

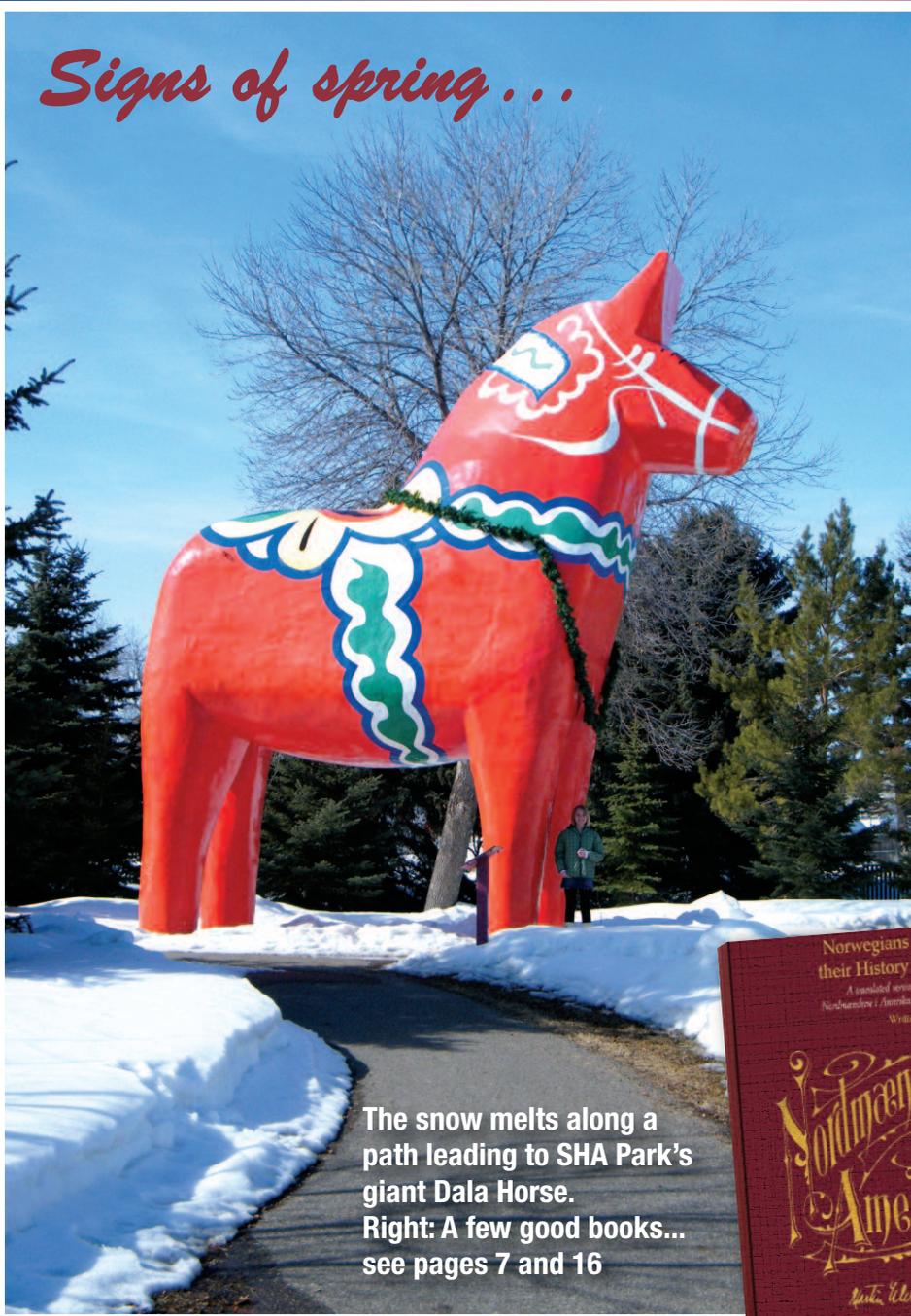
Published in the interest of
North Americans of Scandinavian descent

Scandinavian Heritage News

March 2011

PHOTO BY JO ANN WINSTORFER

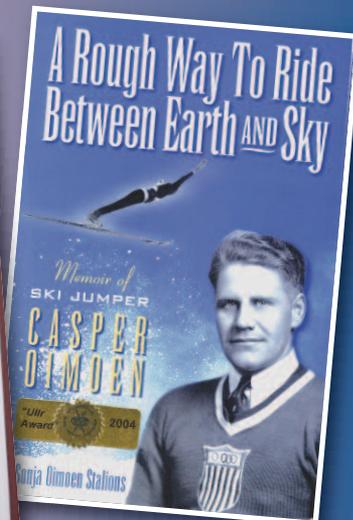
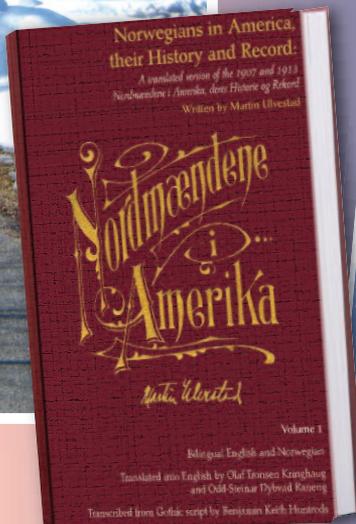
Signs of spring...



The snow melts along a path leading to SHA Park's giant Dala Horse.
Right: A few good books... see pages 7 and 16

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President's MESSAGE

SHA banquet just ahead

by Gail Peterson, president
Scandinavian Heritage Association

We are already into the new year, and this will be my fourth year as SHA president. I would like to thank everyone for all of their help and support. It has been a privilege serving you, and I look forward to the new year and all that it brings to our organization.

