

SynNor Brevet

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Synnøve-Nordkap

Lodge #1-008

NOTE NEW WEB SITE: <http://synnove1.com>

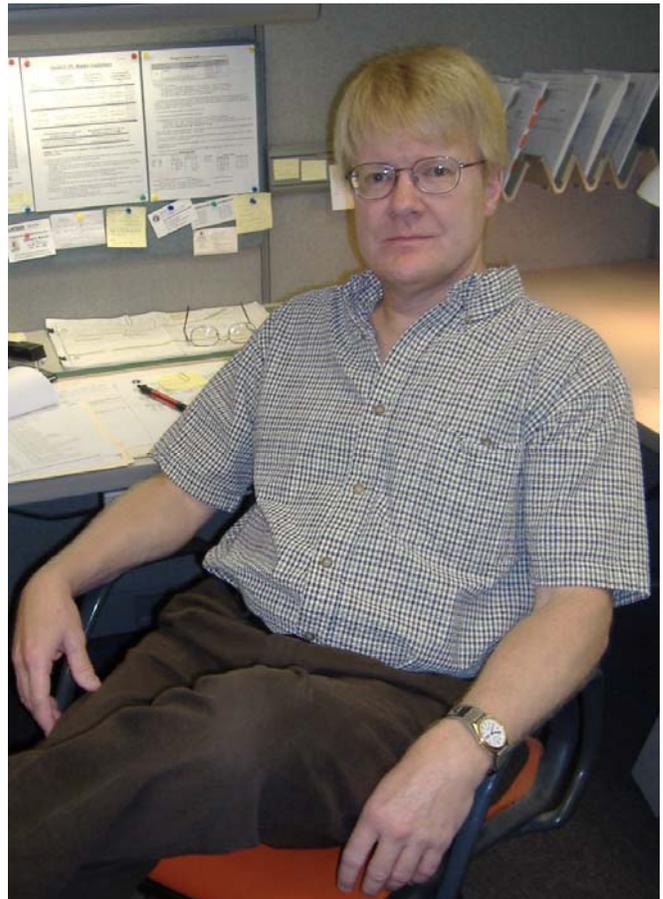


September 2008

Number 8:8

Voice Messages: 651-762-7872

The Kensington Rune Stone. The La Verendrye Stone. Blonde-haired, blue-eyed Mandan Indians documented by both the La Verendrye and the Lewis and Clark expeditions. These are the some of the intriguing Nordic-related highlights of the historical novel, "Of Vikings and Voyageurs." Join us at our September meeting and hear author Jack Salmela explain his research. Jack is an interesting speaker of Finnish descent with considerable knowledge of early Norwegian explorers and Nordic Runes. He will take questions at the end.



See page 3 inside for more information about his book.

Scandinavian Culture and News

Sword from 1700's Found

In June work was stopped at Jernbanetorget, the central train station in Oslo. The station was undergoing renovation when some large archeological discoveries were made there. Among other things of interest was a sword that archeologists think probably fell or was thrown overboard from a boat in the 1700's.

Archeologists have excavated wooden construction materials that may also date from the 18th century, making them the first buildings on the site of the train station. The area was a viable harbor at that time, according to the Norwegian Maritime Museum.

The discoveries made during the first week in June lay no deeper than one meter under the ground level. The team of archeologists will dig in an area of approximately 50 meters square. This is an area where little excavation had been done previously, and therefore it is of great historical interest.

From: www.nrk.no

New Marshall Statue in Oslo

The Norwegian government unveiled a new statue in Oslo recently of US General George C. Marshall, more than six decades after the Marshall Plan aid helped Norway and the rest of Europe rebuild after World War II.

The statue, located alongside the inner harbor below the Akershus Fortress, was sculpted by Asbjørn Høglund and formally dedicated by Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, who said it honored "a man, a vision and a mission that changed Europe and Norway a half century ago."

Marshall was Chief of Staff of the US armed forces during the war years, but his greatest claim to fame came after the war. The recovery program for Europe which bears his name, addressed the shortages suffered during the post-war years, and helped avert new conflicts.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded George C. Marshall the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953. Fifty-five years later, a statue of Marshall joins those of his fellow war-year leaders - Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt in Oslo.

