

Nordfjordlag E-News

Zoom Stevne Succeeds

At a time when the COVID-19 Delta variation was in the midst of its upward climb not many members wanted to travel or meet in a large group. The officers decided to call Green Lake and ask for another delay in our reservations to 2022 and they graciously granted that request. In place of our regular third Sunday of September meeting we held a Zoom stevne instead.

The Fellesraad has a Zoom license that is available to all the member lags to use and Nordfjordlag has been using it for our officers' meetings since early 2021. A stevne meeting was set up for September 19th at 1 pm and notices were mailed out to all known members.

The officers also decided that if we could get a quorum at this Zoom meeting, we would like to present one item of business. The election of officers, especially to elect a new President. We had a nomination of Kevin Hoff, our current genealogist, who consented to be placed in nomination. He further stated that he would be willing to also retain the position of Genealogist as he knows that other lags have similar arrangements.



When the stevne had officially begun, Gene Rodi (V.P.) called the meeting to order as acting President. A count of those connected showed that we had enough members present for a quorum and the one item business meeting presented Kevin Hoff as a presidential candidate. With no other nominations from the floor the vote was called, and Kevin was elected by a unanimous vote. The business meeting was then closed.

The members present, quickly introduced themselves and told where they lived. Two members were connected by telephone and the other sixteen via zoom. As entertainment, a ten-minute video was shown which presented selected photos, music, and audio recordings from various stevner that took place over the span of 1910 – 2020. Since some of the members were new to the group, we were all asked to tell something about ourselves, what we did as an occupation, where we grew up, and so forth. With all the conversations 2 hours went by very quickly. At the close all indicated that they had an enjoyable time getting a chance to know more about their fellow members, and that the meeting was well worth the effort.



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['Visit the Archive'](#)

The Lodalen Disasters

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.

The Lodalen Disasters

The beautiful Loen valley situated at the furthest inland end of Nordfjord is known in Norway, not for its beauty but for its history of danger. Twice in a period of less than thirty-six years tragedy in the form of huge landslides and resulting tidal waves struck this valley. In all, one hundred thirty-five people died and of them only forty-eight were found for burial.

The Landslide of 1905

The Bødal farming community was made up of seven smaller family farms situated on the East shore of Loen Lake (Lovatnet) in a steep valley (Lodalen) east of Loen, Nordfjord, Norway. This area is known for rockslides, and avalanches, so most of the homes were built close to the shore of the lake that runs the length of the valley.

In the late 1800s a rockfall consisting of several huge boulders struck the neighboring Raudi farm located just North of Bødal, destroying the house and some of the outbuildings.



On Raudi this rock missed the house.

The bolder that struck the house fatally injured the farmers mother and broke the leg of his young son sleeping in his bed. The other six members of the

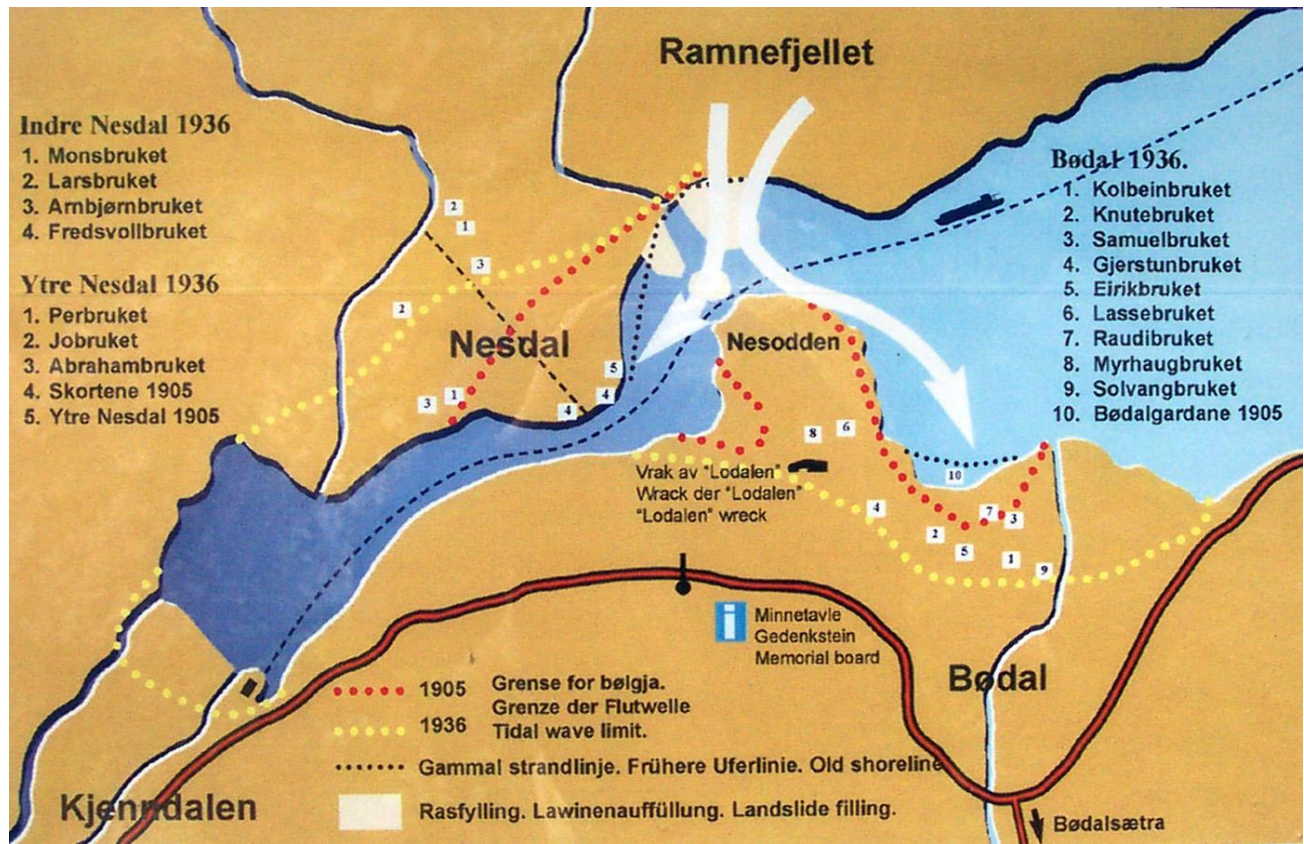
family were not harmed. Fearing another rockfall, the family moved about two miles South to a new location in Bødal. (Raudi is the home farm of the Rodi's and many of the Simonsons who lived in Swift County, Minnesota and Saskatchewan, Canada.)