We will now be preparing for our annual banquet. Doris Slaaten and Liz Gjellstad will chair the event. George Officer and I will co-chair the silent auction. Verla Rostad has also agreed to help with the event. The banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn this year, and I know it will be a fun-filled evening. Board members will be sell-

ing tickets, and you may also purchase them at the SHA office.

Spring is approaching, and we will be getting ready for Mid-summer Night, a festival I know many of us look forward to after our long, cold winter.

As always, we welcome new board members, and this year I am happy to announce that Sue Weston has agreed to serve as treasurer. Besides Sue, Everett Olson, Adelaide Johnson. Les Strege and Bob Wheeler have agreed to one-year terms on our board.

Please be careful on all of the ice around town, and think spring! •



Gail Peterson

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1020 South Broadway
701/852-9161 • P.O. Box 862
Minot, ND 58702
e-mail: scandha@srt.com
Website: scandinavianheritage.org

Newsletter Committee

Lois Matson, Chair
Al Larson, Carroll Erickson
Jo Ann Winistorfer, Editor

701/487-3312

genesis@westriv.com

Al Larson, Publisher – 701/852-5552

SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

1020 South Broadway • P.O. Box 862
Minot, North Dakota 58702
Phone 701/852-9161

2011 OFFICERS

Gail Peterson	President
Peder Rice	Vice President
Marion Anderson	Secretary
Sue Weston	Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Three-year terms ending January 2014
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Three-year terms ending January 2013
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Liz Gjellstad Jana Hennix
Gail Peterson Virgil Rude

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Doris Slaaten Robert Whetter
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Verla Rostad, Office Manager

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Marian Bergan, Director Emeritus
Doralyn Brown, Director Emeritus
Jeanne McNea, Director Emeritus
Helen Haaland, Director Emeritus

YOU'RE INVITED!

SHA ANNUAL BANQUET

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2011
Holiday Inn Riverside, Minot

Social hour 5:30 p.m. • Dinner 6:30 p.m.
ON THE MENU: Roast turkey & trimmings

Entertainment • Silent auction
Tickets \$20 per person

Co-chairs Doris Slaaten & Liz Gjellstad

SPEAKER: Melissa Gjellstad
Asst. Prof. of Languages/Norwegian
UND Dept. of Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures

YOU'RE INVITED!

From the OFFICE

Busy with plans for 2011 season

by Verla Rostad
SHA office manager

"I suppose it's pretty quiet at your office these days," is a common comment I hear during the winter months. There is no denying that the activity level in the park and Gift Shop is much slower during the winter months. However, that doesn't mean there is nothing going on!

During the winter we reflect on the past year: What went well? What can we do better? Along with serving as the office manager, I am the Tours Committee chair for the board of directors. During the summer of 2010 we were able to have the park buildings open evenings until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, thanks to volunteer teams.

Unlike most of our day-time volunteers, who commit to a half day each week (Monday afternoons, Wednesday mornings, etc.), our evening teams share their shift with others. Most teams were made up of six or eight individuals—some couples—who worked out a schedule among themselves to cover the evening shift on a given day. Our goal is to expand to Friday evenings, and to recruit teams to share Saturday morning and afternoon shifts, and also Sunday afternoon.

Another goal is to have the Heritage House Museum open whenever the park buildings are open. We need more people, but are asking them to commit less time, in a more flexible setting. Volunteers all seem to agree on one thing: the people you meet are so interesting!

Winter is also a good time to dream about how we can improve the park and the visitors' experience to the park.

There have been conversations about installing a path to connect the paths in the park with the Heritage House Museum. As it is now, visitors to the Heritage House Museum must walk across the lawn—which is uneven—or return to the parking lot and walk along the sidewalk next to the street. Without a path, many visitors don't even realize the Heritage House Museum is part of the park. So we think about how that

path should look and how we can fund it.

We also talk about the entrance to the Heritage House Museum itself; it should be more accessible to folks with mobility issues. So a ramp and larger landing by the door enter the plans as well.

Plans are coming together for the annual SHA Banquet and Silent Auction, which will be held on April 2 at the Holiday Inn Riverside. You'll find more information on the opposite page.

The Midsummer Night Festival is scheduled for the evening of Friday, June 24. Save the date! More details will appear in the June issue of the newsletter.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find a report from Jeanne McNea on plans for the Heritage House Museum this summer. In order for an exhibit on early Minot to be complete and interesting for visitors, we need photos of immigrants and early settlers!

The copy machine in the office has a scanner, so if you bring your photos in to the office, we can scan them, jot down the information that will identify them, have a cup of coffee and you can leave with your photos in hand.

Please consider sharing your family history with us through photos—no matter if your family was among the first in the Minot area or if they arrived later.

Remember, the Scandinavian Heritage Park was built out of the dreams of the members of the Scandinavian Heritage Association.

What are your dreams? How can we make the Scandinavian Heritage Park even better? •



Verla Rostad

CALENDAR

SPRING 2011



- **Scandinavian Heritage Association Annual Banquet**, Saturday, April 2, 2011, Holiday Inn Riverside, Minot. Social hour begins 5:30 p.m., banquet at 6:30 p.m.
 - **Sons of Norway Thor Lodge Potet Klubb dinner**, Monday, March 21, 2011, 6:30 p.m., First Lutheran Parish Hall, Minot
 - **Sons of Norway Thor Lodge Luncheon/Bake Sale**, Saturday, April 16, 2011, lower level of Scandinavian Heritage Assn. headquarters
- NEXT SHA BOARD MEETING:**
Friday, March 25, 2011, at noon
- NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**
Copy and pictures—May 15, 2011
Printing date—June 1, 2011



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community is
reflected
in the
quality
of its
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Directors being installed at the SHA annual meeting include (from left) Les Stregre, Sue Weston, Lois Matson, Ernie Selland, Jerry Jorgenson, Jim Maragos and Everett Olson. Past SHA president Al Larson (far right) handled the formalities. Seated at the table (foreground) is volunteer greeter Mitchell Koch. Helen Haaland (left in center photo) accepts her Director Emeritus certificate from SHA president, Gail Peterson.



