

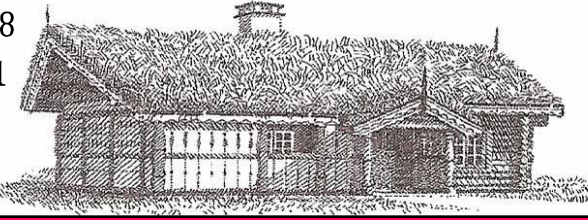
LAFT HUS NEWS

ISSUE 128

Dec. 2021

Editor:

J. Macrae



Norwegian Laft Hus Society

4402 - 47 Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6T4

403-347-2055 norwegianlafthus@gmail.com

www.norwegianlafthussociety.ca



We had a super successful Craft and Bake Sale November 27/28. We are leaving our Craft and Bake Sale tables up for the next couple weeks. Please come in and do your Christmas shopping. There are still lots of nice items to choose from. We also have gift certificates. If you can't come one of the next three Wednesdays between 9:00 and 3:00, please email norwegianlafthus@gmail.com or phone Julie (403-986-1577) to make arrangements for another day.

Also, we will be having a table at the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame Christmas Market on December 11 from 10:00 - 4:00.

Some members have already paid their membership fees for 2022 and you can do that in person, by mailing a cheque to the address above or by phone (403-347-2055) with your credit card.



Also keep in mind that we are a charity and donations are very welcome. 💰



A member recently purchased a Norway calendar in our butik and was asking me why there were names on just about every date.

Apparently Name-Days in Norway and throughout Scandinavia are a birthday relic of the Middle Ages, when every day was associated with the name of a least one Saint. Children were often given the name of the Saint on whose day they were baptized. Many celebrate their Name-days as a second birthday.



A big TUSEN TAKK (thousand thanks) to the City of Red Deer for giving us funding for another year.



So you can plan your holiday, Norsk Høstfest in Minot, North Dakota has announced their 2022 dates which are September 28, 29, 30 and October 1. They are working diligently on having a festival that represents Scandinavian culture and heritage along with top tier entertainment. Their opening ceremony will feature seven excellent entertainment acts, Scandinavian themed bars, shopping, dining, RV camping, and more!

From President Judy Windrim:

Hello members:

We thank Julie Macrae for doing the office administrator job until the end of December. If you or anyone you know is interested in applying for the position, please send your resume to norwegianlafthus@gmail.com before January 5, 2022.

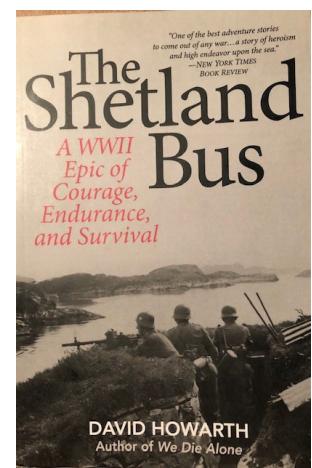
LIBRARY Book Review by Denise Pederson:

I have been watching the series Shetland on Knowledge channel. It's a great mystery series and then on Facebook I joined Camera on Shetland, which is folks sharing photos of scenery and wildlife of Shetland. It is there I learned of the Shetland Bus book and had a short conversation with the son of David Howarth, who was 2nd in command at the time, plus author of the book.

"The Shetland Bus is a very interesting book of men of great courage and resilience. It is the first book I have ever read regarding this time frame and war. It won't be the last, as the way it is written kept me interested from beginning to end!! It is a reminder of the sacrifices made through the necessary bravery of ones that went before us, that allow the privileges we mostly take for granted.

Through a Shetland Facebook page is where I first heard of the Shetland Bus and this book. The author's son brought it to my attention after I posted the video documentaries about the Bus... <https://youtu.be/G9IGFKKdCkQ>

Bill Macrae also read the book and says "Norwegian refugees were using fishing boats to transport materials and experts from Scotland to Norway to help in the resistance against German occupation, and to ferry refugees to Scotland. The job was very dangerous to begin with due to weather and enemy attacks. Then they got some better boats, and the job became so easy there was nothing to talk about anymore."



