



# SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap  
Lodge #1 - 008

May 2020  
Issue Number 20 - 05



Hi folks!

This is your Lodge Vice-President here, doing what Vice-Presidents do... stepping in to help out the President now and then with an appearance or a task! I hope this is a bit more than a ceremonial event where I just show up, smile, and shake hands. But, considering our quarantined status these days, that (going somewhere, smiling, and shaking hands) actually sounds really good to me! I'm filling in for President Draheim with this column so that he has one less task on his plate this month. His column will return in the next Brevet, I'm sure.

The Lodge is adjusting to COVID-19 as we try to conduct our affairs here in 2020. The Board of Directors had a "historic moment" when it met via Zoom for it's April meeting. We all got accustomed to connecting with one another either by using our smart phones or our home computers. Sasha Aslanian was our mentor to this new technology and hosted the meeting. It was so successful that the Board agreed to purchase a subscription to Zoom so that we can conduct business this way in the future. And... we may even do a full Lodge meeting via Zoom! Watch for more info coming your way.

Check out the rest of the Brevet for additional updates:

- In lieu of our annual April Membership Dinner several Board members are making phone calls. This serves two purposes, 1) we are able to say "Thank you" for being a Lodge member, and 2) we can check-in on the health and well-being of our members amid this COVID-19 situation.
- Language lesson leader Sheryl Hove has identified Duolingo as a language app suitable for learning Norwegian! Are there other Cultural Skills you might be practicing during this extended Stay at Home time?
- The Board continues our annual tradition of granting scholarship funds to youth!
- We made the decision to cancel our May meeting that was planned to feature singer Ann-Marita Garsed in celebration of 125th Sons of Norway Anniversary and Syttende Mai.

As I sign off, remember to celebrate Syttende Mai on May 17 - put on your fancy Norwegian clothes (or your favorite sweater) and wave the Norwegian flag! Maybe have a little parade down your sidewalk in front of your home. Make the neighbors smile (or wonder "what the heck" you're doing). I hope we can soon gather together again, but until then, be well!

Best wishes - Lowell Johnson

## Did You Know?

In these days of "Stay at Home" during the Covid 19 epidemic, we all crave seeing and interacting with others. Checking in with our Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge members via phone, we wanted to know how everyone was doing. We also asked three questions: What hobbies/Norwegian crafts are you doing? Do you have relatives in Norway who have told you about their experiences during the epidemic? Have you been doing anything new? Look for ❤️ ❤️ throughout the newsletter to see how some members have been spending their time. We will continue to share these tidbits during our time at home.

## Secretary's Report

### **Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1 – 008, Online via Zoom, 4/7/2020**

Members in attendance: Dianne, Anderson, Sasha Aslanian, Ingrid Bjorum, Connie Chrissis, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Lowell Johnson, Dave Mutchler, Mary Beth Mutchler, and Ron Stow.

President Chuck Draheim called the meeting to order. Sasha arranged an online Zoom conference when technical difficulties prevented many Board Members from joining by phone for the teleconference.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Approved as printed in the Brevet.

**TREASURER'S REPORT - JEAN:** Approved as presented. It was unanimously agreed that Jean will send payment to Gustavus Adolphus to cover storage and room rental through August.

### **HEALTH AND WELFARE REPORTS**

There was a discussion of whether any members have the COVID-19 virus, does anyone has other health issues, and have any members reached out for assistance after the Brevet was released. None were known at this time.

### **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

1. It was unanimously agreed that we will continue to follow CDC and Minnesota guidelines on the 'stay at home' order. All activities for May are cancelled. We will wait until our next Board meeting to make a decision about June.
2. Mary Beth will contact Island Lake Park to find out about a refund or rescheduling our June picnic.
3. Per Ron, the Midsummer Fest at Buck Hill on June 20 has not been cancelled at this time.
4. Ron stated that the people who were delegates at the last District Convention (2018) will continue as delegates for two more years (2022) when the next convention will occur.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Sasha will email Board members a link to the two college student scholarship applications we have received. We will discuss at the next Board meeting.