Among the officers elected at the annual meeting were (from left) Gail Peterson, president; Marian Anderson, secretary; and Sue Weston, treasurer. Not pictured is Peder Rice, vice president. Al Larson (right) emceed the election portion of the meeting.

At annual meeting—

Officers elected, Helen Haaland honored as Director Emeritus

At the annual meeting of the Scandinavian Heritage Association on Jan. 29, 2011, long-time SHA board member Helen Haaland was awarded the status of Director Emeritus. Helen was recognized for her tireless work in the area of fundraising over the years. Thanks, Helen, for the gift of your time and treasure over the years!

A group of board members were elected to three-year terms, which will end in January 2014. They were Jerome Jorgenson, Jim Maragos, Lois Matson, Peder Rice, Bob Sando, Ernie Selland, Joan Varty and Neil Zimmerman. Appointed by President Gail Peterson to one-year terms were Everett Olson, Les Strege, Sue Weston, Adelaide Johnson and Bob Wheeler.

Officers elected for 2011 were President Gail Peterson, Vice President Peder Rice and Secretary Marion Anderson, all returning for another term. Treasurer Sue Weston replaces Jerome Jorgenson, who asked to retire from the position of treasurer but has agreed to remain active on the board.

Minutes from the annual meeting will be published in the Annual Report, which is available upon request at the office. Call 701/852-9161 if you would like a copy.

Drawings for door prizes were held at the conclusion of the business meeting. Winners were Sue Weston (Telemark book), Ernie Selland (rose-maling cards), Sonja Hernes and Fran Braaten (calendars), and Mitchell Koch and Jana Hennix (table napkins). •



Heritage House report—

Wanted: Volunteers; photos, articles and artifacts on early Minot area

by Jeanne McNea,
SHA Heritage House committee

The calendar shows that spring and summer should be coming soon. We hope the weatherman pays attention to the calendar after the long, cold and snowy winter.

The Heritage House committee has been taking a break since October, but will resume monthly meetings in March. We will be doing some spring cleaning and making plans for the summer. Plans at this time are to have pictures, artifacts and stories of early Minot and the area nearby. Other items will be added, and some that we have will be rearranged so that the museum will have a different look to returning visitors.

Items anyone would like to share can be brought to the office for the committee to look at and decide what we can use. Pictures and news stories can be scanned at the time they are brought in, so it is not necessary to leave them with us.

Everyone is busy these days and we

all have our own priorities, but our organization and our park were built by volunteers and we would like to keep it that way as much as possible. For the Heritage House, we need volunteers on our committee to help set up displays, to do some research and to guide visitors through the house.

Our committee meets the second Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. Most of us take a shift at the house each week, but we need more people to fill every slot. Weekday shifts are from 9:30 to 12:30 and 12:30 to 4.

If enough people sign up, we could be open for two hours in the evening. Last year we did not have enough volunteers to keep the house open on weekends, but we hope that will change. Sunday hours would be 1 to 4 p.m.

Anyone who would like more information, please call me—Jeanne McNea—at 701/838-0163. Leave a message if I don't answer and I will get back to you. •

Ski-jump champion Casper Oimoen 'goes to school'

by Verla Rostad

When former Minot Casper Oimoen was inducted into the North Dakota Rough Rider Hall of Fame in 1973, he was the first tradesman to hold the honor. Famous as an Olympic ski jumper, Oimoen was also an accomplished brick mason.

"A Rough Way to Fly Between Earth and Sky" is a memoir of the life of Casper Oimoen written by his daughter, Sonja Oimoen Stalions. Casper emigrated from Norway to Minot in 1923 as a 17-year-old young man. He continued his sport of ski jumping by competing in regional competitions and became recognized as the top jumper in the U.S.—winning three national championships. He competed in the Olympic Winter Games in 1932 and 1936. But Casper believed that it is important for an athlete to pay his own way, so even when he was competing in ski jumping during the winter months, he worked as a brick layer during the summer building seasons.

Last winter, Sonja wrote a revised version of the book for children. Minot teachers were invited to use it in their classrooms this year. We had 10 teachers



Ski jumping champion from Minot, Casper Oimoen, has been honored via a statue in SHA Park (left) and a portrait that hangs in the State Capitol building's hall, along with those of other North Dakota Rough Rider Award winners. Casper was so honored in 1973.

ask for the transcript to review.

I was invited to three classrooms to make a presentation about Casper Oimoen. The third graders at Our Redeemer's Christian School and both

fourth-grade classes at Longfellow School welcomed me into their classrooms. I was able to share Casper's story and some of the memorabilia the Oimoen family has shared with us. The



PICTURE THIS! Two 'nonagenarians' celebrate birthdays

Two longtime, active directors and volunteers at SHA Park celebrated milestone birthdays the past two months.

George Officer, shown below surrounded by his son, Roy, and wife, Jeanice, turned 91 on Feb. 5. A family gathering took



place on that day; on Feb. 7, birthday cake and coffee were served at the Scandinavian Heritage Association office in Minot. John Sinn (far right) became a nonagenarian on Jan. 20. His family held a 90th birthday



bash for John at the Holiday Inn Riverside. The photo at right shows some of John's friends congratulating him during the event. Both men are proof that age is just a number. George's SHA project is the Gol Stave Church Museum; John is SHA's buildings and grounds chairman. •



Verla Rostad, SHA office manager (background) introduces third-graders at Minot's Our Redeemers Christian School to Casper Oimoen. Included in the presentation is a photo display and a case containing Casper's ski-jumping medals.