Looking over fallen rocks on Raudi, the lower Bødal valley can be seen on the left and Nesdal (not visible) is behind the Nesodden point on the right.

The Nesdal farm was located across the lake from Bødal. It is hidden from sight by a large point on the Bødal side of the lake named Nesodden. (See map below.) Nesdal consisted of two groups of small farms call Inner (Indre, closest to the South end of the lake) and Outer Nesdal (Ytre, closest to the point).

Both Bødal and Nesdal were struck by natural disasters during the early 1900s. For several years prior to 1905 small rockfalls were becoming common on Ramnefjellet (Ravens Mountain), a warning of what was to come. Then the first major landslide occurred on Sunday night, January 15, 1905, during a winter storm. As midnight approached two loud sounds were heard coming from Ramnefjellet. A huge slab of Ramnefjellet located directly across the lake from Nesodden sheared off the side of the mountain About 65,000 cubic yards fell a distance of 1,600 feet into the lake below. The lake at that point was almost 500 feet deep so the landslide created a tidal wave, a cluster



Map of inner Lake Loen showing Nesdal & Bødal. (North is to the right.) Raudi begins at the right edge.

of three large waves where the largest reached a height of about 133 feet. The wave was divided by Nesodden partially flooding both Bødal and Nesdal. (Red dots on map.)

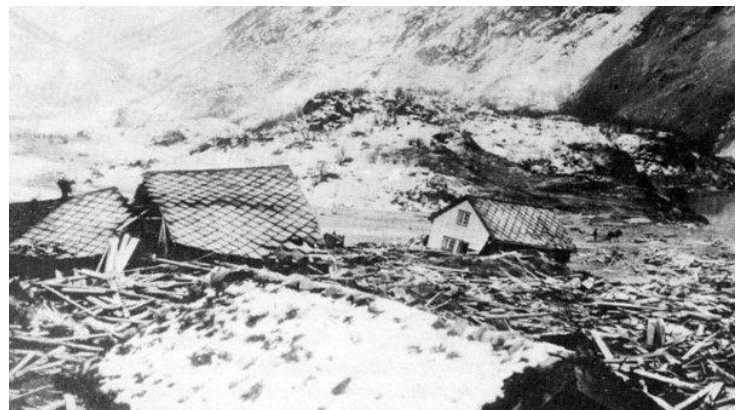
The rushing waters killed all 34 people living in Outer Nesdal. People living in Inner Nesdal woke up to find water running into their houses. They first thought that the river had flooded, but soon discovered that Outer Nesdal had been completely washed away. In Bødal, only two farms survived. The Gjerstun (farm # 4) and Raudi (farm # 7) sites, although damaged, were high enough above the lake to be spared from the wave. That night twenty-four people died in Bødal, while another three died within days due to their injuries.

The steamship DS Lodalen, was moved almost 1,000 feet up from the shore near the innermost red dot on the left side of Nesodden (See map above.) where it was deposited in a crumbled heap.

The Elling Samuelson's family lived in Bødal on farm # 3. All died that night in the flood except for their five-year-old son, Oskar who was found

uninjured stuck in debris covered snow and ice in the lake. No trace of the others was ever found.

There were 121 people living in Bødal and Nesdal before the landslide. Of those people, 61 were killed, and only 9 of those were ever found. The landslide destroyed a total of 60 houses and killed 94 cows, 10 horses, 145 sheep and 16 pigs.



Bødal 1905

Died - Jan 15, 1905

Format: Name, Birth Date, Relationship:

* Those who were found and buried.

