

Nordfjordlag E-News

First Issue Published July 2020

Welcome to our first issue of Nordfjordlag E-News!

We are trying this E-mail newsletter as an experimental communication tool for lag members and those included on our mailing lists as interested in the lag. We will need help from all of you in finding subjects of interest to our readers and a source of stories and articles to fill these pages.

This initial issue may be small since we, the officers, have no experience in this task. The newsletter is being designed and created by Gene Rodi, our current Vice President / Librarian and Webmaster. He also has absolutely no experience in writing a newsletter.

If any of you have a desire to become our Editor, please contact one of the officers with that information. We will joyfully add you to our roster and help you in any way we can.

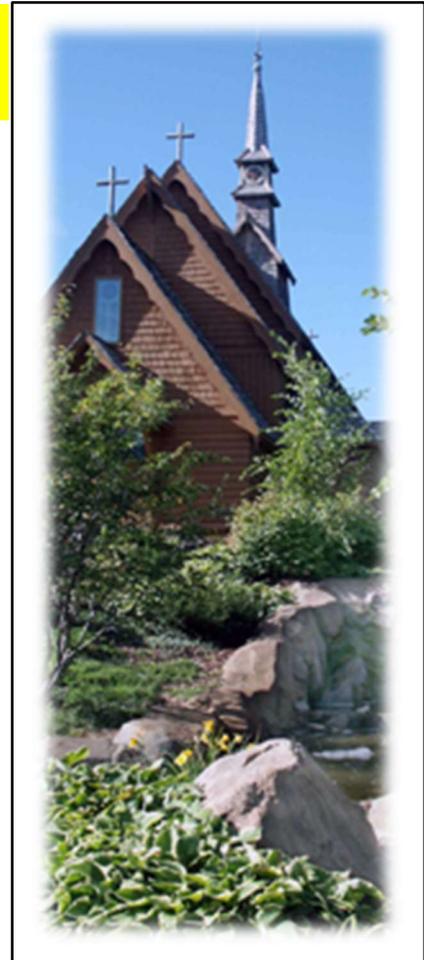
I have currently named this experiment "Nordfjordlag E-News" since it is currently our intent to publish it exclusively via E-Mail and the web page.

Stevne Canceled Due to Covid-19

For only the sixth time in the history of our lag a scheduled stevne has been canceled!

Due to the current restrictions on meetings and social distancing imposed by Covid-19, the officers of Nordfjordlaget i Amerika have canceled the September 2020 meeting of the lag. Since the majority of our members are in the higher risk group of individuals, we feel that it is in the best interest of those members to make this choice. Although the September meeting date is still over two months away, the expectation is that this pandemic will not be under sufficient control at that time

The list of scheduled stevne that have been canceled is: 1918 (WW-I), 1942-45 (WW-II), 1970 (unknown), 1987 (illness), 2001 (World Trade Center attack), 2020 (Covid-19). See **Stevne** on pg. 8>



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'Visit the Archive in 1981' See an article from the Stevne held in Nordfjordeid, Norway with 88 members in attendance!

Haugo Bibliotek and Archive at Norway House Update

Elaine E Hasleton

The current plans for the new Haugo Bibliotek and Archive at Norway House will include two components in a 21st century plan.

The first component is the Living Bibliotek/Discovery Center which will have a new interactive appeal and will have numerous activities or stations such as DNA; Emigration/Immigration; My Famous Norwegian Relatives; My Famous Norwegian-American Relatives; Are We Related; My Heritage: Vintage photos, Ancestry photos, Then and Now photos; and other topics.

The second component is the Archive that will include the Bygdelag collections and tech workstations. We want to integrate what guests initially learn in the Living Bibliotek/Discovery Center to stimulate interest in the Archive and to continue their learning and research. Of course, individuals will also come strictly to do research.

Famous Norwegians Project: For the Living Bibliotek/Discovery Center to have content, we need additional information. A new project was started several months ago at FamilySearch which is called the Famous Norwegians Project. A list of approximately 440 Famous Norwegians (deceased) has been compiled. Volunteer researchers are locating the birth, marriage, and death record on each person on

<https://media.digitalarkivet.no> and then attaching these records to each famous Norwegian on www.familysearch.org in the Family Tree. The goal is to extend their ancestral lines back as many generations as possible so others, like you and me, can tie into their ancestral lines. If you would like to participate in this research, please contact Elaine Hasleton as more researchers are needed.

Famous Norwegian-Americans Project: We should first identify and compile the list of Famous Norwegians-Americans who are deceased. The Bygdelag Charter Members should definitely be included. We will then need to document each

person in the digitalarkivet.no records and extend



the ancestral lines farther back. Researchers are also needed for this project.