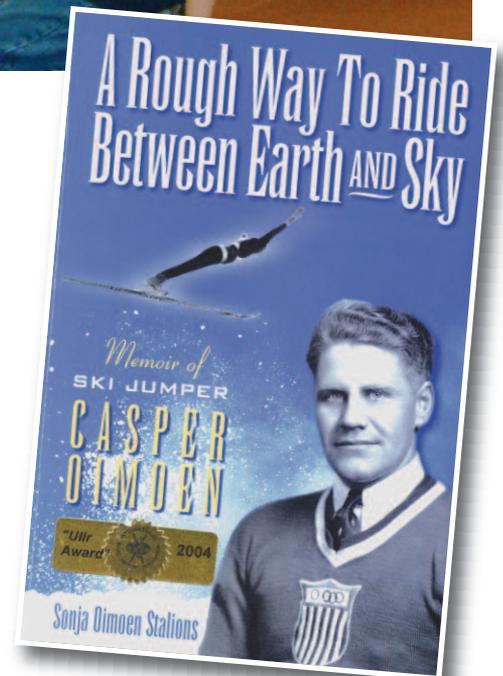
Longfellow students were excited to know that they could see the hills that were once the site of a ski-jump structure from their classroom windows! I was able to share a bit of Minot's history with the children and hopefully instill in them an interest in the Scandinavian Heritage Park at the same time!

Sonja also remembered some of the homes and buildings that reflect Casper's work as a brick mason. We have been working this winter to verify the addresses and have contacted current residents, asking them to complete a survey. We asked residents if they would be willing to open their homes to a Tour of Homes, since many Minot homes have fireplaces, patios and exterior accent brickwork by Casper

Oimoen. We also offered the option for allowing us to photograph the fireplace or patio for a photo display. Responses are still coming in.

I am confident that we will have a photo display that will allow us to showcase Casper's work. We may have a driving tour with a list of addresses and, if more interest surfaces, possibly a Tour of Homes.

Besides residential work, Casper was involved in brickwork on many public buildings in Minot. Those buildings will be included when we showcase the masonry of Casper Oimoen. •



Oimoen's biography, "A Rough Way to Ride Between Earth and Sky," earned the International Skiing History Association's Ullr Award in 2004. Two SHA directors helped with the book: Jo Ann Winistorfer (design/layout/editing) and Allen O. Larson (publisher).

The Scandinavian Heritage • 21



Charles Lindbergh: American hero

by Arland Fiske

“The Last Hero” is the way biographer Walter S. Ross described Charles Augustus Lindbergh. There is no doubt about the hero status of this tall, handsome and boyish-looking Swede from Minnesota. When Lindbergh returned to New York after his triumphant nonstop flight to Paris, he was greeted with the city’s greatest parade. It’s estimated that up to 4,500,000 admirers lined the sidewalks leading to Central Park on June 13, 1927, and more than 3,500,000 pounds of ticker tape was dropped on his entourage. The first air mail stamp was dedicated to him. Honors were given him by the governments of the United States, France and Germany, as well as private recognitions.

That was a turbulent time, and America needed a hero. Historian Page Smith, now retired from UCLA, stated that “leaders were in disrepute; politicians, alive and dead, had come under severely critical scrutiny.” The young flier from Little Falls, Minn., had captured the world and taken people’s minds off their troubles.

In his autobiography, “We,” Lindbergh wrote about his family background. Their name in Sweden had been Manson. Grandpa Ole Manson,

born in 1810, was a peasant farmer who broke loose from his economic servitude and was elected to the Riksdag (parliament) at age 39. He struck up a friendship with the Crown Prince, who became King Charles XV in 1859, and was named his secretary. A man of high principles, his goal in government was to campaign for social reform. The privileged classes were enraged at his efforts and managed to trump up charges of embezzlement against him where he was a loan officer in a bank at Malmo.

When he’d had enough of the reactionary spirit prevailing in his homeland, Manson—now Lindbergh—took his family to Sauk Centre, Minn., in 1860, where he built a 12-by-16-foot log cabin. This was quite a comedown in lifestyle. Before leaving Sweden, members of the parliament gave him a medal made of solid gold. After arriving in America, he traded the medal for a plow. Trinkets meant nothing to him.

Those sterling qualities were passed on to his children. His son, Charles August Lindbergh Sr., named after the king of Sweden, became a lawyer and made his home in Little Falls. Later he was elected to the U.S. Congress five times, defeated only because he voted to oppose America’s entry into World War I. His wife had degrees from Michigan and Columbia universities. She had gone to Little Falls to teach chemistry.

Charles Jr. was born Feb. 4, 1902, in Detroit. He never attended a full year of school in one place until he entered the University of Wisconsin. After a year and a half, young Charles decided that the University was no place for him. So he enrolled in a flying school in Lincoln, Neb., against the wishes of his father. His mother, however, thought it was great and went barnstorming with him around the country. At the Army Air School at Brooks Field, Texas, Charles graduated at the head of his class in 1925.

Six years earlier, a New York finan-



Lindbergh and the Spirit of St. Louis visited Fargo, N.D., on Friday, Aug. 26, 1927. From left: Murray Baldwin (president of the Fargo Aeronautic Club), Lindbergh and Fargo Mayor J.H. Dahl.



Lindbergh and the Spirit of St. Louis, the plane he made famous. The original plane is now on display at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

cier had offered a prize of \$25,000 for the first successful air flight from New York to Paris. Charles was determined to win it. Some St. Louis financiers backed his effort, ordering a plane with a 200-horsepower radial air-cooled engine with navigating instruments. The plane, built in San Diego, was named "The Spirit of St. Louis" to show his appreciation for their backing. The plane's top speed was 130 miles per hour, and its 400 gallons of gasoline had a range of about 4,000 miles.

When he landed in New York, Paris was 3,500 miles away. He took off from Roosevelt Airfield on Long Island at 7:54 a.m. on May 20, 1927, and landed at LeBourget in Paris after a flight of 33.5 hours.