### **MOVING FORWARD**

1. Sasha will order Zoom-Pro, and we will conduct our May meeting this way again.
2. There was discussion about the potential to have a virtual lodge meeting in the coming months as well as individual group meetings such as the Language class all using the Zoom feature.
3. There was discussion about reaching out to members during this time to let them know we are here to help. As the Sunshine correspondent for the Brevet, Mary Beth can give us a list of people she knows who may need assistance. Ron said that Susan has divided the Directory into sections that can be sent to Board members. They will email Board members a section of members to contact. Phone calls, emails, and cards were suggested. All agreed this is a great idea.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be Tue, May 5 at 7p via Zoom. (cjc)

### **Lodge Meeting for Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008, 4/14/2020**

April lodge meeting and Membership Dinner cancelled



Dianne Anderson is reading, gardening, writing letters and calling relatives. She has been thinking about the 1918 epidemic and changes in our lives.

Joanne Englund has been well. She jokes that for an introvert, the "Stay at Home" order is no problem. Every day she eats dinner with her daughter, who lives in the same complex.

Arline and George Carlson have driven to their Coon Lake summer place to check it out.

Arline's cousin is a nurse in Lavanger, Norway north of Trondheim caring for Covid patients.

### **The Grandmother I Never Knew**

by Gary L. Hanson

She was christened Anna Elise Eidal but my grandmother's friends and family knew her as "Lizzie." Lizzie was one of eight children born to Kolbjorn and Kari Eidal, who emigrated from Norway in 1880. Their surname originated from the Eidal family farm, which is still inhabited today in Sigdal, Norway. Four children were born in the old country - only one survived infancy. The youngest four - including Lizzie - were born in Minnesota.

Lizzie's family originally settled in Stony Brook Township near the Grant County seat of Elbow Lake, in west central Minnesota. Elbow Lake was a quiet but growing little community, steadily increasing its population thanks in part to the Norwegian immigrants who journeyed to Minnesota because of its inexpensive, rich farmland. The sixth child in her family, Lizzie came along in 1890.

It was said of her that she was naturally blessed with a bright intellect and sweet disposition; her goodness was an outstanding characteristic. No one was better liked than Lizzie Eidal. One well-known story goes that upon high school graduation, she was offered the gift of a piano or a trip to Europe. The musically talented Lizzie chose the piano and became quite an accomplished pianist. She served her church by becoming the organist for Ness Lutheran in Elbow Lake.

Lizzie spent all of her life in or near Elbow Lake. It was there where she grew up, attended school, taught school, married the town's pharmacist, O.G. Hanson in 1913, and settled into a home of her own. My father, Lyle, was born in 1916 and his brother Warren a year and a half later. Happily married, this mother of two had accomplished much in her first 28 years and was primed to enter the best portion of her life.

The worldwide influenza pandemic of 1918 had other plans. The so-called Spanish

Flu lasted from January 1918 to December 1920 and infected 500 million people - about a quarter of the world's population at the time. Most influenza outbreaks kill the very young or the very old, but this particular pandemic resulted in a much higher than expected mortality rate for young adults - rough estimates put the death total between an estimated 17-50 million people. One of them was Lizzie Hanson. Her obituary from the *Grant County Herald* read, "She was worn and tired from caring for loved ones who were ill, when she herself was taken down with the disease. She made a valiant struggle for life, but the grim reaper was not to be denied, and the end came five days after the death of her younger sister, Clara."

Lizzie's youngest brother, Lennie, my great uncle whom I remember well, was in Europe at the time, fighting for the Allied forces in World War I. To maintain morale, military censors often minimized or hid US pandemic death reports from soldiers. But upon learning of the deaths of his sisters, Lennie sadly wrote in a letter to his mother, "Here I am, fighting overseas to protect my family, yet back home they are dying of a disease."

A few years later, my grandfather married Lizzie's best friend and they enjoyed a good marriage for the next 52 years. I loved my step-grandmother dearly. Yet, I've always regretted that I never had the chance to meet the gifted and loving woman who gave birth to my father. Regrets are especially deep since I am Lizzie's only grandson. Tragically, in helping others, she left our world far too early.