HIGHLIGHT ON MEMBERS

"A Song of Norway"

A Journey is Proposed by Matt Gould and Keith McPhedran - September 2015

As soon as Keith brought up the idea that our first trip to Europe together should be a heritage pilgrimage to his three countries of origin, I ordered a Pimsleur Language course, tout de suite, and dug right in. (With names like Sigvald, Torolf and Adolf (yikes!) lurking in the family cupboard, it is not surprising that one of the countries on the tour was going to be Scandinavian, and if you guessed Norway, you've won yourself a set of rosmal coasters! I suppose another give-away is the fact that this little journal entry is here, in the Laft Hus newsletter!)

Tina Slind, Keith's paternal grandmother, came from the area of Selbu which is about a ninety minute or so drive south-east of Trondheim in the region of Trøndelag. The launchpad for our adventure was the city of Trondheim, the largest city in the region.

Wild Blue Yonder

September 3 - After checking into our charmingish and cheapish hotel (the bed was made up of two single mattresses pushed together each with their own tiny duvet and cover - like they can't make up their minds. Leave it to Beaver, Last Tango in Paris, Leave it to Beaver - make up your mind, already!) we were too excited to rest, so we hit the streets to combat the jet lag.

Is everyone in Norway a model? We felt like the two dwarves, Lumpy and Dumpy!

September 4 - Rainy, drizzly day. Ancient cathedrals, grey clouds, brightly painted shorefront buildings that somehow managed to push back the gloom.

Best Mexican food, ever! In Norway! Go figure.

September 5 - Bus to the airport and a pick up of our first rental car for the drive to Selbu.

Giant roadside troll. Fibreglass masterpiece of Norwegian kitch.

What's In a Name?

We were the first to arrive at the church in Selbu, ancient with the inevitable graveyard, and we found that every second gravestone belonged to a Slind! Holy dynasty! Keith's family later explained in olden days, the government gave everyone in the area a last name that described where they were from and a "slind" is a hillside. Most of the folks in the graveyard were not Keith's relatives after all, but rather people who simply lived on the hillside.

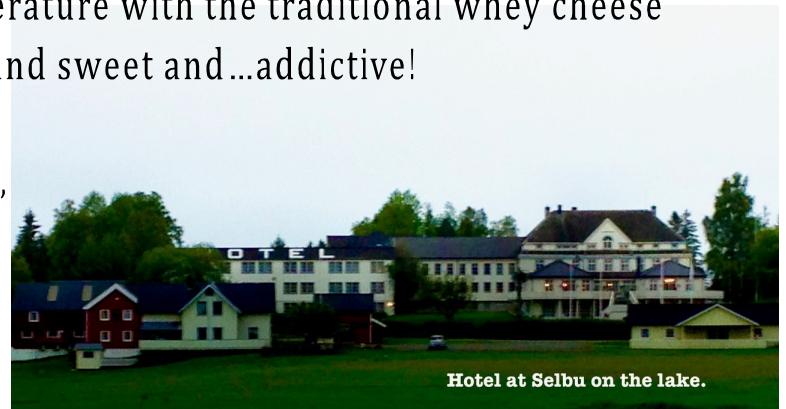
(Interesting note: I just looked up Google translate and input the word slind and the English word for it? Slind. Go figure, eh?)



The family convoy toured the countryside starting with a stop at the homestead (barn red like most of the farm buildings with a black slate roof). It is a mostly agricultural area that surrounds the lake, Selbusjøen (We stayed in the Selbusjøen Hotel which is situated on the shore of the lake, white and vintage with wonderfully summery feeling.)

September 6 - More touring with family and a trip to the local eccentric private Radio Museum of Norway, complete with sod-roofed cottages and rooms filled with old, well, radios. Visited the summer home of one of the relatives where we sampled Norwegian waffles, served at room temperature with the traditional whey cheese (brunost) and sour cream and jam...soft and sweet and...addictive!

Family salmon supper at the Selbusjøen Hotel. Over 45 people and before we ate, introductions were made. Each group stood up and announced their connection to the family and then they sat down again.



It was charming and formal and felt very old-world European. We found out afterwards that many of the people assembled had never met each other, so it was a first time not for just Keith and I, but others as well, to connect. We, as the foreign dignitaries, was the impetus. Lumpy and Dumpy, indeed!

September 7 - On the road again, this time off to the Geiranger Fjord via Khristiansand and the coastal highway. It is a marvel of engineering and design from the gentle curving uplift of the bridges to the modernist rest stops with walkways along the rocky shore. And the tunnels under the sea! Not a surprise that this is the land of the digging trolls!

Up the crazily winding Trollstigen Highway (Matt's turn behind the wheel!) and it is like a slow snaking slalom in asphalt. The rest stop at the top with restaurant and reflecting pools and washrooms was bold and modern and looked as if it had been thrust up from the rocky soil.