From: Aftenposten.no

Munch Masterpieces Back

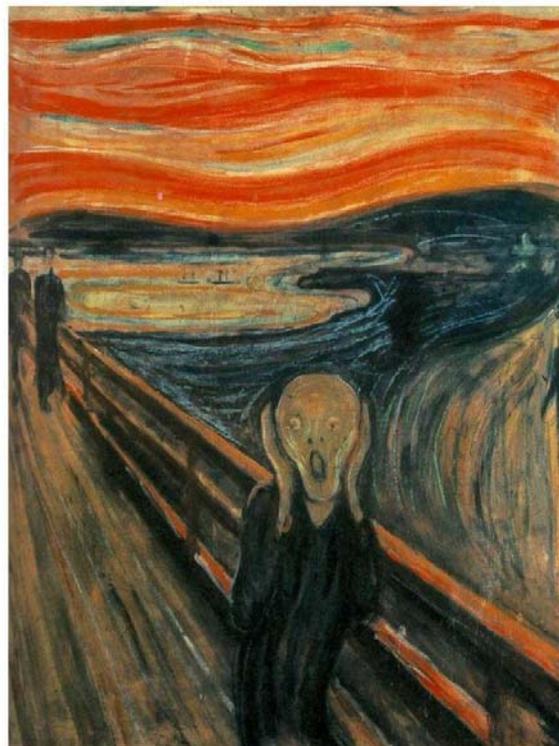
Two paintings by famed Norwegian artist Edvard Munch are back where they belong - on the walls of Oslo's Munch Museum, after a nearly four-year odyssey of theft, recovery and rehabilitation. The drama unveiled some new information about the masterpieces as well.

The paintings *Scream* and *Madonna* finally went back on permanent public display early this summer. They were stolen in a brazen, daylight robbery in August 2004, damaged during their rough handling and not recovered until 2007.

Conservators carefully repairing *Scream* discovered during their work that the museum's version was painted by Munch in 1910, not 1893 as previously thought.

When the new summer exhibit opens, the museum will have a small question mark next to the new date, signifying that experts view it as probable, but not absolutely certain.

From: [Aftenposten webdesk](http://Aftenposten.no)



Scream

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge normally meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM At First Lutheran Church
463 Maria Avenue (at 8th Street East, 2 Blocks North of Metro State University)

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106

Voice messages: 651-762-7872

(See back cover for officers)

Web Page: <http://synnove1.com>

Sons of Norway International: <http://www.sofn.com>

Lodge News

Dear Members,

I hope each and every one of you is having an enjoyable summer--notice I said "is having" instead of "had"--we need to hang onto summer as long as possible.

So are you ready for an exciting Fall lodge season here at Synnøve-Nordkap? Here is our Fall line-up:

September: Jack Salmela, Duluth author of the recently-published book "Of Vikings and Voyageurs." Of Finnish background, Jack is very knowledgeable on Viking explorers, rune stones, etc.

October: Roar Moe, the cover story in the July issue of Viking magazine, and a Norwegian educator and leader of the nature life school on Little Faerie Island.

November: Bruce Engebretson, Mary Beth Mutchler's brother, with an interesting program emphasizing woodcarving and other crafts and their influence on Norwegian culture.

December: to complement our Julebord, ever-popular Tim Dahl will return to lead us in Christmas songs.

October 25 is our annual Torsk and Meatball Dinner fundraiser. Please volunteer to help make this a successful event. See Sharon Amann or Karen Vinnes at our September meeting to sign up to help and to reserve your tickets. Thanks in advance for your help!

Finally, to plant a seed, in October we will be discussing which lodge officer positions will need to be filled in 2009. No matter what the position, I urge you to start thinking about running for an office. One positive thing: when you run for a lodge office, you don't need to raise millions of dollars like some other candidates!

See you in September,

- Len

Sverre Kvenild is recovering well from his stroke, but his eyesight has been affected and it was necessary for him to move to an assisted living facility. His new address is Martin Luther Manor, 1400 98th St., Bloomington, MN 55425-2620.

More on the novel "Of Vikings and Voyageurs," by Jack Salmela

Where were the unique Mandan Indians found? In what we now call North Dakota ... in the same general vicinity as where La Verendrye found a stone with inscriptions that Jesuit priests in Quebec thought were Tatarian. The inscriptions happen to be very similar to Nordic Runes.

The plot's major theme gets going when an ancient silver urn is discovered along Hadrian's Wall in England. That's near the home of the Scottish fur trade owners and also near Lindisfarne, the point at which Viking raiders first came on the English shore in 793 A.D.

But there's also a tie-in with the actual source of the fur trade back in North America. It so happens that the Kensington and La Verendrye stones were found near rivers that drain into the south end of Lake Winnipeg. Another river that drains into the south end of Lake Winnipeg is the Winnipeg River, the very river that drains today's Boundary Waters Canoe Area ... and the major route used by voyageurs to enter the deep, North American wilderness.