Which Famous Norwegian-Americans do you think should be included? If you are interested in participating in this fun project, please contact Elaine Hasleton at hasletonee@familysearch.org. She will send you the details.

This is an opportunity to share your vast knowledge of Norwegian-Americans, particularly those from "your" Bygdelag. We can use many people working on this project, and you will be contributing to the future discovery experience at Norway House.

You may have additional suggestions for the Haugo Bibliotek and Archive, so please share them with Elaine, as the Bygdelag and Fellesraad are key players in developing this facility.

Norway House New Edition

<https://www.norwayhouse.org/expansion>

Current Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>1st Elected in</u>
President	Dennis Sorheim	2014
Vice President / Webmaster / Librarian	Gene Rodi	1995
Secretary	Sonia Rache	1997
Treasurer	Bob Swanson	2015
Genealogist	Kevin Hoff	2019
Director	Beverly Anderson	
Director	Martha McCartney	
Director	Gail Holm	

E-Mail: officers@nordfjordlag.com

Lag Web Page

If you haven't visited our web page go to <http://www.nordfjordlag.com> where you can find photos, documents and more information on the history of the lag.

From the Archives

Gene Rodi, Lag Librarian

“From the Archives” is a feature from times past gleaned from the Nordfjordlag archives. I hope to bring you texts, articles, and copies of news items of interest from these collections.

Jakob Vedvik, Jr. a long-time member and self-appointed historian, gifted a wonderful set of clippings and texts covering the years 1910 to 2008. The following is a report of the Nordfjordeid Stevne held in Norway, June 19-21, 1981. It is a bit long, but I thought you might enjoy it.

NORDFJORDEID STEVNE Nordfjordeid, Norway June 19, 20 and 21, 1981

On June 18, 1981 60 members of the Nordfjord Lag in America boarded the boat "Sognefjord" waiting at the dock in Bergen, Norway. They had recently come to Norway from America on various dates and on various flights, and were now about to leave for Nordfjordeid, Norway, where the 1981

Nordfjord Lag stevne was to be held on June 19, 20 and 21 The boat left the dock at 3 P.M. on Thursday, June 18, and we spent the night traveling northward along the western coast of Norway, making stops at various ports along the way. At 6 P.M. we were served a Smorgaasbord in the dining

room on the boat, During the evening we were entertained by Ingvald Orheim playing the Hardanger fiddle accompanied by Sam Bergaas on the accordion. During this time, we also practiced singing some Norwegian songs Everyone had been assigned to a cabin on the boat, and people intermittently spent some time resting for the next day. At 6 A.M. Friday morning, June 19, we arrived at Nordfjordeid, where some members of our group had relatives waiting to greet them at the dock. We were also welcomed by several selections played by the Eid band, after which we were given a formal welcome by Jacob Jacobsen, Program Chairman for the stevne, and Lars Myrøld, Mayor of Nordfjordeid. At this time our presidents, Mrs. Melvin Skarsten, was presented with an arm bouquet of flowers by Janne Grete Endal, a young Nordfjord girl dressed in the traditional Nordfjord bunad (national costume). At the conclusion of the welcoming ceremony, we were taken by bus up to the Fjordane Folkehøgskule (county high school), where breakfast was waiting for us in the high school cafeteria, and where most of us were to be staying for the next three days. We were housed in eight of the ten buildings available on the campus, each building accommodating ten people. The buildings were hexagonal in design and consisted of a centrally located lobby with adjoining kitchenette surrounded by six student rooms, four rooms furnished for two people each and two rooms furnished for one person each. The housing facilities were excellent and conveniently located to the high school, where the stevne sessions were held

and the meals were served. Those members of our group, who did not choose to stay on the high school campus, stayed at the Nordfjord Hotel, located in downtown Nordfjordeid, or with relatives. Those staying at the Nordfjord Hotel were also served their breakfast there.

After finishing breakfast in the high school cafeteria, where all of the meals were served to the group staying on the high school campus, and having had a brief rest, our group was taken by two busses to Sandane in Nordfjord, where we were welcomed by Olav Moritsgaard, Mayor of the Gloppen Kommune, and where we had an opportunity to tour the Nordfjord Folkemuseum, a collection of early farm houses, barns and other farm buildings. At 1 P.M. we were guests at a luncheon, where we were served rømmegrøt, spekemat, cake and coffee The rømmegrøt was served in an impressive ceremony in which Nordfjord men and women dressed in the traditional bunads marched single file in alternate order about the dining room with the women carrying the bowls of rømmegrøt raised aloft. Petter Eide played the fiddle during this ceremony, after which the bowls of rømmegrøt were carried to the individual tables, and we were able to partake of this delightful Norwegian cream porridge. Following the luncheon, and while we were still seated at our tables, the group in Nordfjord costume entertained us with some of their favorite Norwegian folk dances. Again they were accompanied by Petter Eide on the fiddle, and the singing of Norwegian songs with some of the dances added to the enjoyment of