Nesdal, Farm # 79

Sub-farm # 1:

1. Peder Salveson Nesdal, 1870, , Farmer
2. Oline Monsdotter Nesdal, 1872, Wife
3. Sivert Johan Nesdal, 1897, Son
4. Johanne Samueline Nesdal, 1900, Daughter
5. Brite Ingeborg Kamilla Nesdal, 1902, Daughter
6. Unbaptized Son, 1-15-1905
7. Dorthe Elisabeth Monsdotter Nesdal, 1880, Wife's Sister
8. Lea Karoline Bentsdotter Langeset, 1886, Servant Girl
9. Salve Pederson Nesdal, 1836, Farmer's Father
10. Anders Nesdal, 1874, Farmer's Brother

Sub-farm # 2:

11. Oline Nesdal , 1890, Daughter
12. Olaf Nesdal , 1892, Son
13. Eline Nesdal, 1895, Daughter
14. Anna Bertine Nesdal, 1897, Daughter
15. Jenny Nesdal, 1900, Daughter
16. Rasmus Nesdal, 1902, Son
17. Rasmus Rasmusson (Langeset) Nesdal, 1844, Farmer's Stepfather
18. Johanne Rasmusdotter Helset, 1864 Visiting the farm

Sub-farm # 3:

19. Abraham Jakobson Nesdal, 1875, Farmer
20. * Anne Larsdotter (Aaning) Nesdal, 1866, Wife
21. Johannes Andreas Elias Nesdal, 1895, Son
22. Lars Nesdal , 1896, Son
23. Martin Nesdal, 1899, Son
24. Dagfinn Nesdal, 1902, Son
25. Jacob Abrahamson Nesdal, 1851, Farmer's Father
26. Mari Andersdotter Nesdal, 1841, Farmer's Mother

Tenant farms, Nesdal; Skortene:

27. Aamund Anderson Nesdal, 1829, Farmer
28. Marthe Jonsdotter Nesdal, 1847, Wife
29. Johanne Andrine Nesdal, 1887, Daughter
30. Anders Knudbeinson Bødal, 1861, Farmer
31. Sigrid Knudsdotter Bødal, 1867, Wife
32. Karl Johan Bødal, 1892, Son
33. Knut Bødal , 1886, Son
34. Eilert Bødal , 1900, Son

Bødal, Farm # 77

Sub-farm # 1:

35. * Elling Kolbeinsen Bødal, 1840, Farmer
36. * Gjertrud Andersdotter Bødal, 1850, Wife

Sub-farm # 2:

37. Anders Knutson Bødal, 1871, Farmer
38. Kristiane Jørgensdotter Bødal, 1869, Wife
39. Eline Kristine Bødal, 1894, Daughter
40. Anna Jenny Bødal, 1896, Daughter
41. Klara Louise Bødal, 1898, Daughter
42. Knut Bødal, 1900, Son
43. Jenny Bødal, 1902, Daughter
44. Alfhild Bergliot Bødal, 1904, Daughter
45. Mons Olai Jakobson, 1864, Servant
46. * Elisabeth Andersdotter Bødal, 1842, Farmer's Mother
47. Anne Knutsdotter Bødal, 1880, Farmer's Sister

Sub-farm # 3:

48. Elling Samuelson Bødal, 1866, Farmer and Local Postmaster
49. Elisabeth Petrine Ottedotter (Grodaas) Bødal, 1872, Wife
50. Samuel Edvard Dagfinn Bødal, 1897, Son
51. Eli Bertanna Bødal, 1900, Daughter
52. Anders Olsen, 1890, Servant
53. Brithe Sjursdotter Bødal, 1830, Elling's Stepmother
54. Gjertrud Samuelsdotter, 1876, Elling's Sister

Sub-farm # 5:

55. Wilhelm Erikson Bødal, 1835, Farmer
56. * Ingeborg Olsdotter (Nesdal) Bødal, 1853, Wife

Sub-farm # 6:

57. * Samuel Lasseson Bødal, 1839, Farmer
58. * Brite Absalonsdotter (Aareim) Bødal, 1849, Wife

Tenant farm on Bødal:

59. * Knut Kolbeinson Bødal, 1852, Farmer
60. Marthe Andersdotter Bødal, 1858, Wife
61. * Andrine Johanne Bødal, 1881, Daughter

The Landslide of 1936

In the years following the flood, the farms in Bødal and Nesdal were rebuilt. This time, however, they were built higher up, and further away from the water's edge. They became known as the newest and most modern farms in Norway.

Geologists researching the causes and conditions of the landslide discovered that water seeping in from above was putting pressure on the face of the mountain. But they felt that so much of the lake had been filled by the first landslide that waves from any further slides would be unlikely to reach those buildings in their new positions. As time passed occasional small rockfalls continued to occur until

about 1934 when the rate began to increase. Another warning of what was to come.



Face of Ramnefjellet that sheared off (light area).

Unfortunately, the disaster of 1905 was repeated on Sunday, September 13, 1936, when, at about 4:30 in the morning people again heard an extremely loud sound coming from Ramnefjellet. This time an even larger section of the mountain, about 1.3 million cubic yards fell about 2,600 feet into the lake and caused another tremendous tidal wave. Since this section was further to the North the resulting tidal wave was not split as much by the Nesodden point and reached a height of 230 feet. The wave was so large that it washed totally over Bødal. All the homes were destroyed, including those of Gjerstun and Raudi that had been spared by the 1905 disaster. A total of 74 people died. Nine farms with sixty houses, a silver fox farm, a school, a meeting house, a boathouse and boats, and all the soil and trees were washed away.

Relatives living in Stryn told me that several bodies preserved by the deep icy cold waters of Lovatnet since 1905 were forced to the surface by the 1936 event. They were also buried at the Loen church.

My father, Elmer Rodi, told me that the only time he saw his stoic father cry was the day that he received the letter from Norway telling of the 1936 Lodalen disaster and that his Raudi family in Bødal had all been killed.

Young Oskar Ellingsen (The five-year-old son who survived in 1905) grew up, married, and took over

the family farm at Bødal. This time Oskar and his three sons were killed. His wife Brite Andersdatter was up at the summer farm (Bødalseter), along with several others who had not yet returned with the cattle to the lower valley.