The plot's primary intrigue is with a treasure that is lost by voyageurs. It was sent in by a fur trade company with roots that go back to 793 ... to Lindisfarne itself. What did this company know about the significance of Nordic rune stones?

Correction

In our last newsletter, we featured our college scholarship winners, but wrongly identified the young lady below by using her mother's name.

She is Jessica Urban, who will be majoring in psychology at St. Thomas University, having attended Anoka Ramsey Community College.



Lodge News

Board Meeting Minutes, August 5, 2008

Attendees: Len Carlson, Sue Halvorson, Clayton Lance, Mary Beth and David Mutchler, and Steve Roste
Programs for the lodge meetings in September, October, November and December have been set. Suggestions were also discussed for the January 2009 lodge meeting.

Persons that volunteered to be on the Torsk and Meatball Dinner committee will be meeting on August 18 at Trudi Johnson-Richard's home. A discussion was held regarding the amount of work entailed versus the profitability of the dinner.

Cindy Olson for the Sons of Norway headquarters has requested to speak to the lodge members about the Sons of Norway Foundation this fall.

Discussion regarding nominations for next year's lodge officers was postponed until the September Board of Directors Meeting.

The lodge had 2 new members sign up at Norway Days.

Len shared a thank you letter he received from Festival of Nations regarding the lodge's participation in the event.

Planning was begun in regard to the lodge ringing bells for the Salvation Army at Byerly's on Suburban Avenue in December.

Submitted by Sue Halvorson, Secretary

The next board of directors meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 2 at the Roseville Library, Hamline and County Road B.

Lodge Meeting Minutes =====> Genealogy Group Meeting

There was no lodge meeting in July.

Genealogy Group Meeting on Saturday August 23

Attendees: Steve Roste (group leader), Sue and Don Halvorson, Lenore Jesness, Fred Matson, Mary Beth and Dave Mutchler, Cathie Reasoner.

The meeting at the Roseville Library was very informative and interesting. Fred came with a handout explaining how to use Digitalarkivet, the continually-improving online repository of census, church, and emigrant records in Norway. After explaining the process, he demonstrated live on Steve's PC how to use this tool to drill down and find your ancestors. His experience with this tool was very helpful in learning the many tricks to use to play one database against another, and to help refine and shorten your searches.

As we ran out of time with the personal ancestor searches that members brought, Fred is willing to return to continue this valuable lesson.

The next meeting of the Genealogy Group is at 12:00 PM on Saturday, September 20 at the Roseville Library, Hamline and County Road B.

Calendar of Coming Events

<u>Tuesday</u> September 2	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</u> Roseville Library conference room County Rd. B at Hamline Avenue	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
<u>Tuesday</u> September 9	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge & Social Event</u> Welcome Back Fall Meeting Program: "Of Vikings and Voyageurs" By author Jack Semela (see info on cover)	7:00 PM
<u>Saturday</u> September 13	<u>Junior Lodge Peer Gynt Dancers</u> Group practice begins 2nd Saturday Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1616 W. Olive in Stillwater - New members welcome	1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
<u>Saturday</u> September 13	<u>Letterboxing in "Mobergland"</u> (Chisago and Washington Counties) Join in this fun and intriguing "treasure hunt" Car pooling available. Call Rod Hale (651)636-4284 or e-mail: (hale780243@aol.com)	9:00 Am To ??? (More info on next page)
<u>Saturday</u> September 20	<u>Genealogy Group Meeting</u> Roseville Library Conference Room Hamline and County Road B	12:00 PM To 2:00 PM
<u>Tuesday</u> October 14	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge & Social Event</u> Program: Roar Moe presenting: "Learning & Living Deep Ecology"	7:00 PM
<u>Wednesday</u> October 8 thru Sat. 11	<u>31st Annual Norsk Høstfest</u> <u>America's Largest Scandinavian Festival</u> State Fair Grounds - Minot, North Dakota For info call: (701) 852-2368 Or check www.hostfest.com	daily
<u>Saturday</u> October 25	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Annual Torsk & Meatball Dinner - Reservations required!</u> Plan ahead - mark your calendars Volunteers needed to sign up See next page for more information.	Seating: 5:00 PM (or TBD)
<u>Tuesday</u> November 11	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge & Social Event</u> Program: Bruce Engebretson presenting "From the Forest, the Culture"	7:00 PM
<u>Tuesday</u> December 9	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge & Social Event</u> Annual Lodge Julebord and Juletreffest Bring Scandinavian dish to share Program: "Music and Humor" with Tim Dahl	7:00 PM