A Disaster in the Making?

Arrived in Geiranger late afternoon with sun on the mountains and the deep, deep blue of the fjord. (A few years ago, after our trip, we stumbled upon a low-budget, but amazingly effective Norwegian disaster movie "The Wave" which tells the story of the collapse of the Åkerneset crevice which sends an 80 metre wave down the fjord and wipes out everything in its path. It was cheesy at times, especially the models of the village, but was terrifying, more so because we recognized the village and the area!)

September 8 - Everything in Norway, from the modest farm buildings and wooden churches, to the most modern and striking of building seemed to fit, somehow. There is a deep understanding of and connection with the land and it is truly a country at ease with itself and sure of itself and its heritage. The artist and designer in Matt marvelled at just how well it was all pulled together!

Lillehammer - fit people (are there any other kind in Norway?) dashing too and fro on cross-country skis with wheels! A lille-parking ticket for our lille-rental car!

Capital, just Capital!

September 9 - 11 - Oslo, the hovestad of Norway! Exciting to be in the bustling capital. English High Tea at the Bristol Hotel. Botanical Gardens. A waffle stop in the tea room. None of the teeny tiny plastic tubs for the Norwegians, there were giant, heaped to the top bowls of sour cream and strawberry jam and platters of brunost for the taking! Now that's hospitality!



Frogner Park - in a word - a marvel, designed by one man Gustav Vigeland with 212 bronze and stone sculptures. We got there early in the morning but still there were lots of people around, but the park was large enough to accommodate them comfortably and it was a wonderfully pleasant start to the day.

Beggars on the street. Electric cars. Food festival in the harbour and a visit to the Nobel Prize Museum. Lester B. Pearson. A family across the way from our Airbnb feasting on waffles on a sunny afternoon. Mythical.

September 12 - and it's farvel Norge (farewell Norway) as we head off to our next heritage country, the land of kilts, scotch and haggisville via Copenhagen.

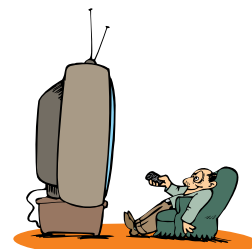


The Best Norwegian Christmas Films

Every Christmas in Norway they like to watch the exact same things on TV. Outrage breaks out if the national broadcasting channel NRK tries to change the Christmas programming. The regular features include both a German/Czech version of Three wishes for Cinderella, a Swedish animated short film (Sagan om Carl-Bertil Jonssons Julafton), as well as Dinner for one (Grevinnen og Hovmesteren) from Germany and the well known American character Mickey Mouse. Home Alone and Love Actually are two other popular movies leading up to and during Christmas.

Norway has also produced the following less memorable Christmas movies:

1. Flåklypa Grand Prix -1975
2. Tante Pose (Aunty Grudges) -1940
3. Reisen til Julestjernen (Journey to the Christmas Star) – 1976
4. The remake: Reisen til Julestjernen (Journey to the Christmas Star) – 2012
5. Jul i Flåklypa (Christmas in Flåklypa) – 2013
6. Mirakel (Miracle) – 2006
7. Karsten og Petras Vidunderlige Jul (Karsten and Petra's Wonderful Christmas) – 2014
8. Hjem til Jul (Home for Christmas) – 2010
9. Himmelfall (Falling Skies) – 2002
10. Snekker Andersen og Julenissen (Carpenter Andersen and Santa Clause) – 2016



CRAFTS and RECIPES TO MAKE



Google No Sew Scandinavian Star Ornament on You tube – for Christmas to make a really cool star ornament.

If you want a free crochet pattern to make a nisse, Google Make/sewcrochet.com – free gnome pattern.



How about making a nisse to eat! It is a mini cupcake (almond cake) with whip cream, strawberry hat and M&M nose or Skittles nose. I am sure a cinnamon candy would work if you prefer.

In Norway, Christmas without gingerbread cookies is hard to imagine. We call them “pepperkaker”. You could have fun making a gingerbread town (Pepperkakebyen). A lot of the big cities in Norway, like Bergen and Stavanger, are famous for theirs.