Three farms in Inner Nesdal were destroyed, killing twenty-five people. Near the North end of the lake, another four people died as a result of the tidal wave. When the wave reached the North end of the lake near Loen it was still almost 42 feet high, so large that it destroyed the bridge located there.

The DS Lodalen was moved another 500 feet up the side of the valley to the position where it lies today.

After the 1905 disaster a memorial was erected on Nesodden, about 145 feet above the lake. This monument was a large stone slab set on 6-foot square concrete foundation that was bolted into the mountain rock. The 1936 tidal wave was so large that it reached this monument and tore it completely off. Nothing remained but the twisted steel bolts, set into the mountain. After 1936 two new monuments were placed next to the road above Nesodden and another pair at the church in Loen.

After 1936, those who survived moved away, so Bødal and Nesdal were deserted. Today, there is one occupied farm high in Bødal with two families living there, and none in Nesdal.

Ramnefjellet remained and is still active. Several more landslides followed that day in 1936 with the largest on November 11th dropping another million cubic yards. By then the lake was so full that no damaging waves were able to form. In 1950 another large landslide occurred but this time no apparent damage was caused. In early 2003 another warning was issued that conditions were ripe for yet another landslide, but none has happened to date.

Died - Sept 13, 1936

Nesdal, Farm # 78

Sub-farm # 1:

1. Mons Olson Nesdal, 1901, Farmer
2. * Katrine Bertelsdotter Nesdal, 1899, Wife
3. Olav Nesdal, 1926, Son
4. * Agnes Nesdal, 1929, Daughter
5. * Bjarne Nesdal, 1931, Son
6. * Solveig Nesdal, 1934, Daughter
7. Unbaptized Son, 8/25/1936
8. * Odny Olsdotter Grov, 1916, Servant Girl
9. Samueline Otterdal, 1916, Servant Girl

Sub-farm # 3:

10. Anders Olson Nesdal, 1875, Farmer
11. * Eli Hansdotter Nesdal, 1884, Wife
12. * Audun Nesdal, 1909, Son
13. * Møyfrid Nesdal b 1908, Daughter
14. Svanhild Kelfrid Nesdal, 1920, Daughter
15. Oddrun Nesdal, 1924, Daughter
16. * Arnbjørn Andersson Nesdal, 1906, Son
17. Gunvor Ivarsdotter Nesdal, 1906, Wife (of Arnbjørn)
18. * Anders Arnbjørnson Nesdal, 1936, Son (of Arnbjørn and Gunvor)
19. Nikoline Oddny Korneliusdotter Os, 1914
Cheesemaker
20. * Arnfinn Knutson Slagnes, 1909, Servant Boy
21. Sivert Matias Martinussen Sylte, 1882,
Carpenter
22. * Trygve Arnfrid Paulsen, 1913, Carpenter

Sub-farm # 4:

23. Bernt Davidson Fredsvoll, 1887, Farmer
24. Anna Ellingsdotter Fredsvoll, 1883, Wife
25. Aslaug Berntsdotter Fredsvoll, 1919 Adopted
Daughter

Bødal, Farm # 77

Sub-farm # 1:

26. Malmfrid Rasmusdotter Bødal, 1899, Widow of
Farmer
27. * Gudny Larsdotter Bødal, 1921, Daughter
28. * Rasmus Rasmusson Sætre, 1902, Malmfrid's
Brother
29. * Oline Rasmusdotter Sætre, 1892, Malmfrid's
Visiting Sister

Sub-farm # 2:

30. * Bent Davidson Skarstein, 1882, Farmer
31. * Rakel Sivertsdotter Skarstein, 1903, Wife
32. * Synnøve Skarstein, 1915, Daughter
33. * Dagfinn Skarstein, 1923, Son
34. * Solfrid Skarstein, 1925, Daughter
35. * Olav Skarstein, 1926, Son
36. Målfrid Skarstein, 1929, Daughter
37. Anders Olav Erikson Solheim, 1915, Servant Boy

Sub-farm # 3:

38. Oskar Ellingson Bødal, 1900, Farmer
39. * Edvard Bødal, 1926, Son
40. Asbjørn Bødal, 1930, Son
41. Svein Bødal, 1932, Son
42. Egil Bødal, 1934, Son

43. * Inga Jenny Ivarsdotter Seljeset, 1915, Servant

Sub-farm # 5:

44. * Elias Wilhelson Bødal, 1876, Farmer
45. * Jonas Bødal, 1913, Son

Sub-farm # 6:

46. Lasse Samuelson Bødal, 1882, Farmer
47. Marie Steffensdotter Bødal, 1889, Wife
48. Synnøve Bødal, 1914, Daughter
49. Steinar Bødal, 1917, Son
50. Signy Bødal, 1920, Daughter
51. Ivar Bødal, 1929, Son
52. Dorteia Larsdotter Bødal, 1912, Wife of Steinar

Sub-farm # 7:

53. * Simon Simonson Raudi, Sr., 1869, Father
54. * Oleanna Ottosdotter Raudi, 1864 Mother
55. Oskar Raudi, 1905, Son
56. Simon Simonson, Jr., 1897, Son of Farmer
57. * Alfhild Knutsdotter Raudi, 1906, Wife (of
Simon Jr.)
58. Oddny Raudi, 1929, Daughter (of Simon Jr.)
59. * Målfrid Eliasdotter Loen, 1919, Servant Girl