Synnøve-Nordkap Norwegian Language Classes:

1. "Norwegian in Five Minutes a Month" series - class 6:30-7:00 on Tuesday before lodge meetings in Sept, Oct, Nov, (no Dec.class)
If meal is scheduled, meet at 6:00-6:30 PM
2. "Norsk, Nordmenn og Norge" class on Thursday, 6:30-8:00 PM
Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., near McKnight & Ruth
Meet twice a month -Sept. 18 & 25, Oct. 23 & 30, Nov. 13, Dec. 18.
For information, contact class co-facilitators:
Sheryl Hove 651-738-4908 or Crystal Bloecher 651-774-8545

Upcoming Events at Ingebretsen's

1601 E. Lake St., Mpls
Phone: 62-729-9333

Saturday, Sept. 20 - Scandinavian Wedding Fair - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Thursday, Sept. 25 - Paint a Norwegian/Swedish Ornament - 6:00 - 8:30 PM \$30

Monday-Tuesday, Sept. 8 & 9 -

Deep Roots Exploration - the Viking Age -- 6:00-9:00 PM -- \$60

Saturday, October 4 - Kransekake making, how to make the crown cake - 10:00 AM - Noon. - \$35

Tuesdays in October - Beginning Scandinavian Painting -- 6:00 - 8:30 PM.

Create a picture frame or scrapbook page. - \$65.

Leiv Eriksson International Festival

September 28 - October 12
Mindekirke, the Norwegian Church
924 E. 21st St., Mpls MN 55404
(612) 874-1971

The festival will begin on Sept. 28 with the 11:00 AM church service with Former Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik preaching. At 2:00, guest artists from Norway, Hardanger fiddler Annbjørg Lien and hymn singer Sondre Bratland will perform. Both of them carry "big" names in Norway, and will perform both in the morning and at the early afternoon concert entitled, "På Kyrkjeveg." Sondre Bratland will also be featured at a Tuesday noon program.

On Friday, Oct 3rd and 10th, the movies "Vikings Journey to the New Worlds" & "The Viking Discovery of America" will be shown.

Tuesday, Oct. 7 - 12:00 "Stubbhult, a farm in Sweden" will be featured.

Saturday, Oct. 11 - 6:00 PM - the Icelandic community invites you to a Leifur Eriksson dinner.

Tuesday, Oct. 14, an Icelandic scholar will give perspective on Leif.

Sunday, Oct. 5, 9:00 AM Swedish Pastor Alem will preach, and Sunday, Oct 12 will feature Icelandic Pastor Bjarnadottir and the gospel choir from Augsburg College.

Activities and Events

Letterboxing on Saturday, September 13

Join us on Saturday, September 13th at 9:00 AM for a morning of letterboxing near Scandia, MN. You'll need to reserve your spot by calling Rod Hale (651-636-4284) or e-mailing him (hale780243@aol.com) no later than Thursday, September 11th. If you are able to be a driver (assuming we get sufficient people going) please tell me that as well. We plan on car pooling to save on gas (\$ donations for gas accepted!) and meet at Rod's house in Arden Hills, 1436 Colleen Avenue: (north on Snelling Avenue, past 694 ½ mile, then left on Colleen and go about two blocks). We may stop at Gammelgarden Museum in Scandia to find the letterbox hidden on the grounds there. And we should stop for coffee at the Swedish restaurant in Lindstrom.

In 1948 Swedish author Vilhelm Moberg came to Minnesota to do background research for what he hoped would become his life work. All his life Moberg had heard about those who emigrated from Sweden, especially Småland, where he was born. Many in his own family had left for Amerika, and Moberg himself had harbored dreams of emigrating.

He spent three months in Chicago County, Minnesota, traveling by bicycle on country roads, talking to the old-timers, some of whom had come over from Sweden themselves, and others who related what their parents had talked about. He looked at the old gravestones in Glader Cemetery and imagined what these people had gone through in their lives. He saw an old farm house and used it as inspiration for the house that Karl Oskar built for Kristina in the books, calling it Nya Duvemåla (The Dove's New Nest), after her home in Sweden for which she never stopped longing.