Juleøl: Norwegian Christmas Beer



Norway's juleøl is a dark, rich and strong ale brewed by virtually every Norwegian brewery – from the largest mainstream breweries to the smallest microbreweries – in the run-up to the festive period. In Norway you can simply pop into your nearest supermarket and see at least half of the alcohol space devoted to juleøl. The beers available in supermarkets are limited to 4.7% alcohol; so the stronger more authentic juleøl, you'll need to head to Vinmonopolet (the state-owned off license) or a bar. It's here you're more likely to find one-off batches from local microbreweries too. Breweries consider their juleøl a prestigious product and a useful marketing tool. That's because the Norwegian media fall over themselves to publish articles comparing the different varieties!

According to the website Øl Akademi, there are 300 Christmas beers available in stores throughout Norway, of which 190 are Norwegian produced. Ringes' Julebukk was ranked as the overall winner.

Other Christmas drinks in Norway

If you're not a beer drinker, you can always have a warm cup of Gløgg which is a Scandinavian twist on mulled wine. It's often served with a handful of raisins and chopped almonds. There's also Julebrus which is a festive twist on the humble soda! It is typically coloured red with a creamier taste than regular sodas. Have a drink and watch one of those movies!



Ole stumbles through the front door of a bar, ambles up to the bartender and orders a beer. The bartender looks at drunk Ole and says, "I'm sorry sir, but I can't serve you...you've already had too much to drink." Ole swears and walks out of the bar. Five minutes later the Ole comes flying through the side door of the bar, and yells for a beer. Again the bartender says, "I'm sorry, sir...but I can't serve you...you've already had too much to drink!" Ten minutes later, Ole comes barrel-assing through the back door of the bar, storms up to the bartender, and demands a beer. Again, the bartender says to Ole "...I'm really sorry, sir, but you've had too much to drink...you're going to have to leave!" Ole looks quizzically at the bartender and says finally, "My God, man... How many bars do you work at?!"

IDEAL Wood Work 1991

Ron Riedlinger
Cell: 403.304.4517

- Custom Cabinets
- Custom Millwork
- Finish Carpentry
- Solid Surface Counters
- Journeyman Cabinet Maker
- Commercial / Residential
- Project Management

www.idealwoodwork.net

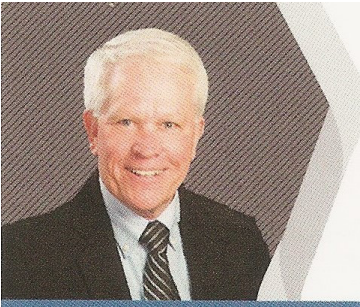
Ph: 403.309.9667 • Fax: 403.309.9631 • idealwoodwork1991@gmail.com
87 Petrolia Drive, Red Deer • Mail: Box 264, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 5E8

Computer Doctor
Bill Goldade



Microsoft Certified Professional

Ph. 403-391-6896
computerdoctor1@shaw.ca




RE/MAX®
real estate central alberta

4440 - 49 Avenue
Red Deer, AB T4N 3W6

Office: 403-343-3020
bryan.wilson@telus.net
www.reddeerhouses.com

Bryan Wilson Cell: 403-340-9436
Associate Broker, REALTOR®

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



Pioneer's Lodge

One of a kind historic meeting place in Red Deer

Centrally located with excellent parking and fully accessible facilities.

Hourly, daily and yearly rates

Capacity for 100 guests (85 seated)
Full Kitchen, Sound System, Projector Screen

More information online including available dates and online booking form.

Visit: www.parkvale.ab.ca Call: 403.346.3643
Email: pioneer.lodge.reddeer@gmail.com

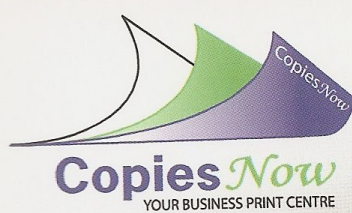


THIS & THAT Sharpening Services

LEN & GYLE TENPAS

Ph.: (403) 346-8285 • Fax.: (403) 314-4483

#5, 4621 - 63 Street, Red Deer, AB T4N 7A6
service@thisandthatsharpening.ca



Copies Now
YOUR BUSINESS PRINT CENTRE

Doug Free
Owner

403.343.1155

4721 - 50th Avenue
copy@copiesnow.ab.ca
Downtown Red Deer
AB T4N 4A2



ROGERS INSURANCE LTD.

QUALITY INSURANCE SOLUTIONS FOR 40 YEARS AND COUNTING

CONTACT US TODAY:
email info@rogersinsurance.ca
phone 403.342.5074

rogersinsurance.ca

God Jul og Gott Nytt År
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!