the performance. At 3 P.M. we were taken to the site of the Holvikjekta (old Viking ship), where we enjoyed looking at this monument of the past. A picture of our group was taken here, and this picture appeared in the issue of "Jul i Nordfjord", which was published for distribution in December, 1981. After viewing the Viking ship, we returned to Nordfjordeid, and at 5 P.M. we were served a delicious supper at the high school, which included "frukt suppe" (fruit soup) as a dessert. At 8:30 P.M. we met in the high school auditorium, and some members of our group entertained the audience. Ole and Hilda Kringstad put on an interesting skit about a tramp, who showed a lady how to make "nail soup", and Gustav Haaland and his sister, Minnie Christensen, sang some Norwegian songs. This concluded our day, and after visiting relatives and friends, we retired to our rooms, feeling we had had a most interesting day.

The Saturday morning events commenced with breakfast at 8 A.M. At 9:30 A.M. we were taken by busses to Galleri Leikvin near Haugen, where there was a piano recital of Norwegian composers, some of the local history was given and there was a display of Norwegian art. Inge Rotevatn and Siv Jørstad were in charge of the program. Following the program inside the building, a group of local Nordfjording children, in national costume, and ranging in age from 4 years to 15 years, gave an interesting performance of Norwegian folk dances. After returning to the high school for lunch, the afternoon events commenced with the Arsmøte (annual meeting) of the

Nordfjord Lag in America with Mrs. Melvin Skarsten presiding. The minutes of the 1980 stevne in Moorhead, Minnesota were read by our secretary, Mrs. Oren (Minnie) Christensen, and approved by the members present. After a short discussion on old business and new business, the business meeting was adjourned. The mayors of the various kommunes in Nordfjord were introduced, and some of them extended their welcomes and greetings to our group. At 4 P.M. a concert was performed in the enclosed area outside the high school by the Forsvarets Distriktsmusikkors Vestlandet (military band) directed by v/major Audun Boge. The big event of the day was the banquet sponsored by the Eide Kommune in the high school cafeteria at 5 P.M. This was preceded by the wedding march led by a Nordfjording fiddler and with the bride dressed in the traditional wedding costume and bridal crown. After finishing our meal, and while we were still seated at our tables, various acknowledgements, greetings and presentations were given. At 7:30 P.M. the evening events commenced with a varied and very interesting program of Norwegian music and folk dancing (including the springedans) in the high school auditorium. This was followed by old-time dancing from 10 P.M. until 12 P.M. The group involved in the wedding march danced the first dance, and then the rest of the people in attendance could join in the dancing. It was interesting to watch many members of our group joining in with, and some of them dancing with, the native Nordfjordings.

Our final day (Sunday) of the stevne commenced with breakfast in the high school cafeteria (and at the Nordfjord Hotel, for those who stayed there) at 9 A.M. This was followed by members of our group marching to the Eid Church, where the services were preceded by another outstanding performance by the military band, which was seated in the front of the church. The sermon was delivered by Pastor Trygve Øvstebø, and the liturgy and hymns were accompanied by Church Organist, Sverre Myklebust. The military band also played other selections during the service. After returning to the high school and having had dinner, we were taken by two busses at 1:30 P.M. to Stryn via Grodaas (Hornindal), where (at Grodaas) we were greeted by Mayor Paul Tomasgaard and Committee Member Audun Grodaas, and where we toured the Anders Svor Museum of sculpture. We were also greeted by Rolf Taraldset, the wood carver who conducted a wood carving demonstration at Sugar Creek Bible Camp during our 1978 stevne at Ferryville, Wisconsin. (Rolf lives in the Grodaas area, and he and his father have a wood carving shop there.) From Grodaas we continued on to Stryn over the narrow, winding mountain road. Leif Blakset, Mayor of the Stryn Kommune, was the tour guide on one bus, and Rolf Rand, Committee Member from the Stryn Kommune, was the tour guide on the other bus. They pointed out various points of interest along the way and told us the names of some of the gaards (farms) we passed. There was a short stop in Stryn, where a group picture was taken for publication in the local newspaper. We then continued on to