The catastrophic results from that flu pandemic continue to amaze me. Until now, I believed that because of modern medicine, the effects of such an event from over 100 years ago could never be repeated. We can only hope that through God's grace and all of us pulling together it will not be.

## **Syttende Mai Celebrations in Lillehammer Norway: A Personal Experience**

by Ron Stow

As a way of honoring the heritage of our Norwegian immigrant ancestors, my wife Susan and I traveled to Norway during the first spring after both of us retired from teaching. We visited her paternal relatives on the west coast near Ålesund and did genealogy searches in the southeastern area of Hedmark seeking information about her maternal side of the family.

My maternal grandmother immigrated to North Dakota from Lillehammer Norway. I have been fortunate over the years to be able to visit my relatives there a number of times. Several of my Norwegian cousins have come to Minnesota as well.

As part of the planning for our trip, I corresponded with my cousin Per, asking him if he thought we should attend the major observance of 17. Mai in Oslo, since that festival is the most well-known to us. His reply was, "There would be too many people (over 100,000) there in Oslo, and you wouldn't know any of them. Come stay with us in Lillehammer. We have a wonderful smaller festival, and you will know some of the people." (Later in the month, I met 55 relatives at a family reunion in Lillehammer.)

Well, that sold us. We had personal guides to the 17. Mai festivities which began at the local school cafeteria for breakfast. We had heart waffles, don't you know. Families whose children attended that school were all dressed in their traditional bunads. Most wore the local Gudbrandsdalen or Oppland attire. Those who grew up in other areas of Norway told us about their outfits.

Shortly after breakfast, we went outside to see the local school bands marching on their way to downtown Lillehammer. Two of my younger relatives, Tord and Lars Ottar were quite impressive in their band uniforms. We followed the bands to a central assembly area where bands from other schools in the Lillehammer area were gathering to form the big parade through the center of the city.

Meeting more relatives, including Per's mother Aslaug and his brother Ole Andreas, we found a wonderful spot from which to view the parade. Then it began, band after band, school class after school class from elementary up through high school. Per's wife Solvor was there with her students. Most everyone waved national flags, dressed in their bunads, and having a genuinely wonderful time. It was indeed exciting for me to see several of my relatives, such as Anna and Arne marching up the street.

After the parade, it was time for lunch, more heart waffles, sausages wrapped in lefse, and, of course, ice cream. The celebration of Syttende Mai is expressly for the children, who are allowed to eat all the hot dogs and ice cream they can handle.

Included in the festivities of Syttende Mai is another celebration call the "Russ". This is the culmination of a period of time when the high school graduates are having a big party to conclude their final year of school. Depending on the type of school they have been attending, they wear colorful jumpsuit outfits of red, green, blue, or black. Another cousin's daughter Gunhild was among the graduates. Later in the afternoon, we watched the Russ parade. These students carry humorous signs and banners which often have a political theme. Many of them are transported in old vehicles which have been painted in the colors of their school. It is indeed a traditional rite of passage.

It was then time to head back to my cousin's house where a huge Norwegian flag was flying over the family farm. It gave me a shiver to see that.

Oh my, it was time to eat again. This time open-faced sandwiches provided more than enough. And my cousin brought out some of his favorite beer, which was a real treat. We spent the evening watching television coverage of festivities around the country.

My cousin was right. We had just as much, if not more, fun than we would have had in Oslo. Hurra for Lillehammer!



## Syttende Mai (continued)

My cousin Per with his son Niala



6th grade class with my cousin's daughter Anna



My  
cousin's farm,  
Flugsrud, flying  
the flag



Russ parade of high school grads



Per's wife, Solvor, marching with her students



## Illustrating the Norwegian Folk Tales

by Don Halvorson

When the first illustrated edition of Asbjørnsen and Moe's folk tales was published in 1879, two of the notable artists who contributed their illustrations, Erik Werenskiöld and Theodor Kittelsen, were relatively unknown. The exposure of their work in this edition would propel both into prominence as two of the most accomplished Norwegian artists of this period.

