met Crown Prince Harald. Nine years later they received permission to marry, resulting in their wedding at the Oslo Cathedral on August 29, 1968 and their consecration at Nidaros Cathedral in 1991.

(Visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGAC92mjDMw> to watch a video interview about their engagement or to watch a clip of the royal wedding, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1mYpMfKO9o>)

- An avid lover of arts, culture and music, the Queen attends a number of art exhibitions in both Norway and abroad and is a patron of the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet, the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Oslo Chamber Music Festival and the Norwegian Traditional Music and Dance Association. In early 2013, Queen Sonja officially opened the exhibition entitled "Munch|Warhol and the Multiple Image" in New York to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Edvard Munch. Queen Sonja also enjoys photography and she often takes photographs of their trips and state visits.

- Queen Sonja is a trained skiing instructor. Each year she takes the opportunity to enjoy long ski treks or hikes in the mountains.

- The Queen plays an active role in a variety of fund-raising initiatives. In 1974 she was a member of the committee for the first nationwide humanitarian telethon. In 2010 she visited the world's largest refugee camp in Kenya and was a patron of the Norwegian Refugee Council's telethon campaign. A recipient of the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees Nansen Medal, Queen Sonja donated her prize money to the building of schools for refugees in Tanzania. From 1987 to 1990, she also served as Vice President of the Norwegian Red Cross. Throughout the year Queen Sonja also visits institutions for various social groups such as children, vulnerable women, elderly people, the homeless and substance abusers.

- In late April, the Queen received the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce (NACC) Nora Award for Women of Achievement. An inaugural offering from the NACC, the award was established to mark the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in Norway. According to the statutes, the award is to be presented to a woman who has achieved extraordinary success in her chosen endeavors.

For more on Queen Sonja or the Royal Family, visit <http://www.kongehuset.no/>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS!!!

July 8th—Chynelle Koterwski

July 13th—Todd Fetsch

July 17th—Tarryn Hanson

July 20th—Sergei Wier

July 25th—Eddie Thompson

July 26th—Mary Jo Fetsch

July 27th—Bailey Anderson

July 30th—Noelle Henderson

August 12th—Terry Thompson

August 13th—Kaleb Dobson

August 15th—Myron Anderson and
Ruby Henderson

August 16th—Brendan Berg

August 22th—Deanna Koebele

August 25th—Olin Fimreite

August 29th—LaVonne Wier

August 31th—Marlys Britten

Sept 4th—Marleen Berg

Sept 5th—Cynthia Anderson

Sept 6th—Ralph Solberg

Sept 23th—Gene Hogden

Sept 27th—Emily Anderson



World Record Breaking Norwegians

Norway is known for many things—beautiful fjords, northern lights and scenic mountains, just to name a few—but, did you know that Norway also has the distinction of holding several unorthodox Guinness World Records? Check out these surprising records collected from guinnessworldrecords.com.

Youngest Person to Win an Olympic Gold Medal for Alpine Skiing

The youngest alpine skier to win an Olympic gold is Kjetil Andre Aamodt, who won the first of his four career Olympic golds in Albertville, France, on February 16, 1992, at the age of 20 years 167 days.

Oldest Married Couple, Aggregate Age

Karl Dolven married Gudrun Haug at Hole, Norway, on June 4, 1927. They remained married until Gudrun's death on April 24, 2004. At this time Gudrun was aged 103 years 193 days and Karl was 106 years 237 days - an aggregate age of 210 years 65 days.

Most Backwards Basketball Half-Court Shots in One Minute

The most backwards basketball half-court shots in one minute was three by Arve Gravdal at Stavanger Idrettshall gym in Stavanger, Norway, on December 10, 2010.

Longest Knitted Scarf-Individual

The longest knitted scarf is 11,363 feet, 11 inches or 2.15 miles long and was completed after 23 years of knitting by Helge Johansen in Oslo, Norway, on November 10, 2006.

Longest Skis

The longest skis are 1,820 feet, 10.35 inches long and were worn by 170 skiers in an event organized by Aker Solutions Arendal in Arendal, Norway, on February 20, 2011. The skiers traveled a distance of 44 feet, 3 inches.

Longest Submergence Underwater in a Controlled Environment

The record for the longest uninterrupted underwater submergence is 4 days and 4 hours (100 hours in total) and was achieved by Ronny Frimann to raise funds for the WWF. The official attempt began on June 14, 2007 at 4:55 p.m., after a failed start on the previous day, and ended on June 18, 2007 at 8:55 p.m. in a water tank located at the Central Station, in Oslo, Norway. During the submergence Ronnie wore a diving dry suit and helmet equipped with a catheter and tubes for nutritional fluids and air supply. When he broke the surface of the water, after 100 hours, Ronnie had lost 16 pounds, 8 oz.

Wanted - Polar Bear Spotter in Svalbard

Svalbard is searching for a polar bear spotter. The Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) need two polar bear guards to stand look out while they do research work on Svalbard. The organization is establishing traffic controller locations along the coast of Svalbard. And within connection to that they need spotters to stand look out while they work, according NRK.no. "We are looking for someone who has experience with both firearms and polar bears, as well as someone who is sporty and interested in this type of excursion", says General Frigg Jørgensen AECO to NRK. AECO is the organization of Arctic cruise operators and in July they will set out on the M/S White Bear for a six day tour. It offers simple accommodations, full food and board and six days of beautiful scenery to the person or persons who are sporty, competent and would like to have a different sort of experience this summer without compensation, states the job description. This is no luxurious trip. About 3,000 polar bears are located in the area from Svalbard to Franz Josef Land, disclosed an expedition's calculations from 2004. In addition to keeping bears away, it is also important that applicants do not have high standards of comfort. "We will be traveling with a former hunting vessel, so this is not a luxurious trip. It is essential that applicants have the ability to take things as they come", says Jørgensen.

The project is funded by the Svalbard Environmental Protection Fund.

We lost one of our members on June 28th. LaVern Saxe passed away at the age of 77. His funeral was on July 2nd at North Beaver Creek. Several lodge members attended and sat together to honor his memory. Our sincere condolences to Charlene and family. He will be greatly missed.

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NORWEGIAN EXPERIENCE 2013

Once again Sons of Norway is partnering with Borton Overseas to offer one lucky recruiter and their guest an amazing travel experience in Norway! All year, every Sons of Norway member who recruits a new, dues-paying member will be entered into the 2013 Norwegian Experience Recruitment Contest.

The trip, which will be awarded in January of 2014, will include airfare, meals, exclusive travel opportunities and upscale accommodations! Just imagine taking a 10 day land-tour of Norway

enjoying some of the most beautiful scenery that Scandinavia has to offer! The best part is that the winner gets to choose their own adventure! Whether you prefer an active trip full of sight-seeing and touring, or a more laid-back vacation, it's up to you!

To enter this year's Norwegian Experience Recruitment Contest all you have to do is recruit one new, dues-paying member and make sure your name is listed in the "Referred By" field. It's as easy as that! Entries are taken from members recruited between January 1st and December 31st, 2013. Also, remember that you are entered every time you recruit a new member throughout the year, which increases your chances of winning!