That was a daring adventure by any standards. It had never been done before, and his chief competitors for the prize were planning to fly trimotor planes with extra crew.

Landing in Paris proved to be dangerous. Huge crowds had to be held back by the police or they would have torn him apart, they were in such a celebrating mood. He was rescued and driven to the American Embassy, but someone stole his log book out of the plane. It was never recovered.

Lindbergh became an instant hero. Then came the dark days. I remember being told by our rural grade school teacher that Lindbergh had gone to Europe and was invited to inspect the air forces of England, Russia, France

and Germany. Unfortunately, he wasn't a sophisticated diplomat. He didn't say what the Western press wanted to hear. Lindbergh praised Germany's Luftwaffe as the best air force in the world. The Nazis were delighted and decorated him for it. Immediately he was branded pro-Hitler and anti-democratic.

Nothing could have been further from the truth, and history soon vindicated Lindbergh's judgment. If Bill Mitchell (acting on Lindbergh's reports) hadn't worked furiously to build up Britain's Royal Air Force, Hitler would have had his way during the London blitz of 1940.

Lindbergh campaigned hard to keep the United States out of the war. His strong anti-Soviet views seem to have been a part of his "America First" rally participation in Madison Square Garden in May 1941. From our present perspective, we'd have to say that Lindbergh was politically "unwise." Still, he was no friend of the Nazis. For his convictions, he was denied a U.S. Air Force commission during World War II.

Charles and his devoted wife, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, had their greatest heartbreak when their son, Charles III, was kidnapped on March 1, 1930, at 20 months of age. The story of the German carpenter from New York, Bruno Richard Hauptmann, in whose home was found \$13,000 of the \$50,000 ransom money, was front-page news for years. People's hearts went out to the Lindberghs so much that even the noted Chicago gangster Al Capone and his wife offered \$10,000 to get the child back.

The body was found on May 16, 1932. Hauptmann was arrested in September 1934 and convicted. I can't remember anyone mourning his death in the electric chair on April 3, 1936. The media, however, had exploited the story to the hilt, and the Lindberghs never recovered from the wound.

Though active on corporation boards and a constant round-the-world traveler, Charles Lindbergh was a very private person, not wanting anyone even to write his biography. Honor was restored on April 7, 1954, to the famous Swede from Minnesota when he was made a Brigadier

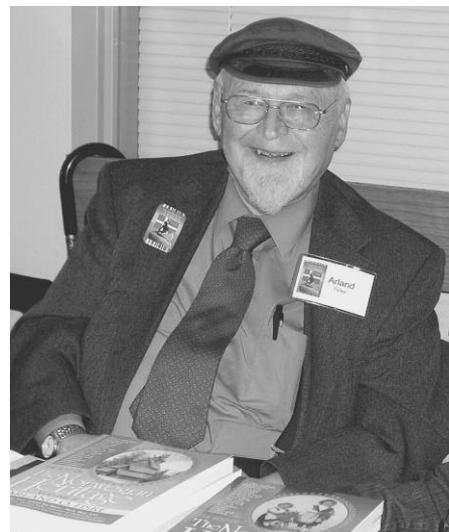
General in the Air Force Reserve.

Lindbergh died of lymphatic cancer on the Hawaiian island of Maui on Aug. 25, 1974. The Rev. John Tincher, a United Methodist pastor from Burlingame, Calif., held the funeral service the following day, reading these words: "We commit the body of Gen. Charles A. Lindbergh to its final resting place, but his spirit we commend to Almighty God, knowing that death is but a new adventure in existence and remembering how Jesus said upon the cross, 'Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.'"

Lindbergh was inducted into Norsk Høstfest's Scandinavian-American Hall of Fame in 1991 in Minot, N.D. A museum has been built in Lindbergh's honor at Little Falls, Minn. •

• • •

For more on Charles Lindbergh's life—including some highly personal controversies—visit the following website:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Lindbergh.



Author Arland Fiske

Editor's note: This column is the 21st in a series by former Minot pastor, Arland Fiske (now living in Moorhead, Minn.), retired from ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Fiske has written nine books on Scandinavian heritage. The chapter reprinted here is from his book, "The Swedish Heritage."

Gifts, memorials help preserve our heritage

by Verla Rostad

Donations and memorial gifts are important to the Scandinavian Heritage Association in sustaining the Scandinavian Heritage Park and preserving the legacy of our heritage. We have received gifts from the following people between Sept. 1, 2010 and Feb. 28, 2011:

In appreciation of group tours:

- Minot High School Class of 1950
- Minot High School Class of 1960
- L.A. Tours
- Homespun Tours
- McPhail Tours
- Rustad Tours
- Brekke Tours

For SHA Park's 20th anniversary:

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- George & Jeanice Officer
- Casper Oimoen Trust
- Jim & Verla Rostad
- Virgil & Geraldene Rude
- Ernie & Marilyn Selland

- Arthur & Alpha Sevig
- Bernice Stoland
- Kathy Webel

In honor of John Sinn:

- Arnie & Fran Braaten

In honor of John Sinn's 90th birthday:

- Myron & Marion Anderson
- Eva Goodman
- Milton & Lorraine Haugen
- Jerry & Pat Jorgenson
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- Lois Matson
- James A. Meier
- Minot Park District Staff
- Gail S. Peterson
- Ernie & Marilyn Selland
- Deloris M. Stenvold
- Jerry & Cheryl Sinn
- Thor Lodge Sons of Norway
- Susan & Scott Weston

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THE SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE PARK, the only park in the world representing all five Nordic countries, hosts thousands of visitors each year from around the world; as well as providing a picturesque setting for weddings and family gatherings.

As a member of the Scandinavian Heritage Association, You help support:

- Interpretative Tours of the Park
- The Heritage House Museum
- Local School Field Trips
- The Annual "Midsommar Natt"
- "Arts in the Park"
- Seminars on Heritage and Culture
- The on-going preservation and promotion of Scandinavian traditions, positive values and ethics
- And much, much more!