Letterboxing is an intriguing "treasure hunt" style outdoor activity. Letterboxers hide small, weatherproof boxes in publicly-accessible places (like parks) and post clues to finding the box online on one of several Web sites. However, clues to finding some of the most highly-sought boxes are passed around by word of mouth. There are about 20,000 letterboxes hidden in North America alone. Individual letterboxes usually contain a log book, an often hand-carved rubber stamp and may contain an ink pad. Finders make an imprint of the letterbox's stamp on their personal log book, and leave an imprint of their personal stamp on the letterbox's logbook .

Letterboxing is said to have started in England in 1854 when a Dartmoor National Park guide, James Perrott of Chagford, left a bottle by Cranmere Pool with his calling card in it an invitation to those who found the bottle to add theirs. Eventually, visitors began leaving a self-addressed post card or note in the jar, hoping for them to be returned by mail by the next visitor (thus the origin of the term "letterboxing;" "letterbox" is a British term for a mailbox). This practice ended in time, however, and the current custom of using rubber stamps and visitor's log books came into use. It caught on in the US in 1998 after an [article in Smithsonian magazine](#).

Torsk and Meatball Dinner on Saturday, October 25

There is a slight crispness in the air most mornings lately. Hmmm...Fall is almost upon us-- then the Torsk and Meatball Dinner can't be far behind.

At the T& M Committee meeting on Monday, August 18, we looked at the statistics from the last several years. There has been a steady decline in participation so we had some difficult decisions to make.

On Saturday, October 25, 2008, we will have ONE SEATING at 5 PM for our Torsk and Meatball Dinner. Fewer team members will be required to serve one seating. As soon as all others are served, the team will enjoy their own dinners. We will be done working earlier, and we can still use this opportunity to raise funds for our Lodge.

There will be Sign-up Sheets available at the September meeting for workers, and you may also purchase tickets at that time. Because this is a fund raiser, team members must purchase their tickets too if they wish to eat. Our prices will remain the same: \$15.50 for adults, \$6.50 for children ages 6 to 10.

This dinner is our second largest fund raiser each year. We look forward to serving (and eating) a wonderful dinner with a large group. Please remember that events for YOUR Lodge require YOUR participation for the good of the order.

Life in the 1500's

(some origins of our sayings)

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water".

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying . "It's raining cats and dogs".

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "dirt poor". The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a "thresh hold".

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start again the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old".

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could "bring home the bacon". They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat".

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the "upper crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "holding a wake".

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer".

And that's the truth. Now, whoever said history is boring!

Submitted by Sharon Amann

The Local Scene

Explore the Nordic crafts at our Craft Exposition

October 29, 2008 6:00PM—9:00PM

American Swedish Institute
2600 Park Ave So. Minneapolis, MN

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of card weaving, knitting, hardanger
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Two scandahoovian young men from up in Minnesoota were looking at a Sears catalog and admiring the models.

Ole says to the Sven, "Have you seen the beautiful girls in this catalog?"

Sven replies, "Yes, they are very beautiful. And look at the price!"

Ole says, with wide eyes, "Wow, they aren't very expensive. At this price, I'm buying one."

Sven smiles and pats him on the back. "Good idea! Order one and if she's as beautiful as she is in the catalog, I'll get one too."

Three weeks later, Sven man asks his friend Ole, "Did you ever receive the girl you ordered from the Sears catalog?"

Ole replies, "No, but it shouldn't be long now. I got her clothes yesterday!"

Submitted by LaRee Opdahl

This and That

The Corner Library

by Trudi Johnson-Richards

The charm of Norway is the midnight sun, fjords, mountains, salmon and winter sports. Those who have been in Norway think of these and other things—a great many things. We have heard of the Norwegians, not only of their contribution in World War II. You know Henrik Ibsen, the dramatist and you know Edvard Grieg, the composer. You also remember Roald Amundsen of Polar fame. If you studied painting of the 19th century, then you will know Edvard Munch. It can be confidently stated that the Norwegian people—one of Europe's smallest nations—have made no inconsiderable contribution to the culture of the world.

Norway Calling was published by Mittet & Co., A.S. in Oslo, Norway some time in the 1940's. A handwritten "Julen 1947" is shown on the inside cover. The photos are primarily black and white with shades of gray. There are four color photos. This book was written by E. Ancher Hanssen and translated by Andrew Gordon.

The Norwegians have always derived a great deal of income from the sea. Fishing takes place throughout the year along the whole coast, but it is the season-fishing on the banks on the west and north coast which constitutes the real Norwegian fishing. The biggest catches are made from Lofoten (January-April). It can therefore be understood that enormous quantities of herring and cod are taken from the sea and are a large part of the exports.