Both artists were keenly observant of nature and fondly familiar with the Norwegian folk tales. Where as Erik's style leaned more to realism, Theodor's art was an infusion of naturalism, mysticism and art nouveau.

Born the son of a Norwegian Army officer, Erik's earliest life was spent in the municipality of Eidskog, at Granli gård near Kongsvinnger, 60 miles east of Oslo. When Erik was four, his father became the Commandant of Kongsvinger fortress. Erik attended the Kongsvinger national school, then the prodigious Aars and Voss' school in Christiania. At age seventeen, he began studies at the University, but on the advice of Norwegian painter Adolph Tidemann, left to study at the Royal Norwegian Art School. After finishing that, he left for Munich, the ultimate destination for Norwegian artists at this time. He would spend the next four years studying in Germany, France, Rome, and Florence, occasionally returning to Norway in the summers to paint in Telemark and the Gubrandsdal Valley. While attending a French art show in Munich in 1879, he

came to the conclusion that the French plein-air style of painting was far superior to the in-studio style taught in Munich.

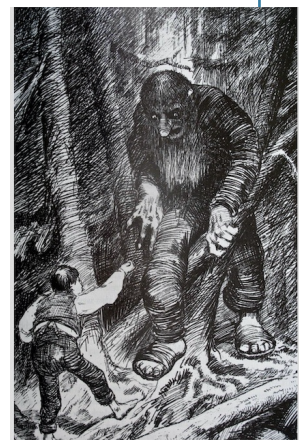
In 1877, he submitted a number of drawings for folk tales to Asbjørnsen, who was delighted with his work. Erik concluded that his time spent in Gubrandsdal was the source of his inspiration. Here the old customs were still alive. Here he also found the inspiration for many of his successful Romantic genre paintings.

In his autumn exhibit of 1885, Erik unveiled his painting *Peasant Burial*, which was composed over a period of three summers in Telemark. Acclaimed by many as a principal work of Norwegian art, it was acquired that same fall by the National Gallery where it still hangs today. Erik would later be chosen to illustrate Asbjørnsen and Moe's *Adventures for Children* (1882-87), a new addition of the King's Sagas from Snorre Sturleson, and *The Family at Gilje* (1903) by Jonas Lie

Theodor joined Erik for Asbjørnsen's second illustrated edition in 1881. Asbjørnsen's initial reaction to the style of these new drawings was one of shock. They were unlike anything else being produced at this time. But once he showed them to children, he understood their connection with fantasy.

Born in Kragero in southern Norway, Theodor's rise to recognition was far different than Erik's. Considered a prodigy at an early age, he was forced to work after his father's death. A patron, architect Wilhelm von Hammo, paid for his lessons at the Art School in Christiania. After school, he received a grant and traveled to Munich, where he became friends with Erik. Two years later, his grant was cancelled and selling his art became difficult. Starving and longing for home, he returned to Norway to stay with his sister and brother-in-law at their lighthouse in the Lofotens. There he finally found inspiration, creating a body of work called *Troll Magic*, drawings paintings and prose, praising the beauty and magic of Nordland. Also popular were the illustrations in his book *The Black Plague*. There he depicts the plague as an old hag going from one desolate landscape to another. His art was extremely popular, but critics and publishers failed to appreciate his talent. He died famous but poor.

*Norwegian Folk Tales*. Random House Inc., 1982 [The Art of TH Kittelsen](#) | [Theodor Kittelsen](#) [kittelsen.se/the-art-of-th-kittelsen](http://kittelsen.se/the-art-of-th-kittelsen) Erik Werenskiöld - [Alchetrón](#), [The Free Social Encyclopedia](#) <https://alchetrón.com/Erik-Werenskiöld>



## Bulletin Board

### Sunshine News

Our sympathy to the family of Marguerite (Marge) Pederson on her passing on April 25<sup>th</sup>. She had celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in February. She was still very involved with her family and will be missed by them.