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\$35.00 per year

Will receive the SHA Membership Package, which includes:

- Membership Card good for 10% off Scandinavian Gift Shop items

- Membership Pin (initial membership)
- The Scandinavian Heritage News, official newsletter of the Association
- Invitation to Annual Banquet and other SHA events
- Annual SHA Gift Packet
- Logo window Sticker

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Receives the SHA Membership Package, plus:

- Recognition in Newsletter (one issue)
- One (1) Complimentary Ticket to the Annual Banquet

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\$500.00 and above per year

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- Two (2) Complimentary Tickets to the Annual Banquet

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Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I/We wish to support the Scandinavian Heritage Association at the level checked below:

Sustaining Member **Sponsor Member** **Benefactor Member**

Yes, I/We give permission to print our name in the SHA publications

Please contact us. I/We would like to become Volunteer(s) at SHA.

Check enclosed \$ _____ Credit Card: MasterCard Visa Discover Am. Exp.

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card (please print) _____ Signature _____

Please mail to Scandinavian Heritage Assn., P.O. Box 862, Minot, ND 58702. Thank You!

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- Helene Anderson
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- David & Myrna DeMers
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- Dennis Vasek
- Clair Watne

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- Michael & Rosann Wold
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 - Glenn & Norma Berg
- In memory of Vera Goodman:**
 - Viona Hanson
- In memory of Wendell Haugen:**
 - Glenn & Norma Berg
 - John Sinn
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 - Ruth McIntyre
- In memory of LeRoy "Buster" Mackey:**
 - The Best family
- In memory of Carol Mays:**
 - Carroll & Noreen Erickson
- In memory of Rachel Mestad:**
 - Myrtle M. Husted
- In memory of Lawrence Odland:**
 - John E. Sinn
- In memory of Elenore Officer:**
 - John E. Sinn
- In memory of Harlan O. Olson:**
 - Duane & Barb Aase
 - Ramona Buettner
- In memory of Odd Osteros:**
 - Myron & Marion Anderson
 - Marian Bergan
 - Allen & Nada Butz
 - Jim & Barbara Matthews
 - George & Jeanice Officer
 - Jim & Verla Rostad
- In memory of Tillie Overlee:**
 - Carrol T. Juven
 - Allen O. Larson
- In memory of Ida Pederson:**
 - Jeanne McNea
 - Nora Pederson
 - Geraldine Pederson
- In memory of Richard Priess:**
 - John E. Sinn
- In memory of Helen Silseth:**
 - Ramona Beuttner
 - Craig & Martha Elliott
 - Curt Medalen
- Other gifts:**
 - A cash gift and future proceeds of a Charitable Remainder Trust from the Edna Solheim estate
 - Gifts from Doris Slaaten (including establishment of an office manager's salary fund)
 - A gift to fund a single-table picnic shelter from Roald and Marilyn Mattson (in honor of their grandsons)

A memorial or a donation in honor of a special person, given to the Scandinavian Heritage Association for preservation of the park, keeps heritage alive for future generations.

Thank you, donors. Look for more listings of memorials and other donations in future issues. •

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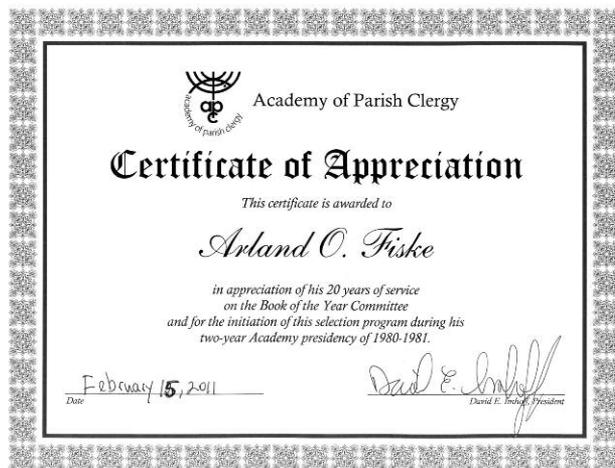
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Arland Fiske honored by Academy of Parish Clergy

We are pleased to announce that Arland O. Fiske, retired pastor and the author of our "Scandinavian Heritage" column in this newsletter (see pages 8-9), has been recognized by the Academy of Parish Clergy for his 20 years of service on the organization's Book of the Year committee. Fiske's certificate of appreciation (right) was unveiled during an academy meeting held in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 15-17, 2011.

A member of the academy since 1975, Fiske served as the academy's president for two terms beginning in 1980. He started the Book of the Year award program in his first term, serving as that committee's chair for the first five years. From 1994-2009, he served as the contact person with major publishing houses producing books for pastors. The Academy's Book of the Year program is highly regarded by publishers.

The Academy of Parish Clergy is an ecumenical association of Catholic and Protestant clergy bonded together with an emphasis on collegiality, continuing education and high professional standards. Fiske is a Fellow in the Academy (FAPC); two of his minister sons, Paul and Christopher, are also members of the academy. •



This certificate of appreciation was awarded to Arland Fiske for his 20-year service on the Academy of Parish Clergy's Book of the Year committee.

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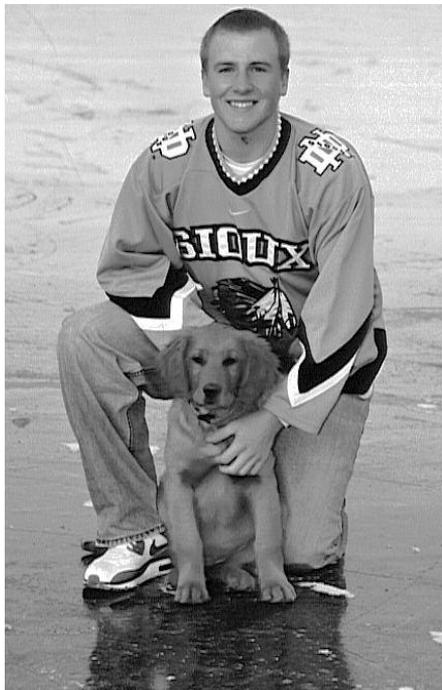
SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY NEWS...