Sub-farm # 8:

60. Rasmus Samuelson Myrhaug, 1893, Farmer
61. Ingeborg Olsdotter Myrhaug, 1895, Wife
62. Borgny Myrhaug, 1923, Daughter
63. Sverre Myrhaug, 1925, Son
64. Olav Myrhaug, 1929, Son
65. Peder Kolbeinson Nesdal, 1917, Nephew
of Rasmus

Sub-farm # 9:

66. Rasmus Ellingson Bødal, 1887, Farmer
67. Arnodd Bødal, 1927, Son
68. Anne Marie Andersdotter Mardal, 1899,
Cheesemaker

The Schoolhouse:

69. * Thomas Sæle, 1897 Teacher

From Sanden:

70. Simon Hansson Sanden, 1924
71. Anders Hansson Sanden, 1926

From Vassenden:

72. * Kristen Johannesson Sande, 1871
73. Ingeborg Jensdotter Sæten, 1918

Fellesraad Updates

Sept 2021 from President Elaine Hasleton



Our ties with Norway House continue to solidify. Friday, Sept 17th was the groundbreaking for the new building. This building will be the home of the Haugo Archive and Bibliotek. Fellesraad and Bygdelag will be the primary holders of these two areas. I feel it is exciting to have a “home” for us, our genealogical collections in the Archive and the discovery center experiences based on information and enthusiasm which we as Bygdelag members can share with others.

The discovery center stations which we will have in the new Bibliotek are the following. Please share your ancestral and Lag information for these experiences: Bibliotek & Explore Norway, Famous Norwegians and Norwegian-Americans, Emigration & Immigration, Norwegian-American and Norwegian-Canadian Settlements, Renowned Midwestern Norwegians, Record My Story, and DNA.

Fellesraad President’s Message January 2022

As we begin another year with the pandemic, it is obvious that flexibility is the name of the game for our lives. Our Annual Meeting will, indeed, be held this coming May 6-7, 2022. We had tentatively hoped it would be a hybrid meeting, but it is a very real possibility that it will be entirely a virtual meeting. Details will be forthcoming. We’ll look forward to seeing you!

Another piece of pertinent information is that after 35 ½ years I have retired from my position at FamilySearch. It’s been a wonderful and rewarding career, but it is time to move on. I will now have more time to devote to Fellesraad and Bygdelags and the Norway House Archive and Bibliotek. We are making good progress on the Haugo Archive and Bibliotek, but a lot of detail work is still needed in various areas. If you would like to help, please contact me. My email address is eehasleton@gmail.com

Thank you for all you do to support your Lag. Without you, the many Bygdelag would not continue to exist.

Elaine



The photo above is of the front page of the Bergen newspaper from 14 Sept. 1936, as found in the Norwegian archives. The following texts are translated versions of a few of the articles found throughout this edition. The link below will lead you to the entire copy of that paper in the archive. (It is, of course, written in Norwegian.)

<https://www.nb.no/nbsok/nb/d3ae094d11bd08fcea2cfc55387687bb?index=6#0>

74 People Killed in Landslide Disaster in Loen.

BØDALEN and NESDALEN

Wiped Out.

– 14 farms swept away by the tidal wave on Loenvannet. –

The same hamlets that sacrificed 61 people in the disaster of 1905 are again haunted.

The government sent a relief expedition.

The message of misfortune.

Sheriff Årnes in Stryn was notified of the accident at 6:30 yesterday morning. He let the fire siren go and a large relief crew gathered and went to Loen. First people from here had traveled up and the rescue work was busy. After that, people came from all settlements in Nordfjord. The district's doctors showed up and from Oslo the government sent an auxiliary expedition with the aviation seal "Falken", led by Bernt Balchen. It included a doctor, three nurses and two firefighters. - With one of Fvikesbåtane's ships, an aid expedition was sent from Florø, which came to Haus in Nordfjord around 2 pm and from there drove to Loen.

When the news of the accident reached Bergen yesterday morning, the chairman of the Red Cross, Dr. med. Tschudi Madsen, immediately (*sent*) an auxiliary expedition consisting of one of the doctors from Haukeland Hospital's surgical department, two Red Cross sisters, and a lot of bandages, stretchers and other sanitary equipment.

Police constable Heggenes made all the police search material available.

Here in the city (Bergen), it was not clear whether the doctors and sisters from the hospital in Nordfjordeid and the doctors who came by plane from Oslo would be able to help the many wounded who were then thought to be there. Later it turned out that very many of the injured died at a very early time, and when Balchen's plane first reached Stryn at 17:15, it was clear that this plane could not come to Bergen and pick up doctors and medical equipment and fly back again before dark.

It was late in the day before "Falken" was allowed to start from Oslo. The engine was taken out for repair on Saturday night, and work was done under high pressure this morning, but it was noon before the start took place. The "Falken" came to Stryn only at 16:30.

Meanwhile, the rescue work was said to be in full swing. By 1 pm, 18 bodies had been transported down to Vassenden, where Nordfjord hospital chief physician Wennevold and Dr. Smith from

Bergen worked, while doctors Freihow and Brynjulfson were in Bødal and Nesdal. Those who were injured were sent by plane to the hospital at Nordfjordeid. It was not easy to get uphill, the bridges were broken and the road that goes on the east side of the water was destroyed. The scheduled boats at Vassenden were destroyed. The steamship Lodølen had sunk (found later on the mountain side) and M / S Kjenndal had been thrown ashore and crushed. A couple of other vessels had the same fate. However, they were able to transport rowboats and a small motorboat upwards from Loen, it was rushed, but they arrived.

