



Northfield, Minnesota

From the Secretary's Office to the Association Members

NUMBER 87

Editor, LLOYD HUSTVEDT

SEPTEMBER 1993

Twenty-third Triennial Meeting

The twenty-third triennial meeting will take place on Saturday, October 16, 1993, at the West River Point Conference Center, 1315 West River Road North, Minneapolis. There is ample, lighted parking at the site. The Executive Board will conduct a meeting at 1:00 p.m. The general meeting will convene at 3:30 p.m. A social hour with a cash bar will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner in the banquet room at 7:00 p.m. Events have been scheduled in such a manner that persons who attend the general meeting need not make a separate trip to attend the social hour and dinner.

President Lawrence O. Hauge will preside over the general membership meeting which will consist of reports from the officers who cover the different functional areas of the NAHA: publications, archives, membership and finance. The major item of business will be to elect a new executive board. A nominating committee consisting of Lois Rand (chair), John Christianson and William Korsvik will present a slate of nominees. Nominations from the floor will be in order.

Reservation and Proxy

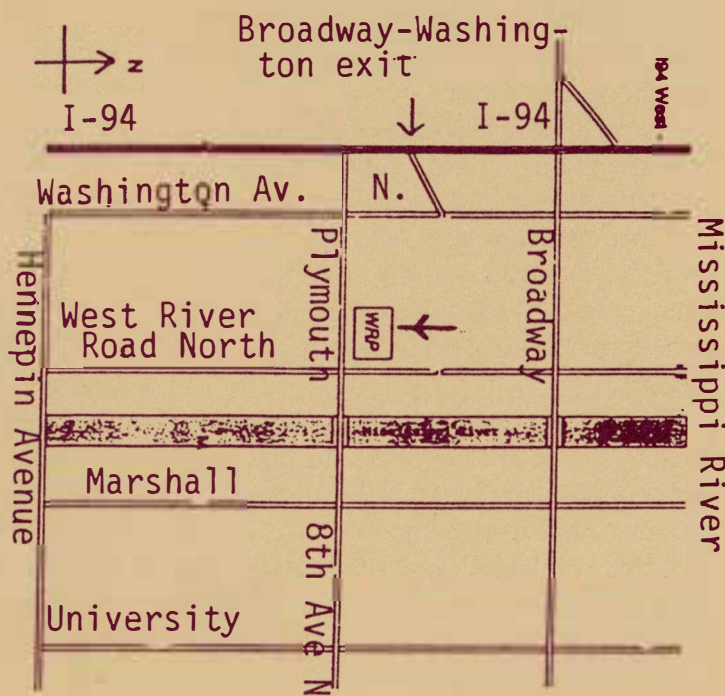
Distance understandably makes it prohibitive for many members to attend. Those who cannot come are requested to forward their proxy (see tear-off page) to the secretary. Also note that a dinner reservations form appears on the same page. Those who will attend the dinner but not the general meeting should also forward their proxy. The dinner is not exclusively for members. In fact, members are encouraged to bring guests.

Al Quie to Speak at Banquet

A woodwind duo from the Metropolitan Symphony will provide music during the dinner and will be featured during the program. Former Minnesota Governor, U.S. Congressman, and NAHA member Al Quie will present an illustrated talk about his adventures riding horseback from Canada to Mexico. Mr. Quie has spent one month each summer for the past 8 years to complete the expedition. This is a new slant on the topic of Norwegian-American migration.

How To Get There

This facility overlooks the Mississippi River at the intersection of Plymouth Avenue and West River Road North. The center can be reached from I-94. Take the Washington/Broadway exit, stay in far right hand lane; at stoplight turn right onto Washington, proceed to Plymouth Avenue. Turn left onto Plymouth and then follow to West River Road. Turn left onto West River Road and turn left again into the center parking lot.



Calls For Papers

The NAHA Chapter in Norway is planning its fifth Seminar on Norwegian-American Studies at Sogndal, June 27-30, 1994. The seminar will be a part of a larger 1994 emigration festival in Sogn og Fjordane.

Papers (twenty minutes reading time) on all aspects of Norwegian or Scandinavian migration by current members of the NAHA are solicited. It is hoped that grants for partial payment of travel and housing expenses can be provided. Participants from abroad are urged to apply for funding to agencies in their home country.

Please submit your proposal/abstract at the latest January 31, 1994 to Øyvind T. Gulliksen, chairman of the program committee, Institute for British and American Studies, Box 1003 Blindern, University of Oslo, N-0315 Oslo, Norway.

Those who wish to attend the seminar without giving a paper should also notify the committee so that their name can be included in the mailing list. Details concerning registration, accommodations, program, and costs will be sent to each participant prior to the seminar.

E.T. "Tom" Fjelde

The NAHA Executive Committee named O. Jay Tomson and Tom Fjelde to serve out unexpired terms on the board of directors. A statement on O. Jay Tomson appeared in our preceding newsletter.

Tom Fjelde, a graduate of Drake University, has taught World Cultures for the past 33 years, the last 26 at John F. Kennedy High School in Bloomington, Minnesota, a school that has received national recognition for excellence. His teaching earned him membership in "Who's Who Among American Teachers."