Dakota Finnish Society NEWS

Finns celebrate their heritage

by Marion Anderson, president
Dakota Finnish Society

We had our Pikkujoulu (Little Christmas) celebration on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 12, 2010. We had approximately 80 present. Several non-Finns who had volunteered at Norsk Høstfest were also in attendance. Guests came from Rolla, Makoti, Ruso, Fargo, Stanley, New Town, Wing, Douglas, Washburn, Rock Lake, Velva, Mohall and Minot, in North Dakota. The Kannianens of Stanley had many representatives; members of their family were also there from Northglenn, Colo., and Winlock, Wash. The Finnish Society furnished the catered meal to all guests. Entertainment was provided by John Halone, Alfred Juntunen, George and Velma Raasakka of Rolla and Carl Kannianen of Stanley.



Casey Carlson of St. John, a senior at UND, is the latest recipient of a \$500 scholarship awarded by the Dakota Finnish Society.

The Finnish Society presented donations of \$250 to the YWCA and \$250 to the Salvation Army. Earlier in the year we donated \$500 to the local chapter of the American Red Cross and \$100 to the Salolampi Foundation (Salolampi is the Finnish Language Camp at Bemidji, Minn.).

A college scholarship of \$500 was awarded to Casey Carlson of St. John, ND. The son of Daryld and Peggy Carlson, Casey is a senior at the University of North Dakota, where he is majoring in banking and financial economics. This is the seventh scholarship we have been able to provide.

This past fall we assisted in the repairs and new trees at the Finnish Historical Monument Rest Area between Rolla and Rock Lake. This was done at a cost of \$2,520 from this society. Old trees and bushes had to be removed and dug out, new evergreens were planted, etc.

Alfred Juntunen of Rolla has had feature articles and news clips saluting him as an outstanding octogenarian.



Alfred is very involved with volunteer work in the Rolla area and keeps busy with many services to his community. He has also been doing the maintenance of the Finnish Monument Rest Area. This was a much-deserved recognition. Congratulations, Alfred!!

Thank you again to our many volunteers at Høstfest who have been so faithful and willing with their help. It is to their credit that we have been able to give out donations to help others.

Spring and summer will soon be here, so the next thing to get ready for is Midsummer Night, on June 24, 2011. Make plans to attend. •

Icelandic Heritage Society NEWS

Did you know...

Most Icelanders are descendants of Norwegian settlers and Celts from the British Isles.

- Life expectancy, at 81.3 years for women and 76.4 for men, is one of the highest in the world.

- The Icelandic language is closest to the Old Norse language, relatively unchanged since the 12th century.

- Most Icelandic surnames are based on patronymy, or the adoption of the father's first given name. For example, Magnús and Anna, children of a man named Pétur, would hold the surname Pétursson and Pétursdóttir, respectively. Women normally maintain their original surnames after marriage. This system of surnames is required by law, except for the descendants of those who had acquired family names before 1913.

- Icelanders rarely call each other by their surnames, and even phone directories are based on first names. •





Souris Valley Danish Society NEWS

Remembering Grandma's æbelskivers

Again in this issue, we are highlighting family histories of our members. The following is the history of Michael

Knoop, Minot. We hope you enjoy these articles. Watch for more of them in future issues of this newsletter.

When I reflect upon the moves that my ancestors made, leaving homes which were known to them for decades, I wonder why. Research has shown that some left to avoid being conscripted into the Russian army, and others were promised great farmland in the Dakotas. Many of my relatives were from Bessarabia, South Russia, and Germany, with the exception of my grandmother's family.

My grandmother, Ida Irene Larsen, was born in Vojens, Denmark, on Dec. 16, 1895, one of three daughters along with two sons of Henry and Ida Larsen. One brother drowned in a sailing accident, while the other was struck in the chest with a rifle butt during a military activity. Anna, the youngest daughter, died from a ruptured appendix. An older sister, Katherine, had left Denmark and moved to Canada, having married a German Lutheran minister.

Irene arrived in New York in December of 1920 with intentions of visiting her sister, Katherine Grill. Rev.



Ida and Henry Larsen and daughters. The photo was taken in Denmark.

Johann Grill and his wife had left Canada to move to North Dakota. It was during this visit that Irene met her future mother-in-law, Anna Schafer Knoop Schmidt, and stayed to marry Anna's youngest son, Herbert Knoop. They farmed and ranched on the family homestead north of Stanton, N.D., raising three children, and later moving into town.

Years later, while visiting our grandparents, two of my sisters and I were treated to a breakfast treat we

had never before experienced: Grandma made Danish æbelskivers (apple dumplings) for us! What a thrill to have those wonderful round pancake balls instead of the old flat ones we were so used to.

It was long after my grandparents passed away that I became more interested in learning about my Danish ancestors, their lives and interests. I have made æbelskivers in the hopes that my grandsons would enjoy the same excitement I did when treated to a new dish.

After my grandparents were married, my grandfather had promised to take my grandmother back to Denmark for a visit, but sadly, this promise was never kept. I often wonder how she would have reacted to returning to her birth country after so many years of living in the United States.