15 Bodies Found Yesterday.

Fifteen bodies were found yesterday, sheriff Årnes says in a telephone statement late last night. The others are well hidden in the gravel heaps or at the bottom of the lake. The hamlets are a single desert, morass, wreckage, (Remains of houses and masonry are thrown around in a single chaos) where there is no clean rubbish.

One understands how terrible the landslide has been from the information the sheriff gave. The water rose to a height of 67 meters, 22 meters higher (220 ft, 72ft higher) than in 1905.

A monument that was erected on Nesodden in Bødal to commemorate this accident (1905) has been swept away. It was so high that it was thought to stand forever. Masonry, and cast into the rock, it was now swept away so there are no traces left.

Landslides throughout yesterday

Throughout yesterday, there were small landslides from Ravnefjellet and the rock smoke was dense over the water.

9 injured at the hospital in Eid.

Nordfjordeid Hospital stated last night to N. T. B. that 9 patients have arrived from the landslide accident in Loen. This is Martin Hovland; 24 years, Olga Kvile, 19 years, Nanna Sæte, 29

years, Solvang Bødal at the age of fifty, Signe Skarsten 25 years, Oline Sætre, 44 years, Anna Skarsten 5 years, and Erling Bødal 11 years. Also, a little girl is expected.

The 9 wounded at Nordfjord Hospital are above.

The condition of the 9 who are in the hospital in Nordfjordeid is, according to the circumstances, satisfactory.

If there are no unforeseen complications, it is likely that everyone is over it, says chief physician Wennevold, when N.T.B.'s staff paid a visit to the hospital this morning. The one who is most seriously injured is Oline Sartre, who is in her 50s. She was visiting Bødal when the accident happened. She is quite numb and has also had internal lesions next to several scratches and broken ribs.

A little girl they had found in a threshing machine was taken to the hospital late last night. Her name is Reidun Bødal and she probably broke her femur. She is still lying with the preliminary plaster cast.

The government is making funds available.

Prime Minister Nygårdsvold informs N. T. B. that last night he had a telephone conversation with the mayor of Stryn and informed him that it can be expected that the government will make the necessary funds available to alleviate the immediate need. A chairmanship meeting will be held in Loen today. The Prime Minister has asked for an overview of the size of the damage as soon as one has received an overview of it. The Prime Minister has also, on behalf of the Government, expressed the Government's participation in the mourning. The Prime Minister has also asked the county governor for an annual report on what is needed to alleviate the immediate emergency. The county governor traveled to Loen last night before attending the chairmanship meeting there today.

Help is needed here!

Bergens Arbeiderblad "starts a relief operation.

Our minds are terrified and our ears bleed at the message of the horrors that have hit Loen in the terrible natural disaster.

We stand still and are deeply moved by this terrible event which has suddenly buried almost everyone alive in a village which a few days ago lay peacefully and smiling under the clear rays of the autumn sun.

No one can raise the dead to life, no one can give the survivors houses and homes and property back. The disaster has swept it all away.

The only thing we can do is to show our compassion, our heart and our solidarity with them by a helpless action that brings messages from all houses and cottages both in Bergen and in Western Norway that we all so want to help here.

"Bergens Arbeiderblad" is today starting a relief campaign for the unfortunate and so it happens as we have been able to establish before, that contributions come in from all workers and functionary groups and from all their associations. It is as if the warm and strong handshake from all those who feel with and for those of fate so hard hit.

In NEDRE NESDAL:

Farmer Mons O. Nesdal, his wife Katrine, his son Olav, daughter Agnes, son Bjarne; daughters Solveig, son unbaptized (three weeks old), serves Odny O. Grov and serves Samueline. Farmer Bent Fredsvoll, his wife Anna, daughter Aslaug. Farmer Anders O. Nesdal, his wife Eline. Ambjørn A. Nesdal, his wife Gunvor, son Anders, daughter Maufrid, daughter Svanhild, daughter Odbrun, son Audun, servant Anfinn Slagnes, iron Lina Os, also three carpenters from Vanylven whose names are unknown.

In BØDALEN

The following died: Kårmann Simon S. Raudi d. e., His wife Oleanna. Farmer S. Raudi d. Y., His

wife Alfhild and daughter Odny, son Oskar. Farmer Bent Skarstein, his wife Rakel, daughter Synnøve, daughter Solfrid, daughter Målfrid, son Dagfinn, son Olav, servant Anders Solheim. Farmer, widow Malmfrid Bødal, daughter: Gudny. Shoemaker Rasmus Setre. Farmer Rasmuss E. Bødal, son Arnol R. Ysterske Marie Mardal. A daughter of Elias Roen and two little boys on Sanden whose name is unknown. Kristen J. Sanden (Vassenden) and daughter Ingeborg Sæten. Farmer Oskar E. Bødal. As a four-year-old boy, he was exposed to the disaster in 1905. He was then rescued when he came afloat on a plank. Farmer Bødal's son Edvard, son Asbjørn, son Svein and son Egil and servant Inga Seljeset also died. Farmer Lasse S. Bødal, his wife Marie, daughter Synnøve, daughter Signy, son Steinar, son Ivar and daughter-in-law Dorteia. Farmer Rasmus S. Myrhaug, his wife Ingeborg, daughter Borgny, son Sverre, son Olaf and servant Peder Nesdal. Teacher Thomas Sæle, farmer Elias W. Bødal and son Johan.

