



Norwegian Society of Texas –
Houston/Galveston Chapter (Snorre)

SNORREPOSTEN

November 2002

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A few words from the President

It has been some quiet months for the Norwegian Society of Texas. Norwegian Norwegians have spent most of this quiet time in Norway, and so has many Norwegian Americans – although considerably less time, due to the difference in allotted time off.

Anyway, regardless the amount of vacation time – they have all had the most fantastic warm and sunny once-in-a-decade summer weather.

Personally, I chose September to revisit my roots.

For years I've been totally in line with Bjoernson - I've chosen April ("Jeg vaelger mig April"). Actually I threw that in only to sound intellectual, it has been June, but with the temperatures and the weather I experienced then: well, you could have fooled me!

This year, though, it was September. And would you believe it – in my part of Norway it was still summer! I roamed around the hills and woods around my cottage, harvesting what the animals (and the locals) had left behind of mushrooms and berries. I made my own jam for my home made 4 grain bread; and the mushrooms, mostly chanterelles, became the staple of my dinners as soup, stew or simply fried with onions.

What feasts I had! What wonderful days! And now the quiet days are over.

NST is charging ahead full steam. The Norwegian language classes are all filled and rolling, and the plans for the fall socials are down to the detailing stage. But: we are so short-handed. The Snorreposten editor, Rune, desperately needs a co-editor, so if you like to write and have a computer. Likewise, our Social Chair, Anne, will happily welcome a couple of helping hands for coming events.

That aside - and as I said, charging ahead, we'll do our best to follow up on the very successful events we had last spring and as you receive your invitations, we hope to hear from every one of you. Remember: the more, the merrier!

Looking forward to seeing you.

Inger

Special Thanks To:

The Norwegian Seamen's Church in Pasadena for letting us host the recent "Bergen Kveld" at their facilities on October 25th. The Seamen's church has also been the venue for our last board meetings.

On the Horizon for NST:

The current board has made a commitment to keep the Snorre Chapter of NST an active and engaging organization. The schedule of events will always be anchored by the two traditional events, the Juleball and the Rekefest, staples that have set new attendance records every year. This year we added the first annual Wine & Cheese Party, and recently hosted the Bergen Kveld. Four annual events seem to be the right number, but we are always looking for new ideas from our members.

The main event, the Juleball is coming up, look for the formal invitation in the mail, and check out the insert at the end of this newsletter for further details.

Scandinavian Club Report:

We remind you that the Scandinavian Club also offers a full range of events here in Houston.

Contact Robert Bjercke with the Scandinavian Club at 281/778-6486 or at bjercke@worldnet.att.net for full details.

Bergen Kveld at the Norwegian Seamen's Church:

To kick off the fall schedule, NST's Snorre Chapter arranged a Bergen Kveld on October 25th. Approx. 60 people attended the event, and enjoyed a bottomless bowl of fish soup, French Bread and various drinks. We all enjoyed Bendt Nilsen sharing his interpretation of everything from Bergen history to the cultural divide between "striler" and cityfolk. Trygve Skaar and John Erik Brakstad handled the musical program, leading the way in all the traditional Bergen tunes. Great Evening!

We are #1:

Not that there was ever any doubt, but the UN has once again ranked Norway as the best place in the world to live. As defending champions, we would not let anybody take the title away. Based on factors like life expectancy, quality of life and per capita income, we edged out Sweden and Canada for the title. It should be noted that climate, gas prices, number of toll roads and taxes were not a part of the survey.

Quiz:

By land area (sq. km), what is by far the largest city in Norway? Answer at the bottom of this page.

Tip of the day:

Exercise! Billions of dollars are spent every year on weight loss products, but very few pounds are actually lost. The incredible focus on weight loss totally ignores the real issue, being healthy. By exercising you will not only lose weight, but you will also improve your general health.

Mette-Marit & Ari:

A newsletter would simply not be complete without a full, unbiased report on the status of Mette-Marit and Ari. These two individuals managed to jump into the headlines by marrying the Royal descendants of our beloved H.M King Harald and H.M Queen Sonja.

Crown Princess Mette-Marit has moved to England to study at the School of Oriental and African studies, while Ari will be busy taking care of Märtha Louise through her pregnancy. I am sure they will both be very busy, although it will forever be discussed who had the greatest learning experience. Ari, being the writer, will surely chronicle his trials, and hopefully the book will be better than his honeymoon jottings. Good luck to both of them!

One of the Greatest:

One of Norway's greatest citizens passed away this year. Thor Heyerdahl received more awards and national decorations around the world than we could possibly list in this newsletter. The historian, author, explorer and challenger, never rested until all the questions were answered, all the possibilities explored, and all the critics silenced. Mostly known for his Kon-Tiki travels and his strong interest in the Galapagos Islands, Thor spent his life traveling the globe, letting his quest for knowledge lead the way.

We have all, in some way, taken part of his expeditions, either by reading the books, watching the television programs, or visiting the museums decorated with his historical and scientific artifacts.

He was truly one of a kind, and we are all thankful that he was one of our kind.

Quiz Answer: Tromsø, 2,520 sq.km.

Soccer Resurrected?

Most Norwegians prefer Soccer over both Baseball and American Football, and for those of us who are truly passionate about the game, it is nice to see the Norwegian National Team getting back on their feet. We enjoyed a fantastic run under head coach Drillo, only to see a rapid return to doormat status during the last two years. While they are not quite back on the FIFA top-10 yet, the current squad is making progress, having won two in a row, with the sacrificial lamb, Luxembourg, coming up in their next match. If Norway manages to qualify for the European Championships in 2004, it will be a welcome return to respectability for the lads.

Norwegian Moments

Don't they know?:

Norwegians are typically a proud bunch, very aware of right and wrong. I find it sad and disappointing that today's young Norwegians feel little or no obligation to pay their bills. Collection agencies (Inkasso) are now the fastest growing industry in Norway, growing at a rate that should be impossible in a country with only 4.5 mill people. Bankruptcies are also at an all time high, further proving that we are losing our high moral ground. Not paying your bills, or even filing bankruptcy, means that somebody is not getting paid for what they gave you, and that's how the economy goes down the drain. It is not only a personal loss, it affects all of us.

You Think?:

There might be hope for Think anyway. Think, the electric car made in Norway, ended up on the endangered species list earlier this year when Ford Motors decided to pull the plug on the production due to low demand for the vehicles. 150 people stand to lose their jobs, so the company is being shopped around to potential investors. Zap, another US company, is now looking into buying Think, and continuing production in Norway. Let's hope that Zap, a producer of electric bikes and scooters, will take a chance on this for the benefit of the environment and for the 150 employees that Ford left behind.

The Big Project:

As you all may or may not know, there is a project in the works to move and preserve the "Ringness House" in Bosque County. Get all the pertinent details at:

www.bosque-norsemen.com/jens_ringness_project

Editor's Closing Remarks:

Whenever a new editor takes over **SNORREPOSTEN** there will always be changes in the format, and also in the material covered. **SNORREPOSTEN** is mainly meant to be a source of information regarding your local NST chapter, reporting on past events and keeping you apprised of coming events. I welcome all your comments and ideas for future editions of **SNORREPOSTEN**.

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Rune Gabrielsen, Editor