Lake Loen, where we were shown the place where rockslides into the lake had twice caused flooding over the farms and the drowning of many farmers who lived on them. A large memorial plaque had been placed on the rocky mountain side listing the names of all of the people who had perished in the two floodings. Our next stop was at Briksdal, where we could see the glacier with the same name. A man with a wagon pulled by a team of small ponies waited here to take interested persons farther up the valley, where they could get a close look at the glacier. There was also a curio shop and restaurant where the busses stopped, and we were guests at a luncheon in the dining room of the restaurant. The luncheon consisted of many delicious Norwegian cakes and pastries. After we had eaten and had had time to purchase postcards and mementos, we again boarded the busses and traveled on through Innvik and Utvik, and up to the top of the Utvik mountain to Karistova, a famous tourist hotel, where the Stryn Konrnune sponsored a most, delightful banquet served in true Norwegian style at 7 P.M. After the banquet there were greetings from the Stryn Kommune, and the Nordfjord Lag in America was presented with a large wooden plate rosemaled by Ms. Ulvedal, a local rosernaler. Following the banquet, we returned to Nordfjordeid via Sandane and Lote. To reach Lote it was necessary for us to take a ferry across the fjord, which was an interesting experience.

On Monday morning, June 22, breakfast was again served in the high school cafeteria to those of our group who stayed overnight in our rooms on the

high school campus, after which we regretfully parted and went our various ways, some to visit relatives for a time and see other parts of Norway before returning to America. Our wonderful stevne in Norway will be long and pleasantly remembered by the 88 members of the Nordfjord Lag In Amerika who attended (60 members came on the boat, "Sognefjord", and the other 28 came to Nordfjordeid at other times and other ways.)

We owe a special thank you to all of those who made this trip and stevne possible. On the Norway end of the planning were the mayors of the various kommuner : Lars Myrøld, Eid; Leif Blakset , Stryn ; Paul Tomasgaard , Hornindal ; Olav Moritsgaard , Gloppen ; Otto Hoddevik, Vaagsøy; Julius Fure, Selje; and Bjarne Haugland, Brønnanger. The program committee was as follows: Chairman, Jacob Jacobsen, Eid ; Vice-Chairman and

Secretary, Andreas Sunde , Eid; Committee Members, Roar Førde, Davig; Arvid Rygg, Sandane; Audun Grodaas, Hornindal; Ragnvald Berge, Selje; Rolf Rand, Stryn ; and Otto Hoddevik Maaløy. We thank them for inviting us and for the wonderful stevne they had planned for us. On the American end of the planning Ingvald Orheim made a trip to Norway to confer with those who invited our group and planned the stevne and had much correspondence and phone calls with them. He was also very helpful as a guide after we arrived, at Bergen, on our boat trip to Nordfjordeid, and during the stevne. Arvalene Vedvik spent countless hours promoting the stevne to our members, writing, mimeographing and sending out information for those who went on the tour, taking tour reservations and making cancellations, making arrangements with the airlines, and making housing, train and boat reservations.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacob Vedvik, Jr.
Membership Secretary

Stevne Canceled Due to Covid-19

<Stevne continued from pg. 1

Beginning in 1973 every third year was scheduled as a picnic. Then after the Trip to Norway in 1981, every second year was scheduled as a picnic. This pattern continued until 1999 when our stevne was combined with the bygdslag centennial celebration held in Decorah, Iowa. From that time to the present our stevne has been restricted to a single day.

Starting in 2003 we have held our yearly stevne at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN.

Prior to that date the venue was moved each year to many locations around Western Minnesota with an occasional excursion to South Dakota and Wisconsin. The move to Green Lake was selected for several reasons including that most members vote each year to stay there.

For more information on the history of the year, location, and a short note about the venue/bridal couple at each stevne see the web page information at the link below.

<http://nordfjordlag.com/LagArchives/Nordfjordlaget-Stevne.html>

Message from the President

Greetings! I hope you are all doing well in this difficult time. This message is from your vice-president. Our president is currently having some health problems that make it difficult to write this initial message, so I am filling in for the moment.

As you saw on page one, the stevne for this year has been canceled due to concerns brought about by Covid-19. Green Lake Bible Camp is graciously extending our reservation until September 19, 2021.

The officers have decided that creating a newsletter may be a good method of keeping you in touch with the lag and possibly with other members. If you have suggestions for items you would like to see included or comments on the current content, structure, fonts used, colors, text size or anything else regarding this newsletter, please send them to the

webmaster@nordfjordlag.com.

If there are members that have died since our last meeting, please forward that information so that it can be included in the next issue.

Currently, we do not have a schedule set for publishing a newsletter. Some lags publish several each year. Depending on the feedback from our readers we could publish two or three times a year.

We can send the newsletter to you as an attachment to an Email as is being done with this issue. And/or the copy could be stored on our web page and an Email notice sent that includes a link to the web address. The cost of printing and mailing is estimated to be almost \$3.00 per copy per issue along with significantly more work. Preferences please!

Take care. Gene Rodi, V.P.

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