### Sunshine News

Our warmest thoughts and sympathy go to Betsy Anderson on the passing of her daughter Mollie Anderson Peterson.

### Duolingo Norwegian Language Lessons at home

- Click on this live link: [www.duolingo.com/learn](http://www.duolingo.com/learn)
- This is free. Sign up. When it asks if you want to pay, click on "No thanks".
- You will receive a "Daily Norwegian (Bokmål) Reminder" that you can do daily or save to do days later.
- When you receive your daily lessons, turn on your audio. The Green Duolingo Owl guides you and tracks your progress.
- The lessons start easy with the Introduction that includes Greetings, Animals, Phrases, Food, etc. Click on "TIPS" where you can print word lists. Click on a circle. The lesson will come up that has about 8 questions. The questions, in Norwegian, are printed across the top. Hover over the words to see the definitions. Then click on the translations words in order for your answer. There will always be 4 extra words. Then click on "CHECK" to see if your translation is correct. If you have a mistake, it will show you the correct answer, so pay attention because it will repeat the question later on. If correct, click on "CONTINUE" and it will go to the next question. For the audio questions, click on the Speaker for fast or on the Turtle for slow. Across the very top you will see your progress for that section. When you have completed that section, the Duo Owl will send you music. You can quit then or you can continue to Category #1 that includes Pronouns, Plurals, Counting, etc. Then continue to Category #2 that includes Family, Clothing, etc. Have fun with this Duolingo challenge.
- Sheryl Hove, Norwegian Language Class Facilitator ([sherylhove@netzero.net](mailto:sherylhove@netzero.net) or 651-738-4908)



**Leif and Linda Erickson** are enjoying driveway cello concerts given by their granddaughter. Linda walks daily, while Leif supervises future activities at the Lake Elmo Airport.

**Roger Bosmoe** has taken out his accordion to play and sing Norwegian songs he knows from his parents. Roger's father was born at Bosmoe near Mo i Rana, Norway. Lately, he has been calling a lot of people to connect.

**Wayne Bjorum** is sorting through files, CD's, and drawings from his grandchildren, plus walking his dog. Wayne and Pam celebrated 61 years of marriage in April!

**Sarah Nelson** never thought that teaching P.E. could be an online experience, but she is learning to get creative with her lesson plans. Her twin college children are home finishing their term classes with distance learning.

**Erna McGuire** is reading history, and writing letters every day. She lives in Oak Park Senior Living where she is asked to remain in her own rooms. Erna keeps in touch with her Dad's Hustvet family near Voss. That is one of those locations where you can't get there by car.

**Dave and Shirley Hegdahl** Dave likes hunting, fishing and woodworking. Shirley enjoys gardening. Now she is sewing masks. They are using Zoom to celebrate family birthdays, and doing the drive by birthday parade too.

Look for more member updates in the next issue!

*The mission of the Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.*



Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008:

District 1 Lodge of the Year in 2013, Family Lodge of the Year in 2006, 2008, 2013, 2016, 2017

Visit Synnøve-Nordkap online: <https://synn-nord.org>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/synnor/albums>

<https://peergyntdancers.wordpress.com/about/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SynnoveNordkap/>

Tuesday, May 5, 7:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting	Teleconference
Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 pm	Monthly Lodge Meeting	In-Person Meeting Cancelled Virtual meeting will be held via Zoom. Check email for more information.
Tuesday, August 18	Summer Picnic	More info. to come

Synnøve-Nordkap Brevet staff wishes all of our lodge members peace and good health during these challenging times until we can meet in person again.



**For Information:**

**Chuck Draheim**, President 651-433-2008 or [pres.synn.nord@gmail.com](mailto:pres.synn.nord@gmail.com)

**Lowell Johnson**, Vice President [jhnsn7440@msn.com](mailto:jhnsn7440@msn.com)

**Ingrid Bjorum**, Brevet Editor [ingrid@steinmetz.org](mailto:ingrid@steinmetz.org)