By plane over the accident site today.

It only takes just over an hour and a half to fly from Bergen to the accident site, and when our employee paid a visit to the accident site this morning, there was Sunday silence in the beautiful, ravaged village. The sun cast its rays on the middle of the steep, eerie Ravnefjellet. The entire mountainside is peeled off. It shines yellowish and light against the other weather-beaten gray rock formations, and clearly marks the huge rock mass that crashed.

The sharp headland from Bødal cuts far out into the water towards Ravnefjell. The headland that was previously covered with a small forest and soil has literally been cut off - shaved so that only the gray rock protrudes. Up here stood the memorial to the accident in 1905. It was connected to the mountain but disappeared with everything else in the tidal wave.

A flight over the accident site shows inconsolable desolation of what were once cultivated farms. Distorted tree trunks, remnants of houses, a

shattered flagpole, a boat thrown far ashore and across all the destruction, the river has already found a new path.

Out on the water below us, wreckage of all kinds, floats. As large patches of black foam float collections of shrubs, trees, plank bits and all sorts of other things that have not sunk into oblivion in the elongated Loenvann. Somewhere below a roof ridge is sailing.

And yet it is only when one is down on earth that the destruction in all its awfulness comes to light: The soil is sticky - tough. House debris and household goods have been washed in over the countryside and lie like a foam edge a few hundred meters up inland. An entire house has been moved away and looks good despite the move. It is only 10-20 meters from the only remaining of Bødalen's many houses - a solitary dairy.

And here from the dairy the smoke rises peacefully in the quiet morning hours. It is the people looking between the ruins who have their place of residence here.

“We were many here yesterday”, says one of the people, but the search had to be stopped due to the darkness, and today it continues. The crew will probably not be smaller, and it is enough to tackle, he says with a meaningful hand gesture towards the ruin mounds.

Here is one of the few survivors, he says, pointing to a small homeless kitten rubbing against his legs. It too has lost its home and suffered in a huge flood.

The man also tells the story of old Ole Gjerstun who escaped death in such a miraculous way. He gives the story a slightly different version than we have heard it from elsewhere.

It's so determined with old Ole. During the landslide in 1905, strangely enough, nothing of Ole's property was damaged, and this time he

had a premonition that something was going to happen. Neither he nor his daughter went to bed on the night of the accident, and when the first landslide came, he ran up the mountain with his daughter Anna. It was so close this time that Anna was taken by the flood, but Ole gave her a hand so she was saved.

It is a strange story, and it gives a new view of the cunning that always prevails when nature's great forces are unleashed and create misfortune and corruption among the little people of the earth.

Editors Note:

The above sections are only a small sample of the stories found in this one copy of the Bergen newspaper from the day following the disaster.

Further technical information on the landslides can be found in report # 79 presented in English by the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute on “The Stability of Rock Slopes in Norway” found in the online library of Norway at

<https://www.nb.no/nbsok/nb/02114f230b42db2002c3c6b02dc532de?index=1#0>

To search this archive on your own start with this link to search in english:

<https://www.nb.no/nbsok/search.nbdigital?lang=en>

Enter Ramnefjellet, Bødal, Nesdal, or other words for it to search on to find relevant documents. A list of document types is found on the left side of the page to narrow down your search.

Greetings From the President:

Kevin Hoff

I hope everybody is having a safe, warm, and good start to 2022. It looks like Covid-19 is going to have its ups and downs for a while. I have had my three covid-19 shots and look forward to a new normal.

Some good news per Cruise Industry News dated 01/27/2022 travel in Norway is reopening on Jan 26, 2022, when the country stopped requiring North American travelers to quarantine for 10 days. The restrictions that have been removed by the government were in place for about two years.

Following the announcement, North Americans can travel to Norway as long as they present a negative Covid-19 test taken 24 hours before departing for Norway, Complete an entry preregistration form, and test upon arrival, either at airport or within the first 24 hours. Your Covid-19 vaccination card is not needed since the information on the card cannot be verified by the Norwegian Government.

The type of Covid-19 test taken would be for travel and not a store bought take home test. The Covid-19 test at the Norwegian Airports would be free.

This August 2022 mom, Sandy, and I are going to Bergen for four days. Then we'll rent a car and go to Nordfjordeid where we will rent a Fjord Cabin for four days. We'll spend an additional four days sightseeing around Nordfjord. Mom has many ancestors that came from Nordfjord. We plan to visit the home farm of my mom's grandpa, Nedre Myklebust, located near Bryggja, Norway.

I wrote a poem about my Nordfjord Norwegian Farmer ancestors that had to work three years to pay off the U.S. farmer who brought them to America. In memory of Andrew A. Olson, MN (AKA in Norway, Endre Andreas Abelsen Myklebust, Nedre Myklebust near Bryggja, Norway).

Hope to see everyone soon. Here is the poem.

HARVEST DAY

The crop has all come in.

The help has all been paid.

Grandpa played a Farmers Fiddle on that Harvest Day.

They drank Old Mogen David and plenty of beer and ale.

The night was long and joyous as they danced until the Dawn.

Grandpa played a Farmers Fiddle on that Harvest Day.

Grandpa was a poor man who could not afford a fiddle.

Grandpa worked three years for Farmer to pay his debt that day.