Fjelde's far reaching civic interests exceed what can be recounted here. As a member of a Masonic lodge in Bloomington he has provided leadership for many of that fraternal order's benevolent programs, both local and national in scope, including the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children. He was Director General of the 1989 Midwest Shrine Association Summer Session. He was

elected potentate of the 10,000 member Zuhrah Temple in 1987. In the same year he founded the Zuhrah Torsk Club, where he is affectionately known as the "codfather."

Fjelde is no less active in organizations that are Norwegian-American in character, like Sons of Norway, Vesterheim Museum, Torske Klubben and Syttende Mai Minnesota. In addition he is a charter member of the Danish Immigrant Museum and for a time was a member of the board for Danebod Family Camps. He is an accomplished *rosemalar* and teaches classes in this art. WCCO declared him that radio station's "Good Neighbor."

Norwegian Still Spoken in Minnesota

The U.S. Census Report (1990) revealed that German was spoken by more than 45,000 Minnesotans. Spanish was second with 42,362, but Norwegian held third place with 16,195. Finnish with 9,312 came in sixth while Swedish with 8,192 came in eighth.

Southeast Asian languages, reflecting more recent migrations, revealed high registration. For example, Hmong ranked fourth with 14,759.

Minnesota is not typical of the nation as a whole, where Spanish is spoken by the largest number by far. On the other hand, Minnesota shows a relatively larger number of speakers of Southeast Asian languages than is the case nationwide. No explanation was given as to why Norwegian speakers nearly double that of Swedish ones. This hardly agrees with the early settlement patterns.

Things We Like To Hear

The following note accompanied a contribution to the Chair Fund:

"I've learned so much these past two years in books and literature sent to me and would like to send a big thank you for inviting me to join the NAHA. I am a first generation Norwegian-American and hungry to hear about the very information you are giving . . ."

Sincerely,
Agnes Andersen Schrader

Gifts and Bequests

Rolf Erickson

The preceding Newsletter reported that Rolf Erickson left a bequest of \$10,000. Not mentioned was a \$5,000 bequest to the NAHA Archives to defray costs related to the processing of our late vice president's papers. The entire amount, \$15,000, was allocated to the Fosholt-Hyde Archives Fund.

Norway Grant

A grant of \$10,000 from the Emigration Fund of 1975 (Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs) was actually awarded to the Bjork Chair Fund in 1992, but paid in 1993.

Øistein Roed

In fulfillment of her late husband's wishes, Elizabeth Roed forwarded to the NAHA a gift of \$5,000. Øistein Roed, a sustaining member of the NAHA since 1964, was born in Holmestrand, Norway. After serving in the Royal Norwegian Air Force (Camp Little Norway, Canada), he studied at Columbia University and became an accountant. He married Elizabeth Rowe in 1946. They lived most of their working lives on the East coast, and moved to Sun City West, Arizona, in 1981, where Elizabeth Roed continues to live. In a recent letter from her is a deeply moving sentence: "I am flying to Naples, Maine, in mid-July to put his ashes in the ocean."

Additional Gifts

Since our latest report the following have made contributions of \$100 or more. Alfred D. Olson, \$2,000; E.T. and Marjery Fjelde, Eva and Einar Haugen, \$1,000 each; Lois Rand, \$500; Alf H. Altem, Herman I. Berg, Loret Miller Ruppe, Agnes Schrader, Ann Moen Stroupe, Orlan Tollefson, \$100 each.

Coming Soon

New Land, New Lives: Scandinavian Immigrants in the Pacific Northwest, edited and translated by Janet E. Rasmussen, is scheduled to come out in October, but we are unable to provide a specific date.

This book consists of a compilation of personal accounts that have been transcribed

from earlier tape-recorded oral narratives.

Janet Rasmussen taught for a number of years at Pacific Lutheran University (Department of Norwegian), but now holds the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs at Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Nebraska. This book is being published jointly with the University of Washington Press.

Immigrant Directory by Naeseth

We received recently from Gerhard B. Naeseth his first volume of *Norwegian Immigrants to the United States: A Biographical Directory 1825-1850*. Volume one covers the years 1825-1843 and includes 3,867 entries. Four additional volumes are in the making: volume two, 1844-1846; volume three 1847-1848; and, one volume each for years 1849 and 1850.

This 390-page book records the emigrants by year of departure, gives the names of the ships, the ports of entry and the dates of arrival. It records the names of the immigrants' parents and those of accompanying children. Dates of birth, marriage, and death are parts of the record as is home locale in Norway and place of settlement in the States.

This volume and those yet to come represent years of exacting research, research into sources that are not always in agreement with each other.

No mention was made whether the book is available for sale.

Helen Thane Katz

Helen Thane Katz died July 25, 1993. She served as our editorial assistant from 1936 and into the 1960s, working first with Theodore C. Blegen and later with Kenneth O. Bjork. If one reads the editors' prefaces for our publications during those years, one learns of her valuable services that covered a period of thirty years.