The North Dakota Historical Society had interviewed my grandparents for a historical project, and I was fortunate enough to obtain a copy of that interview. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to them tell their story about coming to America and how rough their lives were living on the prairie. •



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Thor Lodge Sons of Norway NEWS



S/N Potet Klubb dinner set for March 21

by Rob Odden,
president
Thor Lodge 4-067
Sons of Norway

Founder's Day was observed this year by members on Jan. 16. Sons of Norway celebrates 116 years since its inception. Sons of Norway was founded Jan. 16, 1895, by 18 Norwegian-American immigrants. International headquarters are in Minneapolis.

At our own Thor Lodge, new officers have begun serving their term. Martha Elliott continues to serve as vice president of Sons of Norway District IV. Thor Lodge supports Trollfjorden, a Norwegian language and cultural family summer camp. Trollfjorden is open to District IV S/N Youth Club, District IV members, their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Trollfjorden will be held June 9-12. The deadline to sign up is May 15. If you would like more information on Trollfjorden, please call Kari Mahle

at 701/362-7497.

Is there a Norwegian cultural skill or activity you have wanted to learn or try your hand at? We have many opportunities available. If you would like more information on any of our cultural classes, call Mary Zurcher at 701/362-7468 or just ask one of our members. Contact person for Thor Lodge dancers is Kari Mahle. Contact person for Thor Lodge singers is Sonja Hernes, 701/838-4555.

Thor Lodge will host a Luncheon and Bake Sale at our lodge home on Saturday, April 16. Our annual Potet Klubb Dinner will be on Monday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Parish Hall. Keep the 21st of March open on your calendars to enjoy some Klubb with us. We anticipate a large turnout! All are welcome!

See you at the Klubb Dinner. •

Swedish Heritage Society-NWND NEWS

Election held at annual meeting

by Bev Jensen, secretary
Swedish Heritage Society-NWND

Our society held its annual meeting on Jan. 15, 2011. The following officers were elected to serve this year.

- President: Bob Soderstrom
- Vice President: Marcella Nelson
- Treasurer: Lois Matson
- Secretary: Bev Jensen
- Lunch: Eldora Eliason
- Hospitality: Gerri Larson

A "thank you" was given to Loren Anderson for having served as our president for the past years. His leadership has enriched our appreciation for the Swedish heritage we share, from ancestors to present day.

A program was presented by Debi Nelson from Trinity Medical Center. Her presentation was entitled "Medical Identity Fraud." She provided many helpful tips along with warnings on ways that your identity can be used by someone else and on

safeguarding items regarding medical concerns. An individual record book is available for everyone to record personal medical information for easy access later.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, April 9, 12 noon, at the Scandinavian Heritage Center, Minot, where we will enjoy a potluck meal. A program will be presented by a group of lady singers from Minot, the "Hattitudes."

In addition, we will learn more about traditional festival days celebrated in Sweden during the month of April. This year, Easter will be observed as one of their religious holidays. The Swedes also feel this is one of the best seasons to go for a vacation, holiday trips and enjoy a fun-filled picnic to mark the arrival of the Easter season. (We

will wait to enjoy a picnic in June in North Dakota!) Birch twigs decorated with brightly colored feathers, Easter eggs and a traditional brunch

are part of their celebration.

We are encouraging our members to attend the SHA Banquet on April 2 at the Holiday Inn (see ad on page 2 for more information).

Välkommen to visitors and prospective members. Membership dues are \$10, which includes a subscription to the magazine "Sweden & America." •



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Tracing your Scandinavian ROOTS • 33

Old books, new resources

by Jo Ann Winistorfer

For anyone interested in Norwegian immigration history and genealogy, a recently translated and published book—"Norwegians in America, their History and Record"—can be a boon.

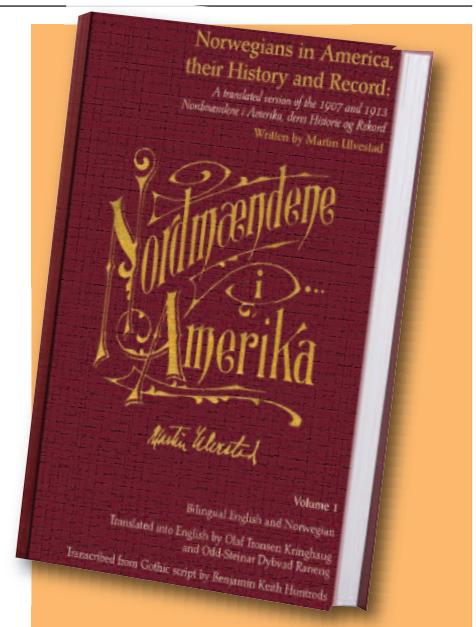
Originally called "Nordmaendene i Amerika, deres Historie og Rekord," this monumental project was the work of Norwegian emigrant Martin Ulvestad, author, publisher, amateur historian and linguist. Born in 1865 in Volda (Volden) in Sunnmøre, Møre/Romsdal, Norway, Ulvestad immigrated to the U.S. in 1888. He published three separate volumes, in 1901, 1907 and 1913. The fresh-off-the-press version, published in 2010, covers Volume 1 and contains both the Norwegian and the English text.

According to Ulvestad's bio in the back of the book, he collected informa-

tion for his pioneer history project by mailing out 163,000 small books and pamphlets, along with 450,000 circulars and forms to the early immigrants and their families. The stories of those first settlers from Norway, covering both the U.S. and Canada, are arranged by country, state and county. A 5,700-name index is located in the back of the book.

Publisher of the translated version is Deb Nelson Gourley, owner of Astri My Astri Publishing in Waukon, Iowa.

Astri My Astri has also published another milestone book—based on two other early immigration histories (1908 and 1930) written by Norwegian-American Hjalmar Rued Holand. Originally containing Dano-Norwegian gothic text, the 2006 English version, "History of the Norwegian Settlements" (edited by yours truly), is another "must" for anyone with



Norwegian roots.

The extensive name lists of both books are available by visiting Astri My Astri Publishing's website: www.astriymyastri.com. For book details and ordering information, log on to the same website. •