Grandpa played a Farmers Fiddle on that Harvest Day.

Grandpa found his love you see.

Grandma was his love to be.

Grandpa played a Farmers Fiddle on that Harvest Day.

Kevin Hoff

04/07/2021

In Memoriam

April 18, 1932 - July 25, 2021 Edward Charles Mitteness was born April 18, 1932, on the family farm in Camplake Township of rural Benson, MN to Martin and Emma (Lyslo) Mitteness. He was baptized and confirmed at Swift Falls Lutheran Church of rural Benson, MN. On August 15, 1965,



Edward Charles Mitteness married Eveline Caroline. Nesheim at Wood Lake Lutheran Church of rural Astoria, SD.

Edward attended rural school for four years, Benson Public School for four years and then he went on to Morris, MN and graduated from the Morris Agricultural School. While attending school there he sang in the school chorus that went on tours and he also played for the school dances and was paid five dollars for the evening. As soon as he completed his schooling, he became a farmer and farmed until 1998 when he retired and moved to South Dakota on to Evehne's home place. He raised small grain, soybeans, corn and also sugar beets for six years besides having livestock at times. He purchased his birthplace in 1957, but it took a long time to get it paid for. Edward was active in Farth Bureau holding office of Vice President and Secretary for many years. Even after retirement he like to attend meetings to keep up on new ideas, how farming should be done and enjoyed helping his renter with field work until his health said "NO". He was a member of Sons of Norway and sang in the Benson Male Chorus. He never tired of listening to music. He enjoyed all types of music from St. Olaf Choir Music, Classical, Country Western and old-time music. After hearing the song, he could play it on his accordion or piano. One of Edward's greatest thrills was when he got to see his grandparent's birthplace in Norway. He really enjoyed his trip to Norway. He enjoyed taking short trips where he lived on every road he could find, and some roads could be quite adventurous at times.

Gary G. Erickson, age 78, of Sunburg, died Friday, September 17, 2021, at Carris Health Therapy Suites in Willmar..



Gary Guy Erickson was born on August 1, 1943 in St. James, Missouri, the son of Guy and Nettie (Ratzlaff) Erickson. At a young age he moved to North Mankato, MN. He was a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church, where he was baptized and confirmed. He graduated from Mankato High School in 1961. In January 1964 he enlisted in the United States Air Force. Gary attended Syracuse University, where he was enrolled in the Russian Language program and served as a Russian linguist for the USAF. He was honorably discharged in September 1967 and returned to Mankato State University, receiving his degrees in Sociology and Russian Language. Later in life, Gary's passion for his Scandinavian heritage led him to the University of Oslo, where he studied Norwegian language, culture, and history.

On October 7, 1967, he married Leslie K. Floyd at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Excelsior, MN. They raised three children, Matthew, Kristin, and Anna-Lisa. He was employed by the state of MN as an employment interviewer, counselor, and ultimately the CETA Center Supervisor. He later started his own employment company, Regional Professional Vocational Services, Inc., which he operated for several years. Gary was later self-employed as a forensic examiner until his retirement in 1995. In 2004, Gary and Les built their retirement home on Norway Lake, on the very same property where 29 years of family camping and fun had occurred.

One of the most memorable things about our dad is his genuine pride in his Norwegian heritage and passion for sharing this with all who knew him. Dad was an active member of the Minneapolis Torske Klubben, a Norwegian men's club. They would gather at the Interlachen Country Club to socialize with their brothers of Norwegian descent. He was a contributing editor

for the Norwegian American Weekly newspaper. Dad taught Norwegian language at the KulturHus in Sunburg. He was the president of Møre og Romsdal, an organization that upholds the genealogical culture and history of that region in Norway. He was also a member of Nordfjordlag, Sons of Norway and Swedish Friends.

Gary had many hobbies. They included, but were not limited to antique decoy collecting, wood carving, ham radio, hunting, fishing, classic sports cars, and riding motorcycles. He enjoyed traveling, especially to Norway and his forever favorite place Maui, HI. At the end of the day, Gary was most passionate about his faith and his family. He spent hours watching and video recording Matthew's hockey games, and now his granddaughters' hockey games. He despised his iPhone but he loved FaceTiming with his granddaughters, Reese and Elin. Like his mother, Gary's favorite Bible verse was John 3:16. He lived his life by following Jesus and he looked forward to seeing his Savior. And now he has.

Welcome home. Well done thou good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Lord.

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 our lag.

Lag Expenses Continue

Remember that unless you have a life membership, your lag dues are a yearly requirement. Costs for web hosting, mailings, and so on continue even if we do not meet in person. If you have not renewed your membership for 2021, we would appreciate having you send in your dues, so we have enough to pay our bills.

Roots Tech Connect

(See Ad Below.) Again, this year online classes on genealogy will be presented by FamilySearch. These are free but require you to sign up to get a connection. For more information see http://fellesraad.com/fell_events.htm#RootsTech

RootsTech Connect Virtual Conference (Free) March 3-5, 2022

RootsTech, the world's largest family history conference, is offering free registration and free access to over 1500 virtual classes.

Register on-line at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/>

You may contact me at:

webmaster@nordfjordlag.com.

If there are members who have died since our last meeting, please send 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 will send the newsletter to you as a copy that is stored on our web page along with an Email notice that includes a link to the web address.

Back issues can be found at <http://www.nordfjordlag.com/archives.html#enews>

Take care. Gene Rodi, V.P.

Nordfjordlag E-News