Those who wish to see Norway in white should arrive during the first months of the year. A winter Sunday in Oslo's "Nordmarka" with new snow and sunshine gives one an idea of what a large part skiing plays in the life of the people. The national sport of the country is skiing and in Norway the children take their first steps on skis when they are no more than five or six years old. Easter is a glorious time in the mountains. The sun can be so hot during Easter that one can wear shorts when at a height of over 6,000 feet, but the ultra-violet rays are very strong.

There is apparently a wide spread idea that a country which lies so far north as Norway must necessarily be somewhat cold in summer. It is not arctic—it is as a summer should be, warm enough for open air life and cool enough to sit in the shade. June-July-August is the time to visit Norway for a summer vacation. When speaking of summer in Norway, one must not forget to mention the summer paradise, South Norway (round the coast Kragero-Stavanger) with hills and villages on hill sides.

The Norwegian is an individualist; thoroughly despises everything that does not mean freedom; has a friendly disposition and is open and hospitable; gives his word and feels bound to keep it.

Black and white photography in **Norway Calling** give a closeup portrait of Norway and its people. It is still life photography, landscape photography, architectural photography and wildlife photography.

Norway Calling was donated to the Synnove-Nordkap Library by Trudi Johnson-Richards. This book belonged to her grandmother, Pauline Carlson Hanson.



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2008 OFFICERS & Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT Len Carlson 651-253-1943 612-821-4609 lcarlson@sofn.com
 VICE PRES./ MEMBERSHIP Sharon Amann 631-0399 slamann@juno.com
 SECRETARY Sue Halvorson 489-1952 sahalvors@comcast.net
 MEMBERSHIP SEC. Trudi Johnson-Richards 482-0096 trudijr@visi.com
 TREASURER Clayton Lance 730-5567 clance12@qwest.net
 SOCIAL DIRECTOR Pat Carlson 226-0967 (cell) pat.carlson@state.mn.us
 Shirley Brekke 774-2154
 CULTURAL DIRECTOR Steven Roste 247-1524 sjroste@hotmail.com
 COUNSELOR Mary Beth Mutchler 484-8872 mbe43@q.com
 TRUSTEES Joanne Ronning 488-2182
 Taffy Storck 222-2857
 Meredith Berg 715-386-6680
 MARSHALL Curt Hogenson 698-5783 jchogie@unique-software.com
 ASSISTANT MARSHALL Ron Kvaas 481-9868
 SPORTS DIRECTOR Rod Hale 636-4284 hale780243@aol.com
 HISTORIAN Lenore Jesness 778-1421 ljess@usfamily.net
 MUSICIAN Donarae Peterson 483-4998
 GREETERS Jack and Bev Dougherty 735-0903 doughandsow@usfamily.net
 NEWSLETTER EDITORS
 Dave Mutchler 484-8872 dmutchler@q.com
 Karen Vinnes 483-1103 knvinnes@comcast.net
 PUBLICITY: Leif Erickson 439-5040 lericks@pressenter.com
 NEWSLETTER MAILER: Beryl Boe 222-7076
 ADOPT-A-SCHOOL COORD. Ruth Gibson 429-5572
 SUNSHINE Judy Cullen 771-9891
 LIBRARIAN Trudi Johnson-Richards 482-0096 trudijr@visi.com
 GENEALOGY Cathie Reasoner 646-8483 harrie1030@netzero.com
 Fred Matson 777-6108 norhemian@comcast.net
 NORSK CLASSES Sheryl Hove 738-4908 sherylhove@netzero.net
 Crystal Bloecher 774-8545
 WEBMASTER Dave Mutchler 484-8872 dmutchler@q.com
 FOUNDATION Ron Stow 439-7255 burle103@aol.com
 SCHOLARSHIP Clay Keller 310-9667 keller.clay@gmail.com
 JR LODGE/PEER GYNT DANCERS Susan Stow 439-7255 burle103@aol.com
 AUDITORS Bob Smith 222-6888 / Ed Gilbertson 732-2356 /
 Linda Holmstrom 770-8989

(All area codes are 651 unless otherwise specified).

**SYNNØVE-NORDKAP
SONS OF NORWAY
LODGE #1-008
First Lutheran Church
463 Maria Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-762-7872**



Upcoming Activities

**"Of Vikings and Voyageurs" - Tues. Sep. 9
Letterboxing in "Mobergland" - Sat. Sep. 13
"Learning and Living Deep Ecology" - Tues.
Oct. 19**

The Mission of Synnøve-Nordkap 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. Visitors and new members are always welcomed.