Some of her editing experiences are on record in an article she wrote in 1980 for *Makers of an American Immigrant Legacy: Essays in Honor of Kenneth O. Bjork*. The title is "The Editorial Assistant to Her 'Public.'" "

NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Proxy to Vote

Members who cannot attend the Twenty-third Triennial Meeting are requested to send their proxies to the secretary. If you do not know of any member who will attend the convention, you may wish to appoint a member of the executive board as your proxy. Some of the officers who will attend are listed below:

John Christianson
Ruth Hanold Crane
Robert Firing
E.T. Fjelde
Lawrence O. Hauge

Lloyd Hustvedt
Marion Nelson
Todd Nichol
Lois Rand
Solveig Zempel

I _____ of _____

in the state of _____ appoint _____

with full power of substitution, to be my substitute and proxy, to vote at the meeting of the members of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, to be held at Minneapolis, October 16, 1993.

Date _____ Signature _____

Return to: Norwegian-American Historical Association, St. Olaf College, 1510 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, Minnesota, 55057. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

Banquet Reservations

\$23.00 per plate

My payment for \$ _____ is enclosed for _____ reservations for the Twenty-third Triennial Banquet for members and friends of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, 7:00 p.m. Saturday, October 16, 1993, West River Point Conference Center, 1315 West River Road North, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55411. (612) 521-3419.

Your banquet tickets will be issued upon arrival. Please return reservations to the secretary's office (see self-addressed envelope) by September 30, 1993.

Name _____

Random News

- Received from Clarence M. Peterson "Besta: A Story of North Dakota Pioneers." The story first ran as a serial in a Grand Forks, North Dakota, newspaper. The story centers on Karen Bakke (1862-1952), mother of eleven children, who lived most of her life in and around the Mayville-Hillsboro, North Dakota area. As a young girl she lived for a brief time at Fort Lincoln and witnessed Custer and his cavalry ride off on their final expedition. This compelling story of 44 pages is told by Cyrene Bakke Dear, a daughter of Karen Bakke.
- Received from University of Wisconsin Press, *Ole Bull: Norway's Romantic Musician and Cosmopolitan Patriot*, by Einar Haugen and Camilla Cai, 354 pages, 1993, cloth, \$32.
- Received from Marge Lakey, *Memoirs of Our Zion Family: Zion Lutheran Church, Galesville, Wisconsin, 1886-1896*, by Alette Schilling and Zion Lutheran Centennial History Committee. Paperbound, 80 pages.
- Received from Eric C. Christenson, *Larsen-Olson Family Album: Emigrants - Immigrants - Migrants*. Typescript reproduction, unbound, maps, photos, and charts, 328 pages. The Larsen (Gronbeck) family emigrated from Karlsøy, Troms, Norway, in 1889. The Olson (Berge) family left Hjartdal, Telemark, in 1867.
- Received from Øyvind Gulliksen *Gamalt fra Kviteseid No. 8, Årsskrift 1993*. This 64-page issue deals exclusively with emigration to America. Among the articles is one by Carl H. Chrislock, "Henrik Shipstead: A Forgotten Idol." Øyvind Gulliksen presents seven America letters by Olaf S. Houkum who emigrated in 1870.
- Received from Gretchen Dokken Hellie *Journey from Valdres: The Helle-Hellie Family Reunited*, typescript reproduction, charts, maps, photos, 568 pages, 1992.
- Received from Ann Urness Gesme her *Between Rocks and Hard Places*, a book of 12 chapters, 188 pages. It tells about rural Norway in the 1800s and the immigration of Norwegians to the United States. Gesme Enterprises, 2119 Lincolnshire Drive SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52403, paper, \$9.95.
- Received *Pioneer People of the Prairie: The Kindred of Christian Christenson Tron and Johanna Paulson Oppegaardie*. Christian left Sør Fron, Norway, in 1869, homesteaded in Swift County, Minnesota in 1871. Married Johanna, born in Ringerike, in 1883.
- Received from James Sibley two scrapbooks prepared by Halfdan Bendeke (1869-1915), a prominent business man in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Scrapbooks consist of clippings, selected letters, programs, and speeches given by Bendeke. He was also vice consul for Norway. In addition to the scrapbooks, two photograph albums were also donated.
- Received from Pastor Karen Hanson her *In Jesus Name Shall Our Work Be Done*, a 127-page history of the Muskego Congregation which commemorates its 150th anniversary. Also received the minutes of the trustees of the Muskego church (1849-1922). Translated by the reverends Karen Hanson and Donald L. Berg, 160 unbound pages.
- During the process of dismantling an old shed west of Clifton, Texas, a cedar log cabin was uncovered that may have been built by Ovee Colwick around 1859. Cleng Peerson lived with the Colwicks for six years prior to his death in 1865. The cabin received feature article coverage in the Clifton Record, August 4, 1993.
- Received from Humanities Press, 165 First Avenue, Atlantic Highland, NJ 07716-1289, *Norwegian Women's Writings 1850-1990* by Janet Garton, paper, 306 pages. In the event of an order mention SP297. This signals a discount price offer to NAHA members: \$21 & \$3 for postage, otherwise \$29.95.